

Mr. Gu 221

Chapter 221: Delicious

It was her birthday. Yet, she was delighted just because of these instant noodles. Instant noodles that she had cooked herself, no less.

Gu Zhou looked at the bowl of instant noodles. He had initially been unwilling to eat it, but he suddenly found that he had an appetite.

He picked up his chopsticks, picked up some instant noodles, and took a bite.

Seeing that Gu Zhou was eating the noodles, Qiao Nian looked at him expectantly and asked, "How is it? Does it taste good?"

Chen Qing was also looking at Gu Zhou curiously. He had always thought that Master Gu would never eat instant noodles in his life.

Gu Zhou swallowed the bite without changing his expression. Only then did he say, "It's not bad."

When Qiao Nian heard this, a bright smile appeared on her face. She said proudly, "I told you. Instant noodles are especially delicious."

Gu Zhou was dazzled by Qiao Nian's bright smile. The corner of his lips quirked up imperceptibly. He couldn't help but nod.

After the meal, Chen Qing was in charge of clearing the table. He washed the dishes and cleaned the yard as well before the three of them left the place.

When everyone returned to the villa, they saw Jiang Yue watering the plants in the garden from afar.

When Jiang Yue saw Qiao Nian, she immediately put down the watering can in her hand and walked up to them happily. Smiling, she greeted, "Brother Ah Zhou, Second Sister-in-law!"

Qiao Nian gave a perfunctory murmur of acknowledgement.

Gu Zhou couldn't even be bothered to glance at Jiang Yue. He ignored her completely.

Ever since Jiang Yue had stolen Qiao Nian's gown, she rarely appeared in front of Qiao Nian. During this period of time, she seemed to have lost a lot of weight.

Jiang Yue didn't seem to notice Gu Zhou's disdainful expression. She smiled at Qiao Nian and said earnestly, "Second Sister-in-law, I'm sorry. I just found out that today is your birthday. Happy birthday!"

With that, Jiang Yue took out an exquisite-looking box from behind her back and handed it to Qiao Nian. "Happy birthday. I hope you'll like my gift!"

Qiao Nian smiled faintly. If someone was giving her a gift, she would naturally accept it without hesitation. Smiling, she said, "I'm sure I will. Thank you."

Seeing that Qiao Nian had accepted the gift, Jiang Yue heaved a sigh of relief. She had been worried that Qiao Nian wouldn't accept her gift because of what had happened at the speech ceremony.

Gu Zhou walked into the house.

Qiao Nian opened the box. Inside was a very beautiful bracelet made with diamonds. From the brightness of the diamonds, she could tell that they were expensive.

"Second Sister-in-law, this bracelet is named Smooth Sailing." Jiang Yue smiled at Qiao Nian and explained gently, "I heard from Grandma that you'll be going to the music academy tomorrow. I hope the bracelet can bring you good luck!"

Smiling, Qiao Nian thanked her and moved to follow Gu Zhou into the house.

Looking at Qiao Nian's retreating back, Jiang Yue frowned. She couldn't help but call out to Qiao Nian, "Second Sister-in-law, please wait a moment."

Qiao Nian turned to look at Jiang Yue in confusion. "What is it?"

"Second Sister-in-law, I was wrong about the gown. I know my mistake now." Jiang Yue bit her lip and said pitifully, "Grandma has been ignoring me recently. I'm very upset about it. Second Sister-in-law, can you help me put in a good word for her?"

"If you really know that you're in the wrong, Grandma will definitely forgive you. She doesn't need anyone to tell her what to think."

Jiang Yue's face instantly turned pale. She had thought that Qiao Nian would let bygones be bygones after accepting the gift, but she had never expected Qiao Nian to refuse to help.

Qiao Nian turned around and walked towards the second floor. Just as she reached the second floor, she saw the butler coming out of Matriarch Gu's room.

"Butler."

Seeing that Qiao Nian was calling him, the butler walked over and greeted politely, "Second Young Madam."

"Where's the female housekeeper? I haven't seen her since yesterday."

The butler lowered his head. He knew that Qiao Nian was referring to Wang Miao. He said respectfully, "She has already left. She was chased out by Second Young Master."

Qiao Nian was slightly stunned. Wang Miao had looked especially arrogant. Hence, she had thought that Wang Miao had gotten her position by pulling some strings.

Chapter 222: Insulted?

It was only later that Qiao Nian discovered that Wang Miao might have used Gu Zhou's name to get in. However, she didn't understand. Wang Miao had only been here for half a month. Why had she left so quickly?

"Then why was she chased out?" Qiao Nian asked in confusion.

The butler lowered his head and said truthfully, "Wang Miao has insulted you."

Qiao Nian was surprised. Puzzled, she asked, "Me?"

She didn't do anything!

"Some time ago, Madam worked hard to make a blessing bag for the daughter of the Lu family. When Wang Miao saw this, she got someone to make a replica of the blessing bag and gave it to Second Young Master. Second Young Master lost his temper right there and then, and fired her shortly after."

Qiao Nian looked at the butler in disbelief. She had been fired just like that because she had made a replica of her blessing bag?

This punishment seemed a little severe.

Seeing Qiao Nian's shocked expression, the butler explained patiently, "Second Young Master doesn't like those who sow discord. She even said that the blessing bag you made was copied from her."

Qiao Nian lowered her gaze.

The butler continued, "However, everyone believes in Second Young Madam's character. Second Young Master naturally believes in you as well. He couldn't tolerate such a woman staying in the Gu family and chased her out."

Qiao Nian couldn't help but smile. She said softly, "I really didn't expect him to be able to identify a two-faced person at a glance."

The butler smiled and said, "Second Young Madam, you'll be able to discover Second Young Master's strengths one by one in due time. He'll give you some unexpected surprises."

Qiao Nian smiled faintly and didn't speak.

She had just discovered Gu Zhou's adorable personality today, Zhou Zhou.

"Second Young Madam, I'll get back to work!"

Qiao Nian smiled and nodded. "Go!"

As soon as the butler left, another playful girl came out of Matriarch Gu's room.

"Second Sister-in-law." Zhao Qian walked up to Qiao Nian with a bright smile. "Come with me!"

With that, Zhao Qian stepped forward and pulled Qiao Nian towards her room.

Qiao Nian looked down at her hand, which Zhao Qian was holding. Zhao Qian's hand was especially soft, and emanated a gentle warmth.

Zhao Qian brought Qiao Nian back to her room. She smiled at Qiao Nian and said, "Second Sister-in-law, I know that today is your birthday, so I've prepared a special gift for you in advance!"

With a smile on her face, Qiao Nian asked confusedly, "What gift?"

"I promise that if you use this, your relationship with Brother Ah Zhou will improve." Zhao Qian pointed at the gift box on the table and said excitedly, "Second Sister-in-law, open it quickly!"

When Qiao Nian heard Zhao Qian's words, she found them very novel. She walked to the table and looked at the unlabeled box. It had no label, but she guessed that it was used to store clothes.

Qiao Nian opened the box. When she saw the clothes inside, her ears turned red uncontrollably.

Inside was a piece of black lingerie.

Zhao Qian lowered her voice. "Second Sister-in-law, this lingerie is made of real silk. It's definitely comfortable to wear. The lace and black gauze at the edges are also made of real silk. It's light and soft to the touch!"

Qiao Nian stood there, pretending to be calm.

"Don't worry, this piece covers all the areas that should be covered. The black lace gives off a filmy, dreamy feel. This kind of beauty is the most attractive," Zhao Qian fired off rapidly.

Although Qiao Nian was used to witnessing spectacles or scenes of chaos, she was still stunned when she saw this.

Qiao Nian came back to her senses and turned to look at Zhao Qian. Just as she was about to speak, she heard Zhao Qian say, "Second Sister-in-law, I secretly made this in Grandma's office. Apart from you and me, no one else knows!"

Zhao Qian knew that Qiao Nian would be shy. She continued, "Don't worry, Brother Ah Zhou will be the only other one to know about this in the future. No one else will know about this dress!"

"This... this is a dress?"

"Of course. A lingerie dress is still a dress!" Zhao Qian said righteously.

Chapter 223: Strange Gift

Logically speaking, she should be very touched that Zhao Qian had made a dress for her with her own hands.

However, for some reason, the word of thanks that Qiao Nian was meaning to give remained lodged in her throat.

Looking at Zhao Qian, she asked in confusion, "Why did you think of making this?"

"Actually, I've always liked designing clothes." Zhao Qian smiled and said, "Grandma isn't in good health, so I thought that if I studied medicine, I would be able to treat Grandma's illness in the future."

At this point, Zhao Qian paused for a moment, a happy smile appearing on her face. She continued, "But before I could master the skills, Second Sister-in-law, you married into the family. I know that Second Sister-in-law's medical skills are brilliant. I'll be at ease if I leave Grandma to you, so I want to pursue my own dreams now."

"Is it your dream to become a fashion designer?" Qiao Nian asked.

“Yes, I’ve already applied to a school in Country ML, and I’ve already received their acceptance letter.” Zhao Qian smiled at Qiao Nian, holding on to both her hands. “Second Sister-in-law, I know I’m a little selfish for handing Grandma over to you. I hope you won’t be angry with me.”

Qiao Nian could hear the sincerity and honesty in Zhao Qian’s words. She comforted her softly, saying, “Grandma will be fine as long as nothing happens out of the blue, and as long as she continues to take good care of her health. It’s only after you’ve found me trustworthy that you’re handing Grandma over to me. I think that’s very filial of you.”

“That’s good. Second Sister-in-law, don’t worry. I’ll try to cram three years of classes into one year. I’ll come back early and take care of Grandma!” With that, Zhao Qian retracted her hands, closed the box containing the lingerie, and stuffed it into Qiao Nian’s hand. “Second Sister-in-law, you can try it on tonight. I think Brother Ah Zhou will definitely like it!”

Qiao Nian: ...

In the end, Qiao Nian carried the box back to the bedroom. She had no intention of wearing this lingerie at all. Instead, she stuffed the box directly into the bottom of the wardrobe, lest others find out about it. Then, she would never be able to clear her name.

The next morning.

After Qiao Nian washed up and had breakfast, she arrived at the entrance of the music academy.

This academy had very strict security. No outsiders were allowed to enter.

Qiao Nian walked over to the guard and showed him the admission letter before walking in.

Cutting through the campus was a wide marble path. There were hundreds of flowers lining both sides of the path, and a three-meter-tall fountain in the center of the campus. The water from the fountain flowed into the pool below, creating a beautiful melody.

Qiao Nian continued walking further into the campus. Many students had already gotten up to practice their instruments. She felt like she was swimming in a sea of music.

Qiao Nian walked to the professors’ office, then handed her acceptance letter to the director of the department of traditional musical instruments.

Director Hu looked to be in his sixties. He was thin and wore reading glasses.

Looking down at the acceptance letter in his hand, he realized that this student had been personally recommended by the principal. With a solemn expression, he looked at Qiao Nian, clearly thinking highly of her. “Which instruments do you like best?”

“The guqin and the bass.” Qiao Nian stood there obediently, like a good student.

Director Hu nodded slightly and said with a smile, “That’s quite a leap.”

Qiao Nian smiled. “Yes.”

“Come with me!”

“Yes!” Inside, Qiao Nian was jumping with joy.

Director Hu brought Qiao Nian directly to Classroom 502 on the fifth floor of the seventh school building. He knocked on the door.

“Please come in.”

Director Hu pushed open the classroom door and smiled at the professor standing at the podium.
“Professor Zhang, I’ve brought you a new student today!”

When the students who were in class heard Director Hu’s words, they all looked over, their eyes filled with dissatisfaction.

Half a semester had already passed. If a new student suddenly joined the class, it would pull down the average score of the entire class.

Moreover, they were the most outstanding class in the entire grade. If their final results were ruined because of this newcomer, it would be disastrous.

Chapter 224: Self-Taught

Professor Zhang sized Qiao Nian up in one glance. With a solemn expression, he asked, “Previously, which school did you study music at?”

Qiao Nian answered truthfully, “I studied at home. I’m self-taught.”

Professor Zhang frowned. How could this student, with no music background whatsoever, have entered their music academy?

When the other students in the classroom heard Qiao Nian’s words, they couldn’t help but gasp. They all turned to look at Qiao Nian in disbelief.

“Oh my god, did someone in our class offend the bourgeois? Could it be that they’ve deliberately sent someone over to mess with us?”

“She’s just a newbie. She’ll be useless here! Does she plan on dragging down our average grade?”

“What should we do? If our class doesn’t get first place, it’ll be terrible!”

“That’s right. Who would be so insensible? Stuffing someone new into our class!”

...

Professor Zhang, who was standing at the podium, listened to the discussion below. Deep down, he agreed with them.

One had to know that everyone who could enter the music academy aspired to be the cream of the crop. Who would be willing to be held back by an ignorant young lady who knew nothing?

Professor Zhang frowned and asked, "Director Hu, you know that our class is progressing very quickly. How can we let a newcomer join our class? She won't be able to keep up."

When Director Hu heard Professor Zhang's words, he couldn't help but smile. He said, "Professor Zhang, don't be humble. Everyone knows that the classes you teach are always the best. To educate this student, and to ensure that she gets a good score, even though there's only half a semester left... I think you're the only one in the entire world who can accomplish this."

Professor Zhang's expression darkened. Although Director Hu was praising him, he didn't want this kind of praise at all. Hence, he said coldly, "Director Hu, the grades of the classes I've taught so far are outstanding because all the students I've taught have a good foundation. They've all been admitted through examinations, which is why they have such good results. If you insert a newcomer into our class just like this, it'll only affect the future of our students."

Qiao Nian stood there silently, listening to the doubting voices around her. However, she didn't get angry.

If she were a professor or a student sitting in the classroom, she might also be unwilling to let a newcomer enter, and affect the results of the entire class.

Moreover, she had not gotten in through her own abilities. Instead, she had been recommended.

Director Hu, who was standing beside Qiao Nian, looked troubled. Qiao Nian had been recommended by the principal, so he naturally hoped that Qiao Nian could learn from Professor Zhang.

Qiao Nian stepped forward and said softly, "Professor Zhang, I'm really sorry. I'm a new student here. I know your concerns. Why don't you give me a test? After that, you can decide if you want to accept me as your student."

Qiao Nian's words stunned all the students in the classroom.

"This new student is really bold. She's just learned a little at home, yet she still wants to show off in front of Professor Zhang. Isn't she afraid of embarrassing herself?"

"How naive. Doesn't she know what shame is?"

"Which rich family's daughter is this? Does she think that she can enter our class just because she's rich? Just because she has a little money! She doesn't know her place at all!"

"I'm so excited. I'm just waiting for Professor Zhang to rebuke her. I want her to realize that she can't always get her own way."

"Could there be any possibility that she's one of those experts who keeps a low profile?"

"How is that possible?"

"This isn't a novel. You have to start learning music from elementary school. If one hasn't been trained professionally, how can one become an expert?"

"That's true. If someone like her, who's self-taught, can master a musical instrument, I'll become Beethoven!"

...

When Professor Zhang heard everyone's voices, his frown deepened. "Quiet!"

Everyone fell silent. They stared unblinkingly at Professor Zhang, waiting for him to continue.

Professor Zhang's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face.

Chapter 225: Test

Her eyes were clear, and she looked as if she genuinely wanted to learn music.

However, to become a musician, passion and sincerity were not the only things that mattered.

Professor Zhang pursed his lips and said, "Alright, I'll give you a test."

When everyone heard Professor Zhang's words, they heaved a sigh of relief.

If the newcomer wasn't good enough, she would be chased out by Professor Zhang. Then, they wouldn't have to worry about the newcomer dragging down their grades.

If the newcomer was skilled, she would bring glory to the class if she joined!

However, no one felt that this newcomer would be any good.

Professor Zhang glanced at all the students in the room and said, "For the sake of fairness, all students will come to the instrument room with me. We'll observe the new student's test together!"

Hence, everyone made their way to the instrument room excitedly.

Professor Zhang looked at Qiao Nian and said, "This student, since you were able to gain admission, you should be aware of the rules of our school. Even if you have an acceptance letter, you still have to obtain the professor's approval before you can enter the school to study."

Qiao Nian had already asked around before she arrived. She nodded slightly.

Qiao Nian was feeling a little uneasy. Looking at the instruments, she was a little worried that she wouldn't be able to enter the school successfully. She hadn't practiced in a long time.

Professor Zhang glanced at the instruments around him and said, "You can pick an instrument you're good at and play a piece of your choice. As long as you can pass, I'll accept you."

The students looked at Qiao Nian as if they were watching a good show. They were waiting for Qiao Nian to back off.

Qiao Nian's nervous heart gradually calmed down. Stepping forward, her gaze fell on the guqin. She sat down in front of it.

The students who had come to watch the show all looked at Qiao Nian in disbelief. Gasping, they said in confusion, "She's so bold. She actually dared to choose the guqin!"

"That's right. The guqin is so difficult. Doesn't she know?"

“Without a teacher, it’s impossible to learn the guqin!”

“She must really be the silly daughter of a rich family. She’s not capable at all!”

...

Qiao Nian stroked the guqin with both hands, her fingers gently strumming the strings.

The timbre was not bad.

It was tuned to the correct pitch as well.

Qiao Nian sat up straight, blocking out all the noise from the outside world. She raised her hands and placed them elegantly on the guqin, then began to strum the first string.

Music began to flow languidly from the strings of the guqin.

“Is she crazy? She’s playing ‘Spring and Snow’!”

“That’s the song Xia Xue is famous for!”

“She’s overestimating herself. How dare she challenge the prettiest and most capable girl in our faculty!”

“Don’t be like this. She just arrived. How could she know anything about our school?”

“Let’s just listen!”

...

Professor Zhang and Director Hu, who were standing at the side, were slightly stunned.

The piece “Spring and Snow” was famous all over the world. This piece was very difficult, and it was known for putting one’s technical foundations to the test. None of them had expected Qiao Nian to choose such a difficult song.

Qiao Nian’s slender hands danced atop the strings, reminding one of a pair of butterflies fluttering atop a bed of flowers. Every motion was elegant. Clear and crisp musical notes rose from her fingertips, causing the listeners to become involuntarily immersed in the music.

Everyone was stunned. They had never expected Qiao Nian to be able to play such beautiful music.

“How could she be self-taught? She must be lying!”

“She plays much better than Xia Xue!”

“Is that so? Did she privately study under a teacher?”

“If someone like this joins our class, she’ll pull up our grades, right?”

“Alright, stop talking. Perhaps this is the only song she knows!”

After all, those students were still too young and immature. Jealousy was written all over their faces.

After the song ended, Qiao Nian slowly retracted her hands. She hadn't played this song in a long time, and her fingers were a little stiff. Fortunately, she could still play it perfectly.

Qiao Nian stood up and looked at Professor Zhang.

Chapter 226: Gift?

A trace of admiration flashed in Professor Zhang's eyes. He had been completely immersed in Qiao Nian's performance just now. Not many people could play at this level.

Professor Zhang nodded in satisfaction and said, "You played well. I accept you as a student!"

Qiao Nian beamed. She hurriedly said, "Thank you, Professor Zhang."

At the side, Director Hu felt the weight lift off his shoulders. Just now, he had been worried that Qiao Nian wouldn't be able to enter the university successfully, but now, he no longer had to worry. He turned to look at Professor Zhang. "Alright, Professor Zhang, then you can start your classes. I'll help her with the registration matters!"

"Thank you, Director Hu." Qiao Nian smiled at him.

Director Hu looked at Qiao Nian and smiled. "Study hard!"

Qiao Nian smiled and nodded.

After that, Qiao Nian followed Professor Zhang and her new classmates back to the classroom. After she gave a self-introduction on stage, Professor Zhang arranged for her to sit by the window on the right side of the third row.

Half an hour later, class ended.

As soon as Professor Zhang left the classroom, many girls ran up to Qiao Nian and looked at her curiously.

"Nian Nian, did you really learn music all by yourself?"

"Nian Nian, how were you able to become so skilled?"

"Yes, yes. Do you have any tricks or shortcuts?"

"Nian Nian, you're so outstanding. You don't even need to come here to study!"

"Ahhh, Goddess Nian Nian, do you have any special study methods? Can you teach us pitiful mortals?"

Qiao Nian was stunned by their enthusiasm.

She had just played a song. Why was everyone surrounding her?

Qiao Nian opened her mouth to speak, but before she could say anything, a disdainful voice rang out from the side.

“Tsk, what’s so great about her? It’s just ‘Spring and Snow’. Who doesn’t know how to play that? Do all of you have to praise her like that?”

“She must have just been lucky to be able to play it well. Perhaps this is the only song she knows!”

“That’s right, that’s right. Perhaps she doesn’t even know all the musical instruments.”

When Qiao Nian’s deskmate heard these words, she frowned. Slamming the table, she stood up and retorted domineeringly, “Aren’t you going too far? Qiao Nian plays well. Everyone has to learn from each other. Why are you being like this? Is it so difficult for you to admit that others are outstanding? You fools!”

“Shut up!”

“You’re the one who should shut up! She’s clearly capable. This is reality. Didn’t you say that you know how to play it too? Come, play it. Let us all be the judges. Let’s see who can play it better!”

The two groups of people began arguing back and forth. They were just short of getting into a physical fight.

Qiao Nian’s gaze fell on her deskmate. She was small, and had half of her hair in a bun. There was a bright red bow tied around her head, and she was wearing a blue and white dress. She looked adorable.

She had never expected this girl to be so domineering, almost as if she were a mafia boss.

Just as the two sides were arguing, there came a knock on the door.

Everyone looked over in unison.

“Who are you looking for?”

A girl in a wine-red dress stood at the door. Her figure was extremely voluptuous, and her chest size looked to be about 34F.

“Which one of you is Qiao Nian?”

Qiao Nian said calmly, “I am.”

In her high heels, the girl walked towards Qiao Nian step by step, her skirt swaying in the wind. She stopped in front of Qiao Nian and glanced at her face, saying, “Senior Xia asked me to give you a gift. I hope you like it!”

With that, the girl placed a gift box on Qiao Nian’s table.

Qiao Nian looked at the girl in the red dress, confusion written all over her face.

Her deskmate immediately answered for Qiao Nian. “Nian Nian, Senior Xia is the campus belle of our department. She’s beautiful, kind, and has good grades. She’s very friendly to all the juniors. Look, she came to give you a gift the moment you entered the school!”

Qiao Nian looked at her deskmate in confusion. Why did she feel that her deskmate’s praise was laced with sarcasm?

“Senior, please thank Senior Xia for me,” Qiao Nian said calmly.

Chapter 227: Trouble

Liu Xin, who had delivered the gift, sized Qiao Nian up with an impudent gaze. Her red lips curved up in a faint smile as she said disdainfully, “You played ‘Spring and Snow’ pretty well.”

With that, Liu Xin turned and left, leaving behind the faint fragrance of her hair.

Qiao Nian watched as Liu Xin left. Her beautiful fox-like eyes narrowed slightly. She looked down at the gift on the table. For some reason, she felt that this gift might bring some trouble.

“Nian Nian, quickly open it. We really want to know what Senior Xia gave you.”

Hence, Qiao Nian opened the gift in front of everyone. Inside was an exquisite model of the guqin. It looked expensive.

It did look good.

Xia Xue was too well-informed. It had only been slightly over twenty minutes since she finished playing “Spring and Snow”, but Xia Xue had already gotten someone to send a gift over. If it was any other gift, it would be fine.

However, Xia Xue had sent over a model of the guqin. It was clearly a challenge.

At this moment, a cry of surprise came from the side.

“Sister Ran, is this for real? This is a ticket to Mr. Donghua’s concert. Ah, you’re so lucky!”

At the mention of Donghua, Qiao Nian subconsciously turned her head to look. She saw a fair-skinned young girl surrounded by a group of excited students, clearly in the center of attention. Pride was written all over her face. “You’re making a fuss over nothing. This is just a ticket!”

“Sister Ran, you can’t say that. You’re talking about Donghua! He’s the most mysterious musician in the world. The tickets to his concert are priceless. Why are you still so calm?”

The girl called Sister Ran pursed her lips and said, “My father knows him, so he gave my father a few tickets.”

“Ye Ran, you’ll make people hate you. We’re so envious that we’re about to cry!”

A faint smile appeared on Ye Ran’s face. She enjoyed being the center of attention very much. She said calmly, “It’s just a pity that the concert is taking place in a few days. Otherwise, I can get my father to speak to Mr. Donghua and ask for a few more tickets. Then, we’ll all be able to go together.”

The eyes of the girls around Ye Ran lit up. In their hearts, being able to attend Mr. Donghua’s concert in person would be something worth remembering for the rest of their lives.

“Ye Ran, Sister Ran, can you bring us along when Mr Donghua holds a concert again?”

“That’s right, Sister Ran. You’re the best. Take us with you!”

“Sister Ran, we’re begging you!”

In an elegant motion, Ye Ran placed the tickets into her bag, then raised a hand to casually twirl a lock of hair around her finger. She smiled and said, “Lately, I’ve been especially fond of that new line of Gucci bags. I even thought of buying one!”

One girl reacted faster than the others. She said immediately, “Sister Ran, it’s just a small matter of buying a handbag. We’ll buy one for you!”

Ye Ran smiled at the girl. “Don’t worry, I’ll definitely bring my best friends along next time. After all, good things have to be shared!”

“Sister Ran, you’re the best!”

“Sister Ran, I really love you. Your grades are good, you’re beautiful, and you have a good character.”

More and more people in the class surrounded Ye Ran, all fighting to suck up to her. They really wanted tickets to Mr. Donghua’s concert.

Seeing this, Qiao Nian couldn’t help but laugh out loud.

When her deskmate, Wang Xuan, heard Qiao Nian’s laugh and saw her disdainful expression, she asked casually, “Don’t you like Mr. Donghua?”

Qiao Nian gave a faint smile and replied casually, “I just think that Mr. Donghua might not need fans like these.”

Wang Xuan gave Qiao Nian a steady look, then smiled. “That’s true.”

At the other side of the room, the students were all gossiping about Mr. Donghua.

“Sister Ran, you must have seen Mr. Donghua before, right? What does he look like?”

“Yes, yes. Sister Ran, how old is Mr. Donghua?”

“Sister Ran, how famous is Mr. Donghua? How does he compose his music? Does he have any tips?”

Chapter 228: The Violin

Ye Ran lowered her gaze and said thoughtfully, “At that time, I only caught a glimpse of his back. He looked very young. By the way, I remember that Mr. Donghua is only his stage name. His surname seems to be Lu. I don’t know the details.”

The surrounding people instantly became excited. One by one, they looked at Ye Ran with glowing eyes.

“Young? Exactly how young?”

“Yes, Sister Ran, tell us!”

Ye Ran shook her head gently and said, “I’m not sure about the details either, and I can’t make things up. However, I’ll tell you when I meet him in person!”

Disappointment flashed in the eyes of the students around Ye Ran. However, they were still looking forward to Ye Ran telling them about Mr. Donghua after she returned from the concert.

“Alright, Sister Ran. You have to take a closer look. Tell us everything when you get back.”

“I’m so envious!”

Qiao Nian felt a wave of annoyance. She couldn’t listen to their flattery any longer. She stood up.

Wang Xuan looked at Qiao Nian in confusion. “Where are you planning to go?”

Qiao Nian had just arrived at the school, and wasn’t very clear of the rules. She took the opportunity to ask Wang Xuan, “I’m an official student of the school now, right?”

Wang Xuan nodded.

“Then, am I allowed to visit the instrument room?”

“Of course. As long as there are no teachers using it, you can use it anytime.”

“Thank you.” Qiao Nian left the classroom and walked towards the instrument room, flexing her fingers as she went.

Playing that piece just now had triggered an urge to immerse herself in more music. She had seen many instruments in the room just now, and wanted to take the opportunity to try them out.

Before Qiao Nian came to school, she had already researched some details.

There were more than thirty instrument rooms in the school. Each instrument room had a different set of instruments. Glancing at the floor plan of the school on her phone, Qiao Nian sought out the farthest instrument room from her classroom.

The music academy was so huge that it took her more than half an hour to get there.

Qiao Nian had just pushed the door open when she caught her first glimpse of the resplendent interior. Just like the instrument room from before, there were all kinds of instruments here.

The place was empty. There was no one there.

What Qiao Nian didn’t notice was that in the corner next to the piano, a man was lying lazily on the sofa, basking in the sun. From time to time, he would stroke his prayer beads.

The moment Qiao Nian entered the instrument room, her gaze fell on the violin right in the middle of the room. She walked over.

After picking up the violin, she adjusted her posture and drew the bow across the strings a few times. The pitch was perfect. With this thought in mind, Qiao Nian closed her eyes and began to play the violin by instinct.

“Yearning”.

This was an interlude composed by the composer, Mr. Huadong, for the opera Anna. The female lead, Anna, was trapped in an abyss, but she yearned for the clear blue sky.

As a meditative piece meant for the violin, the emotions it expressed were deep yet distant. Amidst the serene, undulating melody, its elegance was intriguing.

After the piece ended, Qiao Nian was still immersed in it. She opened her eyes and looked into the distance, her lips curving up involuntarily.

This was where the enchantment of music lay. With just one piece, one's mood could change completely.

Qiao Nian glanced at the time. There were still more than forty minutes until the next lesson. She had to go back now.

Qiao Nian had just left the instrument room when a young girl with a graceful figure walked in. She sized up all the instruments in the room, and her gaze finally fell on the lute.

She sat down next to the lute and began to play an elegant tune.

Just as she was about to continue playing, she saw a cleaning lady enter.

Seeing that it was getting late and that she had to rush to class, she quickly walked out.

Not long after she left, the man who had been sitting by the piano walked out. He looked at the retreating figure of the young girl from afar, and his lips curved up slightly.

Although her skills with the lute were average, her violin skills were outstanding. At her age, she could be considered a musical genius.

Chapter 229: Untitled

The cleaning lady, who had been working tirelessly, finally noticed that there was a man in the corner. Looking up, she was stunned.

This man was even prettier than a woman!

Under the sunlight, the man's skin was as fair as white jade. Yet, he didn't exude any femininity at all. Instead, he looked like an elegant gentleman.

He had sharp eyebrows, bright eyes, a high nose bridge, and a pair of beautiful phoenix-like eyes.

She couldn't take her eyes off him.

This man was not old. He looked to be in his mid-twenties.

Strange, was he a student of the university?

If so, how could she not remember him?

People who were good-looking in the music stream were definitely well-known among the staff and students. She should have known.

"Auntie," the man greeted.

The cleaning lady was slightly stunned. Her heart began to race involuntarily. Why did this man's voice sound so pleasant?

In the words of the girls in school, listening to this voice could make one's ears pregnant.

"Huh? What is it?" The cleaning lady looked at the man in confusion.

"Did the student who just left play the violin here?"

The cleaning lady took a moment to react. "I only saw her playing the lute. I don't know anything else."

"Then do you know the name of that student?"

"Xia Xue!" The cleaning lady said with certainty. Of course she knew Xia Xue. Not only did she know Xia Xue, but she also knew all the outstanding students in school.

The man lowered his gaze slightly, his long eyelashes hiding the light in his eyes. He repeated in a low voice, "Xia Xue."

The man looked up, then walked out.

The man had just walked to the door when a man with a small ponytail quickly walked over and grabbed his arm. "Mr. Donghua, why are you here? The concert is starting in a few days. Can't you come and help?"

Donghua's gaze fell on the back of the girl not far away. Just as the girl turned a corner, she stepped into a window of sunlight. Bathed in sun, her entire body seemed to be enveloped in a golden glow. After turning the corner, she disappeared.

Donghua pushed his manager away indifferently and said with a calm expression, "Isn't everything already arranged? What's there to be anxious about, Brother Cao?"

Brother Cao looked at Donghua's unhurried manner and said in a low voice, "I guessed right away that you didn't know. The female violinist who had been arranged to play the violin has just taken leave because of something that happened at home. It's impossible to find a suitable person in such a short time."

When Donghua heard Brother Cao's words, his eyes narrowed slightly. He turned to look at Brother Cao and said with a smile, "Don't worry, that person is right here."

Brother Cao looked at Donghua in confusion. The emperor was not anxious, but the eunuch was. "Where? There's only the two of us here. Don't tell me you're expecting me to play the violin? I'm not that capable!"

Donghua pursed his lips and said, "Help me find a student."

"Who are you looking for?"

"Xia Xue."

When Brother Cao heard Donghua's words, he looked at him in surprise and frowned slightly. "Donghua, why are you looking for a female student? By the way, don't change the topic. We're discussing the fact that you need a violinist."

"I think she should be able to save the day," Donghua said calmly.

"What?" Brother Cao's eyes widened to the size of dinner plates. Then, his eyes filled with disdain as he said, "Donghua, wake up. Stop dreaming. What can a female student do? How can she be your supporting musician? Are you trying to embarrass yourself and ruin your reputation?"

Donghua glanced at Brother Cao indifferently and said, "She can definitely do it!"

Brother Cao pursed his lips in disapproval. "I don't believe you!"

"Bring her here tomorrow."

"Got it," Brother Cao said coldly. He still didn't trust that female student.

Chapter 230: Enrollment Gift

Seeing Brother Cao pulling a long face, Donghua called out, "Brother Cao."

"Yes?"

"Brother Cao, don't you think red clashes with purple?"

Brother Cao, who weighed 100 kilograms, looked down at himself. He was wearing a bright red shirt paired with purple tights. He thought he looked especially festive. Wasn't this a good thing?

Brother Cao's gaze fell on Donghua. He was wearing a white shirt and black suit pants. He looked so plain and ugly!

"What do you know? This is fashion!" Brother Cao said sternly.

"Oh, okay. Remember to take care of the things I asked you about."

Brother Cao said impatiently, "Alright, I understand. You've been attracting women everywhere you go. If you get raped or harassed by some young lady, there'll be no place for you to cry."

Donghua: ...

Although he knew that Brother Cao was concerned about him, why did Brother Cao's words sound so odd?

Donghua looked at Brother Cao's nervous expression and said, "Brother Cao, I think you're the one who can't show your face!"

Brother Cao's expression froze for a moment. His mind finally caught up. In a panic, he hurriedly covered his face with both hands.

Everyone in the world knew that he was Mr. Donghua's manager. If they found him, they would be able to find Mr. Donghua. It had to be known that Donghua was usually unwilling to leave the house. No matter what it was, Brother Cao would be asked to do it in his stead.

In the evening.

When Qiao Nian returned to the Gu family villa, she was beaming.

Jiang Yue was sitting in the living room, reading a medical book. When she saw that Qiao Nian had returned, she stopped what she was doing and greeted her with a smile. "Second Sister-in-law, you're back!"

Qiao Nian's good mood instantly vanished. She looked at Jiang Yue and said impassively, "What can I do for you?"

"Second Sister-in-law, how was your first day at school today?" Jiang Yue asked earnestly, a smile on her face.

"Not bad." Qiao Nian wasn't used to Jiang Yue fawning over her. To be honest, she almost preferred Jiang Yue's arrogant demeanor in the past.

"Second Sister-in-law, Grandma asked you to visit her room." Jiang Yue said, still smiling.

Qiao Nian gave a faint response and walked upstairs.

She walked to Matriarch Gu's bedroom and knocked on the door.

"Come in!"

Matriarch Gu's voice came from inside the room.

Qiao Nian pushed the door open and entered. She saw Matriarch Gu sitting by the French window, wiping a violin.

That violin was beautiful and elegant. Just one glance was enough to make one unable to look away.

Qiao Nian walked over and stood next to Matriarch Gu, staring unblinkingly at the violin.

As she got closer, she could even smell the faint woody fragrance of the violin.

"Take a look at this." Matriarch Gu put down the cloth and handed the violin to Qiao Nian.

Qiao Nian took the violin with the utmost care, and stroked it gently.

The violin was cold to the touch, and the wood was silky smooth. It was a rare gem.

Matriarch Gu's gaze fell on Qiao Nian's face. Smiling, she said, "Nian Nian, this is a violin I've always treasured. I wonder if you like it?"

Who wouldn't like such a good violin?

Qiao Nian looked at the violin longingly and said with sincerity, "I like it!"

“This violin has previously been used by Mr. Bei. I only obtained it by chance.” Matriarch Gu looked at Qiao Nian gently.

When Qiao Nian heard Matriarch Gu’s words, the joy in her eyes intensified. She caressed the violin lovingly.

“I heard from Ah Zhou that you’ve reported to the music school today.” Seeing Qiao Nian nod, Matriarch Gu said, “I was thinking of giving you an enrollment gift. I didn’t know what instrument you liked, but after thinking about it, I decided to give you my violin. I haven’t been using it in a while. I hope you won’t mind.”

Qiao Nian’s eyes lit up with excitement. With emotion in her voice, she said, “Grandma, this is a violin that’s one in a million. Moreover, it was used by Mr. Bei. Isn’t this gift a little too valuable?”

“Whether something is valuable or not doesn’t depend on its cost. It depends on who owns it, and whether it is able to be the best it can be in that person’s hands,” Matriarch Gu said. She took Qiao Nian’s hand and patted it gently.