

## Sweet Love 3161

### Chapter 3161: Innocence 76

“Have you forgotten? We went to the KTV the other day and your little girlfriend was there too. Haven’t the two of you broken up?”

Su Qi gave a vague answer.

Fang Liang suddenly smiled ambiguously and remarked, “Su Qi, you’re such a loser. You’ve been dating for so long and you haven’t slept with her. Isn’t it a pity? But as your buddy, I’ve done that for you.”

As soon as he said that, and before Su Qi could even react, Dongyu grabbed his collar with a livid expression. He was almost in a destructive rage as he delivered a vicious punch to the boy’s face.

The few hooligans who were with Fang Liang immediately came over to hit Dongyu when they saw this happen. Then Su Qi reacted and the group started fighting.

However, Su Qi and Dongyu had always been clear about their grudges. Although they ended up riddled with injuries, Fang Liang was severely injured on the other hand, with rib fractures, finger fractures, multiple soft tissue contusions, moderate concussion...

Dongyu hugged me and kept mumbling, “Why did you hide it from me? How could you hide it from me?”

I clung to his waist helplessly, tears streaming down my face.

Not long after, the police arrived and took Su Qi and Dongyu back to the police station for investigation.

I followed my parents to the police station in a taxi and upon arrival, found out that Fang Liang was seriously injured.

Because it involved serious injuries, it was no longer a harmless fight among school kids. Even minor injuries would constitute a criminal case.

Soon, Fang Liang’s family arrived. It was a man and a woman. The man claimed to be Fang Liang’s brother, while the woman was Fang Liang’s mother. The two of them were arrogant and flaunted themselves at the police station, saying that they wanted Su Qi and Dongyu severely punished, the two criminals!

“Beating people up at such a young age?!”

Fang Liang’s mother was dressed elegantly. It was said that the Fang family was considered a prestigious family in Beijing, given their official background, and could be said to have a powerful influence.

It was only later that I found out about the rumors regarding Su Qi. Someone had seen Su Qi accompanying a girl to the hospital for an abortion. I had also asked Su Qi about it. Su Qi said that the girl was pregnant, but the baby wasn’t his. However, he refused to tell me who had gotten her pregnant. He said that it was a secret.

I realized that this person was Fang Liang.

Perhaps it was because of his prominent family background and his father was a powerful and influential figure. Basically, no one dared to offend the Fang family.

Fang Liang was the only child, so he was doted on from a young age. When he was in junior high, he started hanging out with unemployed youths and hooligans. When he was in high school, he would visit nightclubs and bars, and drive around in luxury cars.

His father made the effort to pave his future for him and arranged for him to attend a famous university through connections.

However, he was not inclined to study at all. After two years, he quit school and stayed at home.

Now that Fang Liang was seriously injured in the hospital, the Fang family would definitely be enraged. Hence at the police station, they swore and cursed at the top of their lungs.

“Who are the school kids that had beaten up my brother?! Own up now! I’m going to break their legs right now!”

On the surface, the police pretended to be stern and told them to stop the din, but in reality, they did nothing. It was as if they were afraid of the powerful Fang family.

A few times, Fang Liang’s brother lunged at us after he learned that we were Dongyu’s family members. If it had not been for the police stopping him, he would have hit us.

My mother trembled with fear, not knowing what to do.

I was worried about Dongyu, on the other hand. Now, he and Su Qi were still giving their statements. In the current situation, should the Fang family refuse to settle, they would definitely pursue legal actions against Dongyu and Su Qi!

### **Chapter 3162: Innocence 77**

While I was on tenterhooks, I heard Fang Liang’s mother shouting outside the door, “My son has always been very precious to us. No one has ever dared lay a finger on him! And now, he’s lying in the ICU, his life hanging by a thread...!”

“Punishment! They must be punished! So ruthless at such a young age. When they grow up, won’t they become murderers?! These two students are destined to be the dregs of society. It wouldn’t be too much to sentence them to death!”

“If the law doesn’t punish them, the Fang family is not to be trifled with either! Just you watch!”

When I heard that, I struggled for a long time. Suddenly, I felt a surge of courage. Where that came from, I had no idea.

I stood up and walked towards the door until I stop in front of the woman.

When she saw me, she frowned. Before she could say anything else, I said, “Aunt Fang, I suggest that you settle this matter with our family!”

“Oh, you’re the sister of the student who beat up my son, right?! What an arrogant tone! Get lost!”

The man standing by the side then said, “Those two students will be prosecuted for intentionally causing hurt to others, they are considered adults, right? It’s not going to be a light sentence!”

I clenched my fists and pretended to be calm. “If you dare to sue my brother for intentional assault, then I’ll sue Fang Liang for raping an underaged girl!”

At this point, my parents, who had come running after me, appeared. When they saw this scene, they were stunned.

Mom hurriedly pulled me back. I shook off her hand and stared intently at Fang Liang’s mother.

“Raping an underaged girl?”

I clenched my fists and took a deep breath. “I just had an abortion a few days ago. Fang Liang had taken me to a hotel when I was drunk. You didn’t know about this, did you?!”

“...”

“Fang Liang should be at least twenty years old, right? Since he’s already an adult, then the crime of raping an underaged girl is much more serious than intentionally hurting someone! If you insist on blowing things up, I don’t mind playing along!”

Fang Liang’s mother said angrily, “Based on your words alone, what evidence do you have to say that my son slept with you?”

“It’s rape, Auntie.”

Suppressing the great sense of unprecedented humiliation, I pretended to be calm even though my words were dripping with blood and tears. “If you don’t believe me, I think there’s a hotel room record.”

“...”

“Furthermore, if an investigation should be set up for a case, I will cooperate fully! No matter how the evidence is collected, I will accept it.”

“What?”

“I know that the Fang family is rather powerful and we commoners are no match for you.”

After a pause, I continued, almost in tears, “But if I expose it to the media, do you have the ability to suppress it?”

“You...”

Fang Liang’s mother took a few steps closer to me and said through gritted teeth, “Do you really think a little girl like you can be a threat to me? Or have you overestimated yourself so much that you wish to challenge me?”

“Yes! Perhaps I’m overestimating myself! We’ll watch this space then! Even if I have to lay down my life, I will not allow you to harm my brother the tiniest bit!”

She appeared overbearing, however my posture was equally unyielding. She stared at me blankly for a long while. Perhaps it was because my gaze was firm and resolute enough to threaten her, but she suddenly gritted her teeth and nodded. "Alright, alright! You win!"

With that, she led the man away!

My mother rushed over and took me in her arms. From the conversation, she finally realized how I had ended up pregnant!

### **Chapter 3163: Innocence 78**

After Dongyu had given his statement, he was taken home.

Two harrowing days later, the police called and said that the Fang family had agreed to settle.

"You guys are really lucky, being able to come to a settlement after offending the Fang family!"

After learning that Dongyu and Su Qi were fine and had only suffered some minor injuries, the Fangs didn't pursue the matter. They were probably afraid that I would blow things up.

I really had no idea how much courage I must have mustered to stand before them and confront them head-on.

I only knew that I was willing to risk even my life to protect Dongyu.

However, that Dongyu got into a fight was a fact. When the school found out about this, they decided to expel him.

Dongyu was in his third year of high school. With his outstanding results, he would definitely have been able to enter a key university overseas.

My parents had worked hard to save up money, in hope that he would be able to get into Stanford University. Now, this was a sudden blow to them.

At that time, university admissions were very strict on student records. If it was a B grade, it would mostly be rejected.

Many well-known universities only had a few places. Even if they met the cut-off score, they would still have to compete on merit. The student's character would then be taken into consideration.

As for the punishment for violating the rules, the impact was significant.

My father was furious. He made use of various connections and finally managed to secure a meeting with the principal. He promised repeatedly that Dongyu would not violate any rules for the next half semester.

Hence, the teacher took note and allowed Dongyu to stay on in school, and if he were to perform well during the college entrance examination, his bad record would be removed.

On the other hand, I was in a bad situation.

There was a message from the school that they required me to transfer.

I'd lagged behind in my homework, and on top of this, I had skipped classes and stayed out all night. The school had the intention of expelling me.

For some time, my mother struggled with this matter of my transfer.

Then one day, when I returned to the study room after a shower, I saw my mother sitting at the desk with my diary in her hand. Her eyes were fixed on me and she was shaking with anger.

My chest tightened and I rushed forward, snatching the diary back and hugging it tightly.

"Mom, the diary is my privacy, how can you peek at it!?"

"Privacy?! Peek at it?!"

My mother stood up, her gaze turning frosty. "It's all thanks to your privacy. It's all thanks to me peeking at it! Otherwise, I wouldn't know what kind of dirty thoughts you have towards Dongyu!"

Dirty...

The words she used had me completely defeated!

I gripped the edge of the diary tightly as tears streamed down my face!

"Yin Xiachun, do you still know what shame is? Who is Dongyu to you? He's your biological brother! How can you have such thoughts about him? Don't you feel any shame? Have you no shame?"

Halfway through her sentence, she wiped the tears from the corner of her eyes and cried out in anger.

When I saw this, I stood there guiltily. I wanted to explain, but no words came.

"Do you not know this is incest?"

I almost screamed, "I know!"

She froze, and then there was an eerie silence between us.

I didn't dare to look at her. I just leaned against the wall and cried.

My mother suddenly stood up and acted calm as she said to me, "It just so happens that I discussed with your aunt a few days ago to send you abroad to study. I think you've lost your mind. It's time to send you abroad. It's time you wake up!"

I was stunned upon hearing this.

### **Chapter 3164: Innocence 79**

I was stunned upon hearing this.

She brushed past me and headed for the door. I rushed to grab her hand, but she shook it off mercilessly. She walked over to the couch and sat down, then picked up the receiver to dial.

I dropped the diary and ran to her. I knelt in front of her and begged, "Mom, don't send me abroad! I don't want to go abroad! I don't want to go abroad!"

She looked at me, I could see the struggle in her eyes, but it was mostly pain and hatred. She suddenly put down the receiver and questioned me hysterically, "For how long more are you going to harm Dongyu?!"

"..."

I looked at her in shock.

I hadn't realize that I was a scourge to Dongyu.

She continued to yell at me, "Because of you, he almost couldn't go to university and almost got a lawsuit! Dongyu has been very obedient since he was young. He dotes on you, but there is no reason that his life should be ruined by you!"

After a pause, she broke down and shouted again, "If word got out that his own sister likes him, what would people think of him? He'd be made a joke?! Are you really going to humiliate him like this?!"

*Humiliate...*

*I am not a disgrace, I am not a disgrace...*

I lost my ability to make sense of anything, I only wanted to stay at home. I begged, but my mother ignored me and shoved me aside. She hurriedly made a call to my aunt.

"Hello, Sis, it's me. Um... I've thought about the matter I talked to you about the last time. Um... I've considered it... What sort of formalities would be needed to send Xiachun to America to study?... Haha! I've thought about it... I'm not reluctant to part with her. It's good to send her abroad so that she can expand her view of the world... Okay, tell me, I'll make a note..."

Her mother took a pen and paper and started writing.

"Yeah... passport. What else? Uh huh... uh huh..."

...

When Dongyu and my father got home, I was in the living room, curled up with my arms around my knees and crying. My mother sat on the couch, her face contorted as she wiped her tears with a tissue.

Looking surprised, my father asked, "What's going on?"

"I've discussed it with my sister. The next time she comes back to visit, she'll take Xiachun over with her to study in America!"

After a pause, my mother continued, "I've already made up my mind."

"Are we really sending her overseas?" My father was a little taken aback. He probably had the thought in the past, but perhaps felt a little reluctant. "Why did you suddenly make such a decision?"

Dongyu stood there, stunned. He looked at me and then at our mother with astonishment on his face.

“Mom!”

Dongyu asked, “Why are you sending Sister overseas!”

“I’ve already decided, so don’t ask anymore!”

“No!”

Dongyu said firmly, “You can’t send her overseas!”

My mother was very persistent. “Dongyu! I really can’t let her hold you back anymore! You... have no idea, she...”

She pointed at me but said nothing in the end.

Dong Yu looked at me and then at the diary that had fallen on the ground nearby. He suddenly seemed to understand something.

He dropped his arm weakly and clenched his fists tightly again. Then, he said in no uncertain terms, “Mom! I beg you, don’t send Sister away! She’s an inseparable part of my life! Don’t you think it’s too cruel to say this?”

My mother glanced at me, clearly still furious. I didn’t know which page of my diary she’d read that made her think I was so ridiculous, to the extent that she said, “I... I really should have just aborted her back then!”

### **Chapter 3165: Innocence 80**

“I... I really should have aborted her back then! I shouldn’t have given birth to her! We can’t afford to have such an insensible daughter!”

“Mom, please, don’t send me away...”

I begged Dongyu in a hoarse voice, “Brother, I don’t want to study abroad. I begged Mom, but she wouldn’t listen to me. Brother... Does Dad not want me anymore? Does Mom not want me anymore too?”

“It’s useless whatever you say! I’ve already made arrangements with your aunt! When she returns, I’ll send you away!”

With that, she stood up and walked towards her room.

Dongyu suddenly dropped onto his knees. He couldn’t hold it in anymore and broke down, crying uncontrollably. “Mom! I want her! Even if you don’t want her! I want her! Even if the whole world doesn’t want her, I want her! If you send my sister away, I swear I’ll never forgive you!”

“Disgraceful thing! Silence!”

My father slapped him on the face and pointed at him angrily. “Take back your words!”

“I want her!”

Dongyu was unbelievably stubborn. “You can’t send her away!”

Bam!

He got another slap.

I cried and clung on to my father’s pants. “Dad, stop hitting him! Stop hitting Brother...”

But my father didn’t even look at me. He glared at Dongyu, his eyes bloodshot.

My father and brother confronted each other’s gaze for a long time. Dongyu then said again with great clarity, “I want her!”

Bam!

“I want her!”

Bam!

...

I don’t know how many times my father slapped him that day. Perhaps it was to establish his authority as the head of the family, or perhaps he felt that Dongyu was too stubborn and he wanted to tame the boy.

However, Dongyu was more stubborn than I thought.

Even though his face was flushed red, he kept repeating, “I want her!”

...

“I want her!”

...

“I want her!”

...

That night, Dongyu was locked away on the balcony while I was being locked up in my room. I leaned against the window and looked at him kneeling on the balcony.

He had his back to me and was facing away from the house. The cold wind was getting stronger, but I couldn’t get out. I couldn’t get to his side and kneel with him in the cold night air.

For the next few days, I was locked up in my room. My mother prepared three meals a day and brought them to me. Other than that, the door was locked from the outside. I had no way of coming into contact with the rest of the world.

I was isolated like a dangerous psychopath.

Until one night, someone suddenly unlocked the door from outside.



I sat up in bed, alarmed and on guard.

I thought my mother had opened the door and was about to send me away in the night, but it was Dongyu who walked into the room.

He had a small bag slung over his shoulder. When he saw me, he put his finger to his lips and shushed me.

“They’re all asleep!”

He walked in and shut the door lightly behind him. Then he walked over to my bed and whispered, “I stole the keys and some money. I’ll take you away from here, okay?”

“You’re taking me away?”

I was stunned and stared at him for a long time. I couldn’t believe that these words came out of Dongyu’s mouth.

“Where are we going?”

“Anywhere is fine!”

Dongyu held my hand tightly and smiled encouragingly. “Xiachun, leave this place with me. Even if they don’t want you, I do. I’ll stop school and look for a job to support you, okay?”

I was even more stunned. Tears welled up in my eyes.

“What nonsense are you speaking?”

“I’m not speaking nonsense! I’ve been thinking about this for the past two days.”

### **Chapter 3166: Innocence 81**

Dongyu said seriously, “I’m very smart and learn everything very quickly. It doesn’t mean that I’ll be useless if I don’t study! I’ll take you to another city and we’ll rent a house. Then, I’ll work hard and take good care of you, okay?”

“Stop joking.”

I turned around. “If I really did go with you, Mom and Dad would hate me to the core.”

Dongyu suddenly hugged me and said sadly, “Then what should I do?”

He cupped my face in his hands and studied me with seriousness. Then he smiled bitterly and said, “Don’t be telling me you’re letting Mom send you overseas to study? Xiachun, I’ll go crazy if that happened! I can’t lose you.”

I was instantly stirred by him. He and I simply packed up our luggage and left the house.

It was a windy night.

He draped his jacket over me and held me close. "We'll be in the car soon," he told me.

"Uh huh."

It was hard to get a cab in the wee hours.

When we finally got into one, Dongyu said to the driver, "We're going to the bus station."

I suddenly had a thought and said with disappointment, "If you take me away from here, then what about Lin Li?"

Dongyu's expression froze for a moment. I didn't know what he was thinking, but his lips started quivering.

"If you can't bear to leave her, we don't have to leave..." I forced a smile. "It's okay. I'm just going overseas. It's not like we're going to leave each other for good. I can come back after I've graduated..."

"I'm sorry..." Dongyu clenched his fists tightly but could not utter another word for a long time.

Later on, through Su Qi, I found out that Lin Li and he weren't really a couple. Lin Li did admire him, but the reason he agreed to date her was just to put on a show for me so that I would give up on him completely.

At this point, Dongyu probably felt that dating Lin Li was the worst decision of his life.

If it hadn't been for Lin Li, who had agitated me in a sense, I might not have gone down this path.

He must be full of remorse. Somehow he must have thought of himself as the real culprit behind all these things I've suffered.

When we arrived at the bus station, he headed towards the ticket booth. Suddenly, a thought occurred to him. He rummaged in his bag and froze.

Startled, I asked cautiously, "What is it, Brother?"

"ID..."

Dong Yu narrowed his eyes as he recalled. "I think I left it on the porch."

I was stunned for a moment and asked, "Is it alright if you don't have your ID?"

Dongyu gave me a conflicted look, then glanced at the ticket information. He suddenly turned to me and said, "Wait for me at the bus station for thirty minutes. I'll go back and get my ID."

I was a little sensitive and protested, "You're not regretting this, are you?... Will you come back?"

"No, I promise you, I will definitely come back!"

Because I didn't have a phone, he settled me at one of the seats. "Just sit here and don't move around. Otherwise I may not be able to find you later."

"Uh huh."

Then he hurried away.

I suddenly stood up and stared at his departing figure, subconsciously thinking to myself that this might be the last view I'd have of him.

As it turned out, sometimes a person's sixth sense can be very accurate.

That night, I waited for him for three hours. But I had never expected someone else to turn up!

"Yin Xiachun!"

My mother rushed towards me and slapped me across the face. I was hit so hard that I fell onto the seat. She looked at me, torn between heartache and anger.. Suddenly, she dropped to her knees right before me.

### **Chapter 3167: Innocence 82**

"Just take it that your mother is begging you!"

She said almost tearfully, "Dongyu is your Dad's and Mom's only hope! He must not be ruined by your ideas. Do you understand? Just take it that Mom is begging you to be obedient, go abroad to study, okay?!"

My soul seemed to drain out of me at once. I gave up struggling and nodded.

That night, my mother did not take me home. Instead, she took me on a bus to Shanghai.

When my aunt arrived in Shanghai the next day, my mother couldn't wait to see me off. She didn't even convey my last goodbye to Dongyu.

I remember hearing someone call out to me as the bus began to accelerate.

A child sitting in the next compartment pointed out the window and said in astonishment, "Dad, someone is running after the bus!"

I couldn't help but follow the child's gaze and looked out of the window. What I saw was just a desolate scene.

Perhaps, at that point, my heart had already withered.

...

The days of studying abroad were very peaceful, so peaceful that it was as if I had died.

That may sound rather dispirited.

But in reality, no matter what I did, I was emotionless. Even in the exam that the students were most afraid of, I could always calmly face those blond examiners and then answer them with ease.

It was not that I did not miss him.

More than once, I missed those days when we were young and innocent. In the beautiful countryside of my hometown, Dongyu and I roamed about without a care in the world.

In the afternoons, we carried our bottles to the river to catch tadpoles, climbed trees to catch cicadas. We even secretly lit a wild fire and accidentally burned the neighbor's straw shed. The two of us fled in fear and didn't dare to go home for a long time.

Home... I really wanted to go home. I kept thinking, if only I hadn't been born Yin Xiachun.

That was my family, but not my home.

Every time I thought about it, the pain gnawed at me. I didn't want to think about it, but what else did I have apart from these memories?

More fearful than parting, was this longing that consumed me and lingered on within me like a roaring flood.

Until I returned to my homeland, I didn't feel much joy.

For me, homeland was just a synonym.

As I rode the cab through the streets that felt so strange and unfamiliar, I suddenly realized that what I had missed was far more than just eight years of my time.

After we got out of the cab, I followed my mother into a brand new, upscale apartment building. I figured the demolition of the old building must have returned a hefty allowance.

In the elevator, my mother smiled as she orientated me. "We now live on the 14th floor. Back then when the building was demolished, we had to roll the numbers. The community director said that if we paid 10,000 yuan, we could choose our floor! We specially chose this floor. There's ample light and the view is good. All three rooms are facing south. We specially set aside a large room with a balcony for you!"

I said nothing, and looked around silently.

My mother added, "This estate sits in a good location. It's usually very quiet."

When we came to our unit, she took out her keys. Then, as though something suddenly came to mind, she turned around and asked me, "Xiachun, you've graduated from school for more than a year haven't you?"

I nodded silently.

She noticed my coldness, but still, she tried to communicate with me. "When do you plan to return for good? We're all looking forward to your return."

### **Chapter 3168: Innocence 83**

I saw the glimmer of hope in her eyes and smiled faintly. "I haven't thought of coming back. It's good to be in America alone. It's quiet and peaceful, without any disturbances. Besides, I'm looking for a job in America. After I find a job, I'll settle there."

"Look, you yourself said you're alone. Don't you feel lonely?"

"I'm used to the cold and cheerless atmosphere. In fact, being in a crowd suddenly will be difficult for me."

My mother was rendered speechless. With her back to me, she suddenly sighed. "Just come home, Xiachun!"

Suddenly I laughed. "Mom, you forget that America is my home."

I saw the change in her expression before she quickly hid it with a smile and rebuked me, "Look at this child... what nonsense are you saying? Let's not talk about this anymore. Come in first!"

I saw her surreptitiously wipe the tears from the corners of her eyes before opening the door. I stood at the door and studied the porch for a long time before stepping through slowly.

The moment she got in, she shouted, "Hubby, our daughter is back!"

A moment after, a figure emerged from the kitchen.

It was my father but he looked a little aged from the last time I saw him.

The only emotion I felt upon seeing him again was the thought of how time made people old. There were little feelings otherwise.

I smiled faintly and greeted him, "Dad."

"Xiachun! You're back!"

My father chuckled. When he smiled, the crow's feet at the corners of his eyes deepened. White streaks had begun to appear among his black hair.

I only nodded and went straight into the house. I didn't spend much time exchanging pleasantries with him.

Perhaps I've grown so cold as to consider myself an outsider. Where this home was concerned, I felt more like a guest.

My mother welcomed me to sit down on the sofa, then suddenly asked, "Do you want to go to your room to take a look?"

"My room?"

I thought it was funny.

I had not even lived in this house for a day. How did I end up with my own room?

"Dongyu set it aside for you when we moved here. He said this wouldn't be much of a home if we didn't set up a room for you here."

I nodded when I heard Dongyu's name.

She led me to the room. Despite the fact that I had imagined various models of how it might look, I was still stunned when I saw it.

It was the same layout as the room I used to live in. A desk, a single bed, a bookcase, and a computer desk.

On the desk, there was my bag, my homework, all neatly stacked and arranged like bricks.

Behind me, my mother smiled and said, “Dongyu comes to your room every day to sit for a while and talk to the photos on the desk.”

She walked to my side. “When he was in university, his room was always in a mess. But your room was always clean and without a speck of dust.”

I sat down on the bed. She looked at me and seemed a little uneasy. Then she said, “Sit here for a while. I’ll go help your dad.”

“Uh huh.”

My cold reply made her even more uneasy. She turned around and left, forgetting to shut the door in her haste.

After she left, I walked around the room and casually pulled open a drawer. There was my diary, lying in its original position.

I was a little surprised that the diary was still in one piece.

I’ve always thought that my mother would have tore it apart.

I picked it up and flipped through a few pages. I suddenly realized that something about it was a little strange.

Then I figured out, underneath the original lines I wrote, there were lines in blue ink.

As I stared at them, I froze.

## **Chapter 3169: Innocence 84**

As I stared at them, I froze.

“X Year, X Month, X Day. Clear Day. To truly love someone is to hope to have all of him. Let go and wish him happiness? But how can there be such selfless love in this world?”

Beneath was an inscription in Dongyu’s delicate yet strong handwriting. *?I once owed you ten thousand apologies, but more than that I owe you an ‘I love you’.*

My heart almost stopped.

I turned the page. At the end of the page was his handwriting again.

— — *?Xiachun, are you doing well in America? I tried my best to find out where you are and get your contact details, but even they don’t know the phone number of the apartment you’re staying in. Perhaps they are just hiding it from me intentionally. I miss you, all the time.*

—*The deeper the memory, the more the pain it is.*

—*Pain is like a corner under a clear sky. The brighter the sun, the deeper the shadow.*

—*It is precisely because the past was too beautiful that the pain is this deep.*

...

I turned to the last page.

“Year X, month X, day X. Dongyu, have you ever liked me, even just a little?”

—*I love you, so deeply that what else can I do?*

...

I slammed the diary shut and stood up. I looked around and seemed to see him in every corner of the room.

I saw him tidying the bookcase for me.

I saw him cleaning my room.

I saw him sitting at the desk, writing in the diary.

I saw him filling my room with all these memories.

—*Your favorite Harry Potter. I bought the whole collection. You said you wanted to watch Harry Potter movies more than anything. When the movie started screening, I bought two tickets and a bucket of popcorn, and I imagined watching a movie with you. I saw the little dimples on your cheeks when you smiled happily.*

—*I fished ten dolls today. In the past, I wasn't skilled enough and couldn't fish the dolls that you wanted. You always laughed at me. When Wanda Department Store opened, I fished ten dolls within one attempt and have placed them on your bed.*

—*Fanta soda seriously sucks, but because it's your favorite drink, I'm always reminded of you every time I see the bottle.*

...

—*Greedy little cat, I bought a load of snacks. When are you coming back to eat them all up?*

—*The snacks are expiring!*

—*The snacks expired, I've thrown them away, but I bought more chips, your favorite Pringle chips. Now there are very few places that sell this brand of potato chips. Are you able to get them... in America?*

—*I had a glass doll that I'd always carefully protected and cared for. But one day, I accidentally broke it. With great sadness, I struggled to piece it back together, but then I lost it.*

—*I went back to the bus station and looked for you desperately, but I couldn't find you. I lost my doll...*

—*Xiachun, I miss you...*

—*If I were to write I miss you ten thousand times, would you be able to hear me?*

In a daze, I flipped open the pages at the back of the diary. The originally blank pages were filled with the tiny words ‘I miss you’.

They were written neatly, every word and every stroke was meticulously written. I could almost picture his back view as he sat at the desk and wrote all these.

Occasionally, I’d flipped to a page with tear stains that had long dried up.

I slowly traced over the lines of words with my fingers. I wanted to snap the diary shut, but my eyes seemed to be spell-bound and I couldn’t look away.

Holding the diary in my hands, tears welled up in my eyes.

In the years since I left home, I rarely shed tears.. Although I was alive, my heart seemed dead, and nothing could move it.

### **Chapter 3170: Innocence 85**

I rubbed the corners of my eyes and closed the diary, awkwardly hiding it back in my desk drawer. I placed it in its original position as if I were guilty of a crime.

Suddenly, from where I was, I heard the main door of the house opening and shutting.

“Dad, Mom, I’m home!”

At the same time, a gentle female voice followed almost immediately, “Uncle, Auntie, we’re back!”

“Have you communicated with the cathedral?”

“Yes! We’ve sorted out the details!”

The girl sounded very cheery as she said, “How blessed! I’ve always hoped for a church wedding!”

A man’s deep voice suddenly interrupted her. “Where is she? Did you manage to pick her up?”

I found the voice somewhat familiar. It sounded vaguely like Dongyu’s, only it seemed a little more powerful than I remembered.

At the time we parted, Dongyu’s voice was just breaking. It was a little hoarse in the midst of changing...

We had never spoken on the phone in all these years, so I couldn’t quite recognize his voice when I first heard it.

I immediately went to the door and quietly shut it, then locked it from inside the room.

I did it almost reflexively, as if I was avoiding something.

Soon after, I heard footsteps approaching the room. My breathing suddenly stopped, and I tensed up.

I heard my mother saying, “We just got home not long ago. She’s resting in her room!”

“Dongyu, is the ‘her’ you’re talking about your sister who went overseas to study?”



“...”

“Dongyu, what’s the matter?”

“Shh!”

The man’s voice suddenly became gentler. “My sister is timid and afraid of strangers. Don’t scare her.”

“...”

“Mom, take her to the living room.”

“Alright, Anning. Come with me to the living room!”

“Oh... okay, Auntie.”

Their footsteps faded away.

I leaned my back against the door, and then I heard footsteps stop outside.

The distinctive tapping of leather shoes against the hard flooring rang out.

I leaned my back against the door and looked out of the window with a blank gaze. Through the door, I suddenly sensed the breathing outside becoming heavier.

It was him.

I recognized his breathing.

We were once so close to each other. His breathing, his heartbeat, I could remember them even in my dreams.

I turned around in a daze and reached for the doorknob, but I didn’t unlock it immediately.

Knock, knock.

He knocked lightly on the door. Through the door, I couldn’t imagine what he’d become now. I could only picture him at the age of 18, youthful and handsome. His every frown and smile tugged at my heart.

But eight years had passed and he was 26 now. He would have grown into a mature man, wouldn’t he?

What would he look like?

As I was thinking these thoughts, I heard Dongyu say gently, “Xiachun... it’s just me, alone.”

...

“Open the door?”

I turned to face the door, my hand on the doorknob suddenly trembling violently. I opened my mouth. I wanted to call his name, but...

Somehow, it had become strangely unfamiliar.

My throat seemed to be blocked by something that rendered me unable to utter a sound.

A sense of fear, helplessness, and embarrassment overwhelmed me all at once. I slowly let go of the door handle and retreated in defeat. I looked at the door and imagined an outline of his figure, but ultimately fell onto the edge of my bed and hung my head.

“Xiachun, talk to me.”

“...Are you okay?”

He sounded a little nervous. He turned the doorknob and realized that the door was locked. Then, it was quiet outside again.