

## Priceless Baby 461

### Chapter 461: Worry Herself With A Second Child

Xu Xiyan had just managed to get into an official relationship with prince charming recently. How was she going to give an appropriate answer to Fang Xiaocheng's question?

However, Huo Yunshen quietly held Xu Xiyan's hand under the table as he gave a soft smile. "Whenever Jing Xi is ready."

The problem now was that Xu Xiyan wanted to keep a low profile and continue with her acting career. She didn't want to publicly expose their relationship at the moment.

Huo Yunshen also wished to wait until things settled down before discussing marriage. It would be best if it was the day when he was able to walk again.

"Oh, oh! That's great then! After Daddy marries Mommy, can I have a little brother? I want to play with him every day," Ying Bao said excitedly, almost standing up on her chair.

Huo Yunshen smiled awkwardly: "..."

Erm... everyone was thinking of the same thing, my daughter.

Xu Xiyan's face turned red all over. Her daughter was literally a worrisome little matchmaker.

It seemed that after worrying about their wedding in the future, she had to worry herself about a second child. Oh boy.

On the opposite side of the table, Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi were almost choking with laughter.

Both felt that it was a great thing that Xu Xiyan had Huo Yunshen recognize Ying Bao as his daughter and that they'd become a family of three.

Xu Xiyan was almost dying of embarrassment and quickly steered the topic away. "Careful Cherry, sit down and finish your food. The lobster won't be delicious after it's cold."

Satisfied that she had expressed her wish, Ying Bao sat back down in her chair obediently and continued eating her food.

At this time, the doorbell rang. Xu Xiyan stood up and went over to open the door.

It was Ye Xun and Huo Sanyan. Xu Xiyan invited them to come into the house.

After entering the house, Ye Xun automatically stayed away and kept his distance from Huo Sanyan. He did not want to give an impression that he had come together with Huo Sanyan.

Specifically speaking, it was Huo Sanyan who had come to harass him again. He had no choice but to go over to Xu Xiyan's place to hide from her. However, that did not stop Huo Sanyan from coming after him shamelessly.

He was fed up with Huo Sanyan. She was just like an annoying piece of gum that was stuck to him.

In fact, it wouldn't be easy for him to get rid of Huo Sanyan.

Though Huo Sanyan was not good at anything else, her ability to stalk people was nothing to sneeze at.

She was formerly an award-winning entertainment journalist. She had started out her career as a member of the paparazzi, and stalking people was her specialty.

After entering the house, Ye Xun discovered that Xu Xiyan had made a table full of dishes and invited a few people over for the feast. His face hardened when he realized that he was not one of the invited.

“Little Xixi, why didn't you invite me for dinner?”

Xu Xiyan said apologetically, “Sorry, Second Senior, but I didn't think to prepare your portion of the meal in the first place anyway.”

Oh well. It seemed that Little Xixi was still holding a grudge against him. It was his fault and he only had himself to blame.

After entering the house, Huo Sanyan's nose caught a whiff of the aroma in the air and she immediately rushed off towards the dining room.

She saw the feast on the table, as well as the steaming, aromatic lobsters. She was drooling at the sight of the grand feast. “My goodness! Did you make all this, Jing Xi? How could you not invite me? Why, you too, Brother! Why did you not tell me that you're here? You really have no conscience.”

Huo Yunshen rolled his eyes at her. No way would he have informed a glutton like her.

Huo Sanyan really made herself at home. She went into the kitchen to get her own plate and chopsticks, then sat at the table and began to eat.

She didn't even forget to remind Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi. “Come on, let's eat. Don't be shy, make yourselves at home.”

Huo Yunshen: “...”

Huo Sanyan had turned herself from a guest into the host. He really wanted to ask his mother: how did she give birth to such a shameless daughter?

“I've made a lot of food. Come, sit down. Let me get you a plate and a pair of chopsticks too.”

Xu Xiyan also placed a clean plate and chopsticks in front of Ye Xun.

After sitting down at the table, Ye Xun saw Ying Bao nestling in Huo Yunshen's arms. He slapped on his thighs as he beckoned the child, “Hey, Daughter, come over here to Daddy.”

Instead of going over to him, Ying Bao tightened her arms around Huo Yunshen's neck and said, “Uncle Tree-leaf, Baby now has a Daddy and Baby wants to sit with him.”

Uh... was this an open act of rebellion?

Chapter 462: Throw Herself Into Another Man's Arms

Ye Xun's heart was bleeding after the little girl's words struck a great blow to it.

After all, he had personally raised this "daughter" of his by himself. How could he not be sad seeing her throw herself into another man's arms?

"Oh, how cruel! Both mother and daughter are so cruel! None of you wanted me anymore after getting a better man. I don't even have a place to cry here!"

Huo Sanyan heard him and immediately patted on her own shoulder. "Young Master Ye, if you want to cry, you can cry over here. I can lend you my shoulder any time and anywhere you need."

"Bug off!" Ye Xun glared at her. Why was she pestering him everywhere? How annoying!

"Are there bugs here? Are they biting you, Young Master Ye? Let me get the insect repellent for you."

The wiring in Huo Sanyan's brain had always been that strange. Her mind was never on the same wavelength as normal people.

"..." Ye Xun was speechless.

As Ye Xun observed the intimate interaction between Ying Bao and Huo Yunshen and their perfectly matched dimples, he seemed to realize something.

He finally understood why Ying Bao liked Huo Yunshen so much.

It couldn't simply be out of fondness for no reason. It might be because of a blood relationship.

Ying Bao must be the daughter of Huo Yunshen.

It was a bold guess and Ye Xun was sure he was right. He let out a long sigh as envy and jealousy swelled in his heart.

Oh well. If Xu Xiyan and the child were happy being with Huo Yunshen, he would bless them.

Nobody knew that Ye Xun's attitude had changed. Perhaps it had happened back at the time when he had discovered Huo Yunshen's mysterious identity, or perhaps it had happened after his accidental sexual relationship with Huo Sanyan.

He was no longer qualified to pursue Xu Xiyan. The only thing he could do now was to let her go and respect her wishes.

However, he would always protect both mother and daughter silently.

After dinner, Huo Yunshen accompanied Ying Bao in a game of pat-cake.

Huo Sanyan noticed that Ye Xun had been watching Ying Bao intently. She said to him, "Young Master Ye, see how cute Cherry is? How about we make a baby of our own?"

Ye Xun was rudely pulled back to his senses. He glared at her hatefully and bristled. "Who wants to make a baby with you! If you want a child, go make it yourself!"

Huo Sanyan wasn't angry or upset. She grinned at him and said, "Well okay, it's a woman's responsibility to bear a child anyway. You only need to contribute one single sperm. Who knows if your seed is already sprouting in my stomach and soon you will be a father!"

"..." Ye Xun was completely speechless. F\*ck, what the hell was she talking about?

Was she not going to stop until she had completely ruined him?

Everyone turned to cast shocked looks at him. Xu Xiyan asked, astonished, "Did you two... do that..."

"No!" Ye Xun immediately denied it. He was so embarrassed that he felt like looking for a crack in the ground to squeeze into.

However, Huo Sanyan was being very blatant about it. "Young Master Ye, why won't you admit it? Everyone is an adult here and having a sexual relationship is a very normal thing. Plus, I've already said you don't have to be responsible for it, so don't be embarrassed. You—"

"Why don't you finish your food!" Ye Xun stuffed some veggies into her mouth rudely, plugging up her unshuttable mouth.

But it was already too late. Everyone already knew what had happened between the two of them.

Xu Xiyan had already guessed that it must've happened at the time when he had gotten drunk. She laughed, "Second Senior, Miss Huo is a very good person. It's not right to let her down."

Ye Xun: "..."

He had enough of trying to explain himself. The more he explained, the more disastrous the outcome anyway.

"Oh, thank you, Jing Xi."

Huo Sanyan was very happy to hear Jing Xi's words of support. She continued, "You don't have to call me Miss Huo anymore. Just call me Third Sister. That way we will sound more like family, don't you think?"

Chapter 463: Really Wanted to Kiss Him

"Okay, Third Sister, Second Senior, we'll be waiting to attend your wedding banquet."

Huo Sanyan gave a radiant smile. "Okie dokey! Who knows? Maybe you might be able to attend both the wedding and the baby shower at the same time."

Ye Xun: "..."

Damn you, Huo Sanyan. Who does she think she is?

Who the f\*ck is going to marry her and have a baby?

After dinner, everyone hung around until it was about eight or nine o'clock at night. Fang Xiaocheng and Wang Dazhi had to go home.

After escorting them to the door, Ye Xun volunteered to send Ying Bao home. "Come, Daughter. Daddy will send you home."

Huo Sanyan didn't want to miss the party. "Daughter, let Auntie escort you home too."

"Who is your daughter! Don't simply call her that!" Ye Xun scowled.

"Well, isn't your daughter my daughter too? Why does it matter who she follows? Why segregate ourselves so cleanly?"

Huo Sanyan was nonchalant towards the matter. She pulled Ying Bao into her arms and planted kisses on her.

Ye Xun facepalmed: "..."

Oh my god...

He felt that Huo Sanyan was simply the most horrible virus in the world. She was so pervasive that she could forcefully intervene in every part of your life.

"Uncle Tree-leaf, Auntie Three-Eyes, you can go home first. Baby is going to live with Daddy and Mommy, hehe."

Ye Xun was usually responsible for sending the child back to the Jing family house. But now, after having recognized her real father, it was not surprising that she wanted to live with her parents.

Ye Xun had seen how Xu Xiyan interacted with Huo Yunshen and guessed that their relationship had already been confirmed. Oh well, he could only let them stay together as a family of three.

After all the guests were gone, Xu Xiyan and Huo Yunshen were the only ones in the house with their daughter.

It was already quite late and Ying Bao was getting sleepy. Xu Xiyan bathed the child before tucking her in bed.

After the child fell asleep, she wheeled Huo Yunshen to the sofa and they discussed his new position in the Huo Group.

Xu Xiyan was more worried about this: "What would your cousin think if he learned about this? Will he think that your grandfather was favoring you? He finally seized power over Yunhai, and if he found out that he had lost the forest for the trees, will he become disgruntled?"

Huo Yunshen had already thought about the matter. "Don't worry. I used to tolerate him in the past, but now, I won't anymore. Do you know what my motto is?"

Xu Xiyan shook her head. "What is it?"

"I will not punish anyone unless they attack me first."

His eyes were sharp as knives. "I've already established a line of demarcation between me and Huo Jingtang. If he dares to overstep, I'll make sure he will suffer his own consequences."

As he said this, he was exuding a stern air of arrogance and self-confidence.

Xu Xiyan was so smitten by it that she actually went over and sat on his lap and wrapped her arms around his neck. She lowered her head and said, "Do you know how charming you are now?"

Huo Yunshen: "..."

The girl's supple body was like a nephrite pendant that hung around his shoulders. She was exuding a light and refreshing fragrance that intoxicated him.

This blessing had come too suddenly, catching Huo Yunshen off guard. His heart was about to leap out of his chest in his agitation.

She was sitting on an especially sensitive place, stoking the fire in his body to burn even more wildly. A certain part of his body was beginning to have a reaction, too.

He... He really wanted her. What should he do?

Xu Xiyan had had quite a bit to drink. Her fair and beautiful face was flushed with an alluring shade of red.

The slightly drunk woman was so close to him that their foreheads were almost touching, so near that they could exchange and take in each other's breaths. His heart was beating in a chaotic rhythm.

She gazed at him for a while before placing her hand on his face, then closed her eyes and leaned in decisively to plant a gentle kiss on his cool lips.

This kiss came from the bottom of her heart and she couldn't have stopped it.

She really wanted to kiss him. She really wanted to show him her encouragement with a practical act.

Chapter 464: Another Round of Kisses

The kiss was shallow, Xu Xiyan only rubbed her lips slightly against Huo Yunshen's.

"I'll stand by your side no matter what happens," Xu Xiyan said as she looked at Huo Yunshen affectionately.

"Jing Xi, thank you. Thank you for your encouragement," Huo Yunshen said. He appreciated the trust and support that Xu Xiyan had given him, thanking God for giving him such a wonderful woman.

Xu Xiyan was about to get up after feeling satisfied with the kiss. But before she could even do so, a force pulled her back down.

Their bodies were closer to each other than before as their body heat rose.

"I don't think that encouragement was enough, I need more from you," Huo Yunshen said as he wrapped his arms around her waist. "The more, the better."

His intention was clear, he needed another kiss.

"You do know that you're getting more demanding, right?" Xu Xiyan said as she bit her lips out of embarrassment.

“There's nothing wrong with that since you're my girl and all,” Huo Yunshen joked.

“Hey! Who's your girl...”

Before Xu Xiyao could finish her sentence, the man in front of her grabbed her head and sealed her lips with his own.

Ever since the relationship had deepened, all they wanted to do every day was to stay by each other's side. Maybe that was the magic of love.

Both of them lay on the same bed at night with Ying Bao in the middle while they held hands.

Huo Yunshen asked Xu Xiyao about her plans for the next day before they slept.

“I just accepted a new job, I'll need to go and check it out tomorrow,” Xu Xiyao replied.

It was the violin job that she'd accepted from the black market. The meeting had been pushed back because of her tight schedule.

Now that her own family was well-maintained, it was time for her to settle her own stuff.

“Just decline it, I don't want you to overwork yourself,” Huo Yunshen said, hoping that she could go easy on herself.

“No, I've already agreed,” Xu Xiyao said. “I'll at least have to go to the meeting first.”

Now that Xu Xiyao had Huo Yunshen in her life, she could live without worrying about money. But she hoped that she could make her own money instead of relying on her man. Since Huo Yunshen understood what kind of person Xu Xiyao was, he did not pursue it any further.

If Xu Xiyao was ever in a pinch, he could still help her.

As this couple had a romantic night at Shengshi Yujing, another was in a bad mood.

Rows and rows of exquisite wine were stored on a shelf in a high-end condominium.

A man in a white sleeping robe stood in front of the shelf. His face was dark as he drank the wine in his hand in one go before throwing the glass on the floor.

The hate in his eyes was deep as if he wanted to destroy everything.

Xu Xinrou came out from the bedroom wearing a see-through robe. She stopped in front of the man and rested her hands on his shoulder.

“What's wrong?” Xu Xinrou asked.

“I finally understood what Huo Yunshen has done,” Huo Jingtang scolded. “That's why he willingly gave up Yunhai Entertainment, he was aiming for something higher!”

Huo Jingtang had finally learned the whole truth when he saw on the news that his grandfather had handed the whole Huo Enterprise over to Huo Yunshen.

Chapter 465: Pregnant

It was Huo Yunshen's tactic, faking the enemy by taking a step back.

As soon as Huo Xun handed the power over to Huo Yunshen, he would become the inheritor of the whole Huo Enterprise, making him the person to rule over the whole Huo family.

Huo Jingtang was depressed even when he'd finally become the CEO of Yunhai Entertainment.

Making it worse was the fact that even his grandfather had set him up.

Even though his grandfather did not openly punish him for taking over the company by force, Huo Xun instead handed over everything to Huo Yunshen secretly. Huo Jingtang wasn't even invited to the board meeting.

Every choice Huo Xun had made clearly reflected the fact that he wanted to exclude Huo Jingtang and the people that were siding with his father out of the enterprise.

"It's still not late, you know," Xu Xinrou said sympathetically. "You just have to find a way to take back things that have been robbed from you."

"Take it back? With what? Huo Yunshen has a daughter now," Huo Jingtang said as he smashed a table. "That's the reason why grandpa would suddenly hand everything over to him. It's all because of the child."

One of the requirements of being the heir of the Huo family was having a child.

Huo Jingtang had thought of a way to take care of Huo Yunshen five years ago, but he'd managed to survive the accident. But it was the same accident that took away his ability to walk and mate.

Huo Jingtang had many chances to take care of Huo Yunshen after the accident, but he thought that being crippled would be the best punishment and torture for Huo Yunshen.

Yet he'd never thought that everything would turn out different than what he'd imagined.

"So what if he has a daughter?" Xu Xinrou asked. "You won't lose if you have a child of your own."

"Child? What good will a child do me now?"

Huo Jingtang had been planning to take over the company for the past few years and rarely had time to mess around with women.

Now that the existence of Huo Yunshen's daughter was known to the whole family, it was too late for Huo Jingtang even if he could produce a child right away.

"Of course it does. I'm already pregnant."

Huo Jingtang could feel a chill running down his spine as he looked at Xu Xinrou.

"Who's the father?" Huo Jingtang asked as the father could either be him or Chu Yuhe.



Yet the father wasn't even one of them. The child belonged to Mr. Li, who Xu Xinrou slept with for one night. Xu Xinrou had still been pondering how to get rid of the child in her body, but she suddenly found a way to not only give birth to the child but also pave her way into the Huo family.

"Does it matter? The child could be a chance for you," Xu Xinrou said. "You still have hope to take over the whole family if I can give birth to this child."

Not only was Xu Xinrou not embarrassed about the bastard in her body, but she'd even treated the child like a wild card.

"Even if you can give birth to the child, it's already too late. Huo Yunshen's daughter is already four or five years old."

Huo Jingtang had sent one of his people to check up on Ying Bao. Even though the information wasn't complete, he could determine her age by her looks.

"And? As long as I can give birth to this child, and Huo Yunshen loses his, you can still rule the whole family."

The wickedness that Xu Xinrou was showing might have been on par with Huo Jingtang's.

Chapter 466: He'll Be On His Own

Huo Jingtang instantly understood what Xu Xinrou was implying, he wasn't an idiot.

If what Xu Xinrou had said was true, if she was able to give birth to a child for him, and if Huo Yunshen's daughter were to disappear, then Huo Jingtang would have a very high chance of claiming the spot of the next heir.

It was as if his frustration was suddenly gone.

"You sure are my think tank," Huo Jingtang smiled and hugged Xu Xinrou. "Now that you're going to have our child, we should move forward with our wedding. I'll go back and have a talk with my grandpa."

"You have to remain calm when trouble arises," Xu Xinrou warned. "You should go back and apologize for your mistake as sincerely as you can."

"Of course," Huo Jingtang said as he picked Xu Xinrou up and headed towards the bedroom. "But before that, I think I should reward my adviser first."

Early the next morning, at the Huo Mansion, Moxiang Residence, Huo Jingtang sat in front of Huo Xun's bed.

"Grandpa, I'm here. How are you?"

"I won't die yet, thanks to you," Huo Xun said as he sat up. "Disappointed?"

Huo Jingtang's face turned pale as he helped Huo Xun up and set a pillow down behind him.

"What are you talking about?" Huo Jingtang laughed. "I hope that you can live past a hundred."

“That would be good if what you said was the truth.”

Even though Huo Xun was old, his mind was still working fine. He could still understand what was happening inside the family.

He knew perfectly well what kind of people his two grandsons were, and he could still differentiate between the good and the bad.

“I know what I did to Huo Xun was wrong. That's why I'm here today, to apologize.” Huo Jingtang knelt down. “I know that people will think that I'm cruel, but everything that I did was all for Yunshen's sake. I didn't want him to be overworked since he's in a wheelchair. He's like my little brother, my only little brother. We grew up together, and I would still give him half of what I have. I always thought that since I'm older than Yunshen, I should take care of him and the whole family. I just want to fulfill my responsibility.”

Everything that Huo Jingtang said was a lie. He talked about taking over the throne like it was out of his generosity, as if he was forced to take the role of the next heir.

Huo Xun could hear the lies in his words. As the elder of the Huo family, he thought that he should warn his grandson a little.

“Do you think I've become senile? You should know how many lies you've just told me,” Huo Xun scolded. “Don't think that I have no idea of all the decisions you've made behind my back. Let me tell you this: it was me who decided to exclude Yunhai Entertainment out of our family business. It's a warning for you! If I even hear once more word of your evil-doing in the future, you'll be kicked out of this family!”

A warning from the king of the family. If Huo Jingtang remained as the same he was, Huo Xun was ready to kick him out and force him survive on his own.

Chapter 467: The First Man to Steal Her Heart

Even though Huo Jingtang had plastered a smile on his face, he was cursing his grandfather in his head.

He remained, as if he was apologizing for his mistake, and said, “I will do my best in the future and make Yunhai better.”

“Good, you may leave now,” Huo Xun said, waving his hand as he turned his back to Huo Jingtang.

With the attitude that Huo Xun was showing, Huo Jingtang could only keep the marriage to himself. He left the Moxiang Residence unhappily.

As soon as he walked out of the residence, his smile disappeared instantly.

One of his subordinates rushed to his side, handing him a file. “Sir, I've found out who the little girl is. She's an online celebrity that goes by ‘Cherry Baby.’”

“You know what to do,” Huo Jingtang said after he'd read the file.

“Yes!”

“Don't leave any traces behind.”

“Yes, sir!”

A cunning smile appeared on his face.

You cunning old man, trying to chase me out of the family! Then don't blame me for making the first move!

Huo Jingtang was already picturing how devastated Huo Yunshen would be after he'd lost his daughter.

Xu Xiyan arrived at a mansion the next day, which was at the address provided to her. She'd already guessed that her employer must be someone loaded with money.

She introduced herself to the guard and was led into the living room, which was decorated with crystals.

“Is she here?” a voice from the second floor asked.

“Yes, she's waiting in the living room.”

Xu Xiyan raised her head and saw Xue Yating coming down from the spiral stairs wearing a light purple dress.

Xue Yating? Xu Xiyan thought. Don't tell me this is Xue Yating's house! I thought I was here for a violin job? What does that have to do with her? Wasn't she in an accident not long ago?

“Jing Xi?” Xue Yating blurted out of surprise as she instantly recognized who Xu Xiyan was. What made her puzzled was why Xu Xiyan was at her home when she'd searched for a violinist through the black market.

“Nice to meet you, Miss Xue.”

“Are you here for me, or...”

Xue Yating wasn't sure why Xu Xiyan would have come to her house.

“I was sent here by a middleman in the black market. I heard that this place needs a violinist,” Xu Xiyan explained.

“Yes, you're right...” Xue Yating replied, as she couldn't believe the coincidence. “Come up here with me, I'll tell you the whole story.”

Xu Xiyan went up to Xue Yating's room and heard her whole story.

It was Xue Yating, herself, who needed the violinist double.

After talking for a while, Xu Xiyan told Xue Yating that the “Ye Xun” she'd met at the Huo mansion was herself in disguise. Xue Yating looked at Xu Xiyan with a weird expression, as she couldn't believe that the first man she'd fallen for was actually a girl.

Chapter 468: Precious Baby

She was envious of Jing Xi: how lucky she was to be loved by not one, but two men!

"Ms. Xue, I don't understand. You're an excellent violinist, why do you need a substitute?" Xu Xiyan asked.

Somewhere along the way, Xue Yating had, without realizing it herself, started thinking of Xu Xiyan as a good friend. She waved her right hand as she explained, "I don't want to do this either, to be honest. But I injured my wrist ligament during the car accident."

"You injured your hand?"

Xu Xiyan knew very well that a hand injury was no laughing matter: it was enough to destroy the career of a violinist.

"Yeah. According to my doctor, it'll take a year for me to recover. He says I'm not allowed to touch the violin for the next 12 months."

"And that's why you're looking for someone to stand in for you in the meantime?"

"That's right. I don't want to put my career on hold, and I don't want to let my fans down, either."

Xue Yating's career had just reached new heights. She did not want to give up on it while she spent a year recuperating.

Her schedule was packed with concerts. If she hit the Pause button on her career now, she might never get the chance to perform on stage again.

She knew it was a risky gamble, but it was worth it if it meant securing her future.

"But this counts as deceiving the audience. What if they find out what's going on?" Xu Xiyan could not help feeling that this was a very dangerous move. There was a good chance that Xue Yating's future would be ruined if the audience discovered her ruse.

"They won't find out. I was worried about that too, but I know you'll be able to pull it off. You were able to disguise yourself as Ye Xun, I'm sure it'll be easy enough for you to pretend to be me. And besides, I heard you play the violin at the Huo mansion, and you were really, really good."

Xue Yating had heard Xu Xiyan play the violin, and knew that she was an excellent violinist. Aside from that, the two of them were of a similar height and body shape. Xue Yating was confident no one would realize it was actually Xu Xiyan up on the stage once the actress disguised herself with makeup.

"I can disguise myself as you, but..."

Xu Xiyan hesitated. She wasn't particularly close to Xue Yating, but that didn't mean she was okay with the thought of accidentally ruining her career.

Xue Yating continued to persuade her. "If you say yes to this, I'll give you half of my earnings for each show. That's quite a lot of money, you know. Are you sure you want to give up such a wonderful opportunity to make money?"

Xue Yating wasn't exaggerating; it was, in fact, a lot of money. Xue Yating took home hundreds of thousands Yuan for every concert. Some concerts netted her over a million yuan. If they split the money 50-50, Xu Xiyuan would receive a considerable amount of money for each performance.

Xu Xiyuan's interest was piqued. She wanted to make more money to provide for her daughter and give her a better life. She wasn't sure she could deal with the risks, however. What if things didn't go according to plan?

Xue Yating knew what she was worried about. She added helpfully, "If you think 50-50 is too little for you, I don't mind giving you more. We'll split it 30-70 instead."

"No, Ms. Xue, I'm not complaining about the money. I'm more than happy with splitting the pay 50-50."

After a moment of careful consideration, Xu Xiyuan finally made up her mind. "I can help you. I don't really care about how we split the money—50-50, 30-70, it doesn't matter. But I have one condition."

"What is it? Tell me."

"Next year, once all the performances are over... I want you to give me Artemis."

Xue Yating was taken aback by the request. She cocked her head to the side as she considered it. "You want my violin?"

"Yes, that's right."

Xue Yating got out her precious baby. She opened the case and gently caressed the violin inside. She turned and smiled at Xu Xiyuan. "Jing Xi, you have great taste. Did you know that I spent a fortune just to get my hands on this violin?"

It was obvious that the violin was special to Xue Yating from the way she cherished and maintained it. Xu Xiyuan's gaze fell upon the glossy, polished surface of the violin as she whispered, "I know. You spent 30 million Yuan on it."

"That's right, I bought it for 30 million Yuan at an auction. What makes you think I'd be willing to give it to you?"

Chapter 469: Sentimental Value

Xu Xiyuan was silent. She knew it was a ridiculous request. Why would Xue Yating willingly hand her precious baby to someone else?

She would have to be insane to do that!

Xue Yating was most definitely not insane. She knew exactly what she was doing. "Jing Xi, if you want a violin, I can give you a better one. Surely it isn't necessary for us to squabble over this specific violin?"

"But that violin has sentimental value for me."

Xu Xiyuan watched despairingly as Xue Yating placed the violin back into its case. She knew that it was futile: Xu Xiyuan would never agree to her request.

"Oh? What sentimental value? Tell me. Who knows, I might change my mind if I find your explanation to be reasonable," Xue Yating said jokingly.

"Because... it was left to me by my late mother. I want it back," said Xu Xiyan softly. There was a faint glimmer of light in her eyes.

Xue Yating froze in the middle of shutting the violin case. She looked at Xu Xiyan incredulously. "Oh my god... Don't tell me you're Madam Jing's daughter?"

Xu Xiyan did not say anything. She remained in her seat, quietly waiting. From certain angles, she looked very much like a younger version of her mother.

Xue Yating rubbed her eyes. She took a closer look at Xu Xiyan's face, and paid extra attention to the way she carried herself. She grabbed Xu Xiyan's hand in amazement. "How did I not see it? You're a wonderful violinist, and your surname is Jing! Are you really Madam Jing's daughter? Am I dreaming?"

She had not expected to meet Jing Ruyue's daughter. Xue Yating's heart swelled with emotion as tears gathered in her eyes.

She held Xu Xiyan's hand, squeezing it tight as she talked of her own connection with Jing Ruyue, and what had led her to study music.

Xue Yating worshipped Jing Ruyue—she had been fanatically obsessed with her idol.

When she was a little child, her father had taken her to one of Jing Ruyue's concerts. Even as a young girl, she had been awestruck by Jing Ruyue's performance.

She had been blown away by the violinist's masterful playing—it was as though she had been transported into a different world.

From that moment on, Xue Yating fell hopelessly in love with the violin. She began her arduous journey towards being a violinist, dreaming that one day, she, too, would be able to play in front of an international audience, just like Jing Ruyue. She would capture the hearts and imaginations of her audience with her music, just like her idol.

Jing Ruyue eventually gave up music to enter show business, and then lost her life in an accident. Xue Yating was saddened by the news and mourned her death for a very long time.

At the end of Xue Yating's little speech, Xu Xiyan was surprised to discover that her own cheeks were wet with tears.

She wiped her tears with the back of her hand. She said, with heartfelt gratitude, "Ms. Xue, thank you, thank you for keeping my mother alive in your memories."

Xue Yating saw her tears. She handed Xu Xiyan a tissue as she said comfortingly, "I'm sorry. That must be a painful memory for you."

Xu Xiyan smiled as she shook her head. "It's fine."

Xue Yating patted Xu Xiyan on the shoulder. She looked like she had just arrived at a decision. "Okay, Jing Xi, you've convinced me. I agree to your request. You're Madam Jing's daughter, after all, and it would be cruel of me to say no."

"Thank you!"

This was an unexpected turn of events. Xue Yating's willingness to part with her precious violin surprised Xu Xiyan.

"You don't have to thank me, because I'm asking for something else in return," Xue Yating said with a smile.

"What's that?"

Xue Yating suddenly leaned her head upon Xu Xiyan's shoulder and said playfully, "Let's be sisters! You're Madam Jing's daughter. I would be honored and delighted if we could be good friends!"

Xue Yating was from a distinguished family. Her prestigious background, coupled with her proud, bossy personality, meant that she did not have any friends. To put it another way, no one was bold or presumptuous enough to try to be her friend.

Chapter 470: A Promising Couple

But Xue Yating was just like any other girl her age: she longed for friendship, for soul sisters who truly understood her.

"I... would be honored."

It was the truth: Xu Xiyan was just as flattered and delighted as Xue Yating. She could not believe her luck: she had not only reclaimed her mother's violin, but also made a new friend.

In a dreamy, confused manner, Xu Xiyan agreed to stand in for Xue Yating, and quickly became friends with her.

Xu Xiyan spent some time putting on her makeup and disguise.

She put on Xue Yating's black evening gown. As soon as she emerged from the dressing room, Xue Yating gazed at her in complete amazement.

"Oh my god—Jing Xi, this is so surreal! I thought I was looking at my reflection in the mirror! You look exactly like me, I don't know how you do it!"

Xu Xiyan looked at herself in the mirror. It was true, she was the spitting image of Xue Yating.

Xue Yating handed Artemis over to Xu Xiyan. Xu Xiyan placed the violin under her chin and began to play.

Once the beautiful, relaxing piece was over, Xue Yating applauded her vigorously. She enthused, with complete sincerity, "Jing Xi, that was amazing. You're a much better violinist than I am, I feel so inferior."

"Don't say that, you're a wonderful violinist." Xu Xiyan laughed. "You should fall in love, get a boyfriend. I think that will help add a little more feeling to your music."

Xu Xiyan had always felt that Xue Yating's playing, although skillful, was a little lacking in emotion.

"Fall in love? I want to, but Mr. Ye doesn't even know I exist. I don't stand a chance."

Xue Yating was not the type to delude herself with fantasies.

"But why does it have to be Mr. Ye? You're a great catch, you can aim a lot higher."

Xu Xiyan had seen Huo Sanyan and Ye Xun's explosive interactions, and thought they made a promising couple.

If Xue Yating decided to turn it into a love triangle, all three of them would inevitably suffer. It was, in Xu Xiyan's opinion, better to persuade Xue Yating to choose someone else before anyone got hurt.

"You want me to aim higher? Well, there's only person better than Mr. Ye, and that's Huo Yunshen! Mr. Huo may be in a wheelchair, but there's something really attractive about him. He's handsome and super talented, I'm sure he'll make a great husband. What do you think?" said Xue Yating dreamily. She looked like a schoolgirl fantasizing about her crush.

"..." Xu Xiyan's heart constricted. She felt as though someone was about to snatch her baby away.

Was Xue Yating in love with Huo Yunshen?

"You... you like Mr. Huo?" There was a tinge of resentment in Xu Xiyan's voice.

Xue Yating had only been testing Xu Xiyan. As soon as she saw that Xu Xiyan was upset and close to tears, she immediately burst into laughter. "Hahaha, I was just teasing you! Oh dear, you should have seen that panicked look on your face! Don't worry, Mr. Huo is yours, I have no intention of taking him from you."

Xu Xiyan: "..."

That wasn't funny! She had almost died of a heart attack, dammit!

She knew that as long as Xue Yating was willing, the Xue family and the Huo family would be more than happy to have Huo Yunshen and Xue Yating tie the knot.

Luckily, Xue Yating wasn't interested in Huo Yunshen. On top of that, she was now good friends with Xu Xiyan, which meant there was very little chance of her being a rival in love. Xu Xiyan was glad of that; she did not think she would be able to win against someone like her.

Xu Xiyan spent some time in the Xue residence, where, like a true soul sister, Xue Yating talked to Xu Xiyan about anything and everything: tales from elementary school, high school, college, and her experience studying abroad.

They eventually got to talking about show business. Xue Yating said, "Jing Xi, you remember that poll for 'Root of Evil?' I voted for you to be the leading lady! Your performance was incredible, I don't know why they didn't pick you. Oh well, it's their loss."



Xue Yating was trying to comfort Xu Xiyan. She assumed that the actress already knew that she had lost the role.

But in actuality, Xu Xiyan did not know that the poll had ended...