

Almighty D 31

Chapter 31: Is It Because You Can't Stand Being Challenged?

Cen Shaoqing had never been so curious about a person like this before.

After sending the message, he stared at the screen closely in fear that he might miss something.

After a while, the person finally replied.

Cen Shaoqing hastily clicked on the chatbox.

The reply was a line of ice-cold words.

'Sorry, I'm not interested in private chat.'

He could feel the coldness emanating from the person's body even from across the screen.

It was Fifth Master Cen's first time taking the initiative to ask to add someone on WeChat.

It was beyond his expectation that he would be rejected.

The feeling... was rather exciting!

"Heh." Cen Shaoqing smirked faintly while the red mole at the corner of his eyes seemed to become more lively. The sight of Cen Shaoqing's excitement was so charming that it could drive anyone crazy.

Nevertheless, Li Qiandong felt chills run down his back after hearing the unexpected chuckle. "Bro... Brother Fifth, what's going on?"

According to his understanding of Cen Shaoqing, every time Cen Shaoqing laughed this way, nothing good would come out of it.

Then, Cen Shaoqing shut the laptop with one hand and asked, "Did you find out anything about Niohuru?"

"W has been blocked a few times, and he is still tracking the person down." Li Qiandong continued, "The international division's reply is that this is an unknown user."

Unknown user... It was acceptable to him that W could not do it; nonetheless, he did not expect that there was actually someone that the international information division could not investigate.

This Niohuru person was rather intriguing.

Cen Shaoqing's finger that was moving the prayer beads halted to a stop. The red prayer beads were wrapped around his fair, white fingers. The red beads were enchanting, while the white hand was almost translucent as if it was enshrouded in a layer of cold glow. "Continue to investigate until there's a result."

Li Qiandong nodded. "The expert, Niohuru, is really impressive! I'd really like to meet him! Brother Fifth, do you think that the expert Niohuru is a male or a female?"

Before Cen Shaoqing could answer, Li Qiandong continued, "Judging by the expert's chatting style and capability, I have a feeling that he is a man. How can a common woman have an IQ as high as this?"

Every time he chatted with Niohuru, the words he sent over exuded domineeringness. Niohuru's reply was very brief, and he had never wasted time engaging in nonsensical chatter.

Moreover, even W and the international division could not find anything about this person, so he could imagine how capable this person was. How many female tech moguls were there in China, anyway?

Could a woman be this impressive? As a result, Li Qiandong felt that the expert was most certainly a man! Apparently, only men like them could be so remarkable!

Meanwhile, Cen Shaoqing stood in front of the window and gazed down at the scenery while moving the prayer beads in his hand. "Have you looked up the registration information of Niohuru on the international website?"

The website would verify its user's account upon them furnishing their identity card. Upon hearing that, Li Qiandong's eyes lit up as he said in excitement, "That's right! Since we can't find the expert himself, we can start from the website! I shall talk to W now!"

"Go ahead." Cen Shaoqing nodded ever so slightly.

Next, Li Qiandong hastily contacted W.

On the other end of the video call, W pulled on a long face. "Brother Li, do you really think that I haven't looked into Niohuru's registration information yet?"

"You have?" Li Qiandong asked.

"Mmhmm."

Li Qiandong added eagerly, "So is the expert Niohuru a male or a female? The expert is certainly a man, right?"

W shook his head. "I don't know."

"I thought you've looked into this?"

W replied, "I said that I've looked into it, not that I managed to get a result. Niohuru is too impressive that there's utterly no trace of his registration information on the website. All the information is left blank."

Li Qiandong said in puzzlement, “Doesn’t the website mandate registration using real names?”

“This person is an expert for a reason.”

Li Qiandong was rendered speechless while W continued, “There’s no update from the international division either, right?”

Li Qiandong shook his head.

After hanging up the call, Li Qiandong passed W’s message to Cen Shaoqing.

Cen Shaoqing furrowed his brows ever so slightly once he received the update. Niohuru did not even leave behind any registration information on the website... who the heck was he?

“Brother Fifth, if there’s nothing else, I shall head home first.”

“Go ahead.” Cen Shaoqing spoke nonchalantly.

After Li Qiandong returned to his home, he logged onto his account on the international tech website, opened the chat history, and discovered that Cen Shaoqing had actually taken the initiative to propose to add Niohuru on WeChat.

Unexpectedly, Niohuru rejected him.

Li Qiandong opened his mouth in astonishment while his eyes were filled with astonishment. The expert behaved just like an expert! Impressive! He was growing more and more curious about the expert now!

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In a quiet room in the Mu family's home, the moonlight was shielded by the thick, heavy curtains, yet one could still see a person sleeping on the bed.

"Don't! Don't!" The person on the bed jolted awake from a nightmare and turned on the reading lamp in a panic. That person's face was as pale as a paper while layers of cold sweat permeated from her forehead.

Who else would it be if not Mu Yourong?

Mu Yourong had that nightmare again.

Even after she had awakened, she still could not forget the dream... it was the same agony and despair she felt before she died in her past life.

As soon as she remembered the face of the man, she could not refrain from feeling terrified. It was a form of terror that came from the bottom of her heart.

She would not allow history to repeat itself in this life! She would not!

Then, Mu Yourong clenched the blanket tightly in her shaky hands.

After a moment, she brought up the system and typed a name into it.

After a while, the system displayed an 'Error 404' page.

She could not find any information related to him.

The feeling of her fate being in someone else's control was too unpleasant. Meanwhile, a blurry silhouette appeared before her eyes.

Oh right! There was still Fifth Master Cen!

She would certainly get married to Fifth Master Cen in this life and stand on the highest peak of the world!

However, in order to attract Fifth Master Cen's attention, it would not be enough for her to just depend on her looks. She needed to depend on her capability as well.

It seemed that she still needed to put in more effort with Li Qiandong. Hence, Mu Yourong narrowed her eyes to focus.

...

Ye Zhuo continued to work in the barbecue shop daily.

The temporary job that lasted a month was about to end soon.

Ye Zhuo had just stepped into the shop when she heard a voice speaking in English.

Her footsteps halted for a moment.

She was fluent in ten languages in her past life while the people around here were all elites, so there was no need to mention their linguistic skills. At that very moment, she could not stand hearing such a rigid pronunciation of words and felt the urge to correct the reader.

Noticing Ye Zhuo's arrival, Li Boyang took the initiative to greet her. "You're here, Ye Zhuo."

Ye Zhuo nodded.

Li Boyang continued, "I'm practicing English... are you interested in the English language?" At this point, Li Boyang suddenly remembered that Ye Zhuo did not even finish middle school, so perhaps she could not even distinguish the 26 basic alphabets in English.

How could she possibly be interested in English?

“In truth, it’s very easy to learn English. If you’re interested, I can teach you. I’m the class representative for my English class.”

Li Boyang’s gaze was filled with pride in his final sentence.

There were many types and ranks between students too.

The poor students would mingle with other poor students.

The good students would mingle with other good students.

Li Boyang was good-looking, and he was a class leader too. That made him the ideal boyfriend for many of the girls in his class.

Since he offered to teach Ye Zhuo, he felt that she would certainly feel very honored for the opportunity.

“No thanks, I’m good.” Ye Zhuo respectfully turned down his offer.

‘No, I’m good?’

Li Boyang did not expect that Ye Zhuo would reject his offer. He looked at her in astonishment and said, “English is an international language. I think that learning a little English will not be a disadvantage to you.”

Then, Ye Zhuo rubbed her nose and said humbly, “Uh... frankly, my English is pretty good.”

“Alright, forget it if you don’t want to learn.”

Li Boyang wanted to help to pull Ye Zhuo out of the hopeless situation that she was in. However, he did not realize that it was not her goal to pull herself out. Instead, it seemed that she wanted to stay there.

“Forget it, forget it!”

No wonder there was a saying that ‘one can’t put sand on a wall’.

It was still fine if she acknowledged that she could not be put on a wall; however, she enjoyed lying to herself so much.

Ye Zhuo was speechless by his reaction. Why was he furious? Was it because he could not stand being challenged?

Chapter 32: Dumbfounded!

“Do you really understand English?” Li Boyang asked another question, “And can you speak it fluently?”

“Mhmm.” Ye Zhuo nodded.

Li Boyang’s gaze was filled with mockery and contempt when he replied, “Honesty is the wonderful tradition of China; I hope that we can continue to pass on this tradition.”

It would be fine if she admitted that she did not understand English because no one would make fun of her anyway. However, a hypocrite girl like Ye Zhuo was destined to be like this for the rest of her life.

Ye Zhuo was confused by his remark. Was Li Boyang insinuating that she was not honest`?

She suspected that Li Boyang had been influenced by rumors that he heard, dreaming up something and creating something out of nothing... At this point, though, she could prove that she was right.

“Boyang!” Qian Lingyu’s voice was heard coming from the inside.

“Coming.” Li Boyang walked into the house.

“I thought I told you not to talk to her anymore? Why won’t you remember that!?” Qian Lingyu’s tone sounded very unpleasant.

“We were only greeting each other. Mom, you overthink!”

Qian Lingyu heaved a sigh.

She was not overthinking. All this was because Ye Zhuo was too beautiful to the point where she was afraid that Li Boyang would not be able to control his feelings.

After all, Li Boyang was restless from hitting puberty.

Qian Lingyu said in a sincere tone, “Boyang, I’m a very open-minded parent, and I know that children of your age are more sensitive. As a result, I’m not opposed to letting you socialize with others. There’s an old saying that birds of a feather flock together. Boyang, the person that you should date is not Little Ye but someone similar to your classmate, Zhao Xuehua. Did I say anything when I see you traveling home with Zhao Xuehua after school every day?”

Zhao Xuehua was a typical rich kid. She was chauffeured in various luxury cars after school every day.

Every once in a while, Zhao Xuehua would choose to walk home with Li Boyang when she was in the mood.

Zhao Xuehua was the daughter of a wealthy family in the city, but who was Ye Zhuo?

“Noted.” Li Boyang nodded.

Meanwhile, Sister Liu came running in while gasping for air. “Lingyu! Lingyu!”

“What’s going on?” Qian Lingyu asked.

Sister Liu said, “There’s a table of foreign customers seated at Zone C. I can’t speak English... What do I do?”

The barbecue shop was located in a rather good area.

Foreigners would frequently come to the shop to have meals, but most of the time, they were able to converse in the Chinese language. It was a rare occasion to encounter foreigners who could not speak Chinese.

At this point, Sister Liu had noticed Li Boyang standing next to Qian Lingyu. Her eyes suddenly lit up. “Boyang! I remember that you’re a class representative in your English class, right?”

Upon hearing that, Qian Lingyu smiled and said, “That’s right! Our Boyang does really well in English! He’ll do fine!”

Li Boyang was blushing ever so slightly. “Uh, uh, then I shall give it a try then.” It was a good opportunity for him to practice his spoken language.

Based on his capability, Li Boyang felt that it should not be a problem for him to communicate with foreigners.

There was genuinely a table of foreign customers seated in Zone C where a total of seven people, four males and three females, sat.

Li Boyang stepped forward and greeted them, "Hello, what would you like to order?" He was a high school student, after all, and he was doing rather outstandingly. Such a simple day-to-day conversation was not an issue for him.

Nonetheless, the tip of Li Boyang's nose was still sweating a little. He was a little nervous. It was Li Boyang's first time communicating face-to-face with foreigners using only English.

Sister Liu said to Qian Lingyu softly, "He is not illiterate like us; he is a scholar, after all."

Qian Lingyu's eyes were filled with pride. "Why would I say that education is the only way out, huh!? Nevertheless, it also depends on the person. Not everyone is capable of doing what he's doing! In summary, my son Boyang is smart."

Sister Liu nodded and acknowledged, "You're right."

Realizing that someone could finally communicate with them, the female foreigner seated in the center who was giving the order felt rather relieved. She smiled and said, "Can you please explain to us what kind of meat this is? Also, there are some of us here who are allergic to raw ginger and fish. Will you please inform the kitchen to be careful when preparing the food? Oh right, do you sell Australian spiny lobster here? We'd like to order an Australian spiny lobster. Please steam half of it using China's way of steaming it in clear soup and serve the other half raw."

Li Boyang could still understand the first half of the statement, though with great effort. However, the latter half of the statement was a little difficult.

The person was speaking too quickly. Additionally, due to Li Boyang's nervousness, he only picked up the words 'fish' and 'raw ginger' out of the entire conversation.

"I'm sorry. Will you please re... repeat yourself?"

"It's okay." The middle-aged woman with blonde hair and blue eyes smiled and repeated what she had said. This time, she spoke at a slower speed.

Li Boyang still had trouble understanding, so he scratched his head and said, “Did you say that you prefer having fish?”

Upon hearing that, the middle-aged woman hastily waved her hand. “No, no, no, no! We don’t want to have fish; we’re allergic to fish and raw ginger! Allergic!”

It was possible that the more panicked he was, the more chaotic the situation got. In addition, Qian Lingyu and Sister Liu were standing next to him.

This time, Li Boyang could not hear a single thing clearly, and his face blushed scarlet from panic.

“I’m sorry, I’m still having trouble understanding....” Li Boyang was almost stuttering.

Fortunately, the middle-aged woman kept her cool and continued, “It’s fine. Don’t be nervous, okay? Is there anybody else here who can speak English?”

Even though Qian Lingyu did not understand English, she could tell that something did not feel right about the situation. She stretched out a hand and poked at Li Boyang’s shoulder. “What’s going on, Boyang?”

Li Boyang turned around with his face flushed scarlet. “Mom, is there anybody else in our shop who can speak English?”

“You can’t understand them?” Qian Lingyu looked at Li Boyang in astonishment.

Li Boyang scratched his head. “They have too many requests; I’m afraid that I might mess it up...”

Qian Lingyu had just boasted how impressive Li Boyang was to Sister Liu earlier. When Li Boyang suddenly came and delivered the blow, it made Qian Lingyu feel a little humiliated.

Meanwhile, Li Boyang suddenly remembered something. He raised his head and looked toward Qian Lingyu. “I heard that Ye Zhuo’s English is rather good; why don’t we let her give it a try?”

Upon hearing that, Qian Lingyu's gaze was filled with contempt. "Her?"

Li Boyang nodded.

Even though he believed that Ye Zhuo did not understand English at all, he wanted to let Ye Zhuo give it a try.

Did Ye Zhuo not boast that her English was rather good just this evening?

He wanted to see how good she actually was.

Sister Liu said, "I shall get Little Ye now."

Before Qian Lingyu could react to the situation, Sister Liu ran over to find Little Ye.

Soon, Sister Liu returned with Ye Zhuo.

Li Boyang felt relieved to see Ye Zhuo's arrival.

He could finally stop worrying about him being an embarrassment since Ye Zhuo would be more embarrassing than him.

He could still hold a simple communication with the foreigners at the very least, could Ye Zhuo?

With the contrast set by Ye Zhuo, he would still be the outstanding, great student in Sister Liu and Qian Lingyu's minds.

Noticing Ye Zhuo's arrival, Qian Lingyu felt rather speechless. She said, "Sister Liu, so you really called her over, huh?"

Ye Zhuo walked to the customers right away with a smile on her lips. "How may I assist you?"

As soon as she spoke, the eyes of the middle-aged woman and a few other customers at the table lit up.

They were shocked by her pronunciation!

The middle-aged woman covered her mouth and said, "Oh my god! Are you a foreign citizen? Have you lived abroad before?"

Ye Zhuo shook her head ever so slightly. "I'm not a foreign citizen, but I've visited America before. It is a great country with rather enthusiastic people."

The travelers that were out in another country would always enjoy hearing others praise their own country. Therefore, the smile on the middle-aged woman's face grew wider. Then, she mentioned the requests that she had for the order.

Ye Zhuo wrote it down one by one.

Next to her, Qian Lingyu and Li Boyang were dumbfounded...

Chapter 33: Did That Sound Human To You?

Even though Qian Lingyu did not understand English, she could tell that Ye Zhuo was really impressive just by seeing how she interacted with the group of foreigners. How did this happen? How could she speak English so fluently when she did not even graduate middle school? It was impossible!

To make matters worse, Li Boyang was the class representative for his class, so how could he possibly lose to a middle schooler?

In the past, Qian Lingyu frequently praised Li Boyang in front of Sister Liu and belittled Ye Zhuo. Now, Ye Zhuo was proving her wrong right in front of Sister Liu's eyes! Could she still feel good in her heart? Not only did she feel awful inside, but she was also having trouble putting up a good front.

Qian Lingyu was not the only person who felt awful. There was also Li Boyang who joined in her misery. His original intention of making Sister Liu summon Ye Zhuo was to bring shame to Ye Zhuo. Yet, unexpectedly, Ye Zhuo did quite the opposite! It was a beautiful triumph for her. She was brilliant!

Soon, Li Boyang's palm was sweating. He raised his head to look toward Ye Zhuo.

Ye Zhuo still stood over there. The bright light above her shone down on top of her head. Under the lighting, her originally delicate face appeared even more attractive.

The crowd behind her turned into her background to accentuate her features. She was beautiful and very confident too. Not a trace of nervousness could be seen on her alluring face.

It looked as if she was not talking to seven foreigners but a bunch of her close friends instead.

She conversed naturally and expressed the quality and grace that represented the powerful country of China to perfection.

No! She should not be behaving in this manner! Li Boyang clenched his fists. Ye Zhuo was not supposed to be this way.

His educational background was far superior to Ye Zhuo's, and so was his family background. As a result, Li Boyang had always felt a sense of superiority over Ye Zhuo all this time.

Today, Ye Zhuo gave his false sense of superiority that he had always been proud of a ferocious stamp.

Ye Zhuo's action created a huge distance between him and her, and Li Boyang naturally felt awful.

In fact, he still could not believe that this was real.

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo did not overthink the situation. After she was done communicating with the foreigners, she headed to the back kitchen with her little notepad.

The customers from this table were allergic to fish and raw ginger, so she needed to inform the chefs in the back kitchen about this matter.

The few foreigners turned around and gave a thumbs up to Qian Lingyu and the others while clearly muttering the word 'good'!

Qian Lingyu and Li Boyang felt rather awkward.

Just then, Sister Liu exclaimed emotionally, "My god! I didn't expect that Little Ye would be so impressive! I couldn't tell at all! Do you agree, Lingyu?"

"Yes, yes she is." The corners of Qian Lingyu's lips widened into a rigid smile.

Qian Lingyu pondered for a moment before she said, "Actually, it's still not that uncommon for a person to speak good English without any educational background. Haven't you seen the news, Sister Liu? Remember the old woman picking up trash in that tourist spot who is also good at speaking English?"

So what if she could speak some English? At the end of the day, she still needed to work for Qian Lingyu! She was just a wage earner! What was there to be arrogant about?

Her son was studying in an elite high school, and he would go on to an elite university in the future. When he was out in society, he would be an upper-class person who would marry a woman who is fair, rich, and beautiful. Her son would be at the peak of humanity! Ye Zhuo could only wait and work for Qian Lingyu for the rest of her life!

At the thought of this, Qian Lingyu felt much better in her heart.

Upon hearing what his mother had said earlier, Li Boyang felt much better too.

Qian Lingyu was right. So what if she could speak English? She could speak English so fluently, yet she was still working for his family, right? His status was still higher than Ye Zhuo's.

Ye Zhuo's educational background was still poorer than his. Even if she could speak English, it could not save her from her poor educational background and lowly status.

Li Boyang turned his head to look toward Qian Lingyu. "Mom, I'm going to return to my room to read." He would certainly need to put more effort into studying so that he could get accepted into a good university.

By then, Ye Zhuo would still be a middle school graduate while he would be a postdoctoral research student with outstanding academic achievements.

"Go ahead." Qian Lingyu nodded affectionately.

After Li Boyang left, Qian Lingyu looked toward Sister Liu. "Sister Liu, it's not enough for a person to have good linguistic skills... the person will need to be good inside out! Only then is the person considered truly capable! I'm going to wait and enjoy the luxury life that my Boyang can provide for me in the future!"

Sister Liu replied, "I think Little Ye is not a common person, and she will certainly achieve great things in the future."

"What sort of things will she achieve, huh?" Qian Lingyu had on a disdainful expression. "She's only capable of uttering a few English words, right?"

Sister Liu continued, "She is not only good at speaking English, Lingyu.?Could it be that you haven't noticed that the business of our barbecue shop suddenly got better since Little Ye's arrival?"

This was a situation that was obvious to all.

Nevertheless, Qian Lingyu was rendered speechless by this remark. She answered, "How is the business in the shop getting better related to her? I've just recently upgraded the barbecue seasoning recipe. The volume of customers suddenly increased because the food tastes better!"

In the beginning, Qian Lingyu was under the assumption that the business suddenly grew better due to Ye Zhuo too. Afterward, she realized and convinced herself that that was not the case.

It was because she coincidentally changed the recipe of the barbecue rub just when Ye Zhuo started to work here. As a result, this matter was utterly not related to Ye Zhuo.

Upon saying that, Qian Lingyu said impatiently, "Alright, Sister Liu. Don't idle around here anymore. Go to the back kitchen and see if there's anything that you can help out with."

Sister Liu went back to the kitchen and found Ye Zhuo cleaning the serving trays. She hastily walked over to Ye Zhuo and said in an admiring expression, "Little Ye, that was truly impressive of you earlier! You spoke so fluently that I was dumbfounded!"

Ye Zhuo smiled and said, "Auntie Liu, I'm not that impressive. You've exaggerated."

In her past life, the people around Ye Zhuo were all renowned moguls. It was really not a big deal for one to speak some English. As a result, Ye Zhuo did not think much about this matter.

"You were impressive! You were very impressive, of course!" Sister Liu continued, "Little Ye, other than English, can you speak any other languages?"

Sister Liu had a strange feeling that Ye Zhuo was undoubtedly capable of speaking other languages as well.

Ye Zhuo picked up the serving tray and said with a carefree expression, "Other than English... I can only speak Russian, French, Japanese, German... and Korean."

Can only? Did that sound human to you?

Sister Liu swallowed a gulp of saliva and looked at Ye Zhuo in shock.

“Little Ye, which... which school did you say you were studying at?”

“North Bridge,” answered Ye Zhuo.

Sister Liu did not pay much attention to Ye Zhuo’s words in the past because of Qian Lingyu. Now, she was fully convinced of Ye Zhuo’s capabilities. Ye Zhuo was not here to work. She was only here to relieve Ye Shu.

Meanwhile, Granny Cen did not turn up tonight.

After spending time with the old woman for over half a month, Ye Zhuo found that she was feeling unaccustomed to the old woman suddenly not coming. She looked in the direction of the streets a few times throughout the entire night. However, the old woman did not turn up until it was almost time for closing.

After closing, Ye Zhuo did not leave at once, but she headed to the bar and found Qian Lingyu.

“Yes, Little Ye?”

Ye Zhuo spoke, “Aunty, it’s been almost a month since I started working here.”

“So?” Qian Lingyu raised her head to take a glance at Ye Zhuo.

Ye Zhuo was here to request for a full-time position, right?

She knew it! She knew the day would come.

“Aunty, when my mother wanted to resign in the past, you said that you needed one month to hire a new staff. As a result, I started working here to replace my mom for one month’s work. Have you hired a new staff member? I’m resigning the day after tomorrow.” She came over here to give Qian Lingyu a gentle reminder in order to prevent any dispute when the time came.

‘What?’ Qian Lingyu looked at Ye Zhuo incredulously.

Ye Zhuo was not here to beg her for a job?

Chapter 34: The Day She Regretted It Would Come!

Ye Zhuo was actually here to discuss her resignation. But why... why would she want to resign, huh?

Qian Lingyu chuckled and then said, “Little Ye, the business in the shop is getting busier these days. I can see that you’re a speedy worker, so why don’t you stay and become a full-time employee? I will increase your monthly wage by 500 bucks; this is an offer that no one else gets.”

Ye Zhuo’s current salary was 2500 bucks a month, so her salary would be 3000 bucks with the 500 bucks increment.

3000 bucks was not a small number. In fact, Qian Lingyu was just doing this to prove herself right about Ye Zhuo. She could almost tell Ye Zhuo’s next move. Ye Zhuo would certainly be very excited. It was an additional 500 bucks, after all.

“You’ve misunderstood, aunty.” Ye Zhuo then said, “This is not related to salary, but it’s because I’m about to go back to school soon.”

What? Did she refuse the offer even with the 500 bucks of increment?

Qian Lingyu looked at Ye Zhuo in astonishment. She did not expect Ye Zhuo to be so greedy for money to the point where she would even use going back to school as an excuse to renegotiate terms.

She was a young girl out in the working world, so how would school reopening be related to her? There was a slight tint of mockery in Qian Lingyu's eyes that was not very distinct.

Qian Lingyu had observed that Ye Zhuo worked very diligently and believed it was because she wanted to continue to work here once her agreement expired; could she really bear to bring herself to leave?

Qian Lingyu was certain that she was doing all this for no other reason than to push up her pay because Ye Zhuo realized that business in the barbecue shop was getting better these few days.

Nonetheless, she had already given her a 500 bucks increment; what more did Ye Zhuo want? In addition, the reason behind the business of the barbecue shop getting better was not because of Ye Zhuo! It was because of her original barbecue recipe!

Ye Zhuo was truly shameless! Did she really think that she was some fairy maiden?

Was she implying that it was because of her physical appearance that the business of the barbecue shop improved exponentially with lines out the door? What a joke!

The reason why Qian Lingyu decided to give Ye Zhuo 500 bucks of increment was out of pity for Ye Zhuo. She did not expect that Ye Zhuo would be so unappreciative and even want to seize the opportunity to extort more money from her!

Did Ye Zhuo really think that her experience as the shop owner for so many years was all for nothing?

Qian Lingyu continued, "Since you've already made up your mind to leave, I won't keep you then. I will settle the account of your salary the day after tomorrow after closing."

Ye Zhuo wanted to pull a smart trick on her, huh? No way!

“Alright. Thank you for taking the trouble to do that.”

After Ye Zhuo left, Li Boyang walked out of the house. “Mom, is Ye Zhuo resigning?”

He heard Ye Zhuo mentioning something about returning to school earlier. Could it be that Ye Zhuo was really still in school? Did he misunderstand Ye Zhuo?

Qian Lingyu turned around and replied, “She’s not resigning; she is trying to put up a front with me! She really thinks that she is someone important, huh!?”

“Put up a front? Put up what sort of front?” Li Boyang asked in puzzlement.

Qian Lingyu continued, “She can see that our business is getting better these days with her own eyes, right? She is assuming that the situation was contributed by her face! As a result, she is using her resignation to threaten me, so I will agree to increase her salary!”

Li Boyang nodded. “So that is the case, huh? So, did you increase her salary then, mom?”

Qian Lingyu answered, “I agreed to increase her salary by 500 bucks, but she thinks that it’s too little! She wants to resign, right? I shall fulfill her wish and allow her to resign then! If I have the money, I can hire as many staff members as I want. Does she think that the world stops revolving when she leaves?”

Li Boyang was stunned for a moment.

“So, is Ye Zhuo really resigning?”

Qian Lingyu smiled and said, “Don’t worry; she’s only doing this to scare me! She won’t bear to leave! The salary offered by our business is considered high in this area! That’s not even including the additional 500 bucks per month I’ve offered her; where else can she get a job as good as ours here?” Perhaps no other place could offer such a high salary in the entire Yunjing Province.

“Ah.” Li Boyang nodded and felt relieved.

Time passed quickly, and two more days passed in the blink of an eye.

It was Ye Zhuo’s final day working in the barbecue shop today.

It was quite a coincidence that Granny Cen, who had not turned up for three days, had actually come tonight.

“Granny Cen, where did you go for the past few days?” Ye Zhuo was delighted to see Granny Cen.

Granny Cen answered, “I had a headache for a few days, so I laid in bed and rested for two days.”

“Are you alright, Granny Cen?” Ye Zhuo had only just realized that something was off about the color of Granny Cen’s face. She stretched out her hand to examine Granny Cen’s pulse with her full attention.

After a moment, Ye Zhuo loosened her grip on Granny Cen’s hand. “Granny Cen, you’ve been having this headache issue for the past 20 years, right?”

Granny Cen looked at Ye Zhuo in astonishment. “Ye Zi, how did you know?”

“I know a little about the traditional Chinese medicine practice.” Then, Ye Zhuo continued, “Granny Cen, I’ve encountered someone with a headache like yours before. If you trust me, I have a prescription that will cure your problem.”

“Really?” Granny Cen’s eyes lit up brightly as she looked at Ye Zhuo.

Her headache was not an issue on usual days, but when it flared up, she could almost die from the agony to the point that she could not even get up from her bed. She would be in pain for two to three days in a row. She would get these headaches about once every month.

So, now that she heard that Ye Zhuo had a prescription that could cure her headache, she was elated.

Ye Zhuo nodded, picked up a pen, and wrote down the prescription on a notepad. Then, she tore the paper off and passed it to the granny. "This is the prescription; keep it."

Granny Cen received the prescription. "Alright. Thanks, Ye Zi!"

Ye Zhuo smiled and said, "It's just a small favor; oh right, what would you like to have tonight?"

In response, Granny Cen read out the names of a few dishes.

After Granny Cen finished her meal, Ye Zhuo informed Granny Cen that she was leaving the next day.

Upon hearing that, Granny Cen looked at Ye Zhuo as if she was unwilling to part with Ye Zhuo. "Oh Ye Zi, you're leaving, huh? So I won't be seeing you again from now on, right?"

Ye Zhuo said with a smile, "Granny Cen, I've written my phone number on the prescription. If you miss me or if you encounter something, you can call my number to reach me. Oh right, there's this too. Keep it." Upon saying that, Ye Zhuo took out a stack of cash notes from her pocket and stuffed it into Granny Cen's hands.

Ye Zhuo had withdrawn the money from the bank in advance. It was not easy for an old woman to live alone, so Ye Zhuo wanted to do something to the best of her abilities for the old woman.

Granny Cen's eyes reddened. "Thank you, Ye Zi."

"You're welcome."

The shop closed by midnight, and Ye Zhuo went to look for Qian Lingyu.

Qian Lingyu passed an envelope to Ye Zhuo and said, "There's two months' worth of salary here."

Ye Zhuo received it with both her hands. "Thank you."

Qian Lingyu continued, "Have you really considered the offer and decided to leave?"

"Mhmm." Ye Zhuo nodded.

In response, a faint smile appeared on Qian Lingyu's face. "I wish you the best of luck in your new job then."

Ye Zhuo frowned ever so slightly. She could not figure out why Qian Lingyu constantly thought that she dropped out of school. Hence, she figured that she might as well not explain herself anymore. She smiled and thanked Qian Lingyu.

Qian Lingyu gazed after Ye Zhuo's departing silhouette and sneered once.

Just wait! It will not take three days before Ye Zhuo regrets her decision! By then, she would certainly come back to beg her shyly.

The next morning, the family of three sat in the living room to have breakfast.

Ye Shu said, "Zhuo Zhuo, my body is well already. I will be going back to work in the barbecue shop from today onward."

After one month of recuperation, Ye Shu was looking much better that even the wrinkles on her eyes faded. She looked just like a different person, and her face was glowing with health.

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo peeled the egg in her hand leisurely. "I've already resigned from the job at the barbecue shop. The job is exhausting, and the salary is too low. There's no need for you to work there anymore from now on."

Hearing that Ye Zhuo had already quit the job, Ye Shu panicked a little. “Zhuo Zhuo, I know that you pity me, but I really am well now. I’m not doing anything at home anyway. Even though the barbecue shop doesn’t pay well, I can still make a little money to subsidize the expenses.”

Ye Shu did not want to become a deadbeat who relied on the support of her daughter. Furthermore, she certainly did not want to become her daughter’s burden.

Ye Zhuo took a sip of milk and then raised her head to look toward Ye Shu. “Mom, if you really feel that you can’t stand being bored at home, I have an idea.”

“Go ahead.”

Ye Zhuo continued, “I have some spare money with me now. I’m thinking of renting a shop and getting you to manage it. I can see that the food business is doing pretty well, so why don’t we open up a shop then?”

“Is... is that doable?” Ye Shu furrowed her brows ever so slightly. “I don’t have the skill; will anyone come to dine in a shop that I own?”

Ye Zhuo chuckled and said, “I thought uncle and you frequently praise me for cooking well? I can teach you! If the business is doing well, we can hire staff members to help out too.”

Chapter 35: Given By My Granddaughter-in-law

“I think that it’s doable!” Ye Sen said, “Zhuo Zhuo’s culinary skills are great. If she were to teach you well, we would certainly be able to make a good profit from it! Sis, don’t look down on the food business; it is a small-scale business, but if the business is good, it’s much better than working for others!”

“Uncle is right.” Ye Zhuo nodded.

Ye Shu still found the idea to be unstable. It was easier said than done.

The act of owning a business and a shop could not be accomplished just by talking about it.

If the business were not doing well, the owner would not even be able to sustain the rental.

Ye Shu furrowed her brows. "The rental for those slightly better locations in our city is very expensive and costs tens of thousands a month...."

"There's no need for you to worry about money. The money I have now is more than sufficient to rent a shop. When Mrs. Yi's husband is cured, she will pay a sum of consultation fees to me too. In addition, I am confident that we won't lose any money in our business venture."

At the mention of Chen Qiaoye, a worried look emerged in Ye Shu's eyes once again. "Zhuo Zhuo, can Mrs. Yi's husband truly be cured in one month?"

When Ye Zhuo visited the house for Yi Tao's follow-up consultation, Ye Shu followed her as well.

It was evident from Yi Tao's appearance that he had already reached his end.

However, in response to the question, Ye Zhuo smiled as radiant as the peach blossom basking in the March spring. "Don't worry; Mr. Yi will recover for sure."

For some unknown reason, Ye Shu suddenly felt at ease about Yi Tao's matter; perhaps, it was the moment she saw Ye Zhuo smile.

Nevertheless, she was still concerned about the food and beverage business.

Noticing that Ye Shu still remained in a state of apprehension, Ye Sen could not refrain himself from saying, "Sis, you have to be bold in business! You have to be bold to invest! You can't do it if you're

overly cautious this way! I'm just going to be blunt. A person like you will never make a good fortune in your life!"

Ye Sen was different from Ye Shu.

Ye Sen was bold, and he had the courage to give anything a try.

What a waste that he did not have the brains for business.

"Alright then." Ye Shu did not want to overthink it. "I will follow your suggestion."

"Good. I will write down the recipes for you after breakfast. You can practice at home while I go and hunt for a location."

"Alright." Ye Shu nodded.

Ye Zhuo left the house and arrived at a nearby street to see if there were any shops looking to rent now.

It was a coincidence that she really did manage to find a shop front that was looking to transfer their lease.

The shop was deserted with just a woman seated in front of the table. She was playing Happy Poker on her phone and did not even realize when Ye Zhuo entered the shop.

"Hello."

It was only until after Ye Zhuo had spoken that the woman noticed someone in the shop. She hastily stood up and said, "Girl, would you like to dine here?"

Ye Zhuo shook her head ever so slightly. "I saw your post on transferring the lease of this shop at the door?"

“Yes, I am planning to transfer the lease.” The woman sized up Ye Zhuo while nodding.

Ye Zhuo then asked, “How much for the transfer fee?”

The woman did not think that a young girl like this could afford it. So, she continued to play the game on her phone while she answered in a dismissive manner, “The transfer fee for the lease of this shop is 80,000 bucks; everything in the shop will be handed over to you, and we won’t keep anything. The rental fee is 30,000 bucks a month, and it is paid once a year. There are still six more months remaining now. In other words, if you want to take over the shop, you need 260,000 bucks.”

Unlike the woman, Ye Zhuo was not surprised by the quoted number. Not the slightest change could be seen on her beautiful face.

Meanwhile, the woman narrowed her eyes. Could it be that this young girl was a low-profile wealthy person?

At the thought of this, the woman’s attitude became much more enthusiastic. She took Ye Zhuo on a leisurely tour around the shop and explained the situation in the shop meticulously; she even touched on the purchasing channels of the business.

“Everything else is quite good except for the location, which is a little out of place.” Ye Zhuo furrowed her brows ever so slightly.

The aunty chuckled and replied, “Even though the location is a little out of place, if the food is good, the customers will still come! The human touch is a decisive factor in everything. I believe that the business will certainly do well as long as you put effort into managing the business! We are in a rush to transfer the lease because we are moving abroad. Otherwise, I would not bear to transfer it too! You have no idea how good our business was just a few days ago. It’s just that I don’t have the time to manage the shop anymore because we are moving abroad. Additionally, the head chef has left, and that is why it’s deserted now.”

Every business person was a mischief-maker, and the ability to lie came naturally to them. She knew that Ye Zhuo was still young, so she suspected that the girl could be easily swayed.

One should know that there were utterly no customers visiting the shop because the location was way too remote. They had already lost tens of thousands now, so they wanted to transfer the lease away eagerly. Unfortunately, people these days were not easy to fool.

“I may consider renting it if the transfer fee is waived,” said Ye Zhuo.

The woman knew that she stood a chance upon hearing that! The fish had taken the bait!

“Girl, you must be kidding me! The things in the shop were all personally purchased by us. Look at the decoration of the shop, it’s so tasteful, and it’s all built with the best materials! I can’t reduce the \$80,000 transfer fee!”

Ye Zhuo was not a fool either. She smiled and said, “Aunty, I don’t like to beat about the bush either. If you have the intention to transfer the lease, let’s sign the contract then. If you don’t, I will look for another shop.”

“Go ahead and look for another shop then.” The woman put up a front on purpose.

Losing 80,000 bucks was nothing much for her. They had already put up the post regarding the lease transfer about three months ago, yet they were surprised that no one came to ask about it. Meanwhile, if some dupe would come and take over by paying 180,000 bucks of rental, they would be forever grateful!

Nonetheless, it was normal for people to be greedy. Who wouldn’t want to make an extra 80,000?

Nonetheless, Ye Zhuo did not bother to haggle, so she turned around and left.

The woman did not seem to mind either because she felt that Ye Zhuo would come back to her for sure. So, she watched helplessly as Ye Zhou’s silhouette was about to leave her sight without any intention to turn around.

Suddenly, the woman panicked, so she hastily went after Ye Zhuo. "Don't go, girl! Look at you being so impatient! I can see that we're fated to meet, so let's just do as you wish! I shall waive the 80,000 bucks for you. Let's sign the contract then! I'm in a rush to move abroad!"

"Alright." Ye Zhuo nodded.

The woman's eyes lit up. She did not expect that Ye Zhuo was actually so easily swayed. Had she agreed just like that?

The young girl behaved just as expected. Apparently, she had way too little knowledge of the world and its people! There was a saying that inexperienced people often had less fear. Since she agreed to rent a place in such a remote location, she will have plenty of time to cry about it in the future.

"Let's go. We have come to an agreement. When the contract is signed, you can't back out anymore." The woman concealed the pride in her eyes very well.

Ye Zhuo smiled. "Don't worry. I can guarantee that I won't back out."

"Alright, follow me."

One hour later, Ye Zhuo walked out of the street with the lease contract in hand.

The woman gazed after Ye Zhuo's departing silhouette and shook her head helplessly. She could see that the young girl was beautiful... What a waste that she did not have any intelligence to go with her looks.

Renting a remote shop like this, she would lose money sooner or later!

..

In the Cen family's home, Granny Cen passed a prescription to the butler. "Old Zhang, please buy the medicine listed on the prescription."

The butler received it with both his hands and said respectfully, "Yes, madam."

Zhou Xiang walked into the room from the outside and asked out of curiosity, "What medicine is that, mom?"

"It's a medicine that can cure my chronic headache." Granny Cen believed Ye Zhuo without a shadow of a doubt.

Upon hearing that, Zhou Xiang said in astonishment, "Really?" Madam Cen had been having this problem for a few decades, and she had consulted both traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and Western practitioners. Sadly, none of it worked.

Granny Cen nodded. "Of course, it's real."

Zhou Xiang answered, "Mom, where did you get the prescription?"

"It was given to me by my granddaughter-in-law," said Granny Cen, proudly.

"What?" Zhou Xiang thought she had an auditory hallucination.

Chapter 36: Hallucinating

Zhou Xiang looked at Granny Cen and was confused.

She wondered if the old woman wanted to have a granddaughter-in-law so badly that it had driven her mad; was she hallucinating?

Granny Cen repeated herself once again with a smile. "I said this prescription was given to me by my granddaughter-in-law."

"No, mom. How did you get a granddaughter-in-law, huh?" Zhou Xiang asked.

"I'm going to get changed first, then I'll tell you in a while," said Granny Cen.

A few minutes later, Granny Cen got changed and walked out of the room.

Zhou Xiang was shocked. "My god! Why are you dressed this way!?" She could see that Madam Cen was dressed in tattered clothes such that even the beggars on the street would tear up from the sight of her.

It looked like someone in the family abused Madam Cen.

Madam Cen said smilingly, "If I don't dress this way, how can I get a granddaughter-in-law?"

After experiencing the incident with Mu Yourong, Madam Cen was especially reserved and cautious in her effort to get a granddaughter-in-law. As a result, she dressed like a beggar on purpose.

Her trick was actually rather effective.

Poverty was just like a mirror that detected evilness.

Any sort of bad character would reveal its original form in the reflection of this mirror.

Granny Cen managed to see many things that she was not used to seeing on usual days in her disguise.

Meanwhile, Zhou Xiang was rendered speechless. "Are you sure that you want to look for a granddaughter-in-law dressed like this?"

Would she really not scare the granddaughter-in-law away in her current state?

Granny Cen held a bottle of sunscreen spray and sprayed it on her body while she said, "Not everyone is the same as Mu Yourong. Let me tell you this, Xiang Xiang. I met an amazing girl. She is beautiful, kind-hearted, and speaks with a sweet voice; she doesn't even mind that my clothes are tattered. I like her so much!"

Granny Cen was a beauty known to all when she was young. Hence, not many people were lucky enough to be praised by her for being beautiful.

Even Mu Yourong, the prettiest girl in her school, only deserved to be labeled as 'looking alright' by Granny Cen.

Granny Cen's remark piqued Zhou Xiang's curiosity. "Is she really as beautiful as you described?"

The television was playing the most popular drama series at the time, coincidentally. Granny Cen pointed to the female lead character on the television and said, "She is a hundred times prettier than that young maiden! No! I retract my statement. She is a thousand times prettier!"

The female lead character was the hottest female artist now named Song Chenyu.

Song Chenyu was so beautiful that fish dived into the water in shame, just like the meaning behind her name. She made a debut with her shockingly beautiful face, and she was reputed to be the most beautiful woman in China by local and foreign media channels.

In truth, no one was more beautiful than Song Chenyu in the entire entertainment industry.

Meanwhile, Zhou Xiang was someone who had a strong liking for beauty, so she was very fond of Song Chenyu.

She had a rather close relationship with Song Chenyu in private too.

It was only Madam Cen who could not seem to remember Song Chenyu all this time.

Zhou Xiang was rather speechless. She said, "Mom, you're exaggerating! If she is really that beautiful, you should call her a fairy then!"

Granny Cen said with a proud expression, "You're right, Xiang Xiang. My granddaughter-in-law is really a fairy!"

Zhou Xiang was speechless. She suspected that Madam Cen was fabricating rumors, creating something out of nothing in her head.

"Mom, do you know who Chenyu is? She is the most beautiful woman in China!"

"Her?" Granny Cen was speechless. She added, "She is the most beautiful woman in China? If she is the most beautiful woman in China, my granddaughter-in-law is the most beautiful woman in the world!"

Upon saying that, Granny Cen continued, "My granddaughter-in-law is not only pretty, but she is also skilled in traditional Chinese medicine! Is this fish person capable of that? If my granddaughter-in-law is in the entertainment industry, the fish person won't have a place there anymore."

"What do you mean by the fish person!? Her name is Song Chenyu!" Zhou Xiang remarked.

"Let me ask you this... is the meaning of the word 'Yu' in Chenyu's name related to a fish?"

"That's right." Zhou Xiang nodded.

Granny Cen then added, "Isn't she a fish person then? Anyhow, this fish person is not as beautiful as my granddaughter-in-law!"

Zhou Xiang was at a loss for words. Madam Cen was too skilled, so she admitted defeat.

Granny Cen said, "When the butler is back, have him send the medicine to the kitchen; I'll drink it when I'm home at night! I'm heading out for a while."

Zhou Xiang replied with a frown, "Mom, is that medicine really effective? Are you sure that you weren't swindled?"

Granny Cen turned around to look toward Zhou Xiang. "Don't worry; my granddaughter-in-law won't swindle me."

"The swindlers today are very good at acting! Who knows if she is putting up an act."

"Don't worry." Granny Cen patted Zhou Xiang's hand. "The granddaughter-in-law that I've personally chosen is flawless." She was not a blind person, so she could tell if someone was putting up an act.

Zhou Xiang continued, "Where are you going? I'll have the driver send you."

Granny Cen waved her hand. "No need, no need. I'm just going to take a stroll." Madam Cen had already formed a new habit. As long as she was going out, she would put on her robe.

The butler returned with the medicine not long after.

Zhou Xiang received the medicine and pondered for a moment; she realized that she still could not be at ease with the situation, so she said, "Uncle Zhang, will you please call up Doctor Lin to come for a visit."

"Alright." The butler nodded.

Doctor Lin came over soon.

Zhou Xiang passed the medicine bought by the butler to the doctor. "Doctor Lin, will you please take a look and see if there's anything wrong with the medicine."

Doctor Lin took the medicine, unwrapped the packaging, and placed it in front of his nose to sniff it meticulously.

After a moment, he placed down the medicine and raised his head to look toward Zhou Xiang. "There's nothing wrong with the medicine; the only problem is that it won't have much effect on Madam Cen's headache."

Upon hearing that, Zhou Xiang furrowed her brows ever so slightly. She knew that Madam Cen was tricked.

No one in this world was perfect in all aspects. She was beautiful, yet she was skilled in traditional Chinese medicine? Was that not absurd?

Yet, somehow Madam Cen was still fully convinced about this girl.

Zhou Xiang nodded. "Alright, noted. Thank you for taking the trouble to come here, Doctor Lin."

"It's no trouble; it's what I should do." Doctor Lin added, "Madam Cen's headache is a symptom caused by factors relating to a cold. She will need to recuperate slowly; it can't be rushed. Don't stop taking the medicine prescribed by me yet. Any medicine contains a little toxicity. It's best not to consume useless medicine like this in order to prevent delaying Madam Cen's treatment progress."

Doctor Lin was a very famous western medicine practitioner in Yunjing Province.

He was confident that he could cure Madam Cen.

He needed the Cen family's trust, after all. There was hope for Madam Cen to get a full recovery if she consumed the medicine prescribed by him. How could a junior without any reputation and fame deserve to be compared to him?"

"Alright." Zhou Xiang nodded repeatedly.

“If there’s nothing else, I shall make a move first.” Doctor Lin bided farewell.

Zhou Xiang stood up with him and ordered the butler to see Doctor Lin to the door.

...

At the barbecue shop... the shop opened at half-past six, and customers began arriving to eat in succession. It was business as usual.

The weight on Qian Lingyu’s heart was finally lifted. She knew that business in the shop was getting better because of the new recipe and not because of Ye Zhuo! Who was Ye Zhuo anyway?

Qian Lingyu returned to the house to get some rest and felt relieved. She did not sleep well at all last night because she was very worried that business would be bad today.

Qian Lingyu went back out to take a look after she woke up from her nap. Then, she felt sick to her stomach at once. In fact, she was still under the assumption that she was hallucinating.

“Sister Liu! Sister Liu!” Qian Lingyu called for Sister Liu loudly.

“What’s going on?” Sister Liu was startled.

Qian Lingyu continued, “What’s going on with tonight? Why are there fewer customers than usual?” One should know that there was a long line out the door at this time yesterday, yet half of the tables in the shop were empty now, to her surprise!

Sister Liu looked toward Qian Lingyu and hesitated for a moment. “I think that... it’s possibly due to Little Ye.”

“Due to Ye Zhuo?” Qian Lingyu furrowed her brows ever so slightly.

Sister Liu nodded and said, “Many customers left right away after realizing that Little Ye was not around. They even claimed that they wouldn’t come again if they were to find out that Little Ye had resigned.”

Chapter 37: Wait For Her To Regret

Upon hearing that, Qian Lingyu’s expression turned very unpleasant. She had not expected that Ye Zhuo’s influence over the barbecue shop’s business was so immense.

These people were actually here for Ye Zhuo’s beauty, to her surprise.

“Who told you that Little Ye has resigned!? Little Ye is only on a break for the time being. She will be back at work in a few days!”

Sister Liu was stunned for a moment. “Huh? Little Ye hasn’t resigned?”

Qian Lingyu’s expression was getting even worse as she struggled to hide her disappointment. “She hasn’t! Go and tell them that Little Ye will be back at work tomorrow.”

“Ah, sure.” Sister Liu nodded and walked over hastily to tell the customers that Ye Zhuo had not resigned and that she would be back at work tomorrow. As a result, the customers replied that they would come and eat whenever Little Ye was back at work.

Noticing that, Qian Lingyu was furious!

She was under the assumption that Ye Zhuo would be back begging her for the job. It was beyond her expectation that she would have to stoop so low to beg Ye Zhuo now. The very thought disgusted her!

However, it was a crucial juncture now. There was no question whether or not she should bed Ye Zhuo to return. After all, nothing was more important than her business now.

“Boyang! Boyang! You have Ye Zhuo’s WeChat number, right?” In order to keep up the appearances of a boss, Qian Lingyu had deleted Ye Zhuo’s phone number, thinking that Ye Zhuo would certainly come and beg her. Unfortunately, that left her without Ye Zhuo’s contact number even though she wanted to reach out to her now.

“I do. What’s the matter, mom?” Li Boyang walked out from the inside.

Qian Lingyu said, “Send her a WeChat message and tell her that I shall increase her salary to 5,000 bucks. Make her come back to work.”

“Huh?” Li Boyang was stunned for a moment. It was as if he had never imagined that his mother could be so generous. “Mom, are you sure?”

“Mmhmm.” Qian Lingyu nodded.

“Why though?” Li Boyang continued to ask.

“Don’t ask so many questions! Just do as you’re told and send the message to Ye Zhuo.”

Li Boyang realized that Qian Lingyu was upset just by her facial expression, so he did not inquire further. He brought up his WeChat app and sent a message to Ye Zhuo asking if she was available.

He realized that Ye Zhuo was not online because he did not get a reply after he sent the message.

Meanwhile, Qian Lingyu was in a flurry of panic. She was constantly asking Li Boyang, “Has Little Ye replied?”

“No.” Li Boyang shook his head.

After half an hour, Qian Lingyu asked again, "Has she replied?"

Li Boyang shook his head once again.

Qian Lingyu clenched her teeth in rage. The little b*tch Ye Zhuo has not replied even after half an hour! She was obviously doing it on purpose! She has gone too far! She has really gone too far!

Meanwhile, Li Boyang suddenly uttered, "Mom, she replied!"

Qian Lingyu's eyes lit up. "What did she say?"

Before he said anything, an awkward expression appeared on Li Boyang's face. "Ye Zhuo said that she has to go to school so she can't work...."

Was 5,000 bucks still not enough!? That little b*tch! Her appetite for money was too huge!

Qian Lingyu was almost infuriated to death. She clenched her teeth and said, "Tell her that her salary has been increased to 7,000 bucks!"

The basic salary in Yunjing Province was 2,500 bucks.

7,000 bucks was the salary of an ordinary white-collar worker, so Ye Zhuo should not have an excuse to reject her offer anymore.

"Alright." Li Boyang nodded.

After a while, Li Boyang said, "Mom, Ye Zhuo said that this is not about the money."

What was it about if it was not about the money!?

Qian Lingyu's face turned pale in anger.

She really did not expect that Ye Zhuo would demand such an exorbitant price! Even 7,000 bucks was not enough to satisfy her.

Qian Lingyu pondered for a moment and figured that the profit that Ye Zhuo could bring to the shop was more than just the small amount of 7,000 bucks. So, she inhaled a deep breath and said, "Tell her that her salary will be increased to 15,000 bucks!"

Upon hearing that, Li Boyang looked at Qian Lingyu in astonishment. He was under the assumption that he might have misheard his mother.

"Mom, did you say 15,000 bucks?"

Qian Lingyu nodded. "Mmhmm. 15,000!"

Li Boyang suppressed the shock in his heart and then sent a message to Ye Zhuo.

It came as a surprise to Li Boyang because Ye Zhuo had actually rejected this offer as well.

It was 15,000!

"Mom, Ye Zhuo said it really isn't about the money...."

Qian Lingyu was almost dying in anger because she had already raised it to 15,000!

What else did Ye Zhuo want!?

Could it be that she wanted her salary to be increased to 100,000? Why was she so shameless!?

“Mom, what should I reply now?” Li Boyang asked.

“Don’t bother!” Qian Lingyu said furiously, “The little b*tch is putting up a front! It’s fine if she doesn’t come! I don’t believe that the barbecue shop can’t survive without her!”

Even if Ye Zhuo were to search through the entire Yunjing Province, she would not be able to get a job that paid a wage of 15,000 bucks monthly.

She was uncultured, and she did not have much working experience. Who would pay 15,000 bucks to hire a server? Was that person a fool?

“So, I won’t bother her then?”

Qian Lingyu nodded. “Mmhhh, don’t bother! Just wait! In less than three days, she’ll come begging us!”

Upon saying that, Qian Lingyu added, “If she were to regret and come looking for you on WeChat, don’t reply to her!”

“Alright.” Li Boyang added, “Mom, will Ye Zhuo come begging us for real?”

“Of course!” Qian Lingyu was confident. “She didn’t want to come back even when I offered her 15,000 bucks. When she does come begging later on, she won’t get such a high offer anymore! Boyang, just wait for Ye Zhuo to regret!”

Li Boyang nodded.

...

Granny Cen strolled around the park for a few rounds in her disguise before she returned home.

She was preparing to have her medicine, but she discovered that the kitchen did not prepare the medicine at all.

Granny Cen sought the butler and asked, "Old Zhang, why haven't you instructed the kitchen to prepare my medicine?"

The butler had yet to speak when Zhou Xiang walked over and said, "Mom, about the medicine that you had Butler Zhang buy... I already had Doctor Lin take a look at it. Doctor Lin said that those are all ordinary medicinal herbs that won't have much effect on your headache."

"I haven't even tried it, so how would he know that it's not effective?" Granny Cen asked.

Zhou Xiang replied, "Mom, Doctor Lin is a famous doctor in Yunjing Province, so he has surely given you good advice! Any medicine contains a little toxicity, so it is best not to take any new ones. You can take the medicine prescribed by Doctor Lin with peace of mind."

Granny Cen pursed her lips. "If he is a miracle doctor, why hasn't he cured my illness until now? I can see that he is a quack! He is incapable, yet he is trying to deny my granddaughter-in-law's capability!"

"Mom, you've had the headache for over two decades, so it has to be treated slowly. How can it be accomplished within a short period of time? I trust that Doctor Lin will certainly cure you."

Granny Cen waved his hand. "Old Zhang, have the kitchen prepare the medicine. Do it quickly!"

There was no telling what sort of drug the young maiden fed to Madam Cen such that Madam Cen trusted her so much.

Madam Cen was old, but she would rather trust a young maiden's words than a doctor's advice. Was her action not akin to treating her health like a joke?

Zhou Xiang furrowed her brows ever so slightly. "Doctor Lin advised you not to take other medicine simultaneously when you're taking his medicine; otherwise, it will only delay the treatment progress."

Upon hearing that, Granny Cen said in anger, "I won't take the medicine prescribed by Doctor Lin then. From today onward, I will only take the medicine prescribed by my granddaughter-in-law!"

Zhou Xiang heaved a sigh. "Mom!"

Granny Cen heaved a sigh as well. She stretched out her hand to hold Zhou Xiang's hand and said in an earnest tone, "Xiang Xiang, I know that you're doing this for me, and you're worried that something might happen to me. I've been having this illness for over two decades, and do you know how I endured it for the past 20 years? Every time I have a flare-up, I'm in so much agony that I wish I could die... Even when I'm not sick, I have trouble sleeping every night. Over the past 20 years or so, I haven't been able to sleep through the night soundly. Xiang Xiang, just let me give this a try."

Chapter 38: Endearment

Zhou Xiang married into the Cen family for over three decades, and she had an intimate relationship with Madam Cen like they were mother and daughter.

Upon hearing that, Zhou Xiang felt awful, and tears welled up in her eyes beyond her control. "Mom, you're going to recover; you're going to recover for sure!"

Madam Cen clutched Zhou Xiang's hand tightly. "So, just let me give it a try, Xiang Xiang. What if I really can be cured?"

Seeing Madam Cen's behavior, Zhou Xiang could not bear to reject her again, so she nodded and said, "Alright. Please take it for a few days and give it a try. However, we should agree in advance that if anything were to happen during the process, we should stop taking the medicine immediately."

Madam Cen was as joyous as a three-year-old kid when Zhou Xiang finally nodded in agreement. "Don't worry, Xiang Xiang. Ye Zi is amazing! She will certainly be able to cure me!"

“Who’s Ye Zi?” Zhou Xiang was stunned for a moment.

Granny Cen replied, “Ye Zi is my granddaughter-in-law!”

“The young maiden’s name is Ye Zi, huh?” Zhou Xiang clarified.

Madam Cen nodded.

When Doctor Lin found out that Madam Cen wanted to stop his treatment and take the useless medicine prescription, he was furious. One should know that he was a famous doctor in Yunjing Province!

Could it be that a famous doctor whose name was well known all over the country could not measure up to a nameless junior?

Was that old woman from the Cen family so old that she was demented?

Doctor Lin came to the villa where the Cen family lived on the same day and took away the medicine kit that he left with the Cen family.

Realizing the situation, the butler hastily informed Zhou Xiang. After all, Doctor Lin had always been in charge of treating Madam Cen’s illness since they came to Yunjing Province.

Upon hearing that, Zhou Xiang did not procrastinate as she hastily rushed over to the scene. “What are you doing, Doctor Lin? Why are you suddenly leaving?”

Doctor Lin carried the medicine kit in his hand. His brows were tightly furrowed, while his expression was extremely unpleasant. “I advised you about not seeking treatment from two different doctors for one illness. Since Madam Cen has already found a master to treat her illness, I won’t stand in the way!”

Zhou Xiang smiled and said, “Doctor Lin, where did that come from? Everyone knows that you’re the most famous doctor in Yunjing Province. We’re relying on you to cure my mom’s illness. Besides you, where else can we find a doctor who is brilliant and skilled?”

Who had no penchant for flattery? It was no exception even for a famous doctor like Doctor Lin. Upon hearing that, Doctor Lin’s expression calmed down a little.

“Yet, I heard that... Madam Cen has already stopped taking my prescribed medication.”

Zhou Xiang continued, “You’ve misunderstood, Doctor Lin. We’ve only stopped your treatment temporarily. It’s not that we don’t trust you but the person who provided the prescription to my mom is a junior member that she admired. It’s the junior member’s kind intention, so we can’t reject her as senior members, naturally. Don’t worry, Doctor Lin. Even if the treatment has been halted temporarily, we will still pay the consultation fees and medical costs during this period. Doctor Lin, just think of this as giving yourself a short break.”

Doctor Lin could still accept the first part of Zhou Xiang’s statement, but his expression immediately changed drastically when he heard the latter part of the statement. “Could it be that in your eyes, I’m that kind of vain person subjected to flattery?”

What was Zhou Xiang trying to imply here? Did she think that she could solve every problem with money?”

“Traditional Chinese medicine prioritized rapport. Since I don’t have a rapport with your mother-in-law, we should stop here. Certain matters can’t be forced!” Upon saying that, Doctor Lin turned around and walked away.

“Doctor Lin! We can figure this out together!” Zhou Xiang hastily caught up to Doctor Lin.

Doctor Lin stopped walking. “It’s fine for me to stay, but I stand by what I said. Do not seek treatment from two different doctors for one illness.”

Commissioning two doctors for one patient was a humiliation to doctors!

Suddenly, Madam Cen's voice was heard coming from behind. "Since Doctor Lin wants to leave, just let him leave, Xiang Xiang."

"Mom?" Zhou Xiang turned around.

Madam Cen raised her head to look toward Doctor Lin. "There's the door; please help yourself, Doctor Lin."

Upon hearing that, a cynical look emerged in Doctor Lin's eyes. "Madam, it's not that I'm bluffing; your headache is a symptom caused by coldness. In the medical field, the cold syndrome is an incurable, deadly symptom. It's a coincidence that my first ancestor studied this syndrome in the past. Other than myself, even if you were to search through the entire China, let alone Yunjing Province, you won't be able to find a second person capable of curing your headache! I believe that you understand this, or else your headache would have already been cured 20 years ago!"

Doctor Lin's remark was both a reminder and a warning! After all, it really seemed that no one else could cure Madam Cen other than him.

Therefore, he refused to believe that Madam Cen would not beg him to stay after hearing what he said.

"Perhaps, Doctor Lin is unaware that however strong you are, there is always someone stronger, right?" Madam Cen's voice sounded rather cold.

Doctor Lin turned his head to look toward Madam Cen. "Then, I hope that you will recover soon and live a long life, Madam Cen. I'm just going to be blunt here. If you were to regret this and wish to commission me again in the future, you would not have the chance to do so anymore."

"Don't worry; I'm an old woman who won't ever regret my words and actions!"

"Alright, I shall remember that! I'd like to remind Madam Cen to remember your words today!" He refused to believe that anyone else could cure her cold other than him!

In less than a month, the old woman would regret this! By that time, it will be far too late!

The Cen family had just relocated to Yunjing Province, so Doctor Lin did not know too much about them. He thought that the Cen family was just an ordinary wealthy family. As a result, he made remarks that disregard others' feelings.

After saying what he wanted to say, Doctor Lin turned around and left.

Zhou Xiang panicked, and she was about to go after Doctor Lin. However, Granny Cen held onto Zhou Xiang's hand. "Don't bother."

Zhou Xiang heaved a sigh. "Mom, but your health...."

"I'm fine. I still have Ye Zi!" The old woman patted Zhou Xiang's hand.

Zhou Xiang could only give up. However, she did not put any hope on Ye Zhuo's prescription. In her mind, she was already planning to send someone to commission Doctor Lin again when Madam Cen had cooled down.

...

In a cafe, Mu Yourong sat at a table next to the window. She seemed to be waiting for someone as she was constantly looking out the window.

It did not take long before a young woman with a delicately made-up face walked toward her under the guidance of the waitress.

"Qingyue." Mu Yourong greeted her with a smile.

"I'm sorry for being late." Li Qingyue looked apologetic.

Mu Yourong said with a gentle voice, "It's fine. We're besties, so there's no need to fuss about this. I ordered your favorite cappuccino and almond biscotti for you."

Li Qingyue was just an orphaned girl living under someone else's roof now, but five years later, Li Qingyue would dazzle everyone!

In Mu Yourong's memories from her past life, Li Qingyue relied on her sole effort to eliminate the Yi family's only son, Yi Tao. Afterward, she seized Yi Enterprises and turned it into hers. In fact, she had even acquired Li Enterprises, and in the end, she had even gained a steady foothold on an international scale!

As a result, Mu Yourong was figuring out a way to turn Li Qingyue into her ally at once after being reborn.

Earlier, Mu Yourong had made the first move to save Li Qingyue, and that was why Li Qingyue trusted Mu Yourong very much now.

They engaged in small talks for a while before Mu Yourong entered the main topic by saying, "So how are things at the Yi family? Do you still need more Annox?"

Li Qingyue hesitated for a moment before she talked about the incident where Ye Zhuo came to the Yi family's home to treat Yi Tao's illness.

Upon hearing that, Mu Yourong looked up in slight astonishment. "Ye Zhuo? Are you sure that you aren't mistaken?"

'Since when was Ye Zhuo skilled in medical practice? What the heck was going on? How could Ye Zhuo have changed so much?' All sorts of thoughts ran through Mu Yourong's mind at once.

Li Qingyue nodded. "I'm sure! That person was Ye Zhuo. Oh right, this is the prescription given by her. You can take a look if there's anything wrong with it." Even though Li Qingyue had already examined the prescription and found that there was utterly nothing wrong with it, she was still slightly concerned.

What if she missed something?

It was still better for her to be cautious in this matter.

Mu Yourong took the prescription and brought up the system to examine it.

After a while, Mu Yourong's face cracked into a smile. "Don't worry; this prescription won't have any effect on the Annox Disease." She knew that Li Qingyue was being overly concerned. How could a deadbeat be skilled in the art of healing, anyway?

Ye Zhuo was just the deadbeat of the Mu family in the past. Now that Ye Zhuo was back in the slums, she would still be unable to escape Mu Yourong's control! She would remain as the bastard child of a mistress in this life!

Chapter 39: It Was Amazing!

In Li Qingyue's perception, Mu Yourong was an all-powerful person who could do anything. In fact, it was Mu Yourong who provided her with the information regarding the Annox Parasite.

Before encountering Mu Yourong, Li Qingyue was using a very common slow poison on Yi Tao. It was a stealthy poison that could not be traced from clinical testing. However, if this incident were exposed, she would be doomed!

Nonetheless, the Annox parasite was different because it was a parasite, after all. Moreover, Yi Tao had a history of traveling abroad, so no one would be able to figure out that someone intentionally caused Yi Tao's illness.

Therefore, given the information she received from Mu Yourong, Li Qingyue felt relieved that Ye Zhuo's prescription was utterly useless. "Yourong, I can now be at ease with your confirmation."

Mu Yourong smiled faintly and raised her cup to Qingyue. "May our friendship last."

“To long-lasting friendship.” Li Qingyue raised her cup as well. “Yourong, I must say that I think that fake sister of yours is really different from the past.... Should you keep an eye on her?”

Mu Yourong smirked. “She’s just a deadbeat who can’t do anything, never mind her.” Mu Yourong was a little threatened by Ye Zhuo in the beginning, but she paid no attention to Ye Zhuo anymore now.

She had been reborn, so she was well aware of many advantageous opportunities; furthermore, she had the system and Goldfinger with her now, in addition to being the daughter of a wealthy family.

What did Ye Zhuo have? Not only did Ye Zhuo have nothing, on the contrary, she was the bastard child of a mistress that everyone despised.

...

Ye Zhuo was rather busy recently.

She was busy renovating the shop on one hand while she was working on completing the OS system on the other. To compound to her work, she still had to find time to guide Ye Shu on her cooking skills.

The main cuisine served in the restaurant was ‘rabbit’ hotpot. Even though rabbits were really cute, rabbit meat was truly delicious too.

The main job when it came to preparing the hotpot was to stir-fry the hotpot base. Ye Shu began fumbling her way step by step according to the recipe given by Ye Zhuo. Nonetheless, it did not take long before an enticing fragrance wafted out of the kitchen.

Ye Sen returned home after delivering parcels. He could feel that he was almost drooling upon smelling the fragrance from the kitchen. “Sis, what are we having for dinner tonight?”

“We’re having rabbit hotpot.” Ye Shu’s voice was heard coming from the kitchen. “Take a shower first, and dinner will be ready when you’re done.”

“Alright.”

Ye Shu had already served the hotpot on the table when Ye Sen came out of the shower. A layer of chili oil floated on the surface of the boiling soup while a ring of blanched vegetables, meatballs, duck blood, bacon, and beef slices surrounded the side of the hotpot... One would drool from hunger just at the sight of it.

“Whoa! It smells amazing! My sis is awesome!” Ye Sen gave Ye Shu a thumbs up. “Sis, with your cooking skills, we will certainly be able to make a good profit from the opening day!”

Ye Shu smiled and said, “Stop being verbose, tell Zhuo Zhuo to come for dinner, quick. I’m going to make a hotpot dipping sauce.”

“Alright.” Ye Sen nodded and came to the door of Ye Zhuo’s room. He shouted aloud, “I’m coming in, my niece.”

“Come in; the door is not locked.”

As soon as Ye Sen opened the door, he saw Ye Zhuo seated in front of her laptop with her hands typing away on the keyboard swiftly. Her fair, jade-like fingertips formed a sharp contrast with the black keyboard.

One of her hands was clutching the mouse while she cradled a phone between her head and her shoulder as if she was on a call with someone. “If the silver one is not available, use the white then. It doesn’t matter which brand it is, but it has to support environmental protection! The formaldehyde must not exceed the prescribed limits....”

The warm light cast a layer of faint glow on her face while the calmness and quietness of life looked great on her. Ye Sen was dumbstruck in bewilderment.

He had never known that a person could operate a laptop so swiftly while talking on the phone... Could it be that this was how a legend did two things at once? It was amazing!

Ye Zhuo's hands were moving faster and faster, just like the speed of his hands when he was playing a game.

Furthermore, the laptop screen was displaying symbols that Ye Sen could not read.

It looked just like an alien language that was constantly transforming such that the sight of it made Ye Sen dizzy.

In an instant, Ye Zhuo hung up the call and shifted her gaze to look toward Ye Sen. "Are you looking for me, uncle?"

Ye Sen recovered from his temporary daze in surprise. "Oh, dinner's ready."

"Uncle, you can start with my mom first. Don't need to wait for me." Ye Zhuo continued to use her hands. "I will join when I'm done with this and have saved it."

Ye Sen knew that Ye Zhuo was doing something important, so he did not disturb her anymore. He said, "Do finish up quickly so that you can have dinner. We are having hotpot tonight."

"Alright." Ye Zhuo nodded.

About 15 minutes later, Ye Zhuo completed the final code, clicked save, and checked to make sure that there was no other issue. Then, she came to the living room for dinner.

At that time, Ye Sen was seated on the sofa playing games in the living room. On the other hand, Ye Shu was studying a book on owning a shop and managing it.

She did not have much experience in owning a shop, but she had a rather intelligent brain, so she could count on studying to gather more experience to avoid any detours.

"Mom, uncle, have you both eaten?" Ye Zhuo asked in astonishment.

Ye Sen was busy playing games, so Ye Shu responded at once as she closed the book. "We haven't eaten yet; we're waiting for you."

"Mom, there's no need to wait for me during meals next time. You'll just need to leave some for me," said Ye Zhuo.

"The meal tastes better with more people." Ye Shu turned on the induction cooker, and the fiery red soup immediately started to boil again. "Zhuo Zhuo, go and bring over the Coke in the fridge."

Upon saying that, she raised her head and turned toward Ye Sen. "Ye Sen! Stop playing games! Come and eat now, quick!"

"Coming, coming!" Ye Sen walked to the dining table with his phone clutched in his hand and took a seat.

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo came with the Coke. She noticed that Ye Sen was fully absorbed in the game, so she could not refrain herself from asking, "Uncle, what is that game you are playing?"

"King of Glory."

"King of Glory? Is it fun?" Ye Zhuo asked.

"It's really fun!" Ye Sen held the phone with both his hands with an excited expression on his face. "Stop running if you dare! Why are you running? F*ck! F*ck! Someone is hiding in the bushes! Come and save me, quick! Monkey, come and save me, quick! This monkey must be an elementary school student, right? Do you even know how to play? Stupid monkey!"

"How do you know that your teammate is an elementary school student?" Ye Zhuo asked out of curiosity.

Ye Sen replied, "His skill is so amateur... I can tell that he is an elementary school student just from my intuition."

A person with amateur skills must be an elementary school student?

Ye Zhuo blanched her favorite minced shrimp in the hotpot and thought to herself how it was unfortunate that elementary school students had to bear the blame. Nonetheless, it did not take long before the minced shrimp was cooked.

Ye Zhuo scooped out a piece of minced shrimp and took a small bite. The spicy, umami, fragrant hotpot soup base concealed the fishy stench of the minced shrimp. It seemed chewy yet smooth with the unique scent of rabbit meat. It made one feel like having the second bite right after taking the first and wishing that one could swallow everything, including their tongue. It was irresistible!

The minced shrimp was made by Ye Shu herself, so she looked at Ye Zhuo nervously. "What do you think, Zhuo Zhuo?"

"It's delicious! It's really scrumptious!" Ye Zhuo gave Ye Shu a huge thumbs up. "I've never tasted minced shrimp that is so delicious."

"Really?" Ye Shu was in disbelief.

Ye Zhuo nodded and picked up a piece of minced shrimp for Ye Shu too. "Taste it yourself, mom."

Ye Shu took a bite and looked rather astonished as well. It was apparent that she genuinely had not expected the minced shrimp to taste this good! After tasting the minced shrimp herself, Ye Shu was confident in the restaurant's future business! She was fully motivated at once!

After dinner, Ye Sen asked, "My niece, so how's the renovation with the restaurant now?"

Ye Zhuo updated, "The renovation will be done in a week. When the papers from above are approved, we will be able to open for business."

"So soon?" Ye Sen asked in surprise.

Chapter 40: Did Something Bad Happen?

Ye Zhuo nodded. "That's because it's only a simple renovation; that is why it can be done so soon. Oh right, mom, we still have to go to the hospital tomorrow to get our medical certificate."

It was a food service industry, after all, so they needed to get their health certificate issued before they could apply for a food hygiene license.

"Alright." Ye Shu nodded.

Ye Shu and Ye Sen still had no idea where the restaurant's location was; thus, Ye Zhuo took them to check out the restaurant after dinner.

The size of the restaurant was huge at a total of 80 square meters, including the back kitchen.

The renovation workers had already clocked out by now, so the three of them stood in the shop and talked to each other while echoes could be heard.

"Zhuo Zhuo, how much is the monthly rental for this place?" Ye Shu asked.

Ye Sen answered, "I can see that the size of the shop is quite spacious, so I bet the rental is 20,000 to 30,000 bucks a month at the very least, right?"

Ye Zhuo nodded. "Yes. The rent is 30,000 bucks a month."

Even though Ye Shu was well aware that the rental in Yunjing Province was not cheap, she was still startled by the staggering price. "30,000 a month? Wouldn't that be 360,000 bucks a year?"

“Mhmm.” Ye Zhuo was calm and composed, and there was even a faint smile on her lips. It was as if they were not discussing a matter of 360,000 but rather 36 bucks.

Ye Sen began to calculate. “The monthly wage for my package delivery job is 5,200 bucks, so 360,000 bucks is five years’ worth of my salary!” He would not have known had he not calculated, so the figure certainly caught him off guard.

Nonetheless, Ye Zhuo spoke nonchalantly, “To receive gains, you must invest first.”

Meanwhile, a middle-aged woman with permed hair walked into the shop from the outside while holding sunflower seeds in her hand. “Is this shop rented by you?”

Ye Zhuo nodded. “Yes.”

The curly-haired woman continued, “My surname is He, and I’m selling snacks over there. There! Look, it’s that Nutcracker Snack Shop! Let me tell you this... The location that you rented is problematic. Whoever rents it will lose money. I’ve seen this place switch ownership ten times! Let’s not discuss the older ones but talk about the most recent one. The shop that transferred its lease to you is known as Zhang’s Braised Meat Rice, and they lost a few tens of thousands!”

Ye Shu’s face turned ghastly pale upon hearing about the losses. “Really?”

The curly-haired woman smiled and added, “Look at me... do I look like a person who is trying to deceive you? Oh right, did the boss of Zhang’s Braised Meat Rice tell you that they’re moving abroad? In truth, the Zhang family hasn’t moved abroad at all. She moved to the shop next to us to sell snacks! It’s now known as Zhang’s Snacks!”

The curly-haired woman was furious when she recalled this incident.

She was supposed to be the only snack shop in the area, yet Zhang’s Snack suddenly opened up next to her. Moreover, Zhang’s Snack was selling their products at a cheaper price than hers, so a large portion of her business was forcefully seized!

Otherwise, it was supposed to be a busy time for the shop now. How would she find the free time to take a stroll?

The reason why the curly-haired woman took the initiative to come over and talk to Ye Zhuo was that she had a selfish motive too.

There was a saying that 'an enemy's enemy is a friend'.

When Ye Zhuo realized that she was swindled, she would certainly look for the owner of Zhang's Snack to pick a fight.

By then, Zhang's Snack would not be able to operate its business, so the curly-haired woman's business would resume as usual.

At the thought of this, the curly-haired woman said emotionally, "Do you think that the owner of Zhang's Braised Meat Rice is immoral? They should've admitted that they'd lost money! They even lied to you that they are moving abroad! They're willing to say anything for money! Bah! They're really shameless!"

The more Ye Shu listened, the more panicked she became. A moment ago, she was very confident about the success of the business, but now she felt like someone poured cold water all over her enthusiasm. She felt cold from her head to her toes!

The rental was paid yearly, and they would lose 360,000 bucks even before they began operating their business. What should she do then?

"Zhuo Zhuo?" Ye Shu raised her head to look toward Ye Zhuo.

Ye Zhuo smiled faintly. "Mom, it's fine. Don't worry. Human effort is the decisive factor, and all businesses are run by humans. I believe that we will certainly be able to run the business well."

Her smile was just like the plum blossom blowing gently in the March wind and also akin to the cold ice suddenly encountering the blazing sun; it removed the coldness from Ye Shu.

Ye Shu felt much calmer for no apparent reason as she looked at the side of Ye Zhuo's face.

Nonetheless, upon hearing that, there was a look of speechlessness in the curly-haired woman's eyes.

The young people these days spoke like they were in a dream and were apparently open to lying to themselves. Could she run a business properly in a shop like this? It was simply absurd.

"Young maiden, please excuse me for being blunt. It's the location that makes it difficult for you to operate your business! It's going to be very difficult! My advice is for you to transfer the lease quickly before you even start the business! Otherwise, the days of losing more than your capital will be upon you later! The days of you constantly crying will be upon you later too."

Ye Zhuo smiled in return. "Thank you for your warning, aunty. I know that you're doing it out of your kind intention, but I'm also confident that we will be able to get the business up and running."

Since the young maiden failed to appreciate her kind intention, she figured there was no need to persuade the young girl any further. Anyhow, she was not the one who would lose money. "Young maiden, you're still very young. Just remember what I told you today, and you can decide for yourself if you want to believe it. I still have other affairs to attend to over at my shop; I won't stay here any longer."

After the curly-haired woman left, Ye Shu said out of concern, "Zhuo Zhuo, is it really going to be fine?"

Ye Sen wrapped his arm around Ye Zhuo's shoulder. "Sis, we must trust Zhuo Zhuo! Our Zhuo Zhuo is so amazing! She is capable of investing in stocks and managing money. The task of operating a small restaurant is certainly nothing difficult for her! There's no need for you to worry for nothing."

Ye Sen trusted Ye Zhuo very much. Even if Ye Zhuo were to claim that the earth was a cube, he would think that Ye Zhuo was right!

Meanwhile, Ye Zhuo smiled and said, “Uncle is right. Mom, just trust me this time that I will certainly run the business well! Besides, we’re done preparing everything now. Is it really practical to back out now?”

Ye Shu chuckled and decided that she would not overthink the situation. “Alright, anything you say.”

All things were difficult before they were easy. They would certainly be able to build a good life for themselves as long as they work together with one heart.

...

In the Cen family’s home, the servant served the brewed medicine to Madam Cen. The medicine tasted very bitter. In fact, it was more than ten times more bitter than the medicinal herbs that Madam Cen used to consume. She had just taken one sip before she could not refrain herself from spitting it out.

“What’s going on, mom?” Zhou Xiang was startled.

Madam Cen furrowed her brows. “The medicine is really bitter!”

Zhou Xiang quickly followed up, “Mom, why don’t we just commission Doctor Lin again? Don’t take the medicine if it’s too bitter.”

“Good medicine tastes bitter to the mouth. Go and get me some candied fruits,” Madam Cen requested.

Zhou Xiang was still feeling worried. “Mom, do you really not want to commission Doctor Lin?”

“No.” Madam Cen waved her hand dismissively.

Zhou Xiang heaved a sigh and fetched the candied fruits for Madam Cen.

Madam Cen finished a bowl of bitter medicinal soup with the candied fruits to make it easier.

Then, Zhou Xiang said, “Mom, you must tell us if you feel unwell in any part of your body. Don’t just hold it back.” Madam Cen had to rely on medicine to control her headache issues on usual days. So, now that she suddenly stopped taking Doctor Lin’s medicine, Zhou Xiang was very worried for real.

“Mmhmm, I know.” Madam Cen nodded. “I’m going to head upstairs to rest; you should sleep early too.”

“Alright.”

It was the following day. Zhou Xiang had always slept in and woke up late. Madam Cen would be up by the time she woke up on usual days. However, she was surprised not to see Madam Cen around.

Zhou Xiang furrowed her brows and then looked toward the servant on the side. “Where’s Madam?”

The servant answered, “It seems that madam has yet to awaken.”

“Yet to awaken?” Zhou Xiang checked the clock and found that it was already past nine. She felt that something was off.

Then, she remembered the medicine that Madam Cen consumed last night.

In an instant, Zhou Xiang’s heart was racing. Could it be that... something bad happened to Madam Cen?