

Sweet Love 3151

Chapter 3151: Innocence 66

Seeing that I had lost control of my emotions, Han Xiao immediately hugged my shoulders gently.

“All this will pass! Although... although I don’t know what exactly happened, Xiachun... I’ll stand by you!”

“Han Xiao, don’t you despise me?”

I choked up and asked, “I really didn’t know... this was not what I wanted... I feel so defeated and dirty! The pharmacy staff said that my life is over... It will become a stain that I can’t erase... What should I do?!”

Seeing how sad I was, Han Xiao’s eyes reddened and she said, “Xiachun, don’t let your imagination run wild... Don’t worry, no matter what happens, I believe you...”

An ectopic pregnancy is a woman’s worst nightmare.

I was young and had no idea what an ectopic pregnancy was. And I had no idea that this sort of pregnancy could not be aborted with drugs, and could be life threatening if done so.

At that time, because of my shame, I didn’t dare to go to the hospital. In my mind, doctors were incomparably sacred. I couldn’t imagine being examined in the consultation room, or the sort of Impression that the doctor would form of me.

Hence, perhaps with that kind of opportunity, I could have avoided this much damage.

However, at that time, I was lost and didn’t have someone who could guide me and lead me out of this foggy swamp.

Han Xiao brought me home. Her parents treated me to dinner warmly. After dinner, Han Xiao encouraged them to go for a walk, so that I had a chance.

She pushed me into the bathroom and urged, “Hurry up and take your medicine! Before my parents come back!”

“Will there be a lot of blood?” I asked worriedly.

“It will bleed, but the pharmacy staff said that if it’s used properly, there won’t be any danger.”

Han Xiao hesitated for a moment before saying, “Actually, it’d be best if we went to the hospital to have it done under the guidance of the doctor. However, I don’t think you’d want to go!”

“I’m not going to the hospital!”

I started shaking as soon as I heard the word “hospital”.

Han Xiao immediately consoled me, “It’s alright, Xiachun. Don’t be so sensitive. You’re not a criminal. It’s not as though I’d take you to the hospital by force!”

I glanced at her feeling ever so grateful. “Thank you, Han Xiao!”

She nodded and shut the door considerately.

I sat down on the toilet seat in the bathroom and opened the medicine box. Then, after a quick glance at the instructions, I swallowed the medicine in warm water.

Initially, there was no reaction. Ten minutes later, just as I started worrying if the medicine would work and stood up to leave, I felt a sharp pain in my belly!

This pain was different from the pain that I would experience during my period. It felt as though something was tugging within me and trying to uproot a part of me!

My legs gave way and I collapsed to the ground clutching my abdomen. The pain made me break out in cold sweat.

I had used a sanitary napkin in advance, but the surging blood made it seem like my pants were about to be soaked!

I was both embarrassed and at a loss for what to do next. My head was numb from the pain!

I looked down and saw drops of fresh blood dripping onto the ground.. I was worried that I would dirty Han Xiao’s bathroom, so I hurriedly rummaged through the drawers for toilet paper and frantically wiped the blood away.

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“I’m sorry, I’m sorry!”

I frantically apologized, but I had no idea whom I was apologizing to.

To that pitiful and innocent little life in my belly?

Or was it to the floor of the bathroom.

I wiped the floor in pain, but the moment I wiped it clean it got stained afresh. I took more toilet paper and started wiping again. The greater my movements, the greater my abdomen hurt!

I clutched my clothes tightly, not daring to take off my pants or face the strange condition of my body. I wanted to call Han Xiao, but I was afraid that she would see me in such a sorry state.

At that point, the entire world was spinning and everything became blurry and unfamiliar.

I struggled to get up from the ground, but I was in so much pain that I fell to my knees again. My body curled up like a shrimp, and I started shivering. I suddenly felt cold!

The cold spread throughout my body.

Han Xiao suddenly knocked on the door.

“Xiachun, how are you? Are you done? My parents are coming home soon!”

"I... I'm not done yet..."

I suddenly said in a sobbing tone, "Han Xiao... I'm sorry. I... I think I dirtied the bathroom. I'll clean it... I'll clean it before opening the door."

Han Xiao froze for a moment before trying to open the door. "Is there a lot of blood? Xiachun! Open the door! Open the door first!"

However, I didn't dare to open the door. I was afraid that if Han Xiao walked in, she would think of me as an abomination.

After a while, Han Xiao stopped banging on the door and left in a hurry. Then, I vaguely heard the footsteps of two people outside the door.

"Eh? Xiao Xiao, where's your classmate?"

"In... in the bathroom!"

"Okay!"

I thought, her parents must have come home, but there's no way I could open the door. I hadn't even cleaned up the bathroom.

I supported myself against the wall and stood up. But in that time, a pool of blood had accumulated on the ground.

My lips trembled as I tried to retrieve a clean tissue. However, the more I panicked, the messier it got. I forced myself to lean against the wall and blacked out for a moment.

When I opened my eyes again, I heard Han Xiao banging on the door in panic.

"Xiachun! Xiachun! Open the door!"

"Xiao Xiao, why is your classmate inside for so long? Is she unwell?"

"Dad, Mom, go back to your room! I'll take good care of her!"

"This..."

I lost consciousness again.

When I came to, I heard the sound of something slamming against the door.

Su Qi's anxious voice could be heard from outside. "She's been inside for so long and hasn't responded. Something must have happened! Why did you take so long to call me?!"

"I... I didn't know..."

"Move aside! I'll have to break the door down!"

I croaked, "Don't break the door..."

Just as I was reaching out, the door flew open with a crash as Su Qi kicked it open.

He dashed in only to see me leaning against the wall in a daze. His confused gaze was filled with panic and helplessness.

“Xiachun! What going on with you?!”

Han Xiao was terrified to see me in such a pathetic state and her eyes turned red immediately. “Send her to the hospital! Hurry!”

“What happened!?” Su Qi questioned in a low voice. “How did she end up like this!?”

“Su Qi, stop asking. Hurry up and send her to the hospital!”

Su Qi bent over and put one arm around my shoulder and the other under my knees. Scooping me up from the ground, he said gently, “Don’t be afraid, Xiachun. I’ll take you to the hospital right away!”

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“I don’t want to... I don’t want to go to the hospital...”

Su Qi frowned and chided me, “Stop being silly.”

Standing next to him, Han Xiao urged, “Su Qi, send her to the hospital first. Leave it to me to manage things here!”

Su Qi nodded and carried me out the door.

I could feel the blood flowing out of me continuously, wetting his sleeve.

I gripped his lapels and said, “Su Qi, just leave me alone, okay?”

His face was tense and he didn’t say anything. It was already taking a lot of effort for him to remain calm and carry me downstairs at this point!

He had driven here. Later, I found out that when I passed out, Han Xiao had called Su Qi because she was worried that something would happen to me.

When Su Qi received the call, he rushed over. Because it was already night time and he didn’t have to worry about running into traffic police, he drove.

He carried me into the car, only to find that my white school pants were stained red with blood.

I sat in the front passenger seat and looked a little helpless. “Don’t... I’ll dirty your car...”

“Yin Xiachun!”

Su Qi held my shoulders tightly. He couldn’t bear it anymore. I looked at his bloodshot eyes. It was as if he was enduring something. Then, he pleaded, “I’m begging you. When you get better, I’ll do whatever you say, okay? But for now, just let me ensure your safety! Otherwise, I’ll never forgive you or myself!”

My lips trembled violently as I burst into tears.

Su Qi’s tone softened when he saw me crying. “Let me take you to the hospital first!”

Then he fastened my seat belt for me, closed the door, and got into the driver's seat. With shaking hands, he turned the ignition and started the car.

Along the way, I clutched my abdomen, my face contorted in pain. Eventually, I couldn't take the pain anymore and started crying softly.

When he heard me crying, he pursed his lips. His eyes reddened as well, as he shed silent tears.

After running several red lights, we arrived at the hospital. He did not park the car in the parking lot, but stopped by the side of the road. He lifted me and carrying me, ran into the hospital. Standing among the bustling crowd, he shouted, "Doctor! Save her! Save her! She's lost a lot of blood!"

I knew that he rarely came to the hospital on his own. He had once patted his chest and told me that he had always been in good health. Even when he had a fever or a cold, he rarely came to the hospital.

Hence, he did not know if he should register or just go straight to the emergency room.

I suddenly grabbed his arm tightly and begged, "Su Qi... no matter what happens, don't tell Yin Dongyu, okay?"

After saying this, I was in so much pain that I couldn't speak anymore. I curled up in his arms, drifting in and out of consciousness. The pain in my abdomen was worsening.

Then, I lost consciousness.

When I woke up again, I found myself in the ward.

I opened my eyes. Su Qi, who had been watching over me all night, looked relieved to see that I had come to.

"Xiachun, you're awake!"

"Uh huh..."

I glanced to the side, and noticed a bag of blood hanging on the stand.

Su Qi immediately grabbed my hand. His palm was so warm, but to me, it was burning. I subconsciously withdrew my hand.

I asked, "What... what happened to me?"

"The doctor said..."

Su Qi's face suddenly turned pale. "The doctor said it's an ectopic pregnancy, and the hemorrhage is caused by misuse of medicine."

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"Oh." Pretending to be calm, I grimaced a little. I didn't want to look too helpless in front of him, so trying my best to look relaxed, I asked, "So... did the one in my belly bleed out?"

Su Qi looked at me with an unfamiliar expression. He was silent for a long time before suddenly asking, "Xiachun, you're pregnant?! Why didn't you tell me? When did this happen? And... whose child is it?"

"Has the baby been aborted?" I asked casually.

Su Qi realized that I was deliberately avoiding the subject. He looked as though he wanted to say something, but stopped. Maybe he was being considerate of me. Under the circumstances, it wasn't like we could sit down and have a proper conversation about this. All he said was, "No. It's an ectopic pregnancy and requires surgery."

His expression was dark, and I wasn't sure what else to say.

"Well then..."

I pursed my lips and felt rather embarrassed, but I had to be thick-skinned. "Can you lend me the money for it?"

"..."

"When I recover, I'll work and pay you back no matter what."

Su Qi lost his cool and said, "Who's asking you to return me the money!? Do you need to be this calculative with me?!"

"No, I have to return it."

"I don't want to owe you anything," I said dryly.

He fell silent again.

He covered his eyes weakly, took two deep breaths, and said in a choked voice, "Xiachun... so, is this why you avoided me?"

"..."

"Is this why you didn't wish to continue dating me? Did you think that I would despise you?"

"..."

I silently clutched the blanket and looked at the white sheets indifferently.

"Leave me alone, Su Qi. You don't owe me anything. You don't have to sacrifice this much for me."

"Xiachun, stop torturing me, okay?"

Su Qi stared at me, her eyes turning bloodshot. Suddenly, he looked away and lowered his head to hide his tears. He stopped looking at me, probably despising himself for being so pathetic.

He'd always said, "Real men don't cry." When around me, he'd always been so bright and dazzling. He had never lost his composure the way he did now.

I forced a smile. "What's wrong, Su Qi? I'm really fine."

"Fine?"

He finally looked at me as tears fell from his eyes. He leaned forward slightly, took my hand and said, "I really... really don't know what to do. I only know that I hated myself when I found out you were pregnant and secretly trying to abort the child! But you're asking me to leave you alone, that we don't owe each other anything."

He choked and continued helplessly, "Yin Xiachun, stop torturing me, okay? No matter what happens, I will face it with you. Why are you avoiding me? Do you really hate me that much?"

I held back my tears and forced a smile. "Su Qi, thank you... but after what has happened, it's hard for me to continue being your girlfriend as if nothing ever happened. If you care about me, will you do me a favor?"

"What favor?"

"I don't want my family to know about this."

I suddenly tightened my grip on the blanket and said with difficulty, "You know... my family will be really angry that something like this has happened! I... I need you to help me think of a way out."

Su Qi asked, "Do you not want your family to know, or do you just not want Dongyu to know?"

I smiled bleakly.. "Neither."

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Su Qi was silent for a long time before he suddenly said, "Xiachun, do you know, if we can start all over, no matter who you like, even if you're using me, I'm willing to be used by you until the end. If we can start all over again, I will never let you go.

I was stunned for a moment.

He continued, "Han Xiao has called Dongyu and told him that you're staying at her house. I'll think of a way to help you apply for leave from school. As for your family, I'll think of a solution."

It was actually a simple matter to deal with school. He found an adult-sounding person to pretend to be my father and lied that I was sick at home. He even asked Han Xiao to bring me a leave request form.

Where my family was concerned, I also thought of a solution.

The few days I was in the hospital before the surgery, I was only given oral medication. After the nurses had all left, I changed into my clothes and sneaked home. I waited until the next morning to return to the hospital, by pretending that I was going to school.

The nurses did not keep a close eye on me, so after the ward rounds in the afternoon, I changed into my uniform and secretly took the car home.

When I got home that evening, It was already dinner time. To my surprise, Lin Li was there too.

She sat on the sofa while Dongyu was clearing the dishes. Looking at the mess on the table, it seemed they had already eaten dinner.

Lin Li was chatting with Dad. I stood in the doorway, stunned.

Then I heard my mother walking over after clearing the table. She enthusiastically poured a cup of tea for Lin Li and said with a smile, "Lili, don't be shy! Treat this as your own home!"

I had thought that my family would be worried about me since I hadn't been home all day.

But they acted like I didn't exist.

Lin Li reached out for the teacup respectfully and took a sip before smiling. "Thank you, Auntie!"

My mother laughed. "So cordial?"

As she spoke, she smiled at my father and said, "Look at Lili, isn't she pretty. I hear that she has good grades and is one of the top students in class! For sure, she'll end up in a key university!"

"Yes, yes!" My dad echoed in agreement.

My mother said half-jokingly, "Lili, you must come by often in the future! It's rare for Dongyu to bring a girl home. Since you're good friends in school, come by often!... Aiya, if my future daughter-in-law can be like you, I'll wake up happy every day!"

"Mom..."

Dongyu furrowed his brow. Without a doubt, he had noticed me at the corner of his eyes. His gaze fell on me and he immediately stopped what he was doing.

Lin Li laughed. "Auntie... don't say that!"

I hugged my bag tighter and walked silently to my room.

Perhaps I was too quiet that everyone only noticed me when I appeared in the living room.

When my mother turned around and saw me, her expression immediately turned icy. She mocked, "Oh, you've finally decided to come home?! To think that you remember this family! You damned girl!"

Dongyu put aside what he was doing and walked over. He asked me, "Where have you been these past few days?"

I looked away and said quietly. "I'm going back to my room," I whispered.

As I spoke, I avoided him and walked towards the room.

He caught up and grabbed my arm. Perhaps he noticed how pale my face was, he frowned. "Why do you look so pale?"

I lowered my head even more, not daring to look at him.

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"Dongyu, let her be!"

My mother said unhappily, "She has a home and doesn't come back. Who knows where she's gone fooling around! She's only in her teens and she's already so worrisome. She probably thinks she's grown up! The exams are just round the corner, we'll see how she manages it! If she can't get into senior high school, she's on her own!"

I paled further when I heard that.

Dongyu retorted unhappily, "Mom, stop it. Xiachun is old enough to have her own opinions."

My mother said nothing more.

Dongyu pulled me by my arm into the study and shut the door behind us. He lowered his head and studied my face carefully before asking in a muted voice, "Where have you been these past few days?"

"I... I was at Han Xiao's house."

"You're lying."

Dongyu instantly saw through my lie. "You may be able to pull a fast one on others, but you can't fool me. Look me in the eyes and tell me!"

I pushed him away forcefully and said in a fit of pique, "Yin Dongyu, that's enough! You're the one who alienated me. What is this now?!"

Dongyu's face was ashen as he said, "You're my sister. It's my responsibility to care for you!"

I let out an icy laugh and ignored him. Placing my bag on the desk, I suddenly pulled out his notes from within it.

This was his notebook from middle school and he had given it to me to copy.

Instinctively, I rubbed my hands over my pants till I thought they were clean so that I wouldn't dirty his belongings. Then I held the notebook out to him.

"I'm returning this to you."

I didn't look at him. All I heard was a slight chill in his voice as he said, "You're done with it?"

"Uh huh."

"Do you understand what's written in it?"

"Uh huh."

"Well then..."

Sensing my cold attitude, Dongyu knew that the conversation would lead nowhere. He took a deep breath and said, "Rest early. Goodnight."

It wasn't until he left the room that I opened the drawer and took out my diary. I flipped through the numerous pages and wrote down my thoughts for the day.

I've maintained a habit of writing in my journal since fourth grade in elementary school. Back then, I'd write about all my ups and downs, and all the secrets that had to do with Dongyu.

To me, keeping a diary is like pouring out all my unspoken secrets into a hollow.

The diary is like my personal hollow.

Every night, before I went to sleep, I would hide away in this hollow and tell it everything that was on my mind.

Because in this world, it seemed that only by talking to oneself could one unreservedly vent the hidden worries in one's heart.

At some point, I was unable to tell everything to Dongyu even.

The growth of a person is akin to building a thick fortress for oneself, hiding oneself within it. It was as though the stronger the fortress, the greater the sense of security one would feel. As a person grows up, he becomes more guarded, and it becomes harder to get close to others.

When we are young, we can talk about everything with just any friend. We're like happy little birds that find it hard to keep things to ourselves.

However, after we grow up, we realize that there are less and less people who are close to our heart. We keep more and more secrets to ourselves, and the burden we carry grows with this.

And we keep stumbling as we walk along.

In short, humans are creatures with strong instincts.

When our fingers come into contact with fire, we retract them reflexively from the heat.

It's the same if we touched something sharp, we feel the sharpness and we are aware of the pain, so we shrink back.

However, my instincts didn't seem to serve me very much.. Otherwise, after being riddled with scars and bullet holes, I wouldn't be still clinging on to my obsession.

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Sometimes, I felt like I was a hopeless idiot who held onto the knife's edge too tightly, refusing to let go even when my hands were covered in blood.

I opened the diary and wrote on this page with great difficulty. "Liking someone I shouldn't like, is like sailing against the current with no end in sight. Liking you and love is one thing, it's inseparable. Giving up, means giving up everything. However, if liking you only brings pain, I'm willing to give up everything."

I closed the diary and held it tightly in my arms. Unconsciously, my tears fell.

The next morning, I nonchalantly picked up my school bag like I was going to school. In the past, Dong Yu and I would always go to school together, but early in the morning at the intersection, I parted ways with Dongyu. He walked in front, and I hailed a taxi to the hospital while he wasn't looking.

Su Qi had given me a few hundred dollars, which I took from him in shame. If I could, I would never have taken the money.

After returning to the hospital, I went back to the ward to lie down.

The next two days I did the same. I sneaked home at night and sneaked back to the hospital in the morning. Su Qi would come to the hospital to keep me company after school.

Han Xiao would come too. After what happened at her house that day, I saw that her face was red and swollen. It looked like she had been hit. It made me feel even more guilty.

Two days later, it was time for surgery.

Su Qi paid all the medical bills for me.

He stayed with me right up to the time that I had to go into the operating room. Outside the operating room, he held my hand tightly and said over and over, "Don't be nervous. The doctor said it's a minor operation. I won't go anywhere, I'll wait for you here."

"Uh huh."

I closed my eyes as I was pushed into the operating room.

Outside the operating room, there were a few trolley beds. It made me feel as though this was not an operating theater but a slaughterhouse. It might be a little unkind to say this, but I saw the doctors squatting outside the room casually, leaning against the wall with their blood-stained sterile clothes. They chatted casually with smiles on their faces.

Dealing with matters of life and death every day, I didn't suppose they thought much of surgeries like mine.

After the anesthesia, I lost consciousness.

When I woke up again, I was in the ward.

I opened my eyes and looked at the blank ceiling.

"Su Qi?"

As soon as my anesthesia wore off, an intense pain engulfed me.

I forced myself to sit up. As I leaned against the headboard, I saw that the room was filled with people.

There was Dongyu, my father, my mother, Su Qi, and Han Xiao...

I was shocked by what I saw. I didn't know if this was a dream or if it was reality. I didn't know why they were here!

Su Qi stood by the side with a gloomy expression. Dongyu sat by the bed without saying a word.

"Mom... "

Stunned, I opened my mouth and said the word with difficulty.

Seeing that I had woken up, my mother's suppressed anger flared up again. The next moment, she turned aggressive and lunged at me. She grabbed my hair and slapped me twice!

"Yin Xiachun! Are you trying to anger me to death?! How did you get pregnant?! You're still in junior high, only junior high! You're still so young, yet you can't behave decently! Didn't I tell you before that girls should have self-respect and self-love? Have you ignored everything I've told you?!"

I covered my face.. It burned, but I felt numb.

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My mother was obviously furious. She pointed at me, slapped me, and said without thinking, "Why are you so cheap?! How did I give birth to such a shameless daughter like you?! Other people's daughters are very obedient, but why did I have to put up with such a disappointing thing like you?! Are you trying to anger me to death, to anger your father to death?!"

Dongyu walked over and pulled her back. "Mom! Calm down. Xiachun is young and insensible. Don't blame her!"

"If she's not to be blamed, then who is to be blamed!?"

My mother pushed him aside. "Get out of the way!"

Then, she grabbed my arm and dragged me off the bed. She was so angry that she grabbed my clothes and started hitting me. "Just watch how I'm going to deal with you today! So what if I hit you? I don't have a daughter like you! I'll just beat you to death! Get you over and done with!"

She cursed and slapped me.

Su Qi immediately rushed forward to protect me and cried, "Auntie, Xiachun just came out from surgery. Don't do this! Her body can't take it!"

"You're protecting her are you? Believe me, I'll beat you up too!"

My mother screamed hysterically, "If I had known that you'd be so disappointing and such a disgrace, I would have aborted you when I was pregnant with you! I shouldn't have kept you! If only I had aborted you! I don't have a daughter like you, I don't have a daughter like you!"

When I heard that, I started trembling violently. With an expressionless face, I knelt on the ground in front of her.

"Mom, I know I was wrong. So, hit me however you want. I won't complain even if you beat me to death! But... please can you not scold me?"

I knew humiliation, and I knew shame too.

I'd rather she hit me hard than say such cruel things.

When Dongyu heard this, he lost it. He lunged at her and pushed her away abruptly, shouting, "Mom, shut up! It's time to stop!"

He turned around and looked at me. His eyes were filled with pain. He clenched his fists and said, "She's my sister and your daughter! Don't you think you're being too cruel with your words?"

"You..."

My mother looked at him in shock. She probably found it hard to believe that the usually obedient Dongyu would refute her like this!

My father stood by the side and sighed. He questioned me, "Then tell me, who is the father of the child?! Who did this to you?!"

I said nothing.

Dongyu looked at me nervously. Suddenly, he knelt beside me and pulled me into his arms. He said to my father, "Dad, don't force her! If she doesn't want to talk, don't ask anymore."

"Such a big thing has happened. Can't I even ask?!"

My father continued angrily, "As long as she doesn't tell us who that boy is, I'm not going to let her step into our house!"

Su Qi suddenly stood up. "It's me!"

His mother looked at him in surprise. "You?"

Dongyu suddenly looked up and glared at him angrily. His eyes were immediately bloodshot. "Su Qi, is it really you?"

"It's me."

Su Qi nodded, gritting his teeth. "I will be responsible."

Dongyu suddenly stood up and punched him in the face.

"Su Qi, you bastard!"

I had never seen Dongyu so furious before. It was as if he had transformed into a ferocious beast, pressing Su Qi onto the bed and punching him in the face!

The scene turned chaotic!

Even I was too shocked to react!

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The scene turned chaotic!

Even I was too shocked to react!

My father immediately went forward to break up the fight. Su Qi pushed Dongyu away and said angrily, "Yin Dongyu, calm down!"

However, Dongyu grabbed his collar with both hands and glared at him. He roared, "I warned you! I warned you!"

"Su Qi!" I covered my ears and screamed, "Stop fighting!"

Startled, everyone turned to look at me.

I stood there unsteadily as I said weakly, "It's not him..."

"What?" Dongyu looked confused.

Su Qi furrowed his brow, but before he could stop me, I repeated feebly, "It's not him. It's really not him... so stop fighting, stop fighting..."

Han Xiao couldn't stand it anymore. She came over and hugged me, pleading, "Uncle, Auntie, I know I don't have the right to say anything! This is your family matter, however Xiachun knows that she's made a mistake! But what does she know?! How much care have you shown her? She made an unintentional mistake and all you do is hit and scold her. Does anyone really care about her?"

Han Xiao burst into tears and said, "Xiachun has already paid the price for doing something wrong! Isn't that enough? Isn't that enough?! Are you guys heartbroken because of her or because of your own pride?!"

I bit my lip hard to keep my tears from falling.

Because whenever I made mistakes in the past, and if I cried, my mother would angrily rebuke me, saying that I had the cheek to cry when I did something wrong.

I was too ashamed to cry, so I tried not to cry.

I didn't want to make them angrier than they already were.

Not at all.

I have no recollection of how the farce that followed ended. All I knew was that my parents insisted on returning Su Qi the money for the medical bills, then they went home, leaving Dongyu and Su Qi to take care of me.

I don't know how Dongyu felt at that time as he watched over me by my bedside, or what his opinion of me was.

All I knew was that when I woke up in the middle of the night from a nightmare, he was lying beside me, holding me tightly. Even in his sleep, he was unconsciously holding me, as if he wanted to give me the greatest sense of security possible.

I looked at his face. His eyes were closed. His divine face was still, although there was a slight frown between his brows that even his sleep didn't seem to soothe.

I wanted to hold him tightly too, but every time my hand reached towards him, it would freeze in mid-air and I would resentfully withdraw it.

I must not embrace him.

If I didn't get close, I would not have any strange ideas.

If I did not go near it, my heart would not stir.

We could never be like before again, back in our old home. I would hold him, pinch his nose from time to time, ravage his hair, then lean into him and listen to the stories he told.

But now, we could never do that again.

After I was discharged from the hospital, my father made an application with the school. He told them that I was unwell and had to stop school.

So I rested at home, locked in my room alone, ate very little, occasionally read some books and wrote in my journal.

Every time Dongyu returned home from school, he would come to my room and sit by my side, silently accompanying me.

He didn't say much, and I didn't talk to him much either. I just held on to the drawing board and casually drew and painted on it.

Sometimes he would come over and wrap his arms around my shoulders and say something to me that I didn't seem to hear anymore.

At that time, this unforeseen event practically left me devastated.

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I sealed myself in, as though in a very small snail shell, hiding and refusing to come out.

Su Qi wanted to visit me sometimes, but my parents repeatedly forbade us to meet.

He'd call the landline at home. I didn't have a phone in my room. My mother would pick up his call, curse and swear, and then hang up.

However, he persevered and kept calling every now and then.

As for me, it was as if I had gone insane. I clung on to the diary and wrote till I cried. Then I wiped my tears and continued to paint.

I asked him in my diary, Dongyu, have you ever liked me, even just a little?'

Wouldn't it be great if we were not siblings?

If you were not Yin Dongyu, or if I were not Yin Xiachun, and if we had met at some point in our lives, everything that was impossible now would have become possible!

However, if you were not Yin Dongyu and I were not Yin Xiachun, would our paths have crossed?

Is it really shameful to fall for someone you shouldn't fall for?

...

I knew I wouldn't get answers, but I still poured out all these questions that I harbored in my heart.

Time went by in a blur until one day, I heard some abnormal activity outside the house.

"Dongyu... What happened to you?!"

"Hubby, come quickly! Dongyu is covered in injuries!"

Upon hearing this, I nervously opened the door and walked out to the living room. I saw Dongyu kneeling on the floor with injuries all over his body. His face was covered in bruises, there was a particularly huge bruise at the corner of his eye. It looked like someone had punched him hard!

When I saw this, I dashed towards him like a madman and cried in a panic, "Brother... what happened to you?"

Dongyu glanced up at me, but his lips were turned up in a gentle smile.

"That person's name is Fang Liang, isn't it?"

I was thunderstruck!

He wrapped his arms around my shoulders and pulled me into his embrace. He forced a smile as he softly coaxed, "Don't be afraid anymore. I've already taught that person a lesson for you!"

As he spoke, his voice cracked and his arms tightened around me. "Don't be afraid. I'll be with you, even through hell and high water."

I saw tears fall from his eyes, and my heart hurt so much that I felt suffocated.

"What happened?!"

My mother and father were beside themselves with anxiety.

Outside the door, Su Qi ran in after my brother. He was also covered in injuries. His school uniform was torn in a few places. On his face, there were obvious signs that he had been beaten. He walked up to Dongyu and was panting slightly. He looked at me again and silently released his clenched fists.

I suddenly realized what must have happened. I collapsed to the ground, my chest tightening!

The cause of the incident was that Su Qi and Dongyu ran into a group of young men on their way home.

Among them was Fang Liang.

Fang Liang told Su Qi that he wanted to go to the bar to have some fun, but his car had been detained by his family, so he sought Su Qi out to borrow his car.

Su Qi said that the key was at home, so Fang Liang said that he would go back with Su Qi to get it.

On the way, Su Qi unintentionally mentioned my name because I was confined and could hardly leave the house. He could only get news of me from Dongyu.

When Fang Liang heard my name, he found it familiar. After asking, he suddenly smiled disdainfully and said, "Oh, so it's her!"

Surprised, Su Qi asked him how he knew about me.