

Sweet Love 3131

Chapter 3131: Innocence 52

He swung around, took his bicycle, and caught up with me. He grabbed the shoulder strap of my school bag and said, "Get on!"

"I'll walk back by myself!" I said in a fit of pique.

"Xiachun, get on!"

Dongyu seemed very persistent and added, "Don't make me lose my temper!"

His words made me even more indignant.

Lose his temper?

What right did he have to be angry!?

Did I do anything wrong!?

Why could he have a girlfriend while I needed his approval to date other guys?!

Why should it be that way?!

I felt indignant and turned away without looking at him.

He was about to say something else, but I saw Su Qi approaching on his bicycle. He saw Dongyu too, and as if on purpose, he didn't brake until he was right next to me. The tire of his bicycle jammed up against that of Dongyu's bicycle, like some kind of defiant confrontation.

When Dongyu saw him, his expression turned even uglier. "Get lost."

Su Qi ignored him and said to me, "Hop on."

Dongyu said angrily, "Su Qi, what did I warn you about!?"

Before he could finish, I had placed my bag in Su Qi's bicycle basket, got into the backseat, and slipped my arms around his waist. Ignoring Dongyu's anger, I said to Su Qi, "I want a soda."

"Okay, I'll buy you a drink."

Su Qi said as he glared at Dongyu. Then under his icy gaze, Su Qi turned the bicycle around and cycled away.

I didn't look back.

Dongyu did not come chasing after us either.

He must be disappointed in me, I thought.

That night, after we left the karaoke room, Su Qi sent me home. Before I walked off, he grabbed the back of my hand and pulled me to him with a broad smile on his face!

"Are you leaving left just like that? No other expression?"

“What do you mean?” I asked.

He lightly scratched at the bridge of my nose. “No kiss?”

I blushed and turned around shyly. Out of the corner of my eye, I thought I saw someone standing at the balcony of our home.

I looked up and caught the figure leaning against the railing, looking down.

It was too dark to see clearly, but I could guess who that was.

I bit my lip and suddenly turned around to look at Su Qi.

Initially disappointed, Su Qi’s expression instantly brightened up when I turned around.

“Idiot!” I groaned.

Then, I walked up to close the gap between us. I tiptoed and put my arms around his shoulders, offering him a kiss.

He was too tall. Next to his 1.8-meter frame, my 1.6-meter height made me look petite in comparison.

...

After Su Qi left, I turned around. The figure on the balcony was gone.

When I got home, I walked past Dongyu’s room. I stopped in my tracks, suddenly realizing my earlier behavior was terrible.

I didn’t know why I did that, whom I was trying to provoke, and even what that would achieve.

I then walked to the balcony and stood where Dongyu had been. From this angle, he would have seen everything clearly.

My only intention was to show that I could do without him.

Ever since that incident, the distance between Dongyu and I grew

I wasn’t sure who between the two of us was trying to keep a distance from the other. More than once, I laughed at how the camaraderie between us was evident even in this moment.

Sometimes, after school, I would deliberately walk past the school gate of number 1 key high school. From afar, I would see Dongyu and Lin Li walking home together.

Chapter 3132: Innocence 53

I would follow behind, trying to hide my tracks.

It was only when they were far away from the school gate that the two of them would walk closer to each other.

Sometimes, Lin Li would take his hand and smile brightly when she faced him. Dongyu would look at her tenderly, the way he had once stood beside me and gazed at me tenderly.

Sometimes, he would gently put his arm around her shoulders. The two of them would occasionally play around and occasionally display some intimate actions.

Like a masochist, I witnessed their intimate moments with my own eyes.

I imagined that Dongyu would hug her often, hold her hand, kiss her, and perhaps at some point, sleep with her.

At that thought, I couldn't help but wonder if they had already slept together.

Did they do that... thing?

I felt that it was a little dirty to try to figure out this matter, but I couldn't help thinking about it, till it gave me a splitting headache, till my heart knew nothing but pain.

During the time I was dating Su Qi, I really did put in a lot of effort to make things work.

Walking with him through the streets where I'd once walked with Dongyu, going to the ice cream shops, the movie theaters, and the library where I'd only been with Dongyu... it was almost as though I had projected that person's shadow onto Su Qi, even though on the other hand I thought it was unfair.

But I really didn't know what else I could do to make myself fall in love with this sunny, handsome boy.

And I didn't know how to sever my feelings for Dongyu.

I had asked Su Qi about this before.

I asked him, "Su Qi, what would you do if you fell for someone that you shouldn't have?"

He asked in return, "What do you mean, shouldn't have?"

"It just means you shouldn't have liked her, that it's impossible between you and you're destined to never be together."

"How is that possible? I don't believe in such things. As long as I like her, I'll go after her until I get her."

"But... what if you really can't be together?"

"Impossible!"

I gathered my courage and asked, "What if that person is your sister?"

Su Qi looked at me and was stunned for a long time. Then, he suddenly let out a sneer. "How is that possible?! That is incest, I'm not a pervert!"

As soon as he had spoken, his expression froze for a long time before he looked at me meaningfully.

Perhaps from that day onwards, he had vaguely sensed the subtle relationship between Dongyu and I. As a result, he would use various means to test me.

I thought he must also be wondering if my feelings for Dongyu were what he imagined.

He would often tell me details of Dongyu and Lin Li being together.

One time, Su Qi took me to a gathering with friends. In the KTV, he casually mentioned to me that by chance, he had spotted Dongyu and Lin Li walking out of a hotel together.

“Could they have booked a room?”

He gave me a frivolous smile.

I was a little upset at him and chided him, “Don’t spout nonsense unless you’ve personally witnessed it!”

“Xiachun, how should I tell you this? What else would two people do at a hotel? I can’t think of any other reasons for them being there.”

Speaking of booking a room, I suddenly remembered Su Qi’s words.

He had once said that unless it was out of my own willingness, he would not expect us to be overly intimate with each other.

I asked him what he meant by being “overly intimate”.

He said matter-of-factly, “As for booking a room, Dongyu had warned me that if I dared to trick you into doing anything like that, he’d break my legs.”

Chapter 3133: Innocence 54

As he spoke, he put his arm around my shoulders and snorted. “My dear wifey, why are you so young? You’re making me a little afraid to touch you!”

“Who’s your wife!?”

“Of course it’s you.”

“I’m not your wife!”

“Yes, yes, you are! When you graduate from university, let’s get married!”

“That’s a matter for the future. No one knows.”

Su Qi suddenly grabbed my shoulder seriously and pretended to be unhappy. “Why wouldn’t I know? I’ve decided on you. I don’t care. You’re my wife! No one can break us up! Otherwise, I’ll...”

“What are you going to do, then?”

Su Qi suddenly smiled like an innocent child. “What can I do? I can only pester you forever.”

I snapped back to my senses and felt a little lost.

“Su Qi, stop speaking nonsense now.”

He finally couldn’t hold it in anymore. It was probably because my expression was too ugly that his suspicions were confirmed. He asked me half-jokingly, “Xiachun, don’t tell me you... like Dongyu?”

I said nothing.

He suddenly took a big gulp of beer and asked, "Could the reason why you've agreed to date me be that you're just using me as a substitute for Dongyu..."

Halfway through his words, he suddenly looked odd and was unable to continue.

I kept silent and only stared at the table blankly.

He suddenly said in all earnestness, "Xiachun, let's have a good talk."

I found his seriousness unfamiliar so I smiled and tugged at his arm, saying, "Su Qi, I'm tired and my head hurts..."

"Don't." He pushed me away, looking distant and withdrawn.

I looked at him a little helplessly. He had never treated me this way before.

"What's the matter..."

Su Qi suddenly questioned, "Just because I like you, you've become this bold, right?"

"..."

"You think no matter how much you go overboard, you think I won't be angry, sad or disappointed... right?"

"Su Qi..."

"Yin Xiachun!"

Su Qi finally lost control. He probably also realized that all this while I was dating him, I had an ulterior motive. He yelled at me, looking hurt, "What do you take me for? A substitute?"

"You already like someone else, don't you!?"

"..."

"That person is your brother, right?"

Su Qi gritted his teeth and said, "Are you crazy?! You can't like him. You can't love him. You're siblings. This is incest. You can't be together!"

"I know, I understand..."

"I don't think you understand at all!"

"I told you, I got it!" I shouted at him with all my might!

Su Qi was stunned.

With tears in my eyes, I sneered, "Even you have to remind me of this!?"

"..."

"I know that I can't love him, so I agreed to be with you. Su Qi, didn't you say that you would definitely make me fall in love with you? You have to keep your word!"

This was like a rude awakening for Su Qi. His thin lips trembled slightly as he said, "So, you're really using me?"

He suddenly stood up. Losing his composure, he kicked out at a few bottles of beer by his feet. He was livid. "Yin Xiachun! What right do you have to toy with me like this?! Just because I like you and like you hopelessly, you think you can be this careless with my feelings?!"

His friends pushed open the door and walked in.. When they saw this scene, they were all taken aback.

Chapter 3134: Innocence 55

I was a little afraid, seeing how out of control he looked. I stood up and tried to reach for his hand.

"Su Qi, try a little harder! I'm just about to fall for you. You just need to try a little harder!"

"Enough!" He stared at me coldly with bloodshot eyes. "How much longer are you going to toy with me?!"

"I... I'm not toying with you."

"No?"

"I've... I've been very serious..."

He suddenly looked at me intently, his expression unreadable.

It was probably because my attitude wasn't sincere enough.

Su Qi bit his lips and smiled icily. I could sense the anger and forced calmness.

"Let's break up, huh?"

...

I didn't understand Su Qi's annoyance, just as he couldn't relate to my despair.

I kept asking him to stay or begged him to take me away. I wanted him to know how much I was suffering and struggling inside.

However, his heart seemed to have turned cold. In the end, he ruthlessly withdrew his hand and left without looking back.

I was left alone in the private room. Before I knew it, tears were streaming down my face.

I must be a terrible girl, I thought.

Even Su Qi, who liked me so much and was so obsessed with me, decided to give up on me.

I had been abandoned just like that.

“Why did Su Qi leave?” Another boy in the private room came up to me and glanced in the direction of the door. He looked at me and sat down beside me.

“You’re Yin Xiachun, right?”

The boy stubbed out his cigarette in the ashtray and placed a can of beer in front of me.

“Ignore him! Drink up, drink up!”

When I looked up at him, he froze.

“Why are you crying?” The boy smiled. “Did Su Qi make you angry?”

Perhaps it was because I felt abandoned, I suddenly had a desire to be valued by the whole world.

So much so that when I saw the beer in his hand, I felt as if I could gain everyone’s respect by drinking this beer.

I wasn’t one who could hold a drink, and Dongyu had repeatedly warned me not to accept drinks from strangers!

But at this point, thinking of him only caused all the nerves in my body to scream and rebel!

The very thought of his name caused every cell in me to protest. I snatched the beer from the boy and peeled the tab away. In one gulp, I downed half the can.

“That’s bold!”

The boy looked at me with satisfaction. After I had emptied the can, he handed me another.

I barely glanced at him as I took it from him and gulped it down.

Back then, trying to drink was just an idea. I thought about how, in television shows, people would drink whenever they encountered something sad – one could down a drink, get drunk and forget one’s sorrows!

Would drinking really make one forget everything for a short time?

I didn’t know about others.

All I knew was that alcohol seemed to deepen my shallow memories.

All my happiness and pain would be fragmented.

Beautiful memories of the past would be etched even more deeply in my memory, and for that matter, it only made my pain greater.

And because of the alcohol, my pain would be magnified and suddenly it would become heartbreaking.

Even insignificant struggles became torturous.

Halfway through my drink, I became groggy and muddle-headed. Things that caused me pain, my entanglements and heartaches – they rushed right at me, tempestuous and hissing!

I drank like a madman, holding up the bottle and the mike, crying and letting loose.

Chapter 3135: Innocence 56

I never knew that alcohol could do this to a person.

However, I also came to understand why so many people become alcoholic. It is because of the pain that they harbor deep in their hearts. Only when they are drunk can they break out and break free from all the restraints.

In that moment when I'm able to release all of my pain, it feels great nevertheless!

I vaguely recalled grabbing someone's collar and asking, "Tell me, why can't I like Yin Dongyu? Why?!"

"Why can't I kiss him?"

"Why can't I marry him?"

"Why... does he reject me when clearly, he likes me?"

...

That's right.

Yin Dongyu likes me.

He thought I would never grow up, that I would always be that ignorant girl.

How could I not tell?

The intoxication and struggle in his eyes the first time we kissed. He was wistful and conflicted.

He ruthlessly pushed me away, but his eyes told me that more than anything, he wanted to hold me in his arms.

I hated the fact that we had the same blood flowing through us. If I could, I would cut myself open and let this blood drain away.

That night, I was drowned in strong alcohol and deafening music.

Some say that a girl's first time is like a sacred ritual

I'm not sure how to describe my first time.

If words had to be used to describe it, it would be a cruel torture, or a sacrifice.

I gave all of my happiness and goodness, to honor my pathetic and humble obsession.

Perhaps this was the price of growing up and sobering up, but the price was way too steep.

On TV, there had been many stories and cases of girls having lost their way during puberty. Whether it was in the news or in some TV drama serial, they didn't seem to give me much warning.

The next morning, I woke up staring blankly at an empty ceiling.

What pulled my mind back to reality was the strangeness of my own body.

I had read many novels about the first time, some describe it as the feeling of having being run over by a truck, or some sort of deep and sharp pain. It was nothing like that.

However, a certain burning sensation reminded me that my body had quietly changed without my knowledge.

I saw the blanket covering me and sat up, only to realize that there was someone else lying beside me.

When I turned to look, it became clearer.

It was an unfamiliar young man.

Who did he say he was?

Why was he lying here too?

More importantly, why was he naked like me?

I clutched the blanket tightly and mustered my courage to look at my body under the blanket. His hand was wrapped around my waist.

All at once, I couldn't be more sober.

It was like a blow to the head. My nerves were so tense that it hurt.

There was a tearing pain at the base of my thigh.

However, what hurt even more than this was the sense of loss and numbness in my heart, as well as the little bit of shame that remained.

However, I didn't scream. Or perhaps, when my scream was about to leave my throat, I was so ashamed that I couldn't do it!

I just sat there, stunned. My brain felt as if it had been hollowed out by an invisible hand. I didn't yell or cry.

I thought it was a dream. I was hoping it was one.

I raised my head, hoping to wake up and return to reality.. However, the cruelest thing about reality is having the last thing you wish for, happen.

Chapter 3136: Innocence 57

The boy seemed to have been woken up by my shivering. He opened his eyes and sat up. He ruffled his hair and turned his head. Then he noticed me.

“You're awake? When did you wake up?”

I didn't say anything, and I didn't dare look at him, clinging to some weak but stupid hope.

Suddenly, he reached out and touched my face. He rubbed his fingertips over it and then smiled.

“Why are you crying?”

He rubbed his wet fingers on the blanket and got off the bed. He picked up the clothes on the floor and mumbled, “What a rough night! Haha!”

His tone was casual and he sounded like a victor who was extremely proud of himself.

Just a few hours ago, he had conquered a city. How could he not be proud?

“Since you’re awake, why don’t you put on some clothes?”

He threw my clothes at me. Seeing that I was still not reacting, he chuckled and asked, “How long do you plan to sit there like a fool?”

There was a coldness in his words that I deeply detested.

It was as if what I thought was enough to cause the heavens to collapse and the earth to shake was nothing in his eyes.

I smiled stupidly at him, then asked, “Is it dawn?”

At first, he was confused. Then, he walked to the window and peeked through the curtain. “Yes! The sun’s up!”

The next second, he drew open the curtain completely.

I desperately wanted the sunlight to chase away the guilt in my heart, but I found that my heart was cold and wintry, even in the warm sunlight.

I got out of bed, picked up my clothes from the bed, hugged them in my arms, and headed for the bathroom.

However, as soon as I had taken a step, I felt an indescribable pain.

Something warm slid down my thigh.

He pulled me back, finally looking nervous.

“Have you gone stupid?”

I looked at him and shook my head.

He glanced at my face, then swept his gaze over my body. His eyes immediately noticed something underneath me.

My shame finally returned and I squeezed my legs close, but he reached out and brushed his finger over my skin.

“Why are you still bleeding?”

He suddenly laughed. “Why are you bleeding so much?”

...

“Are you injured down there? I couldn’t get in last night and you were moving around, so I had to use some force. Could it be torn?... Should I send you to the hospital to stop the bleeding?”

...

“It’s not like I’ve never been with a virgin before, but this is the first time I’ve seen someone bleed so much.”

My lips trembled fiercely as I clutched my clothes.

“Why don’t you take a shower first? Clean yourself up before getting dressed.”

His order was like an imperial edict to me. I walked to the bathroom and stood under the shower head. As I stood there, something sticky seemed to surge out of my body and slide down.

Under the cover of the water, my tears finally burst out uncontrollably.

It was already noon when I left the hotel.

Before he left, he told me his name.

“Fang Liang.”

I took the taxi fare he gave me and got onto a cab to Han Xiao’s house.

I didn’t have the courage to go back to school for class. If I were to go to class in this state, it would have created a stir.

I was even more afraid to go home. I hadn’t been home all night last night. Going home would mean facing my father or my mother, or of course, Dongyu, and I most certainly would have had to undergo a full trial.

When I arrived at Han Xiao’s house, I sat on the steps outside her house and waited silently.

Chapter 3137: Innocence 58

Han Xiao’s house was in an upscale neighborhood. I had no idea how long I sat waiting on the stairs.

I watched a little girl, about five years old, practicing cycling under her father’s tutelage on a meandering trail.

Then I recalled when I was a kid learning how to ride a bicycle, Dongyu had watched me nervously as he carefully controlled the center of gravity of the bicycle from behind me.

At the time, I was only six years old. I stepped on the pedals and nervously gripped the handlebars. I looked like I was ready to die trying.

As Dongyu shouted at me to relax, he pushed the bicycle forward.

When I first started learning, I wasn’t very proficient. I often lost my balance, but every time I was about to fall, Dongyu would rush up. His thin body could always withstand my weight.

Once, when I fell, he cushioned me from beneath, and I fell into his arms. When I got up, I was laughing like I didn't have a care in the world. When we got home at night, I found a few abrasions on his back, but I wasn't the least bit ashamed. Instead, I laughed at him for being so delicate.

I didn't know why, whenever I reminisced about the innocence and monotony of childhood, I always thought that everything changed when we grew up. The burdens we bore became heavier as well.

...

In the evening, Han Xiao returned home from school. She saw me as she walked towards the door with her school bag. She was shocked.

"Xiachun!"

I looked up. When I saw her, I stood up nervously.

"Why are you here?" She was a little surprised. "You weren't in school all day today. Your parents came to look for the form teacher and they seemed anxious! When I passed by the form teacher's office, I heard your mother say that you didn't go home last night either. They've already gone to the police station to make a report!"

"Han Xiao, can I stay at your place tonight?" I ask cautiously.

"Are you crazy? Why aren't you going home?" Han Xiao asked in astonishment.

"I..." I bit my lip. The thought of what I might face going home reduced me to tears.

"Han Xiao, I don't have anywhere else to go except here..."

Han Xiao squatted in front of me and cupped my face in her hands. She finally noticed something odd.

"Xiachun, where did you go last night?"

"..."

"Tell me, talk to me!"

Han Xiao gripped my shoulders tightly and asked anxiously, "Weren't you with Su Qi last night? You didn't go home. Where did you go?"

"Stop asking, okay?"

I pleaded in despair, "Don't ask anymore... Please..."

"..."

Han Xiao hid me in her room.

Because I was worried her parents would find out, I was careful even to not speak too loudly.

Han Xiao returned to her room after dinner and brought me a carton of milk.

"Only this. I'm sorry, Xiachun..."

She set the milk aside, but I had no appetite.

I thought, I must look terrible, so Han Xiao must have been scared out of her wits. She sat beside me, put her arm around my shoulder, and cried, "Xiachun, don't scare me, okay? It's good to talk to me. I'm so sad to see you this way..."

But how could she understand my sadness?

In a matter of one night, my whole world was shattered.

At night, I lay in bed and didn't dare close my eyes, just because when the world was dark, I would see the scenes from last night.

I felt so dirty, but while I was in the shower, I was already trying my best to scrub my body. I wanted to wash away all these sins, wash away the scent and the marks that the man had left behind...

The pain was like being burned by a raging fire. I felt like I was being burnt to ashes.

Chapter 3138: Innocence 59

However, the truth was that the so-called meeting my doom was merely an illusion.

I would not be reduced to ashes.

In a sense, this could be considered a terrifying punishment, or a cruel death sentence. Fate wouldn't kill me, but it would torture me until the next layer of flesh was removed.

I thought, this was probably my retribution.

"Xiachun, what's the matter?"

Han Xiao was probably startled awake by my trembling. She turned on the lights, only to see me biting onto the blanket and clenching my teeth tightly while holding back my tears.

She held me tightly, probably trying to give me as much reassurance as possible.

I greedily wanted to absorb her warmth. I hugged her and whispered, "Han Xiao, I'm scared..."

I was afraid. I was afraid that sooner or later, this matter would be exposed, brought out in the open.

I was afraid. I was afraid of how Dongyu would look upon me with disgust when he would find out about this.

I was afraid. I was most afraid of being abandoned by the world.

...

The rest of the night passed in a daze. The next day, Han Xiao woke up and so did I, in a blur. When she saw that I was awake, she asked me to go to school with her.

I didn't dare set foot in the school.

I told her I wasn't going, I asked her to go ahead.

She asked me why I didn't want to go to school.

I said nothing more.

She tried to persuade me using all sorts of means, but I was adamant. I wrapped myself in the blanket and curled up in the corner, hugging myself.

She was completely helpless, so she left by herself. After she left, I locked the door behind me and locked myself in the room alone. Then I just lay there in bed, staring up at the ceiling, but I couldn't stop the tears from falling.

Back then, I was so desperate that it felt like my world was crumbling.

But I had no idea who was going to help me hold things together, if my world crumbled.

I knew that it would be too weak, if all I knew were tears.

However, other than crying, I didn't know how else to face myself.

I didn't feel hungry after a day without food; I didn't feel thirsty after a day without water.

And just like that, late in the afternoon, I heard footsteps outside the door, as if whoever it was had returned. I hugged my own shoulders timidly and started shivering.

Then, someone knocked on the door. I didn't dare to speak or make any noise. I was afraid that it was Han Xiao's parents. Then I heard Han Xiao's voice. "Xiachun, it's me, Han Xiao."

Only then did I get off the bed and walk to the door. I unlocked it and just as I opened the door, I saw Dongyu's erect figure standing at the doorway. Seeing the door had opened, he didn't wait for me to react before barging in.

The door flew wide open.

I was scared out of my wits. I backed away and stared at him with a pale face. His face was filled with anxiety, anger, worry, and concern!

"Why didn't you come home!?"

Dongyu approached me and questioned me angrily, "Where did you go the other night? Do you know that Mom and Dad went crazy looking for you?! They've already lodged a police report. They thought you were missing and something bad happened!"

I stared at him with my mouth agape. Then, I felt betrayed and angry!

I looked towards Han Xiao. Her skinny figure was curled up at the side, as if she was afraid that I would vent my anger on her. She didn't dare to look at me.

"Don't look at her! This has nothing to do with her!"

As Dongyu spoke, he reached out to grab my arm.

My shoulders shrank back violently, and I backed away from him. "Don't... don't touch me..."

I saw his face harden and his eyes freeze over.

“Why?”

“... Dirty... dirty...”

I crossed my arms, not wanting him to touch me. I did not want to dirty his hands.

I felt that I was dirty. From head to toe, there was a stain that couldn't be washed clean. In my heart, Dongyu was someone that couldn't be sullied. I didn't want to dirty his hands.

However, he seemed to have misunderstood my meaning. When he heard this word coming out of my mouth, he slowly retracted his hand.

I saw the light in his eyes dimming, devoiding itself of luster, and even... a hint of indescribable disappointment.

He seemed to be asking, “How did you become like this?”

I couldn't stand the look in his eyes. I lowered my head and crouched helplessly.

I wasn't sure how long he stood there for, looking at me, studying me.

I only saw that he suddenly turned around and left. Despite Han Xiao's repeated urgings, he walked away without looking back.

Han Xiao ran out, after him. After a long time, she returned – I saw both resentment and helplessness in her expression.

“Xiachun, what's the matter with you?! You have not said a word, not a word. What happened that night?!”

I didn't say anything, all I knew was that Dongyu was gone. But I thought, just go. The farther you go, the better. Don't... look back again.

I didn't need his care anymore.

That night, I still did not have dinner. Han Xiao could not persuade me either. My indifference almost caused her to break down!

As she stood there at a loss, her mother shouted from outside, “Xiao Xiao, someone's looking for you!”

Han Xiao left the room. A few minutes later, the door was pushed open again. However, I noticed that the footsteps sounded different.

When I finally looked up, I saw Su Qi walking into the room, his face ashen. When he saw me, he was stunned for a long time before he walked up to me and squatted down.

He reached for me.

Surprisingly, I didn't push him away like I had pushed Dongyu away.

All I could recall was that my mind went blank when he tried to hold me. I couldn't think of anything. I didn't dare think of anything.

But later, I realized that back then, perhaps I just really needed a warm embrace.

Su Qi couldn't give me the warmth I wanted.

But I dared not hope for the warmth that Dongyu could give me.

Besides Su Qi, I didn't know who else could give me such warmth.

When he wrapped his arms around me, tears simply flowed from my eyes. They surged and flowed as though from a broken dam. I couldn't hold them back anymore.

Maybe it was my tears, my suppressed sobs that tore at his heart.

He hugged me tightly and choked, "It's my fault. Don't cry!"

I cried harder upon hearing his words.

"Why did you leave me alone yesterday?" I demanded of him.

That question came almost impulsively.

His entire body stiffened, as if all the blood in his body had frozen!

These words stabbed at his heart like a knife.

He rubbed my shoulder guiltily, his voice shaking. "It's my fault... I shouldn't have left you alone yesterday!"

I questioned him over and over again in despair. "Even you left me alone, how could you?"

...

"Why?"

...

"Why did you leave me behind?"

...

"Su Qi... I have never toyed with you. I never did."

...

He had no idea what had happened that night.. He only understood that I was asking him why he had left me there alone.

Chapter 3140: Innocence 61

Su Qi held me helplessly, apologizing over and over again.

"I will never abandon you again!"

I cried even harder, thinking, if only I could turn back time.

But there was no medicine for regrets in this world, let alone time machines.

I couldn't go back in time, much less start over again.

But I didn't blame him.

Because I was the one who brought it upon myself.

Probably because I was an extremist. Even though I knew that the relationship I wanted was impossible, I tried to push for it, questioning and testing it over and over again, till in the end, I was covered in bruises.

Su Qi was also a victim. What right did I have to blame him?

That night, he accompanied me home. In the past, he would only send me to the foot of the block. However, this time, I paced back and forth downstairs, worried about the storm that might break out when I stepped into the house.

When he saw me hesitating and afraid to go upstairs, he suddenly took my hand and said, "Don't worry. I'm here."

I was stunned to hear those words.

They were words that Dongyu had said to me countless times.

But in my most desperate moments, he was not there for me.

I didn't know how much credibility to assign to Su Qi's words.

It was because of our youth that some heavy promises were casually given.

In those moments, the promises were sincere. However, those promises had to be broken, because the outcomes would have been impossible.

My initial belief gradually gave way to caution.

Su Qi took my hand as I walked up the stairs behind him. Then we knocked on the door.

It was my mother who opened the door. The moment she saw me, she reached out her hand and grabbed my collar, pulling me into the house. Su Qi saw this and rushed over in fright. He protected me by drawing me away from her, then standing in front of me and saying, "Auntie, calm down!"

"Who are you?!" My mother got even angrier when she saw him.

Dad walked out of the study. The moment he saw me, his expression reflected a complex mix of worry, heartache and anger.

Dongyu was in the living room, however upon seeing me, he suddenly stood up and retreated into the study.

My heart sank.

Su Qi turned back to look at me, then at my mother. "My name is Su Qi," he said quietly. "I'm... I'm Xiachun's boyfriend."

"What? Boyfriend!?"

Unable to accept this, my mother rebuked angrily, "Are you kidding me?! Our Xiachun is only in junior high school. Boyfriend?! When did this happen?!"

"We've been... dating for a year."

Su Qi took a deep breath and continued, "I'm sorry, but I really like Xiachun! I'm considering, if it's possible, I'll marry her when she gets into university!"

Marry?

What a joke.

Suddenly his hand seemed to burn. I pulled back and said angrily, "Su Qi, don't talk nonsense. We've broken up."

Then I thought about what had happened that night, and I felt even more mortified. After what had happened, it felt like my whole life had been turned upside down. Even between Su Qi and I, a subtle change had taken place.

More than anything, I didn't dare place any hopes in a future with him, marriage was an even more ridiculous idea.

Perhaps the word "break up" only pushed my mother to become more unreasonable. She flew into a rage. "Yin Xiachun! How old do you think you are?! Date? Break up?! Do you still want to study and get into high school?!"

I kept quiet.

Su Qi swallowed his anger and said in a quiet voice, "Auntie, dating won't affect her examinations! I swear!"