

At School 1171

Chapter 1171: Occupying a Magpie's Nest, Right?

The scene of parting was surprisingly harmonious. After bidding farewell, everyone watched as Irene and the rest got into the car behind them and vanished into the night.

Seeing this, Jian Ai slowly exhaled. Then, she turned around and looked at Xiao Zhen. "Xiao Zhen, let Zhi Tong stay here with you. When he was in San Marino, he lived alone in the mountains and forests. Now that he's in China, if he stays in Baiyun City District, I'm afraid he won't get used to it."

Xiao Zhen nodded. "No problem, Sect Master. I'll take care of him."

Xiao Zhen liked silence, so he bought this villa and manor in the forest alone. Zhi Tong was also quiet. It was suitable for the two of them to be companions.

"Si Yue and I will return to the city area with Bai Zhou today. Let's contact each other by phone," Jian Ai said.

At this moment, Yu Wuyuan slowly said, "I plan to return to the capital too. There are still things waiting for me to handle over there."

Yun Buyao was also about to leave. "I have to return to Shanghai too. I have an awards ceremony tomorrow afternoon."

Everyone said their whereabouts. It was obvious that Bai Zhou's matter might end here for the time being. Qi Ye had lost his mercenary group. If he wanted to find someone to attack again, it would take some time. Even if there was an unexpected situation, Chi Lian alone was enough to deal with it.

They bade farewell to each other. Yu Wuyuan was the first to leave on his sword.

Then, Jian Ai, Si Yue, Bai Zhou, Chi Lian, Yun Buyao, and Chi Yang took the car back to the city area. Zhi Tong stayed with Xiao Zhen.

It had only been more than a week since Jian Ai left home, and the temperature in Baiyun City had plummeted by a few degrees. It was already winter, and it was almost December.

As soon as she entered her home in North City, a warm current greeted her and instantly wrapped Jian Ai's cold coat.

There was a heating supply!

As Jian Ai changed her shoes, she looked at Si Yue in surprise and asked, "You paid the heating fee?"

When Si Yue heard this, he looked at Jian Ai and shook his head. "I haven't been back for the past few days. It should be Master or Senior Brother Xiaowen."

Yang Jie had lent this house to Jian Ai and Si Yue to stay. He did not charge them.

At the mention of Master and Senior Brother Xiaowen, Jian Ai couldn't help but take a deep breath. Only then did she realize she hadn't reported to the martial arts school for a long time.

There had been too many things going on during this period, so much so that she could not do everything at once. As soon as she stopped practicing martial arts, Jian Ai felt her cultivation progress slow down.

As expected, she could not relax. If she did, the consequences would be reflected directly on her cultivation progress.

“Tomorrow morning, let’s report back to the martial arts school!” Jian Ai said as he looked at Si Yue.

Si Yue’s body had almost recovered. Although he had not completely recovered, he should have no problem returning to the martial arts school.

“Aren’t you going to get rid of the jet lag? I’m afraid your body can’t take it. It’s not the weekend tomorrow, and you have to go to class during the day,” Si Yue said with concern.

Jian Ai promised, “Don’t worry, I’ll get up.”

When Si Yue heard this, he looked at Jian Ai skeptically and nodded. “Alright.”

However, one should not be too confident. Jet lag was very demonic.

Jian Ai couldn’t sleep that night. It wasn’t until past three in the morning that she finally fell asleep. However, she felt that the alarm clock had rung at half-past four. Almost in her dream, she reached out. Jian Ai turned off the alarm clock and continued to sleep without opening her eyes.

When she opened her eyes again, the sky was already bright!

Jian Ai suddenly sat up on the bed. It was so quiet that there was no sound. She turned to look at the alarm clock on the bedside table. It was already past ten in the morning.

She did not go to the martial arts school and was even late for school?

She quickly got out of bed and left the room. Jian Ai walked to the opposite side and knocked on Si Yue’s door, but no one answered.

She pushed the door open and saw that the bed was clean and tidy, but Si Yue was nowhere to be seen.

There was a note on the dining table in the living room. Jian Ai walked forward and picked it up. “I’m going to school. There’s porridge and buns in the pot. Remember to heat them up again when you eat. Rest well for a day, Si Yue!”

Jian Ai: “...”

Thinking of how she had said in a firm tone last night that she would get up today, Jian Ai felt her face hurt.

However, on second thought, she was indeed too tired. Even if she forced herself up, she would be listless for the day. She might as well adjust for the day and go to the martial arts school when she is in good condition.

Consoling herself, Jian Ai walked into the kitchen. Just as she was about to warm up her meal, her hand stopped.

She thought for a moment and decided to return to her aunt's house to see her mother. She could have lunch there.

After changing her clothes, Jian Ai took a taxi to her aunt's house in Haicheng District.

She opened the door and went in. Before Jian Ai could call out, she heard a voice from inside. "Auntie, I'll peel the prawns. Make the noodles. I don't know anything else."

Jian Ai stood at the door and was stunned. Who else could this voice be but Ji Haoyu?

Bang! Jian Ai pulled the door closed, and the people inside heard the sound.

"Who is it?!" Wang Yunmei called out as she ran out of the kitchen.

"Eh? Xiao Ai!" Seeing her daughter, Wang Yunmei was stunned for a moment before joy filled her face. She quickly went forward. "When did you come back? Why didn't you tell me?!"

Jian Ai took off her shoes and smiled. "I came back last night. I was jet-lagged, so I didn't go to school today. I slept until now."

As she spoke, another figure popped out of the kitchen. He was wearing a black cotton tracksuit with white socks and Wang Yunzhi's house slippers.

Ji Haoyu was still holding a half-peeled prawn in his hand. He looked at Jian Ai with sparkling eyes and revealed a dazzling smile. "You're back!"

When these words came out of Ji Haoyu's mouth, it was like a greeting between family members. It was filled with joy and warmth, natural and comfortable.

Jian Ai looked at the prawns in Ji Haoyu's hand and then at his handsome face. "Why are you here?"

Without waiting for Ji Haoyu to speak, Wang Yunmei smiled and explained, "Haoyu said that the corporation is free these few days, so he comes over for a meal every few days. You came back at the right time. Mom's making dumplings with three fillings for lunch."

Jian Ai was stunned. Come over for a meal every few days? What did he want?

"Haoyu, stop peeling prawns for me. Talk to Xiao Ai. I'll do it myself!" Wang Yunmei said and went forward to snatch the prawns from Ji Haoyu's hand. Then, she went straight into the kitchen.

Ji Haoyu stood on the spot and smiled at Jian Ai. There was a lot of content in that smile, but it could not compare to the most obvious happiness.

Jian Ai was back. He was happy!

Jian Ai, on the other hand, looked at Ji Haoyu deeply. She walked closer to him step by step. In the end, she stopped in front of Ji Haoyu and said in a low voice, "What do you want? Taking advantage of my absence to occupy a magpie's nest, right?"

Chapter 1172: You Have to Be Thick-skinned

Looking at Jian Ai's probing and slightly raised face, Ji Haoyu had a smile in his eyes. Hearing this, he said, "Look at what you're saying. You make it seem like I'm taking advantage of the situation."

"Tsk." Jian Ai sneered and raised her eyebrows at Ji Haoyu. "Isn't that so? Otherwise, why do you come for a meal every few days?"

Jian Ai felt that Ji Haoyu's action was abnormal. In the past when he had come to the house twice, at least she was present.

Now, when she went abroad, he kept coming to her house. Could it be that he was already so familiar with her mother? She naturally did not believe it.

From the looks of it, he was even helping her mother make dumplings. Her sensitive sense of smell made Jian Ai smell a deep conspiracy.

There was no free lunch in this world!

Ji Haoyu might be up to something.

How could Ji Haoyu admit he was attacking from the back? He couldn't help but smile casually and say, "You're too paranoid. Do I have ulterior motives just because I'm here for a couple of meals?"

Jian Ai frowned at him with a look that said, *'Continue. I'll admit defeat if I believe a word.'*

Ji Haoyu could not help but laugh. In the end, he sighed. "I have no ulterior motives. I just like to eat Auntie's food, okay? Auntie said that I should treat this as my home. If I want to eat, I can come over anytime. I think Auntie is very sincere and doesn't seem to stand on ceremony with me, so I won't stand on ceremony. I came because I wanted to."

Jian Ai: "..."

How did he make his thick-skinned words sound so fresh and refined?

He blurted out these words so naturally. Didn't he know that this was someone else's house? Did he think it was his house?!

Coincidentally, Wang Yunmei heard a few words from Ji Haoyu. Wang Yunmei's voice floated out of the kitchen. "Haoyu, if you want to eat Auntie's food, come over anytime. Don't be embarrassed."

"Alright, Auntie. I won't stand on ceremony!" Ji Haoyu quickly answered. Then, he raised his handsome eyebrows at Jian Ai with a smug expression. "Look, Auntie is so good to me."

Jian Ai: "..."

It was unknown what Ji Haoyu had drugged her mother with, but the two of them were closer to each other than she was to Ji Haoyu.

After a while, Jian Ai pursed her lips and thought to herself, *'Forget it. After all, I still owe Ji Haoyu a few favors. I need to treat him to a meal to repay these debts.'*

"The few meals I owe you are even!" Jian Ai said and walked to the sofa to sit down.

Ji Haoyu was slightly stunned. When he came back to his senses, he was unwilling. He quickly followed and sat beside Jian Ai. "That won't do. You owe me a date between the two of us. This kind of date doesn't count with others present."

"Date?" Jian Ai looked at Ji Haoyu and couldn't help but smile. "Who agreed to go on a date with you? I'm just saying that I'll treat you to a meal, okay? Don't secretly change the concept!"

"I don't care." Ji Haoyu's handsome face revealed an expression that said that a dead pig was not afraid of boiling water. "If you think it's a simple meal, that's your business. Anyway, it's a date for me. In short, it only counts if there's only the two of us."

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Jian Ai: "..."

To think that she still felt that Ji Haoyu had become much more normal after interacting with him recently. Why did he become a scoundrel again after she went abroad?

What Jian Ai did not know was that the first rule of Young Master Ji's wife-chasing strategy was to be thick-skinned.

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Especially against someone like Jian Ai, who was impervious to everything, he had to be thick-skinned!

At this moment, there was a rare seriousness in Ji Haoyu's eyes, and there was even a little stubbornness. He looked at Jian Ai with his deep eyes without blinking. In his faintly flickering eyes, Jian Ai seemed to have caught a trace of grievance?

Oh my, she said nothing, right? Why was he aggrieved?

"Alright, alright. It doesn't count!" Jian Ai instantly lost. She didn't know what she had said wrong, but she subconsciously surrendered.

However, as soon as Jian Ai finished speaking, a smile instantly appeared on Ji Haoyu's face. "That's more like it."

Jian Ai rolled her eyes, but she found it funny in her heart. Sometimes, she really wanted to pry open Ji Haoyu's skull and see what kind of structure was in his head.

Such a childish person was the CEO of the number one financial group in Asia. Moreover, this corporation could continue to earn money in his hands.

It was simply the eleventh unsolved mystery in the world!

"Why did you go abroad this time?" Ji Haoyu reached out to take an apple from the table and started peeling it. He changed the topic and asked casually.

When Jian Ai heard this, her lips moved. For a moment, she didn't know what to tell Ji Haoyu.

The truth? It was better not to tell the truth about such things... lest others worry.

However, she did not want to lie to Ji Haoyu.

In the end, Jian Ai sighed softly and said ambiguously, "Because of Bai Zhou's private matters, I had to handle them."

Ji Haoyu nodded slightly when he heard this. However, he felt that Jian Ai didn't seem to want to talk about this, so he didn't continue to ask. Instead, he asked, "How's the company recently? The Jian Group didn't cause trouble for you again, right?"

Jian Ai smiled and shook her head. Jian Changsheng knew she was his daughter. If he still had a little conscience, he wouldn't cause trouble for East Sea Real Estate in the future.

"All the major real estate companies are busy competing for the South City reconstruction project now. They shouldn't be able to do anything else," Jian Ai said.

"South City reconstruction project?" Ji Haoyu blinked in surprise. "East Sea Real Estate is participating in a bid for such a big project?"

Jian Ai nodded. "At that time, the higher-ups sent news that East Sea Real Estate obtained the qualifications to bid. I was shocked, but since I have this opportunity, I still want to try. Whether or not it succeeds is up to fate!"

Jian Ai was very open-minded about this matter. Although M Group had been chosen as one of the top ten celebrity enterprises this year, Jian Ai still knew her company's capabilities. Compared to the Jian Group, Century Group, and Hongxiang Group, which were established large corporations, East Sea Real Estate's qualifications were still shallow, and its company scale was relatively small.

Therefore, Jian Ai had little hope of winning this project. She approached this matter with a positive attitude of thanking the higher-ups for their trust.

It would be best if she could get it. She would do her best to complete it beautifully.

However, it was reasonable if they could not take it down. After all, their competitors were too strong, and East Sea Real Estate's advantage was not obvious.

Seeing Jian Ai's attitude, Ji Haoyu couldn't help but sit up straight and smile evilly at Jian Ai. "Do you need help?"

Chapter 1173: Believed in Ji Haoyu's Sincerity

Jian Ai quickly shook her head without thinking. "No, there's no need!"

She knew that this kind of thing might be nothing to Ji Haoyu. As long as he casually gave a greeting, this project would fall on her head like a cake from the sky.

However, Jian Ai didn't want to do this. If she relied on others for everything, it wouldn't be Jian Ai.

The company was hers. She hoped to walk down the road step by step. All her hard work was also her contribution. Only then would she enjoy a sense of achievement when she achieved results.

Moreover, she already owed Ji Haoyu a few favors. If she continued to owe him, she was afraid that she could not repay him.

"I don't have any intention of winning this project. I just want to let nature take its course. Therefore, even if I can't get it, it won't affect the company, let alone me. Therefore, thank you for your good intentions. Don't interfere," Jian Ai added worriedly.

Ji Haoyu looked at Jian Ai. Seeing that she was answering him so seriously with a trace of panic on her face, he couldn't help but smile. He looked at Jian Ai and mumbled, "Silly girl, I'm teasing you."

Jian Ai: "..."

Ji Haoyu cut a piece of fruit with a fruit knife and brought it to Jian Ai's mouth. "Ah, open your mouth..."

Jian Ai looked at the apple in front of her, and Ji Haoyu's focused expression. She did not dampen the fun and obediently opened her mouth to eat.

How sweet!

Ji Haoyu naturally continued, "I know what I can do, what I should do, what I can't do, and what I shouldn't do. You established the company single-handedly. Unless there's a major crisis that you can't get over, as long as you say nothing, I won't interfere too much in your business."

As he spoke, Ji Haoyu looked into Jian Ai's eyes and smiled evilly. "In terms of a suitor's self-cultivation, I must be clear about everything and know my limits!"

Jian Ai looked at the sincerity in Ji Haoyu's eyes and her heart suddenly tightened. For a moment, she believed in Ji Haoyu's sincerity.

However, Ji Haoyu quickly looked away. When Jian Ai wanted to capture that moment again, it had already disappeared.

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At the Jian Group, Jian Changsheng sent his business partner's representative off to the guest room and quickly returned to his office.

He looked at the time and saw that it was already lunchtime. He picked up the phone and called his secretary. "Go to the cafeteria and get a plate of fast food to send to my office. I have documents to handle at noon."

As soon as he hung up, someone knocked on the office door again. Jian Changsheng answered without looking up, "Please come in."

The person who pushed the door open and entered was a short-haired working woman in a professional outfit. Her capable temperament coupled with the thick glasses on her nose bridge added a trace of old-fashionedness. She looked like an extremely serious person.

The woman's name was Han Wenjing, and she was Jian Changsheng's trusted subordinate. Han Wenjing had written the bid for South City's demolition plan. After three rounds of bidding, the Jian Group relied on the company's strong strength and the bid Han Wenjing wrote to win South City's demolition project!

The reconstruction project in South City came so suddenly that it was much earlier than everyone had expected. Jian Changsheng not only handed the bidding contract to Han Wenjing, but also appointed her as the person in charge of this project. As long as the bid was successful, Han Wenjing would be in charge of this project.

“CEO, I’ve finished writing the bid. Take a look?” Han Wenjing came to Jian Changsheng’s desk and said to him with the completed bid in her hand.

Jian Changsheng couldn’t help but look up at Han Wenjing and smile. “Alright, I’ll take a look. But I’m not worried if you wrote it!”

This smile made Han Wenjing lower her head slightly. She didn’t dare to look into Jian Changsheng’s eyes, but she said, “I’ll only feel at ease if you say that there’s no problem.”

“Alright, give it to me.” Jian Changsheng didn’t think too much about it and nodded with a smile.

Jian Changsheng took the document and flipped through it. “How many companies are qualified to bid this time?”

“There are ten companies,” Han Wenjing said.

Jian Changsheng raised his eyebrows. “That many? Seems the competition is more intense than the demolition project!”

“Reconstruction projects are more time-consuming and laborious than demolition projects, but the profits will increase year-on-year. It’s expected that the competition will be fierce,” Han Wenjing added.

Jian Changsheng nodded in understanding and looked up at Han Wenjing. He smiled and asked, “Are you confident?”

“Ah...” Han Wenjing was slightly stunned. She couldn’t help but purse her lips for a moment before whispering, “I’m confident, but the few companies competing this time are very powerful, including Century Group, Hongxiang Group, and... East Sea Real Estate!”

At the mention of East Sea Real Estate, Han Wenjing couldn’t help but look up at Jian Changsheng.

Logically speaking, with East Sea Real Estate’s scale and qualifications, the Jian Group did not need to take it seriously at all. It could not compete with the Jian Group at all. However, the reason Han Wenjing specially mentioned East Sea Real Estate was that this small company had many inexplicable rumors and entanglements with the Jian Group, so she thought it was better to remind the CEO.

As expected, Han Wenjing realized that the CEO’s expression had changed slightly when she mentioned East Sea Real Estate.

“East Sea Real Estate is in the running too?” Jian Changsheng was stunned for a moment before looking up. His expression couldn’t help but turn solemn.

Seeing this, Han Wenjing thought the CEO was angry. She immediately said, “When I saw the name list, I was also a little shocked. After all, it’s difficult for that real estate company to support the reconstruction of a large district. However, as one of the top ten celebrity enterprises in Baiyun City this year, it’s reasonable for them to be chosen. The government has always hoped that the real estate

industry in Baiyun City can bloom. East Sea Real Estate is the most eye-catching new enterprise this year. It's reasonable for the government to support and promote it."

Han Wenjing's words sounded nice, but the core content was that she did not take East Sea Real Estate seriously. As she had said, East Sea Real Estate's scale and ability were not enough to maintain the entire South City reconstruction plan.

The government wanted to use this opportunity to promote this company. After all, this was a common trick used by the higher-ups to promote new enterprises.

However, they would not give them this final project. After all, they still had to consider the actual situation.

What Jian Changsheng cared about was not on the same channel as Han Wenjing. East Sea Real Estate was Xiao Ai's company. As her father, after putting aside all other uncertainties and when Jian Changsheng learned that East Sea Real Estate also got selected for the bidding, he hoped his daughter could win this project.

Chapter 1174: It's Good That He's Not Married

However, would Jian Changsheng let the Jian Group withdraw from the bidding because of this?

Obviously not!

The reason was simple. They divided the bidding for this government project into three rounds. This was only the first round. If the Jian Group withdrew from the bidding now, and East Sea Real Estate was eliminated in the first round, there would be no point in Jian Changsheng doing this.

Therefore, even if he wanted to fulfill his daughter's wish, Jian Changsheng knew he couldn't be rash, let alone impulsive. Even if he planned to withdraw, he wouldn't do so in the first round.

Jian Changsheng naturally wouldn't tell anyone about these psychological activities. He only calculated in his heart and continued to look at Han Wenjing's bid.

Jian Changsheng was focused. At this moment, Han Wenjing's gaze was drilled unto Jian Changsheng.

She had admired the CEO for a long time, but she could only suppress this admiration in her heart because she knew the CEO was a married man with two children.

Everyone in the company knew that the CEO's wife was gentle and virtuous. She came from a scholarly family in the capital and was a match made in heaven with the CEO.

Therefore, Han Wenjing tried her best to control her admiration for Jian Changsheng. However, Jian Changsheng was too charming, so every time she was alone with him, Han Wenjing couldn't help but focus on him.

"It's written very well. There shouldn't be a problem with the first round of bidding." Jian Changsheng glanced at it and knew that Han Wenjing had put in a lot of effort into this bid.

This voice shocked Han Wenjing so much that she quickly came back to her senses. She raised her hand to push the glasses on her nose bridge to hide the liveliness in her eyes.

Han Wenjing reached out to take the document and said seriously, "If there's no problem, I'll hand over the bid."

"Alright." Jian Changsheng nodded. "Go and have lunch!"

Han Wenjing turned around and walked out of the CEO's office. She leaned against the wall and couldn't help but take a deep breath. Then, a trace of loneliness filled her eyes. If only... he wasn't married.

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Jian Ai liked to eat the dumplings her mother made the most. Before they were out of the pot, she couldn't wait to run into the kitchen.

"Mom, it's almost done, right?" Jian Ai looked at the water in the pot that had yet to boil. Then, she looked at Wang Yunmei's beautifully wrapped dumplings.

When Wang Yunmei saw her daughter like this, she couldn't help but purse her lips and smile. "I'll be right there. It'll only take two minutes to cook the dumplings. You're hungry, right?"

Jian Ai nodded. "I have eaten nothing today. When I heard about the dumplings, I was immediately hungry."

Jian Ai couldn't help but ask, "Where's my uncle?"

During the day, Wang Yunmei and Jian Yu had to go to work, and Jiachi had to go to school. Only Wang Yunmei and Yao Feng were at home. However, with such a big commotion in the living room, Yao Feng didn't come out.

When Wang Yunmei heard this, she said, "He went to North City. An elder at home is sick. He went back to look."

Yao Feng was from the North City District of Baiyun City. His parents and relatives lived in the relatively remote district of North City. In the entire family, only Yao Feng led a good life with Jian Ai's help. The rest of his family lived relatively poor.

Since it was her uncle's family matter, Jian Ai didn't ask further. "I'll take out the bowls and chopsticks first."

As soon as the steaming dumplings were served, Jian Ai's eyes widened. Who knew how much she had missed these when she was in Italy? She immediately picked one up and stuffed it into her mouth without even dipping with vinegar.

The hot dumplings scalded Jian Ai until her expression twisted, but she couldn't withstand this delicious moment.

Ji Haoyu looked at her in amusement from the side. Seeing this, he couldn't help but quickly say, "Slow down. No one is snatching it from you!"

Wang Yunmei also smiled helplessly and said, "It's the same as when you were young. You like to eat hot dumplings."

"It's so delicious, Mom!" Jian Ai sighed, and her starry eyes narrowed into a line of satisfaction.

"Eat more if it's delicious!" Wang Yunmei smiled and didn't forget to call out to Ji Haoyu. "Haoyu, eat more too. Don't stand on ceremony!"

Ji Haoyu naturally would not stand on ceremony because he had to admit that Wang Yunmei's culinary skills were indeed good. The dumplings she made were much more delicious than the ones in the restaurant outside. They also tasted like home!

Most importantly, Jian Ai was beside him. As long as he saw her, his mood would improve.

During the meal, Wang Yunmei suddenly said, "After dinner, I have to go to the new house. The renovation is almost done. I'll go look. Your Uncle Wu has been watching over it these days."

"I'll go with you, Mom," Jian Ai quickly said.

She still had a gym that was under renovation. It had been a long time since she last went over to look. Since she had nothing on today, she accompanied her mother.

When Wang Yunmei heard this, she blurted out, "Aren't you going out to play with Haoyu in the afternoon?"

Wang Yunmei meant nothing else. She just felt that since the two of them were friends and they met at home today, wouldn't it be logical for them to go out for a walk in the afternoon?!

Jian Ai was stunned. She looked at Ji Haoyu. She still had to accompany him out to play? Why didn't she know that there was such a schedule?

Fortunately, Ji Haoyu was the first to speak. "No, Auntie. I have to go to the corporation in the afternoon. Let Xiao Ai accompany you to your new house. I don't have time to accompany her!"

Ji Haoyu did not stand on ceremony anymore. If he had time, he could not wait to play with Jian Ai. However, the corporation had a very important board meeting in the afternoon, so he had to go.

Hearing that Ji Haoyu had something on at the corporation, Wang Yunmei nodded. "Oh, okay. If Haoyu doesn't have time, Xiao Ai will accompany me."

Jian Ai: "..."

Why did it sound weird to her? Her mother and Ji Haoyu kicked her around like a ball.

When Ji Haoyu saw Jian Ai's animated expression, he couldn't help but tease, "Why? Do you want me to go out with you? I can cancel the corporation matter."

Jian Ai rolled her eyes at him without hesitation. "You're overthinking."

Ji Haoyu was not angry. Instead, the smile on his face deepened.

After eating the dumplings, Ji Haoyu prepared to take his leave. Jian Ai lay on the sofa with her stomach raised. It was obvious that she had no intention of standing up to send him off.

Unexpectedly, Wang Yunmei walked out of the kitchen and looked at Ji Haoyu. "Haoyu is leaving? Drive slowly. Tell Auntie what you want to eat next time. Auntie will cook for you."

"Alright, thank you, Auntie!" Ji Haoyu answered obediently.

Wang Yunmei looked at Jian Ai and called out, "Xiao Ai, go down and send Haoyu off. Quickly."

Jian Ai: "..."

She wanted to say that he wouldn't get lost, so why did she have to send him off?

The most infuriating thing was that Ji Haoyu stood upright at the door after dressing up. He did not open the door, as if saying, "Hurry up. I'll wait for you."

Chapter 1175: Have You Liked Someone Before?

Jian Ai sighed silently and crawled up from the sofa with difficulty. She thought to herself, 'So be it.'

In the elevator, Jian Ai stood in front while Ji Haoyu stood behind her. His gaze never left Jian Ai's side profile.

The pleasant woody fragrance on Ji Haoyu's body gradually filled the sealed space. This was the perfume he had always used. It was a smell that made people feel at ease.

Jian Ai said nothing and only stared at the decreasing numbers on the elevator. Not that she did not want to care about Ji Haoyu, but she had eaten too much for lunch. She had no desire to move at all, including her mouth!

Being able to stand up and walk him out was already the greatest gift to him.

"Xiao Ai..."

At this moment, Ji Haoyu's voice suddenly sounded slowly.

His low voice was warm and gentle.

Jian Ai turned her head slightly and looked up at him. "Huh?"

Ji Haoyu stared at Jian Ai's face. Color rippled in his peach blossom eyes, which were as deep as a cold lake. His pink lips moved slightly before he said, "Have you liked someone before?"

Jian Ai was stunned. Ji Haoyu's sudden and mindless question stunned her.

Has she ever liked someone before?

"Which kind of like?" Jian Ai asked slowly. The elevator door opened, and she walked out first.

Ji Haoyu followed behind and answered, "It's the kind of liking between the opposite sex!"

"I did," Jian Ai answered truthfully.

She felt that there was nothing to avoid. It was not shameful to like someone. She believed that everyone in this world should like someone of the opposite sex or the same sex, right?

At the very least, when the hormones and dopamine in adolescence started to secrete, people's hearts would start to bloom. This was a natural phenomenon that no one could resist.

Ji Haoyu did not expect Jian Ai to answer so bluntly. His expression changed slightly. "You liked a boy before?"

As soon as he spoke, Ji Haoyu's tone subconsciously turned cold, as if dissatisfied with Jian Ai's answer.

Jian Ai frowned at him. "Do I look like someone who will like girls?"

Hearing this, Ji Haoyu's expression instantly turned cloudy. Jian Ai noticed his change and couldn't help but ask curiously, "Why do you have such an expression? Isn't... isn't this normal?"

"So you have someone you like now, right?" Ji Haoyu didn't give up and continued to ask.

Jian Ai immediately sneered weakly and looked at Ji Haoyu helplessly. "It's in the past, not now. It's already a long time ago!"

It had indeed been a long time, so long that it went back to her previous life.

The person Jian Ai was talking about was Lin Yi. Even if she didn't like him anymore, Jian Ai couldn't deny that in the three years of high school in her previous life, she had truly liked Lin Yi and had a crush on him for three years.

Hearing Jian Ai's words, Ji Haoyu's expression softened a little.

Jian Ai looked at his changing expression and couldn't help but laugh. "There's something wrong with you. You're the one asking questions, and you're the one who's unhappy when I answer. Next time, I'll specially choose what you like to hear!"

"I like to hear you call me Haoyu. Why don't you do that?" Ji Haoyu looked at Jian Ai and said.

Jian Ai was speechless. She swallowed and said with difficulty, "It's too disgusting. I can't say it!"

Ji Haoyu: "..."

After sending him to the entrance of the neighborhood, Jian Ai stood up. "Bye."

Ji Haoyu walked to the car and suddenly turned around. "Don't forget the date you owe me!"

Jian Ai couldn't be bothered to correct him. She waved her hand impatiently. "I can't run away. Don't worry!"

Only then did Ji Haoyu smile in satisfaction. He opened the car door, got in, and left.

Seeing Ji Haoyu's car disappear at the end of the intersection, Jian Ai sighed deeply. She didn't know if it was her imagination, but she felt that their relationship had become strange.

In fact, their relationship was always changing, and it was under Ji Haoyu's lead alone. In Jian Ai's eyes, she was the person Ji Haoyu had influenced because the reason their relationship changed was because Ji Haoyu was working hard alone.

She did nothing, but Ji Haoyu had subtly influenced her. Then, she changed with him.

This was the magical part about Ji Haoyu. He could change others.

Jian Ai could not help but sigh. To a certain extent, Ji Haoyu was not the person she had initially imagined. When the actual results far exceed one's expectations, people would feel much more relaxed and even feel happy.

For Jian Ai, she did not know if she was happy or not, but she felt much more relaxed. Compared to when she interacted with Ji Haoyu in the past, she liked and could accept the current Ji Haoyu more.

Even if he was still childish sometimes, Jian Ai saw how cute he was when he was childish.

In the afternoon, Jian Ai accompanied Wang Yunmei to Century Mansion.

They had renovated the new house for over half a year. It was nearing the end. Uncle Wu would come over every day to help supervise the work. He mainly considered Wang Yunmei's health and was afraid that the gas she inhaled would affect her health if she stayed in such an environment for too long. After all, she had suffered from a severe illness this year.

It had been a long time since Jian Ai saw the renovation progress of her new home. As soon as she entered, the interior of the house was already in shape. Because they had hired a professional designer, the renovation style was very obvious. It was a warm Nordic style that Jian Ai and her mother had chosen back then.

Jian Ai preferred industrial styles and light extravagant styles, but since they were family, she still decided to have a color with temperature in the end. Hence, she decided on a Nordic style with her mother.

"Uncle Wu!"

Seeing Wu Shaoqi, Jian Ai smiled and greeted him.

"Xiao Ai is here. Take a look. Are you satisfied?" Wu Shaoqi and Jian Ai didn't have any unnecessary pleasantries. Their relationship was like family, so their way of communication was very natural.

Jian Ai smiled and nodded. "Pretty good. It's similar to the rendering. It's much better than I expected."

Wang Yunmei nodded at the side. "I think it exceeded my expectations too. At that time, when I looked at the rendering, I thought this color would be too bright. Actually, it's just nice. It's neither too much nor too little!"

"I like this style too. If I didn't help to supervise the renovation, I wouldn't have known that they could decorate the house like this!" Wu Shaoqi smiled and said, "I want to renovate my new house like this later. I like it too."

As soon as he finished speaking, Wu Shaoqi couldn't help but say to Wang Yunmei, "By the way, Xiao Mei, the designer told me this morning that it's almost done. You can choose the furniture now!"

Chapter 1176: It's A Wrap For the New House

Wang Yunmei was delighted. "We can buy furniture now?"

Wu Shaoqi smiled and said, "Yes, the designer printed some photos of furniture styles and colors that match your house's renovation style. He said that you should take this to the furniture store on Xiangjiang Road in Haicheng District to buy it. He said that there are more styles there, so it's easy to buy suitable ones."

"He also marked the sizes of some large appliances for you. For example, the built-in refrigerator in the kitchen. That hole he left is the basic size of a double-door refrigerator, which is common across various brands. Just choose what you like according to this size. It's all on it. If I can understand it, so can you!"

As he spoke, Wu Shaoqi handed the document to Wang Yunmei.

Wang Yunmei blinked in surprise and whispered, "This designer is really considerate. He's so meticulous?"

"That's right!" Wu Shaoqi nodded in agreement. "He followed through the renovation process the entire time. He was afraid that the renovation master would renovate the house he designed wrongly, so he monitored it more carefully than me. I said that I would look for him for the renovation of my house. It doesn't matter if I spend more money. Most importantly, he's responsible!"

Jian Ai couldn't help but purse her lips and smile. Bai Zhou had found this designer for her, so there was no need to say anything about his professionalism.

"Mom, since I'm free today, I'll accompany you to shop?" Jian Ai asked.

Wang Yunmei was stunned for a moment before saying, "Today? There's no need to be in such a hurry, right? I'm thinking about going over during the weekend?"

"This weekend?" Jian Ai smiled in embarrassment. "I can't this weekend, Mom. I have something on this weekend, so I can't accompany you. Besides, choosing furniture is a time-consuming job. You have to walk more, see more, and compare. It will take some time, so we should go since I'm free. We can exchange views too. Do you still expect my brother to accompany you?"

This weekend, Jian Ai promised Qinghuan that she would visit her at work. Qinghuan had called her a few times. Because she was recently out of town, she promised to visit her on the first weekend after she returned to China.

Wu Shaoqi nodded and said, "Xiao Ai is right. We have to choose the furniture one by one. It's quite time-consuming. If you have time, look. I'll keep an eye here!"

Wang Yunmei sighed and looked at Wu Shaoqi in embarrassment. "Old Wu, look. I even said that I would come over in the afternoon to accompany you. Isn't it boring to keep watch here alone?"

"Haha..." Wu Shaoqi couldn't help but laugh when he heard that. Then, he waved his hand indifferently. "Why are you standing on ceremony with me? Don't worry about me. Wu Bi said that he would come over in the afternoon. I'll wait for him. You go shopping!"

When she heard that Wu Bi was coming, Wang Yunmei's eyes couldn't help but light up. "Oh, Old Wu, is the hurdle between the two of you over? That's good. Seeing that you can put down the past and live together again, I'm happy for you!"

At the mention of Wu Bi and Uncle Wu, everyone could not help but sigh. After so many years, Wu Bi had finally reconciled with himself and finally faced his father again.

Wu Shaoqi smiled in relief and nodded gently. He sighed and said, "That's right. This has resolved the knot in my heart. Wu Bi said that he doesn't blame me anymore for what happened a long time ago, but he couldn't forgive himself for hating me back then. This child has been competing with himself all these years. As parents, how can we not forgive our children?"

"Wu Bi blames himself because he's sensible. Besides, you can't be blamed for what happened back then. You also escaped death. Wu Bi must have understood everything, which is why he hates himself for treating you like that back then. He hates himself for being insensible." Wang Yunmei sighed and said, "In short, it's a good thing to see the both of you reunited. We're happy for you."

Unexpectedly, as they were talking, Wu Bi arrived!

"Auntie Mei, Xiao Ai!"

As soon as he entered, he saw Wang Yunmei and Xiao Ai. Wu Bi instantly smiled.

"Brother Wu Bi!" Jian Ai quickly went forward to greet him.

Wu Bi looked at Jian Ai and reached out to stroke her head. He said in a relaxed tone, "I heard from Auntie Mei that you went abroad a few days ago? When did you come back?"

"I just came back yesterday. I went out to do something," Jian Ai smiled.

It had been a long time since she had seen Brother Wu Bi. Both were still so naturally comfortable when they met. This was also the reason Jian Ai was willing to be close to Wu Bi.

"Son, did you drive?" Uncle Wu suddenly asked.

Wu Bi nodded. "Yes."

Uncle Wu said, "That's good. Send your Auntie Mei and Xiao Ai to the furniture store. They want to walk around and choose furniture."

"Oh, no need. Wu Bi just stopped by. Let him rest for a while. We'll go downstairs and take a taxi. It's not far!" Wang Yunmei quickly rejected.

"Buy furniture?" When Wu Bi heard this, he couldn't help but quickly say, "Dad, let's go together? I think you should change the sofa at home. It's so worn out!"

Uncle Wu lived alone before, so he raised an Alaskan to accompany him at home.

That dog had already chewed the sofa at home until it was unrecognizable. However, Uncle Wu had never changed it.

"It's useless to change my sofa. Tutu will bite it to pieces again in two days. Don't change it!" Uncle Wu smiled and waved his hand.

Wu Bi insisted, "Change to a linen one. It's more firm and airy."

When Wang Yunmei heard this, she also called out, “Old Wu, let’s go shopping together. It’s livelier with more people.”

Wu Shaoqi: “That won’t do. We have to keep watch here!”

“Oh, it’s already wrapped up. Besides, is there a need to monitor the renovation master? Nothing will go wrong if we look today. Let’s go!” Wang Yunmei said and reached out to pull Wu Shaoqi out.

Seeing this, Jian Ai couldn’t help but smile at Wu Bi. There was a deeper meaning in that smile. Jian Ai knew that Brother Wu Bi understood what she meant.

Perhaps her mother and Uncle Wu could try to get together. This was something Jian Ai had long thought about, but she still didn’t know their attitudes, so as a child, Jian Ai didn’t dare to rashly expose anything.

Society advocated free love. Jian Ai felt it was better for them to do this themselves.

“You disappeared for a while and didn’t contact me. Have you forgotten about me?” Wu Bi walked beside Jian Ai and smiled softly.

When Jian Ai heard this, she quickly denied it in embarrassment. “How could I forget my good brother? My feet haven’t touched the ground because I’ve been so busy. I even bought you a suit. I bought it a long time ago, but I didn’t find a chance to give it to you.”

“Oh, you even bought me a gift?” Wu Bi pretended to be surprised.

Jian Ai raised her eyebrows smugly. “That’s right. I thought of you when I was shopping. How could I have forgotten about you?”

Chapter 1177: There’s No Rush, I Know What to Do

“That’s more like it!” Wu Bi smiled and said, “Remember to give it to me the next time we meet. I haven’t received a gift in a long time.”

Jian Ai also smiled and nodded. “Alright, but I can’t guarantee that you’ll like it. I just think it should suit you.”

“I like everything you give me. I promise to wear it often!” Wu Bi said.

Jian Ai pursed her lips and looked at him. “That better be the case!”

“Of course!” Wu Bi looked serious.

Jian Ai shook her head and laughed. She didn’t want to bicker with him anymore.

Wu Bi did not drive a sports car today. Otherwise, it could only fit one passenger. Instead, he drove an off-road vehicle. They got into the car together and headed for the furniture shop that the designer recommended down on Xiangjiang Road.

The last time Jian Ai accompanied her mother to buy things was when her family went on a trip to the Maldives. After returning from the Maldives, she had been so busy that she didn't even have time to go to the martial arts school, let alone go home to accompany her mother.

Because it was a workday, there were few customers in the furniture store. The first floor was the kitchen area, but the kitchen of the new house was semi-open and very big. Moreover, the designer said that it was best to customize the cabinets, so Wang Yunmei thought it would be easier to buy them first.

Therefore, thinking that Old Wu wanted to buy a sofa as well, Wang Yunmei suggested going to the sofa area upstairs to look.

"Xiao Ai, what kind do you like?" Wang Yunmei looked at Jian Ai and asked.

Jian Ai said, "Mom, you should choose. Didn't the designer give you his opinion? Just buy it accordingly. I just looked at the reference style from him. They're all quite good-looking."

Wang Yunmei nodded. "Alright, let's buy it according to the designer's idea. Let's not buy it randomly. The designer worked hard for half a year to decorate such a good style. Don't let the furniture design ruin it in the end."

When Wu Shaoqi heard this, he couldn't help but smile. "You have to like it yourself and find it comfortable, too. That house is yours, so you don't have to be so careful."

"That's true." Wang Yunmei smiled in embarrassment.

Jian Ai looked at the two of them and smiled. Wu Bi, who had been silent, suddenly said to Uncle Wu, "Dad, you and Auntie Mei can choose the sofa here first. Xiao Ai and I will go to the bed area to look."

Jian Ai was about to say something when she received the eye signal from Wu Bi. She instantly understood and swallowed what was about to come out of her mouth.

Uncle Wu said, "Shall we look together later?"

"Wouldn't this be faster, Uncle Wu?" Jian Ai understood what Brother Wu Bi meant and immediately echoed, "Brother Wu Bi and I will go to the bed area to look!"

Without waiting for Wu Shaoqi and Wang Yunmei to speak, Jian Ai pulled Wu Bi towards the bed area.

Seeing this, Wang Yunmei couldn't help but smile helplessly. It was obvious that she didn't think too much about it. She even sighed at Wu Shaoqi. "Children aren't even willing to shop with us. They don't want to choose anything together."

Wu Shaoqi shook his head disapprovingly. "Xiao Ai isn't like that. If she doesn't want to accompany you, she won't be here today."

As he spoke, Wu Shaoqi pointed at a brown linen sofa cover not far away. "Eh? This is quite good. It looks usable. You don't know my family's Tutu. When it sees a leather sofa, it's as if it sees an enemy. I bought that leather cover at home the last time I moved. How long has it been? It's completely unrecognizable now!"

When Wang Yunmei heard Wu Shaoqi's complaints, the smile on her face deepened. "Who asked you to raise such a big dog? I think your dog looks like a husky. How can your sofa not be affected?"

"Tsk, I knew it. The dog seller cheated me!" Wu Shaoqi said. "Back then, I said that I would buy a puppy to accompany me. The dog seller said that it wouldn't grow that big. Good lord, it grew so big after half a year. I thought it had mutated!"

"One customer who bought tofu was an expert in this area. He went to my house and said that he could tell at a glance that it was an Alaskan husky from abroad. He could tell from its tail."

"Tutu is a little naughty, but it's smart. It's been accompanying me for the past two years and helped me relieve a lot of boredom! I have feelings for it now and can't bear to give it to others!"

Wang Yunmei nodded in understanding. "That's for sure. Didn't I raise a kitten in the past? After it died, I was sad for a few months. Later, I didn't dare to raise these small animals anymore. I was afraid that they would vanish one day again."

As she spoke, Wang Yunmei couldn't help but look at Wu Shaoqi and sigh deeply. She asked, "Old Wu, now that Wu Bi is back, you should consider yourself, right?"

"Consider what?" Wu Shaoqi was stunned. He blinked at Wang Yunmei.

Wang Yunmei pursed her lips and smiled. "What else can you consider? You're already living with a dog. Haven't you considered finding another partner? How old are you? You're only forty-two years old. It's not too late to look for one now!"

Wang Yunmei spoke naturally because she was asking Wu Shaoqi this question seriously. After interacting with him for many years, Wang Yunmei felt she knew Wu Shaoqi well. He was very down-to-earth and good-looking. He knew how to earn money and cared about family. He seemed to have the best conditions that all middle-aged men should have.

When he was in South City, many matchmakers came knocking on his door. Many widows expressed their willingness to be together with him, but Old Wu did not agree to any of them.

Wang Yunmei assumed it was because he had not overcome his son's hurdle!

However, now that Wu Bi was back and the two of them were living together again, Wang Yunmei felt it was time for Wu Shaoqi to find someone to start over.

When Wu Shaoqi heard Wang Yunmei's words, his face turned red. It was an obvious red. All these years, Wang Yunmei had never mentioned this to him. Now that she suddenly said this, was she hinting at something?

Wu Shaoqi suddenly became nervous. He looked at Wang Yunmei standing there in a daze and felt his heart beat non-stop. His mouth was dry.

"Meizi... You... You..." Wu Shaoqi moved his mouth dry, but the words were stuck in his throat.

Wang Yunmei looked at Wu Shaoqi's red face and couldn't help but laugh. "Old Wu, what's wrong? You're still embarrassed? Do you want me to introduce you to someone?"

Wu Shaoqi: "..."

Wang Yunmei's words were like a bucket of cold water that poured down on Wu Shaoqi's heart!

In the next second, Wu Shaoqi was already awake.

"That's not what I meant," Wu Shaoqi quickly said. He turned around and laughed dryly to hide his embarrassment.

He almost said it.

He heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. If he had said it, he would lose face.

"I haven't thought too much about it." Wu Shaoqi calmed himself down and looked at Wang Yunmei with a forced smile. "There's no hurry. I know what to do!"

It had been many years!

Chapter 1178: That Seems to Be the Case

Looking at Wu Shaoqi's expression, Wang Yunmei couldn't help but cover her mouth and laugh. "Look at you. It's so normal. Are you still embarrassed?"

Wang Yunmei didn't think too much about it. She thought that Wu Shaoqi's face was red because he was thin-skinned.

When Wu Shaoqi saw Wang Yunmei laughing at him, he felt even more embarrassed. He couldn't help but look at Wang Yunmei and say, "Don't just talk about me. What about you?"

"Me?" Wang Yunmei couldn't help but be stunned for a moment. Then, she chuckled and shook her head. "I don't have any thoughts. Over the years, I've gotten used to being alone. I'm quite good."

When Wu Shaoqi heard Wang Yunmei's words, his heart couldn't help but ache. When he thought of Wang Yunmei's hard work over the years, his gaze revealed pity.

In fact, he knew that Wang Yunmei was indeed as she had said. She had basically reached a state where she had no distractions. It should be that her indescribable past had hurt her too much, so over the years, Wang Yunmei had never been in a relationship or fallen in love with anyone.

This was also the reason Wu Shaoqi didn't dare to say anything for a long time. He wasn't confident. He was afraid that if he opened his mouth and exposed his thoughts, he wouldn't even be able to be friends with Wang Yunmei in the end.

On the other side, Jian Ai and Wu Bi watched from afar. When they saw Wang Yunmei and Wu Shaoqi talking and laughing, a smile filled their faces.

"Uncle Wu likes my mother, right?" Jian Ai turned to look at Wu Bi with a smile and asked with bright eyes.

Wu Bi casually stuffed his hands in his pockets. When he heard this, he pursed his lips and chuckled. Then, he said faintly, "Can't you tell?"

Jian Ai couldn't help but shrug with a hesitant expression. "I think they're quite suitable. But Uncle Wu is too considerate. I think he's quite good to everyone, so I've never been too sure how he feels about my mother."

"Haha..." Wu Bi chuckled. He looked at the expression on Jian Ai's face and said with interest, "You're usually quite smart. However, with relationships, you seem to be a little slow. My father has liked Auntie Mei for so many years. I'm afraid you're the only one in South City who's still hesitant about this!"

Jian Ai widened her eyes in shock. "Really?"

"Can't you tell by how much has happened over the years? My father just hasn't said it yet, but he has already done everything he could!" Wu Bi said.

Jian Ai couldn't help but consider Brother Wu Bi's words. Over the years, from the time she could remember, Uncle Wu had always appeared in their family's life.

Whenever there was any hard work that needed help at home, Uncle Wu helped. Because of her mother's job, those in South City who knew her were unwilling to get too close to her family. Only Uncle Wu never minded her mother's job and could fully understand how difficult it was for her.

He was also very close to her and her brother. When she was young, he often bought snacks for her.

With this thought in mind, Jian Ai suddenly realized that Uncle Wu wanted to play the role their family had always lacked from the beginning.

Looking at the expression on Jian Ai's face, Wu Bi couldn't help but lean closer to her face and whisper teasingly, "You've never been in a relationship, right..."

Jian Ai: "..."

She glared at him and retorted, "I'm only fifteen years old. Isn't it normal for me to have never been in a relationship?!"

However, Jian Ai felt a little guilty when she said this because she had lived for twenty-six years in her previous life and had never been in a relationship too.

Just thinking about it made her feel tragic.

Wu Bi laughed out loud and stood up. "I have no intention of letting you date. I mean, it's reasonable that you can't tell. When you get a boyfriend in the future, you won't be so slow on such things!"

Slow?

Jian Ai was unconvinced and couldn't help but purse her lips. "That's because Uncle Wu has been by my side since I can remember, so I took it for granted. I didn't think about anything else."

She would not admit that she was slow!

Seeing her stubborn denial, the smile in Wu Bi's eyes deepened, but he was unwilling to attack her anymore. "Alright, you're right!"

"What do you think my mother feels about Uncle Wu?" Jian Ai threw the question to Wu Bi.

Didn't you know? I want to hear what you have to say!

When Wu Bi heard this, he raised his eyebrows slightly and clicked his tongue. In the end, he sighed.

Jian Ai looked at his series of expressions and tone and frowned. "What's wrong? Do you think my mother doesn't like Uncle Wu?"

"Not really, but it's not good for me to say this." Wu Bi sighed again and looked at Jian Ai with a serious expression. "I think Auntie Mei seems to be hesitant about getting married again! I heard from my father that Auntie Mei hasn't looked for a man in so many years?"

Jian Ai nodded. Her mother had never been in a relationship all these years and had never even given any man a chance.

Seeing this, Wu Bi nodded in understanding. "So look. Auntie Mei is so beautiful. Logically speaking, she shouldn't be like this. She must have many admirers. However, she gave no one a chance. From this, it's easy to tell that she should be quite resistant to this."

Wu Bi only knew a little about Wang Yunmei's pregnancy before marriage. He didn't know about Jian Changsheng, so he was only guessing.

However, Jian Ai was different. Jian Ai knew what her mother had experienced. Now that Wu Bi said this, no matter how slow she was about relationships, she could understand. Jian Changsheng had broken her mother's heart, which was why she was still single and didn't dare to touch any feelings.

However...

"I think Uncle Wu is different from other men." Jian Ai still felt that Wu Shaoqi had a chance. She immediately said with a firm expression, "Uncle Wu and my mother have been in a relationship for so many years. Putting aside whether this relationship is love in my mother's heart, this already shows that Uncle Wu is different from other men."

Wu Bi blinked as if he did not understand.

Seeing this, Jian Ai couldn't help but explain, "Brother Wu Bi, think about it. All these years, there's no man around my mother who can approach her or even infiltrate her life, other than Uncle Wu!"

"In the winter, he helped my family split firewood. In the past, when there was no running water, Uncle Wu helped my family get water from the well. He built fences and even helped to move and renovate our house recently. Uncle Wu did all these things, but my mother didn't show any resistance. It's as if... she subconsciously treated Uncle Wu as her family."

"As long as my mother treats someone as an outsider, she will never accept their help with a clear conscience."

When Wu Bi heard Jian Ai's words, his eyes gradually filled with life. "Eh? Now that you mention it, that seems to be the case."

"Isn't that right?!" Jian Ai couldn't help but glare at him smugly. "How dare you call me slow!"

Chapter 1179: She Seemed to Have Seen This Person Before

Wu Bi smiled and nodded. "Yes, you're right!"

Jian Ai raised her eyebrows and looked at her mother and Uncle Wu in the distance. Although Uncle Wu was a few years older than her mother, his manly aura made people feel at ease. It did not give people pressure, but it made people have the instinct to rely on him.

"I hope the two of them can get together!" Jian Ai sighed with anticipation in her eyes.

Because in Jian Ai's heart, the only person in the world who was worthy of her mother was Uncle Wu!

Jian Ai was still immersed in her own world, but Wu Bi pulled her away. His smiling tone sounded above her head at the same time. "Alright, don't worry. I'll accompany you to choose a bed!"

After shopping for the entire afternoon, they didn't choose many things.

Only then did Jian Ai know how troublesome it was to choose furniture. It had to match the overall renovation, and the colors had to be the same. She also had to choose from many styles that looked the same but were different.

It was too tiring!

In addition, she was jet-lagged, so she was dizzy the entire afternoon.

The sky gradually darkened before the four of them came out of the furniture store. They initially wanted to say that since they had bought a few furniture, they would go to the mall to shop for appliances, but Jian Ai could not take it anymore. She was physically and mentally exhausted, so she quickly raised her hands in surrender. "Mom, I'm too tired. I'll accompany you shopping another day."

Seeing her daughter like this, Wang Yunmei couldn't help but smile helplessly. "I knew it. Who asked you to insist on coming today?"

"Xiao Ai, if you're tired, go back and rest first. Meizi, I'll accompany you to look at the appliances." Wu Shaoqi's heart ached for Jian Ai, so he immediately suggested that Jian Ai go back and rest first.

Wang Yunmei looked at the time and sighed softly. "Forget it. Let's buy another day. Let's find a place to have a meal together. I need to go to work soon!"

"That's fine too!" Wu Shaoqi nodded in agreement.

Wu Bi said, "There's a hotpot restaurant nearby. The taste is not bad. Let's eat hotpot!"

In this weather, hotpot was the most suitable. Moreover, Jian Ai liked hotpot. When she heard this, she regained some of her strength. "Alright, hotpot is good!"

Seeing that her daughter wanted to eat, Wang Yunmei naturally had no objections. After they decided, they got into the car.

After crossing two intersections, they saw the hotpot restaurant Wu Bi mentioned. The facade was brightly lit, and a row of red lanterns hung outside. It looked especially festive.

After parking the car, they went straight into the restaurant. It was just mealtime, but there were already many customers in the hotpot restaurant. It could be seen that the business of this hotpot restaurant was indeed good.

The fragrance of chilli oil floated in the air. Jian Ai couldn't help but gulp. It was so fragrant.

Perhaps because of Leader Hans' Italian food, as long as she smelled Chinese delicacies now, Jian Ai couldn't help but want to cry and gulp crazily!

After sitting down, Wu Bi handed the menu to Wang Yunmei. "Auntie Mei, see what you want to eat."

"I haven't eaten hotpot for a long time. I have some cravings now." Wang Yunmei didn't stand on ceremony and reached out to take it with a smile.

Before she fell ill, Xiao Zhen had always reminded her to pay attention to her diet. Wang Yunmei had not eaten spicy hotpot for a year.

After they took turns ordering, not long after, the spicy base was served.

The pot of red looked awesome. Jian Ai smiled and said, "The person who invented hotpot is the light of humanity!"

Wu Bi smiled when he heard that. "Your taste is quite comprehensive?"

The two of them had eaten a few times, and the food they ate was different every time. Japanese food, Thai food, French food, and so on. Every time, Jian Ai said that she liked to eat it, and hotpot was no exception!

Wang Yunmei couldn't help but smile and say, "Xiao Ai has been like this since she was young. There's nothing she doesn't like to eat. Chrysalis, pig brains, chicken head, beef tongue, and pig's tail. Many adults don't dare to eat these things. Xiao Ai is never afraid and eats everything! She likes to eat durian and stinky tofu the most!"

Jian Ai said indifferently, "It's so delicious. Many people don't dare to eat it because of the appearance and smell of these things!"

When everyone heard this, they couldn't help but look at each other and smile.

"Wu Bi!"

At this moment, a smiling and slightly surprised voice suddenly sounded beside Jian Ai's table. The person called out to Wu Bi!

They looked up and saw a man in his twenties standing in the aisle beside them with a handsome smile. The man had a neat crew cut and a pair of bright eyes like Jian Ai's. His facial features were exquisite and gentle. He wore a man's diamond earring on his left ear, making him look different.

Jian Ai was surprised. She seemed to have seen this person before.

However, Jian Ai didn't remember him immediately when he suddenly appeared in front of her. However, such a unique boy differed from the ones she had seen before. She had an impression of him and was certain that she had seen him somewhere.

The other party called Wu Bi's name. It was obvious that he was familiar with Wu Bi. When Wu Bi saw that person, he immediately stood up from his seat. "Xiaoran!"

"What a coincidence to meet you here!" Yu Xiaoran's smile was bright, revealing a youth's aura. It was as refreshing as the spring wind.

It also thrilled Wu Bi to see Yu Xiaoran. "It's been a long time. How have you been recently? I heard that Uncle's health hasn't been good, but I didn't have time to visit him yet!"

"He's fine now. When winter comes, and the season changes, he has the same issue. He'll be fine after recuperating for a few days," Yu Xiaoran said naturally.

Wu Bi smiled and nodded. "That's good. It's good that he's fine!"

As he spoke, he didn't forget to introduce Uncle Wu to Yu Xiaoran. "Let me introduce you. This is my father!"

"Dad, this is my good friend, Xiaoran. We've known each other for many years!"

When he heard it was Wu Bi's father, Yu Xiaoran quickly went forward and reached out to greet Uncle Wu. "Hello, Uncle Wu."

Wu Shaoqi also responded warmly to the other party. Yu Xiaoran couldn't help but give Wu Bi a meaningful look. Wu Bi smiled and nodded indifferently.

From the silent communication between the two of them, it was not difficult to tell that Yu Xiaoran knew the story between Wu Bi and Uncle Wu. From this, it could be seen that Yu Xiaoran was very close to Wu Bi.

Then, Wu Bi introduced Wang Yunmei and finally Jian Ai.

When Yu Xiaoran's gaze landed on Jian Ai, he was stunned for a moment before his eyes lit up. "Eh? It's you!"

Compared to Jian Ai who couldn't remember who Yu Xiaoran was, Yu Xiaoran remembered Jian Ai and recognized her immediately!

"You know each other?" Wu Bi asked in surprise. He looked at Yu Xiaoran and then at Jian Ai.

Chapter 1180: You'll Never Guess Her Identity

Yu Xiaoran couldn't help but smile. "I met her at Hongxiang Group's anniversary cocktail party. It was at the corner outside the bathroom. We accidentally bumped into each other and I almost fell!"

Not only did Yu Xiaoran remember seeing Jian Ai, but he also remembered the entire process when they met.

With his reminder, Jian Ai instantly reacted. "I remember you!"

"What a coincidence. So you're Wu Bi's sister."

Jian Ai also smiled and nodded. It had to be said that it was quite a coincidence. Although Baiyun City was big, the upper-class circle was not big. It was not surprising that their friends knew each other.

However, it was quite a coincidence to meet under such circumstances.

Coincidentally, another person also appeared!

“Brother Xiaoran!”

A shy voice came from not far away. Then, they saw Lu Qiaoqiao wearing a light pink knee-length cashmere coat and carrying a luxurious Hongfan Kata bag. She ran over in red high heels.

Although Jian Ai did not think of Yu Xiaoran at first glance, she still remembered Lu Qiaoqiao.

Similarly, Lu Qiaoqiao could not forget Jian Ai, the ‘enemy’ who bought Hongfan Kata’s limited edition cufflinks from under her nose!

Before she could reach Yu Xiaoran, Lu Qiaoqiao saw Jian Ai and her eyes widened. “Why are you here?!”

Jian Ai frowned, but because of the occasion and Brother Wu Bi’s relationship with Yu Xiaoran, she said nothing nasty. Instead, she ignored Lu Qiaoqiao and sat down.

Yu Xiaoran knew that Lu Qiaoqiao and Jian Ai had some unhappy conflicts. At the cocktail party, Lu Qiaoqiao’s performance was obvious. Later, she told him what had happened.

Therefore, when he saw the two of them meet again, he couldn’t help but give Wu Bi a look. “Wu Bi, you guys eat first. I’m going over too. I’ll contact you later!”

As soon as he finished speaking, he didn’t forget to bid farewell to Wu Shaoqi, Wang Yunmei, and Jian Ai. It was obvious that he was a cultured and considerate man.

Then, Yu Xiaoran turned around and pulled the angry Lu Qiaoqiao away. Lu Qiaoqiao kept looking back unwillingly, but Jian Ai ignored her and only showed the back of her head without looking back!

Wu Bi blinked in confusion. Xiaoran left quite quickly. He couldn’t help but look at Jian Ai curiously and ask, “Xiao Ai. Do you know that girl just now?”

If he was not wrong, when the girl saw Xiao Ai, she exuded a burning hostility.

Jian Ai pursed her lips and nodded. “She’s the daughter of the CEO of Hongxiang Group, Lu Youcai. I don’t remember her name!”

As she spoke, Jian Ai couldn’t help but briefly describe what had happened at Hongfan Kata’s flagship store to show that the other party hated her for a reason.

“She’s a pretty girl. I didn’t expect her to be so unruly.” When Wang Yunmei heard Jian Ai’s words, she couldn’t help but say.

“At that time, I couldn’t stand her making things difficult for a staff, so I stood up. Who knew that things would turn around and that we would meet again today? I don’t know why, but every time I’m in a good mood, I’ll meet someone who destroys the atmosphere,” Jian Ai said with a smile.

She spoke calmly, and it was obvious that Lu Qiaoqiao’s appearance did not affect her at all.

Lu Qiaoqiao was just a passerby in Jian Ai’s eyes. To Jian Ai, their interaction should have ended the moment she stepped out of Hongfan Kata’s flagship store.

Even if they met later, Jian Ai had no desire to argue with her anymore. It was just that her impression of Lu Qiaoqiao could not change easily.

Jian Ai didn't take it to heart, but Lu Qiaoqiao was furious.

The waiter was so frightened that he didn't dare to go forward to greet her. Lu Qiaoqiao looked at Yu Xiaoran's smiling face angrily and retorted, "Brother Xiaoran, how do you know her? Don't tell me you know each other after meeting her at Hongxiang's cocktail party last time?!"

"You know how annoying that girl is. She snatched the cufflinks I wanted to give you. How can you not ignore her?!"

Lu Qiaoqiao pouted, her eyes filled with grievance and heartbreak. She looked at Yu Xiaoran angrily, looking so pitiful that it was as if tears would fall in the next second.

Yu Xiaoran, on the other hand, maintained his smile. His eyes were as bright as the stars in the sky, and the diamond earring shone under the light.

Hearing Lu Qiaoqiao's complaints, Yu Xiaoran was neither anxious nor angry. After she finished speaking, he slowly said, "Qiaoqiao, you've misunderstood. I went up to greet a friend of mine. I didn't know that girl was also there."

"Your friend?" Lu Qiaoqiao frowned. "Which friend?"

"Haha..." Yu Xiaoran couldn't help but chuckle, and his eyes shone. "It's the boy who was standing beside me just now. You don't know him. I haven't seen him for a long time!"

When she heard he was Brother Xiaoran's friend, Lu Qiaoqiao's expression could not help but soften a little. However, she still frowned skeptically to confirm. "Really? He's really your friend?"

"Of course!" Yu Xiaoran nodded and promised. He looked at Lu Qiaoqiao with a smile and said, "When did Brother Xiaoran lie to you?"

"Besides, what's there to hide? I've only seen that girl once, and it's obvious that she's underage. Don't be jealous, okay?"

"Hah!" Lu Qiaoqiao's pretty face turned red. She couldn't help but pretend to be angry at Yu Xiaoran. "Who's jealous? I'm not!"

"Alright, alright. You're not jealous. I'm the one who's jealous, okay?!" Yu Xiaoran seemed to be extremely patient and knew Lu Qiaoqiao's nature very well. With just a few words and his handsome face, he quickly dispelled Lu Qiaoqiao's anger.

However, although she had calmed down, Lu Qiaoqiao was a very arrogant young lady from a rich family. Those typical princess illnesses could be said to have been displayed to the extreme on her.

Jealous, petty, unreasonable, and so on...

Therefore, her hatred for Jian Ai was still there, and she had no intention of letting bygones be bygones.

She suddenly sat up straight and looked at Yu Xiaoran seriously. "Brother Xiaoran, do you know who that girl is?"

“Which girl?” Yu Xiaoran didn’t react, but he reacted. “Oh? You mean that girl?”

Lu Qiaoqiao nodded with her big eyes. “You’ll never guess her identity!”

Identity?

Yu Xiaoran could not help but be surprised. What kind of identity could a fifteen-year-old girl have?