

At School 1271

Chapter 1271 Wang Yunmei's Network (2)

Gao Boyong smiled and nodded. He waved at Wang Yunmei and strode towards the private room with the waiter.

Wang Yunmei chuckled helplessly. She looked up and saw another regular customer, Manager Li, outside the revolving door. Wang Yunmei quickly retracted her gaze and pretended not to see him. She raised her feet and ran towards Wang Yunzhong in the rest area.

Usually, Wang Yunmei would stay in the hall the entire time when she went to work. The reason she did this was to chat with every customer who came to Yaochi to improve their relationship. Only then could she maintain the stickiness between her and her customers. Therefore, these regular customers developed a habit and greeted Wang Yunmei when they saw her.

However, it was different today. She had to handle the documents as soon as possible, so she could only hurry.

"Brother, why are you here?" Wang Yunmei went forward and asked. She subconsciously looked around and saw that Wang Yunzhong was alone. He shouldn't be here to have fun.

Wang Yunzhong had watched Wang Yunmei chat with Manager Guo and Gao Boyong the entire time, so he was still in a daze. This was because Wang Yunmei's state at work differed completely from her usual self.

That calm confidence and the feeling of getting closer to her was a side Wang Yunzhong had never seen before.

This was also the temperament Wang Yunmei had developed step by step over the past year. She was like a natural leader. After her identity changed, she quickly adapted to the position of a manager and even became more at ease!

"I see you're quite busy. Did I cause you trouble?" At this moment, Wang Yunzhong's voice subconsciously lowered, and he was even a little careful.

Wang Yunmei's aura infected him.

Wang Yunmei didn't think too much about this. When she heard this, she only said, "It's fine. Why did you come here to look for me so late at night?"

"Oh, that's right. Brother has something to tell you!" Wang Yunzhong came back to his senses and quickly turned around to take the black plastic bag from the chair at the side. He handed it to Wang Yunmei and said, "This is the one hundred thousand yuan you delivered today. Take it back. You shouldn't have taken out this money!"

Seeing this, Wang Yunmei's expression froze. She looked at Wang Yunzhong in confusion and said, "But Dad and Mom said that our family should split the sum, right? Wasn't this your idea?"

Wang Yunmei had always thought that this was Wang Yunzhong's idea.

Wang Yunzhong quickly said, "Of course not. The reconciliation succeeded this morning. I initially didn't want to take out the money, but who knew that Li Xia would lend others the money Dad and Mom gave them?! Therefore, I was forced to take out the money!"

"Then, I went to the company. Who knew that Dad and Mom would discuss this when they got home? They contacted you without informing me. I only found out after work!"

"That's why I quickly sent it back to you!"

Wang Yunzhong explained. To make Wang Yunmei believe that this was not his idea, he even told her about his schedule today!

Wang Yunmei didn't reach out to take the money. She said to Wang Yunzhong, "Brother, take this money. I think Dad and Mom are right. We can't let you fork out so much money. I have conditions now. I can help you share some of the burdens!"

"No, Xiao Mei. You don't understand what Brother means!" Wang Yunzhong said anxiously, "You shouldn't take out this money, nor should I. Yunfa has to take it out himself, understand?"

"You mean you're counting on Yunfa to return the money to you?" Wang Yunmei looked at Wang Yunzhong and asked.

"That's right, but you don't have to worry about this. I have my ways. If Yunfa doesn't have money, it's fine if we each take out some to help him. But since he has money, there's no reason for us to help him fork out the money!" Wang Yunzhong said seriously.

When Wang Yunmei heard this, she looked at the black plastic bag and couldn't help but sigh. At this moment, she didn't know if she should take back the money.

Because she had always felt that she owed Wang Yunfa because of the demolition of South City. Now that something had happened to him, she initially thought that she could help him. However, Wang Yunzhong meant that Wang Yunfa had money and didn't need help.

Just as she was hesitating, Wang Yunzhong stuffed the plastic bag into Wang Yunmei's hand and said, "Xiao Mei, don't think too much about it. This is also for Yunfa's good!"

"After all, the trouble he caused this time was not a small disaster. He almost went to jail! If the two of us fork out the money for reconciliation this time, he will feel that this matter was settled too easily. We will always clean up his mess, and he will not learn his lesson in the future!"

"Therefore, he has to take out the money himself to understand what it feels like to pay the price. Especially since this price far exceeds the value of the mistakes he made, it will make him more vigilant. He can also use his pig brain before causing trouble in the future!"

Wang Yunzhong's last sentence convinced Wang Yunmei.

Wang Yunmei nodded. "Alright, I'll listen to Brother!"

Seeing this, Wang Yunzhong finally heaved a sigh of relief. "That's right. Yunfa will be out of jail tomorrow. I think we have to cook at home. Do you and Zhi want to come back?"

“Forget it!” Wang Yunmei chuckled and shook her head. “It’s not something good. What’s there to be lively about? Besides, my relationship with the family now, especially with Yunfa, is so stiff. I won’t go back and cause trouble for everyone.”

“Then you’re not coming back for New Year’s Day?” Wang Yunzhong subconsciously asked.

Wang Yunmei was stunned when she heard that. For a moment, she didn’t know what to say.

Although she had suffered so much at home, Wang Yunmei still had to go home every New Year’s Eve.

However, so many things had happened this year. She even had the illusion that she was no longer a member of the Wang family.

“Let’s talk about it later!” Wang Yunmei said in a low voice.

Seeing this, Wang Yunzhong sighed slightly. “Don’t worry about Dad and Mom. Dad has always supported me to interact more with you. Mom is just a little sharp-tongued. With Dad and me around, she won’t dare to go overboard.”

Wang Yunmei nodded and didn’t answer Wang Yunzhong. Instead, she said, “Brother, go back first. I’m still at work.”

“Alright, I won’t disturb you anymore. You’re quite busy!” Wang Yunzhong quickly said and turned around to pick up his coat.

Wang Yunmei sent Wang Yunzhong out of Yaochi and watched him get into the car and leave. She had the high heels Sister Guo gave her in her left hand and a plastic bag containing one hundred thousand yuan in her right.

In the cold wind, Wang Yunmei couldn’t help but heave a sigh of relief. She didn’t hesitate anymore. At this moment, she didn’t have time to hesitate. She had to go back and continue her work!

Wang Yunzhong, who was driving away, still couldn’t calm down for a long time after seeing Wang Yunmei in her work state for the first time.

If all the changes in his previous enthusiasm were for Jian Ai, then at this moment, he understood that perhaps in terms of connections, Wang Yunmei was the one who had connections in upper-class society!

Chapter 1272 Invitation to Taste

The next day, they released Wang Yunfa.

He had been detained at the police station for the past few days. Because he had not gone through the legal process, they could not consider him to be in jail these days. He could only be said to be under surveillance.

At ten in the morning, the old man, the old lady, and Li Xia came to pick him up. Officer Wang sent Wang Yunfa out personally. After being detained inside for the past few days, he looked exceptionally dispirited.

His body, which was not considered strong, to begin with, became even thinner. Although he did not look like he had suffered any physical pain, his entire vitality was gone.

It was as if Wang Yunfa had lost half his life. When the two elders saw him like this, the resentment in their hearts dissipated, leaving only heartache.

“Yunfa, my son...”

The old lady cried and pounced forward. She hugged the stunned Wang Yunfa and started crying.

Wang Yunfa narrowed his eyes at the sunlight. When he heard the old lady’s cries, he seemed to have regained his senses. His small eyes moved slightly before he saw his family members who had come to pick him up.

“Dad, Mom, Wife,” Wang Yunfa called out. His voice was a little hoarse, but fortunately, it sounded normal.

The old man’s heart ached, but he didn’t want to show it. He only nodded gently and said to the crying old lady, “Alright, stop crying. Let’s go home first!”

Only then did the old lady let go of Wang Yunfa. With tears all over her face, she asked Officer Wang, “Officer Wang, will this end? Will you arrest my son again?”

“Auntie, don’t worry. This case has been closed by private settlement. There won’t be any problems in the future,” Officer Wang said patiently.

“Thank you. Thank you.” The old lady thanked Officer Wang.

Seeing this, Officer Wang quickly helped the old lady up and said to Wang Yunfa, “Don’t be so rash in the future. You’re going to be a father soon. Remember to think twice about everything. As the saying goes, take a step back and the sea and sky are wide. You could have avoided this!”

“I understand. I’ve troubled you.” Wang Yunfa’s attitude was okay. After adapting to the light outside, his mental state seemed to have eased a little.

Officer Wang sighed. “It’s not troublesome for me, but your parents are already so old. They can’t withstand such torture. Alright, go home!”

Everyone thanked Officer Wang again before leaving the police station in a car.

Jian Ai had been good recently for a while. Every day, she would visit three places: martial arts school, school, and home. It was mainly because it was almost the end of the year and the company had entered the statistical stage. Bai Zhou was very busy.

Even Ji Haoyu had been very quiet recently. Other than making a few ‘harassment calls’ to Jian Ai occasionally, Jian Ai had not seen Ji Haoyu since Wang Yunmei’s birthday.

It made sense. The New Year was the busiest day for all corporations, so how could Ji Haoyu be an exception? As one of the top financial groups in Asia, the Ji Group must be even busier.

After school, that day, Jian Ai and Guan Tao walked out of school.

“Qinghuan’s scenes are almost wrapped up, right?” Guan Tao asked.

Jian Ai sighed. “Because she accidentally fell from the roof and got injured last time, she affected the production team’s progress. When I called her two days ago, she said that the production team was rushing for progress recently and wanted to finish filming within expectations. After all, the director and assistant director are big shots. They have other jobs later, so she doesn’t know if they can catch up.”

“Has her injury healed?” Guan Tao was a little worried. “Qinghuan is so strong-willed. She shouldn’t drag her half-crippled body and force herself.”

“Don’t worry. Yan Tian goes to visit every week and asked the doctor. Although it takes a hundred days to recover from a serious injury, fortunately, Qinghuan’s muscles and bones were not injured. She only fell hard, so she’s fine. She just needs to lie down and recuperate for a week,” Jian Ai said.

Only then did Guan Tao nod in relief. “That’s good.”

The two of them walked out of the school gate and to the bus stop. Guan Tao looked at Jian Ai and asked, “Are you going back to North City?”

Jian Ai smiled and said, “I’m going to my friend’s for dinner.”

Initially, Bai Zhou had been busy these days, so Jian Ai didn’t look for him. She didn’t assign him additional missions to increase his pressure. She just wanted him to focus on handling the company’s end-of-year summary.

Unexpectedly, Jian Ai suddenly received a call from Bai Zhou at noon today. He asked her to go to the apartment tonight. Jian Ai asked what was wrong, and Bai Zhou said: Try the dishes!

Jian Ai agreed without thinking. With delicious food, she naturally wouldn’t miss it.

After Guan Tao got on the bus home, Jian Ai crossed the road and hailed a taxi to Bai Zhou’s apartment.

At this moment, in the apartment, Chi Lian was sitting on the sofa feeding her snake. Other than Chi Lian and a snake, there was no one else in the huge living room.

In the kitchen, Bai Zhou looked at the ingredients on the counter and frowned slightly, looking exceptionally resistant.

Chi Yang stood at the side and said, “You know all the ingredients, right?”

Bai Zhou nodded and pointed them out one by one. “These are potatoes, this is brisket, these are onions, this is garlic, and that pile is spices...”

Seeing that he could recognize all the ingredients, Chi Yang was relieved. Then, he pointed at the seasoning table and said, “Can you distinguish the seasonings?”

Bai Zhou shook his head innocently and looked at Chi Yang pitifully. “Why don’t you do it once and let me see again? I’ll learn after seeing it once!”

“No, you can only follow the recipe. Otherwise, it’s equivalent to cheating!” Chi Yang rejected mercilessly.

Bai Zhou's handsome face instantly collapsed. "Xiao Zhen won't know if you teach me secretly!"

"Then there's no point in competing. Master, competitive spirit!" Chi Yang reminded him with a fake smile.

Bai Zhou pursed his lips and gave up resisting. He said reluctantly, "Alright, teach me how to recognize the seasonings!"

Chi Yang looked at Bai Zhou's defeat and couldn't help but hold back his laughter. However, he still went forward and picked them up one by one. "This is salt, this is sugar, and this is starch. Don't mix it up. If you can't tell, try it with your tongue."

"This is soy sauce. This is vinegar. Don't mix it up!"

"This is wine. This is fish sauce. Don't mix it up!"

"This is oyster sauce, this is nectar, and this is olive oil..."

In this apartment, the kitchen was Chi Yang's world. As a three-star Michelin chef, Chi Yang's seasonings were so complete that it made one's hair stand on end.

Ten minutes later...

"Did you remember everything?" Chi Yang looked at Bai Zhou and asked.

At this moment, Bai Zhou's entire state was "Who am I? Where am I? What were you talking about?"

"I... probably... might... remember it..." Bai Zhou said guiltily.

Chi Yang would not give him another chance. Hearing this, he clapped his hands. "The recipe is on the wall. I'll leave the kitchen to you!"

Chapter 1273 I'll Leave First

As soon as he finished speaking, Chi Yang turned around and walked out of the kitchen. When he turned around and closed the door, he didn't forget to smile and encourage the confused Bai Zhou inside.

"Master, all the best!"

The door closed with a bang.

Bai Zhou stood in the middle of the kitchen and looked around as if he had been abandoned. It was no exaggeration to say that ever since he bought this apartment...

This was his...

First time...

Stepping into...

This place called...

The kitchen!

Because Chi Yang usually prepared everything related to food and drinks and gave them to him, he had never entered the kitchen, let alone cooked!

This was the first time he had seen a gas stove with fire.

In the living room, when she heard the door close, Chi Lian said without looking up, "Aren't you afraid that he'll burn the kitchen?"

"So be it. He can renovate it for me." Chi Yang smiled and said, "You didn't see the expression on Master's face just now. He was so pitiful."

"You don't have to sympathize with him. When he's done, we'll be the pitiful ones," Chi Lian said.

As soon as he finished speaking, the doorbell rang. The two of them looked at each other. Chi Yang stood up and opened the door. "The Sect Master and Lord Si Yue must be here!"

The door opened and Jian Ai appeared outside with a smile. When she saw Chi Yang, she couldn't help but say excitedly, "What new dish did you study again? I've been looking forward to it since the moment I received the invitation to taste the dishes!"

As she spoke, Jian Ai entered the house.

Chi Yang looked at the empty corridor behind her and asked in surprise, "Where's Lord Si Yue?"

"He's on duty. He'll be here later!" Jian Ai said casually.

As soon as she finished speaking, she heard a bang from the kitchen. Something had fallen to the ground.

Jian Ai was shocked and subconsciously looked at Chi Lian. "Who's inside?"

Chi Lian sighed softly and looked at Jian Ai. "Sect Master, it's not Chi Yang who's cooking today, but Bai Zhou. He asked you here to try his dishes!"

"What? Bai Zhou's cooking?" Jian Ai exclaimed.

Chi Yang and Chi Lian nodded and said in unison, "That's right. He's cooking!"

"Ah... I just remembered I have something on, so I'll take my leave first!" Jian Ai said and turned around to leave.

However, Chi Yang pulled her back. Chi Yang said, "Sect Master, you can't leave. Our ancient sect has to share blessings and difficulties!"

Jian Ai's face darkened. She looked at Chi Yang and said, "Yes, so how can I bear to let Si Yue be on duty alone? I have to go back and help Si Yue sweep the floor. I'll take my leave first!"

What a joke. Let her eat Bai Zhou's dishes? Could Bai Zhou distinguish between oil, salt, sauce, and vinegar? Not to mention that he could not distinguish between them, but he had probably never seen these seasonings before!

It was not that Jian Ai was exaggerating, but Bai Zhou's identity was like this.

He was a second-generation heir of the Qiusi royal family. Since he was young, he had probably never even seen what the kitchen looked like, right? If not because he had to go to the toilet himself, he would not have needed to go to the toilet at all!

“Sect Master, this is a blow to Bai Zhou’s enthusiasm. If he knows you came and left, he will feel inferior!” Chi Lian stroked the snake’s head and looked at Jian Ai.

Jian Ai stopped in her tracks and turned around to look at Chi Lian in surprise. Then, she looked at the siblings, who were clinging to her. She didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “How is this enthusiasm? It can’t even cross realms...”

As soon as she finished speaking, Jian Ai revealed a suspicious expression. “Why did the two of you agree to let him cook for no reason? You even dragged me here to eat! Isn’t it good to be alive?”

Chi Lian and Chi Yang couldn’t help but look at each other when they heard this. Then, Chi Yang sighed silently.

He sighed for a long time. It could be said that silence was better than sound.

Jian Ai could sense other content from this long sigh. She couldn’t help but blink in confusion and ask, “What’s going on? What are they doing?”

“Chi Yang, explain to the Sect Master!” Chi Lian looked at Chi Yang.

Chi Yang nodded, but he pulled Jian Ai to the sofa and sat down. He pulled her arm the entire time to prevent her from running away. “Isn’t it going to be New Year’s Day soon? Master knows that New Year’s Day is a traditional holiday in China, which is equivalent to Christmas in the West. Everyone will be reunited for a meal, so he had a sudden impulse and called for everyone to eat together on New Year’s Day.”

Jian Ai listened and nodded. The story was quite beautiful. Although she had to accompany her family on New Year’s Day, it did not stop Bai Zhou and the rest from having a gathering. After all, the ancient sect was a big family.

Chi Yang continued, “At first, I thought I would be the one cooking. It’s usually like this. In the end, Master suddenly had an idea. He wanted everyone to make two dishes. Then, everyone would vote and choose the most unpalatable dish. The person who makes the most unpalatable dish will be punished!”

“So you also know that Master doesn’t know how to cook. It’s already good enough that he recognizes all the ingredients on the plate!”

Jian Ai couldn’t help but widen her eyes. “Isn’t he digging a pit for himself? He knew he didn’t know how to cook, but he still organized such a competition? Who would lose to him?!”

“Xiao Zhen!” Chi Lian said mercilessly.

Jian Ai slapped her forehead. She had forgotten about Xiao Zhen.

Therefore, although Bai Zhou had suggested this competition, he and Xiao Zhen were the only participants.

This was because Chi Yang had already won this competition without a fight. Although Chi Lian had never cooked in front of Jian Ai, as Chi Yang’s sister, she should not be bad.

Si Yue was not good at cooking, but after living with Jian Ai, he learned some culinary skills. Occasionally, he would make supper for Jian Ai. Jian Ai had eaten it before, and Si Yue's culinary skills improved day by day. He cooked quite well.

Needless to say, Zhi Tong would know how to cook after living alone for so many years!

"So... what's the meaning of this competition?" Jian Ai felt that this matter was unreal.

Because she felt that there was no need. Why would she make things difficult for herself and others?

Chi Yang shrugged and said, "My sister and I have also brooded over the meaning of this matter. The only meaning should be... to choose the worst plate!"

Chi Lian added, "It's the worst plate, not two worst plates. Just one!"

Jian Ai looked at Chi Lian and Chi Yang's expressions inexplicably. Why could she tell from their faces that they were waiting to see Bai Zhou and Xiao Zhen make a fool of themselves?

Wait!

Jian Ai frowned and asked, "Xiao Zhen definitely won't agree to such a competition!"

"Lord Xiao Zhen has already agreed!" Chi Yang smiled and said, "Because he thinks he won't lose!"

Jian Ai: !!!

Where did he get his confidence from?!

Although Bai Zhou looked like someone who had never entered the kitchen...

Xiao Zhen was the one who looked more like he didn't know how to cook!

Chapter 1274 Vomit...

Bai Zhou VS Xiao Zhen, a culinary competition!

Just looking at their names, Jian Ai felt incomparably anxious. For a moment, Jian Ai was in a dilemma. Until the last moment, no one could tell who made worse food!

Bang!

Another loud bang made the three people in the living room turn around in unison. Through the tightly shut kitchen door, they seemed to have already foreseen Bai Zhou's sorry appearance inside.

Jian Ai sighed faintly. She didn't know if Bai Zhou's brain was playing tricks on him. Why was he doing this?

Not only did he embarrass himself, but he also made things difficult for them to try the dishes.

"Where are Irene and Andrew?" Jian Ai suddenly realized that the two of them were not there.

When Chi Yang heard this, he said, "Didn't the Sect Master destroy the top floor of Brother Xiao Zhen's villa before?! Andrew went over to help repair it, and Irene went with him!"

"I mean, are the two of them taking part in your New Year's Day cooking competition?" Jian Ai asked.

Chi Lian immediately took over Jian Ai's question and answered, "Yes, but the two of them are passionate about Chinese food, especially since there were no abnormal movements recently. The two had nothing to do here, so they often enter the kitchen with Chi Yang."

"Irene is meticulous and skillful. She learns things very quickly and is very talented in smell. She can already make many authentic Chinese dishes."

"Although Andrew isn't meticulous enough, there are many suitable dishes for his rough methods. Chi Yang saw he was interested and taught him a lot recently. Although he would put a lot of salt sometimes, as long as he restrains them a little, he can still make delicious dishes."

"Based on their current strength in cooking, they're more than enough to defeat Xiao Zhen and Bai Zhou."

Jian Ai: "..."

Hearing Chi Lian's words, the corners of Jian Ai's mouth couldn't help but twitch. They couldn't even compare to a foreign friend. It seemed that this was a competition between Bai Zhou and Xiao Zhen.

At this moment, Chi Yang leaned forward and chuckled. "Sect Master, you don't have to worry so much. I've prepared a recipe for Master in the kitchen. The steps and usage are very detailed. As long as he can read, the things he makes should be edible."

"Are you sure?" Jian Ai didn't believe it. Although Bai Zhou was indeed very smart, it was almost impossible for someone who had never entered the kitchen to cook.

Most importantly, Jian Ai knew Bai Zhou. He definitely wouldn't make those very simple dishes. At the very least, they had to be dishes from the north!

It turned out that Jian Ai was right. She was not overthinking. Chi Yang was the one who overthought!

An hour later, when Jian Ai sat at the dining table in the apartment restaurant and looked at the sticky thing in front of her, her strong desire to live made her want to use her mental cultivation techniques to throw this dish that she could not recognize into the toilet bowl.

Chi Lian and Chi Yang were also dumbfounded. They stared at the things on the plate for a long time and had the illusion that they were Siberian refugees from the 1980s.

This thing... was like a plate of overcooked corn paste.

Chi Yang's throat moved without batting an eyelid. If he remembered correctly, the recipe he gave his master was stewed beef brisket with potatoes...

However, although he could tell that the thing in front of him was overcooked potatoes, where did the brisket go?

Jian Ai looked up at Bai Zhou, who was standing in front of the dining table with an embarrassed expression on his face. One could tell from his expression that he was ashamed.

Bai Zhou's handsome face was still decent, but they could no longer recognize the apron on his body. It was filled with oil stains and food residue. It was not difficult to imagine that the cooking process was quite brutal.

"Ah... It doesn't look delicious..." Bai Zhou said resentfully. He couldn't even lie to himself about the appearance of his dishes, so he couldn't bear to lie.

When Si Yue heard this, he said, "It doesn't look bad, but it's not edible!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Si Yue looked up at Bai Zhou and asked, "Brother Bai Zhou, what is this plate?"

Si Yue was also pitiful. He had worked hard to rush over after work, but he inexplicably sat here and faced Bai Zhou's food!

"I gave it an awesome name. It's called stewed red meat on the golden moon!" Bai Zhou smiled as if he felt that although the dish had failed, the name of the dish could not lose!

Jian Ai was speechless.

Chi Lian was speechless.

Si Yue was speechless.

Chi Yang: "It's stewed beef brisket with potatoes!"

Everyone: "Oh."

Bai Zhou: "..."

The atmosphere was silent for a while as if everyone was mourning for themselves for the next ten seconds. Then, Chi Lian was the first to pick up her cutlery. She looked at the food on the plate in front of her with a fearless gaze. Then, she used a spoon to gently stroke the edge of the food.

Chi Lian's mental activity was: This little bit should not be fatal!

Since it was stewed beef brisket with potatoes, this paste should be over stewed potatoes. Under the gazes of the others, Chi Lian opened her mouth and slowly stuffed the food into her mouth.

The moment it entered her mouth, Jian Ai and the rest instinctively frowned. Even Bai Zhou felt resistance from the inside out.

Chi Lian's movements were extremely fast. Without her mouth moving, she swallowed the food!

"How does it taste?"

Seeing that someone dared to eat, Bai Zhou immediately became excited and quickly asked.

Chi Lian sat there with a stiff and dull expression, but her body was trying its best to resist the discomfort the food brought to her entire stomach.

She initially thought she could not taste it if she did not chew it, but she had underestimated how powerful Bai Zhou was. The trace of mashed potatoes churned in her stomach, and the aftereffects were even stronger than pure vodka.

"It's..." Chi Lian initially wanted to confirm it against her conscience, but before she could finish speaking, her face turned green. She stood up and rushed to the bathroom. "Vomit..."

Seeing this, Jian Ai was so frightened that she quickly pushed the food in front of her away!

Bai Zhou blinked with an inexplicable expression!

Chi Yang was also a little surprised. What flavor did it have to make his sister vomit after eating just a little?

Without the courage to taste it, Chi Yang took out the usual move of a professional chef. He lowered his head slightly and placed his nostrils close to the food. Then, he waved his hand in front of his nose and took a deep breath.

In the next second, Chi Yang also vomited.

He retched and almost spat out a mouthful of sour water.

"Pfft... Hahaha..." Jian Ai couldn't help but laugh.

On the other hand, Bai Zhou could not withstand Chi Lian and Chi Yang's reactions. His handsome face turned red, and he retorted, "Do you have to be so exaggerated?!"

Chapter 1276 Sudden Illness

At night, snow fell from the sky. Baiyun City, a modern city, had just opened the curtains of its nightlife. Because it was Christmas tomorrow, the entire city was shrouded in holiday joy.

At night, in the Ji family's mansion.

It was already past nine in the evening, but there was still laughter coming from the manor's main building. The servants were busy making the final arrangements for tomorrow's Christmas party!

"Grandpa, look at the Santa Claus clothes I bought for you."

Ji Haoxue ran down from upstairs with a smile on her face.

When Old Master Ji saw his granddaughter's speed, he quickly called out, "Oh, slow down. Be careful not to fall down the stairs!"

"Heh, I'll be careful, Grandpa." Ji Haoxue smiled and waved the clothes in her hand. "Grandpa, look at these clothes. I specially asked my classmates in Australia to buy them. You can wear this tomorrow, okay?!"

Old Master Ji was already so old, so how could he celebrate Christmas? The reason the Ji residence was so festive this year was all because of Ji Haoxue.

Because he doted on his granddaughter, Old Ji tried his best to cooperate and let the servants at home buy the decorations wantonly. This was because Ji Haoxue said that she wanted to invite her classmates and friends over.

As one of the top financial groups in Asia, it was impossible for ordinary people to enter the Ji residence where Old Ji lived. However, for the sake of his granddaughter, Old Ji agreed without a word.

However, looking at the red Christmas suit in his granddaughter's hand, Old Ji was taken aback. He wanted to refuse, but didn't know what to say.

Although he had not especially celebrated Christmas, Old Ji still knew what kind of image Santa Claus had.

At this moment, Wu Yong quickly said, "Miss Haoxue, you're fooling around. How can you let Grandpa wear such clothes?"

"Grandpa Wu, many elders abroad choose to play Santa Claus on Christmas. What's wrong with that?" Ji Haoxue did not care, but she did not force Old Ji. She only blinked and said to him, "Grandpa, are you really not going to wear it?"

When Old Ji heard this, he couldn't help but smile. "Haoxue, you're making things difficult for Grandpa. Grandpa will wear a red Tang suit tomorrow, okay?"

"Alright, I'll leave this for Second Uncle to wear," Ji Haoxue agreed. She turned around and ran upstairs with the clothes.

Looking at his granddaughter's mischievous and cute back, Old Ji smiled dotingly and said to Wu Yong helplessly, "This girl is like a princess when she's quiet. When she's excited, she's like a monkey."

Wu Yong smiled and nodded when he heard that. "Old Master, you dote on Haoxue too much. When did our Ji residence hold any parties? You explicitly prohibited these foreign things in the past!"

"Hey, that's all in the past." Old Ji smiled indifferently and sighed softly. "Didn't they say that old people start to live again after fifty years? The more they live, the more they behave like children! I really like crowds more!"

Wu Yong said, "That's good too. With these children making a scene at home, there will be life. I'm just afraid that Miss Sijia will be jealous since they're both granddaughters."

"That girl?" Old Ji smiled. "No, Sijia is a rash child. She won't think too much about things. Although I dote on Haoxue more, Sijia also knows the reason. So look, hasn't she never complained all these years?"

Wu Yong nodded gently. He knew Old Ji was telling the truth. Although Ji Sijia was not as pampered as Ji Haoxue in the Ji family, her maternal grandparents treasured her, so Ji Sijia felt very balanced.

Moreover, the entire Ji family knew that Ji Haoxue had no parents since she was young. Ji Yanbai had also told Ji Sijia more than once to get along well with Ji Haoxue because the Ji Group had already fallen into Ji Haoyu's hands. If they wanted to lean against a big tree and enjoy the shade, they had to be on the same side as Ji Haoyu and his sister.

Under this influence, Ji Sijia and Ji Haoxue's relationship was like that of biological sisters.

"By the way, Old Wu, have you informed Haoyu? Can he be free to come back tomorrow?" Old Ji suddenly asked.

"I did. When Young Master Haoyu heard it was Miss's Christmas party, he said that he would be back," Wu Yong said. "However, it's almost the end of the year. The financial group is at its busiest stage in the entire year. I heard from Yuan Ye that Young Master has been staying in the company for the entire week. He works until the latter half of the night every day before resting."

Old Ji was naturally familiar with this because he was the one who stayed up late last year. Although he felt heartache for his grandson, he knew that this was the pressure he had to face as the CEO of the corporation.

"Later, ask Auntie Zhen to make a tonic soup for Haoyu at noon every day. It's fine to work a little harder. After all, it's only for a month at the end of the year. I'm just afraid that he's not eating well," the old man said.

Wu Yong nodded. "I understand. I'll give the order tomorrow."

The old man looked at the time and said, "Alright, I think the decorations are almost done. We'll do the rest tomorrow. It's late. Go and rest!"

"Yes!" Wu Yong agreed and went out to call the servants to go back and rest.

The old man drank a cup of hot tea and was about to go upstairs to sleep. However, just as he was about to get up from the sofa, an exceptionally intense pain suddenly came from his chest.

The pain came suddenly and fiercely. Almost in an instant, Old Master Ji's back was drenched. He bent over and held his chest. His entire body was stiff, and he could not react. He opened his mouth but realized that the pain made him unable to make a sound.

The entire pain lasted for about three to five minutes. Without the help of any medicine, the pain disappeared. It did not slowly subside, but just like when it came, it vanished!

The old man panted heavily. His face was pale, and his forehead was covered in sweat. It was obvious how unbearable these few minutes were for him.

However, he did not call for anyone. He just nestled there for a long time. After confirming that his body had calmed down, he tried to stand up.

From this, it could be seen that this was not the first time this had happened to him. Previously, he had drunk Chinese medicine to recuperate for a while, but the results were minimal. However, he said nothing to anyone.

To the old man, he had been living by consuming himself his entire life. When he was young, problems had plagued his body. Now that he was old and had elderly illnesses, Old Master Ji was already used to it.

If not because he could not take it anymore, he would not have let Ji Haoyu take over the corporation at such a young age. The old man also knew his health condition. He would not be able to take it for another year!

Chapter 1277 A Spare Tire

The old man adjusted his breathing and sauntered up the stairs.

Interweaving Night's production team!

With a shout, "Cut! After this round, Yiyi is done filming!"

The production team staff and the other actors applauded. Jian Yiyi's last scene was over and she had successfully wrapped up filming!

As the third female lead, she did not have many scenes. However, during the filming process, because the director and Chu Lingfeng had recognized Jian Yiyi's acting skills, some scenes were added for Jian Yiyi during the script revision process. She basically acted until the end of the movie because before long, they could wrap the entire movie up.

Jian Yiyi felt relieved. Although she was talented in acting, this was her first time acting in a movie. Even if she acted calmly, she was still nervous from the beginning.

Now that she heard the words 'Yiyi is done filming,' she finally relaxed. It was as if her entire body had been instantly hollowed out.

"Yiyi, congratulations on successfully completing the filming!"

Her manager, Brother Jie, was the first to rush up with a gift specially prepared for Jian Yiyi. "This is for you. Merry Christmas!"

Jian Yiyi looked at the gift Brother Jie handed her in surprise. She was stunned for a moment before reaching out to take it. She smiled. "Thank you, Brother Jie!"

When she first entered the production team, Jian Yiyi was in a relaxed state all because Brother Jie placed almost ninety percent of his energy on Yuan Guang, another artist under Brother Jie, who was a newcomer supported by the company and the lead of the movie.

Only Jian Yiyi would look for him when she had something on. He rarely took the initiative to ask about Jian Yiyi.

However, after a few months of filming, as a professional manager in the entertainment circle, Brother Jie quickly discovered Jian Yiyi's huge potential based on how the director kept giving her more scenes and her entire condition.

Therefore, recently, Brother Jie had been more concerned about Jian Yiyi. Knowing that today was her last filming, he especially bought her a gift.

Brother Jie had a feeling that Jian Yiyi would become famous in the future.

"Yiyi, congratulations!"

"You acted so well, Yiyi. You can finally heave a sigh of relief!"

“That’s right. You’re finally done filming. Remember to treat us before leaving!”

When she returned to the side of the court, some seniors and staff of the production team surrounded her. Although Xia Qinghuan didn’t like Jian Yiyi, the others didn’t know her well. Jian Yiyi was best at pretending. The entire filming period gave people the feeling that she was beautiful, obedient, and had good acting skills. Therefore, most of the production team liked her.

Jian Yiyi smiled and enjoyed everyone’s attention. She answered everyone’s words one by one. Everyone gradually dispersed when the next scene started.

The smile on her face was a little stiff. Jian Yiyi sighed and sat down at the side of the court. She looked at the Christmas gift Brother Jie gave her. It was a boxy and exquisite packaging. Jian Yiyi didn’t need to open it to know that it was a bottle of perfume.

She pursed her lips slightly. Compared to Brother Jie’s gift, she wanted Brother Jie’s attention more. It would be best if she could get the company to assign her a few assistants.

Even if she could not reach Xia Qinghuan’s level, it did not matter. One assistant was fine.

“Yiyi...”

At this moment, Wang Mingxiao ran over again.

Hearing this voice, Jian Yiyi already had a conditioned reflex because she would hear Wang Mingxiao call her ‘Yiyi, Yiyi’ countless times every day.

Even if Jian Yiyi lost her sight one day, she would recognize Wang Mingxiao by his voice immediately.

In the next second, Jian Yiyi smiled and faced Wang Mingxiao. “Mingxiao!”

“Yiyi, congratulations on wrapping up!” Wang Mingxiao’s eyes were as bright as stars when he saw Jian Yiyi. There was a smile on his handsome face. As he spoke, he handed over the gift he had prepared.

“This is for you. I hope you like it!”

“There’s a gift?” Jian Yiyi pretended to be surprised. She knew very well what kind of reaction would move Wang Mingxiao, who liked her so much.

As expected, seeing Jian Yiyi’s surprise, Wang Mingxiao became confident and said happily, “That’s right. You can treat it as a Christmas gift or a gift for wrapping up!”

“Thank you!” Jian Yiyi smiled and took it carefully.

Then, she turned around and picked up a gift bag. She turned around and handed it to Wang Mingxiao.

“This is for you. Merry Christmas!”

Wang Mingxiao was stunned. His stunned gaze was filled with disbelief at a visible speed. He looked at Jian Yiyi and said excitedly, “This... this is for me?”

“Of course. I only prepared a Christmas gift for you in the entire production team because you’re the best friend I’ve made in the past few months.” Jian Yiyi smiled and said, “Thank you for taking care of and accompanying me during this period. Thank you, Mingxiao!”

Wang Mingxiao looked at Jian Yiyi's smile and felt his blood boil. His eyes couldn't help but turn red. It was unknown if he was excited or touched.

Everyone in the production team probably knew that he liked Jian Yiyi. He believed that Jian Yiyi also knew. Now that Jian Yiyi only prepared a gift for him, did it prove that he had a different position in her heart?

Not that Wang Mingxiao was overthinking, but Jian Yiyi's rank was too scheming. She knew when to do what such that one would think in a specific manner.

Wang Mingxiao's conditions were not bad, and he might become a big star in the future, but Jian Yiyi knew too well what she wanted. Wang Mingxiao was just a spare tire to her. He was a spare tire that she could manipulate occasionally, and he would never become an official.

Wang Mingxiao's reaction was enough to explain everything. It was just a gift. Why was he so agitated?

The smile on Jian Yiyi's face was harmless and gentle, but her thoughts were rich beyond imagination.

Not far away, Xia Qinghuan was exchanging lines with Du Wei. The two of them saw Jian Yiyi and Wang Mingxiao's interaction at the same time. Although they were far away and couldn't hear what the two of them were talking about, it didn't seem difficult to guess the content just by looking at the development of the matter.

"Girls nowadays are amazing," Du Wei said with a meaningful expression.

Xia Qinghuan was much more straightforward. She immediately rolled her eyes. "That's why the way girls and boys look at girls are completely different. However, these two people are amazing. One of them is of an extremely high rank among the girls, and the other is of an extremely low rank among the boys. They already determined the direction of the story from the beginning!"

Chapter 1278 Reminder

When Du Wei heard Xia Qinghuan's words, she couldn't help but smile at her. Then, she asked softly, "Aren't you and Jian Yiyi classmates? Do you know her very well?"

"Because you said so yourself that you don't like her very much. When one hates another, it's mostly because one understands something about the other party."

"Is Jian Yiyi also so harmless in school?"

"Do I know her?" Xia Qinghuan widened her eyes slightly. In the next second, she shook her head and denied it. "Sister Du Wei, you're flattering me. I can only say that I can tell that the side Jian Yiyi revealed in front of others is the side behind her disguise. But if you want me to understand the real her, I really don't know! I'm not interested and can't understand!"

"Jian Yiyi's acting skills can fool most people except me. Moreover, she maintains this attitude at all times. It's as if it's integrated into her blood. Sometimes, I wonder if she can still distinguish the smile on her face when it's real and when it's fake."

"Sister Du Wei, don't you think such a person is especially terrifying?"

Du Wei smiled at Xia Qinghuan with a meaningful gaze. She neither agreed nor refuted Xia Qinghuan's words.

Xia Qinghuan thought of what Jian Yiyi had done to Lin Yi in school and couldn't help but sigh slowly. "She was exposed in school once, but this matter didn't seem to affect her at all. Not long after, everyone turned their attention to something else. I'm afraid everyone has long forgotten about Jian Yiyi's matter back then."

"This matter seems very magical to me. Everyone is extremely tolerant of people like her. Is it because she's good-looking?"

Du Wei smiled and chuckled indifferently. Then, she looked at Xia Qinghuan and sighed. "Qinghuan, I know you're a very real person. Be it to yourself or to others, you're revealing yourself."

"But I have to say that everyone has the right to choose how to face this world and society. Being good at pretending is not a derogatory term."

"Of course, I can't say that it's a compliment. I can only say that this is a relatively neutral definition. How to differentiate between pros and cons depends on the environment the person in disguise needs to face and the people around him!"

When Xia Qinghuan heard this, she looked a little confused and conflicted. She vaguely understood what Du Wei meant, but she didn't seem to understand or completely agree.

Xia Qinghuan said, "But I think sincerity is the way to treat people. Honesty is the foundation of a person. If a person lives in this world with a mask, it's completely meaningless because the living person in everyone's eyes is not him, but another person he created under his disguise. Perhaps even he doesn't know who that person is."

"Think about it. He created another person to live for him. This is too terrifying!"

"I agree with your point of view." Du Wei nodded in affirmation but explained, "This is also what I just said. How to differentiate between pros and cons depends on the environment the person in disguise needs to face and the people around him!"

"Let's use Jian Yiyi as an example. As you said, if she's just an ordinary fifteen-year-old high school student with a rich family background and outstanding appearance, if she still pretends to be alive and wants to portray herself as the perfect girl in everyone's eyes, there's no need for that. The environment she lives in and the people around her don't need her to disguise herself. If she insists on doing this, the pros and cons can be seen."

Xia Qinghuan nodded as if she gradually understood Du Wei's meaning. What she meant was that there were some environments in society, and there were even more people with ulterior motives. When facing such a situation, pretending was a way to protect themselves. It could make them flawless and invulnerable!

It turned out that Xia Qinghuan's understanding was right because Du Wei immediately said, "But if we put the general environment in the entertainment circle or other competitive environments with undercurrents, Jian Yiyi's wrapped disguise is an extremely safe method. She will wrap her true self in the shell of her disguise to protect her true self from others."

“Qinghuan, I’ve been in the entertainment circle for three years. In some sense, I can only be considered a newcomer in the entertainment circle, but the darkness and obscurity I’ve experienced and seen about this industry are definitely unimaginably terrifying.”

“This industry eats people without spitting out their bones. Some people became famous overnight, while others endured and hid. Tens of thousands of people still sought after some people yesterday, but tomorrow, they will become everyone’s target. Why are there news reports in entertainment magazines every day? Why are there all kinds of fresh news every day? That’s because in the entertainment circle, there will always be the next loser and victim.”

“No matter how thorough a person is, once they enter the entertainment circle, they can’t guarantee that they will always be safe. Some people even warn themselves to protect themselves at all times, but sometimes, they will be implicated by negative news for no reason.”

“Every entertainment reporter and paparazzi has countless pairs of eyes and dozens of brains with rich plots. If you don’t pay attention to a slip of the tongue or even a vague action, they can write a golden scriptwriter-like scandal and story in a day. Even if they can’t destroy you, they will skin you alive!”

“Therefore, in the entertainment circle, people like Jian Yiyi will be relatively safer and easier to win the favor of the audience and even entertainment reporters.”

At this point, Du Wei couldn’t help but raise her hand and place it on Xia Qinghuan’s shoulder. Looking at her clear and even stubborn eyes, Du Wei said sincerely, “Qinghuan, although we haven’t known each other for long, I like you very much. In real life, I’m also willing to be friends with someone like you and continue to hang out with you.”

“But there are some things that Sister Wei still has to tell you. It’s not considered advice, but a reminder as an experienced person!”

Xia Qinghuan felt Du Wei’s sincerity and nodded gently. “Sister Wei, tell me!”

Du Wei paused for a moment and took a deep breath. Then, she slowly said, “Your starting point is so high. As a newcomer, you’re only in your teens. Your father is a big shot in the domestic entertainment industry, and his background is so powerful.”

Chapter 1279 Good Relationship

“These are all your advantages, but they’re not just advantages. In this industry, if someone wants to pull another person down from the altar overnight, as long as he dares to, there are a hundred ways to do it.”

“You’re still young and haven’t experienced the viciousness of society and the human heart. You entered this circle rashly. It’s important to be careful with your words and actions in the future.

“Your honesty and frankness are excellent qualities in real life, but in the entertainment circle, they might bring you endless trouble, especially when you are envied. You can’t imagine how many eyes are watching you in the dark!”

When Xia Qinghuan heard this, she couldn’t help but say, “But aren’t there many outspoken people in the entertainment circle? I think they dare to say and do it. They’re not afraid of others’ judgment at all.”

When Du Wei heard Xia Qinghuan's words, she couldn't help but smile and shake her head. "Qinghuan, you're still too young. You always have to remember that what you see might not be the complete truth, let alone what you see through the television screen, newspapers, and magazines!"

"These people seem to be straightforward, but everything they say has been repeatedly thought through in their hearts. Showing a straightforward personality without causing trouble for themselves is a huge foundation for these people to gain a foothold in the entertainment circle. This is too difficult. Some people are born to eat this bowl of rice, but some people can't do it but still want to imitate it. They often shoot themselves in the foot!"

At this moment, Du Wei could not find a professional noun to give Xia Qinghuan a simplified explanation. In fact, the meaning of her words could be summarized in a word in the future.

That was the commonly used professional term in the entertainment circle: persona!

Since it was a persona, it was an artificial illusion. Take Jian Yiyi as an example. A pure, harmless, kind, and cute persona was the persona she had built for herself.

The people in the entertainment circle that Xia Qinghuan mentioned were almost all building a persona for themselves. Every persona had a fixed audience and could attract many fans for celebrities!

This included foodie personas, adorable personas, tomboy personas, and so on. They were all the same formula. What was needed was the team's accuracy when choosing the persona!

This was because in the future, some celebrities chose the wrong direction to build their personas, and there were countless examples of their personas collapsing.

This was also why Du Wei said that Jian Yiyi was more suitable for the entertainment circle. It was because she had her own persona and could quickly blind the public's vision from the beginning.

Xia Qinghuan thought about Du Wei's words for a long time before slowly absorbing them. At least she felt that Sister Du Wei would not harm her.

Moreover, she was the daughter of the Xia Group. Her father would occasionally inadvertently mention some scandals that had happened in the entertainment circle. However, she was still young at that time and could not completely understand the twists and turns.

But now, she was already in the entertainment circle. Although she had experienced nothing bad, she knew that this might have something to do with her drama not being broadcasted yet.

When she steps into the public eye one day, her life would change drastically!

With this thought in mind, Xia Qinghuan couldn't help but look at Du Wei and say, "Sister Wei, I'll remember what you said."

Du Wei smiled and patted Xia Qinghuan's shoulder gently. "Don't think that Sister Wei is exaggerating. Sister Wei has been through this before!"

Du Wei's words were exceptionally meaningful. The words 'been through this before' seemed to imply something. However, Xia Qinghuan did not catch the meaning behind Du Wei's words.

She looked up and saw that Jian Yiyi was still talking and laughing with Wang Mingxiao. The way Xia Qinghuan looked at Jian Yiyi had changed slightly.

Perhaps it was as Du Wei had said. It was easier for a person like Jian Yiyi to be like a fish in water in the entertainment circle because she could pretend to be an angel to anyone.

Xia Qinghuan knew she could not do it, at least not now.

She couldn't help but want to laugh. Would she really 'die' in this circle before Jian Yiyi?

...

The next morning, Jian Ai went to school with Lin Yi and the rest after her morning exercise at the martial arts school.

As soon as she entered the classroom, Shen Xiaohua called out to her.

"Jian Ai, someone came to look for you!"

Shen Xiaohua was sitting at the door. As soon as Jian Ai entered, she spoke without standing up. However, her voice was a little loud, and the entire class heard her.

Some students who came early also knew that someone had come to look for Jian Ai. However, they immediately looked at Jian Ai strangely, which stunned Jian Ai.

Who came to look for her? Why did these people look at her like that?

Shen Xiaohua was usually loud, and she didn't mean to shout just now. Seeing that she had attracted everyone's attention, she couldn't help but shrink her neck apologetically. Then, she quickly stood up and walked to Jian Ai's table. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to."

Jian Ai smiled and said indifferently, "It's fine. You said someone was looking for me? Who is it?"

"The most handsome boy in Year One, our junior, Jian Yichen!" Shen Xiaohua said and raised her eyebrows. "Didn't he go to the capital with you to take part in the speech competition back then?"

Yichen?

Jian Ai revealed a look of understanding. However, ever since Jian Yichen returned the game console she had lent to him last time, the two of them had not seen each other for a long time.

They had each other's phone numbers, but they had never contacted each other.

Jian Ai often applied for leave during this period, so it was difficult for the two of them to see each other.

Why did he suddenly look for her?

"Do you know why he's looking for me?" Jian Ai asked Shen Xiaohua.

Shen Xiaohua pursed her lips. "No, I even told him kindly that you weren't here yet, and if there's anything, he can tell me and I'll help him pass the message. In the end, he left without saying anything!"

"Are all handsome men so arrogant? He was expressionless the entire time! If I didn't see that he was good-looking, I would have been angry," Shen Xiaohua complained.

Jian Ai couldn't help but laugh. Jian Yichen was ten times more mature than Gao Yang. She could imagine Jian Yichen's cold appearance at that time. It was indeed his style.

Lin Yi took advantage of Xia Qinghuan's absence to sit at the same table as Jian Ai. When Shen Xiaohua left, he frowned and asked, "Jian Ai, is Jian Yichen very close to you?"

Jian Ai nodded. "Yes, we have a good relationship."

She did not deny her liking for Jian Yichen just because he was Jian Changsheng's son. Of course, Jian Ai knew she had a brother complex. Her liking for Jian Yichen was a sister's liking for a little boy from the beginning. It was basically the same as her feelings for Yao Jiachi.

Although their relationship had changed drastically, from Jian Ai treating him as a brother to Jian Yichen actually becoming her brother.

Jian Ai was a little conflicted, but on second thought, this had nothing to do with Jian Yichen.

Chapter 1280 That Past Was Too Far

Most importantly, Jian Ai had never treated Jian Changsheng as her father. There was no need to mention it when she didn't know in the past. Even if she knew now, she didn't think too much about their new relationship.

To her, Jian Changsheng was just the CEO of the Jian Group. If she had to admit that they were related, it would only be a competitive relationship.

Therefore, Jian Ai didn't care who Jian Changsheng's son was. She was willing to be close to Jian Yichen because of Jian Yichen himself. It had nothing to do with anyone else.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have to think about Jian Changsheng. Just thinking about Jian Yiyi gave her a reason to hate Jian Yichen, but Jian Ai wouldn't do that.

When Lin Yi heard Jian Ai's answer that she had a good relationship with Jian Yichen, he couldn't help but feel jealous. Moreover, he rarely saw her meet Jian Yichen a few times. Could it be that their relationship improved because they went to the capital together?

"Isn't he Jian Yiyi's brother?" Lin Yi subconsciously muttered.

Jian Ai stopped reading and turned to look at Lin Yi in amusement. Lin Yi quickly said, "I mean nothing else. I just think you don't like Jian Yiyi. Why did you become friends with her brother?"

"Jian Yiyi is Jian Yiyi, and Jian Yichen is Jian Yichen. He's not Jian Yiyi's accessory," Jian Ai said.

Moreover, just because she became close to Jian Yichen didn't mean that she had to be close to Jian Yiyi. What was there to contradict?

The circle was different, so there was no need to forcefully integrate.

Lin Yi also knew this logic. His words were just a little quick, so he couldn't help but nod.

Because of this, Lin Yi felt even more threatened. He already felt inferior in front of Jian Ai, so every time a boy with good conditions appeared beside Jian Ai, his sense of danger would deepen.

Especially someone like Jian Yichen. When school first started in Year One, Jian Yichen caused a huge commotion in school. Lin Yi still remembered Xia Qinghuan saying that he was outdated because of Jian Yichen.

Although he didn't care what school beau title the girls gave him, he had to care this time since it concerned Jian Ai.

As if sensing Lin Yi's low pressure, Jian Ai couldn't help but sigh. "Lin Yi, I think you've changed."

Jian Ai said this.

During this period, Jian Ai had wanted to have a good chat with Lin Yi more than once, but Jian Ai had no experience in handling relationships. She couldn't think of anything else to say besides rejection.

She didn't want to hurt Lin Yi verbally.

Lin Yi looked at Jian Ai hesitantly, as if he didn't understand why she suddenly said this.

Jian Ai pursed her lips and looked at Lin Yi. "I think you've become a little... sensitive in the past few months?"

Jian Ai frowned slightly when she said this. Then, she shook her head and denied it. "It's not that you're sensitive. It's just that I feel a strong pressure from it. In short, you've changed from the past."

"Changed from the past?" Lin Yi frowned and smiled. He looked at Jian Ai and said, "Because I didn't like you in the past."

Jian Ai: "..."

Lin Yi said this easily, but to Jian Ai, it was like a thousand kilograms of burden.

She knew she was the reason Lin Yi had changed so much.

"Lin Yi, if it's because of me, I think there's no need." Jian Ai gritted her teeth and said in a low voice, "You're not worth changing for anyone. In the past, you were sunny, carefree, warm, and talkative. That was an especially important shining point on you. Only then would you be good."

"Because of me, I feel your caution, your paranoia, and even your... inferiority complex?" Jian Ai looked at Lin Yi seriously and tried her best to think of words to minimize the damage. Then, she continued, "I don't know if my feelings are right, but these are my real feelings. You're so outstanding. If you become like this because you like me, I'll feel guilty. Do you know that?"

Hearing Jian Ai's words, Lin Yi panicked a little because the feeling Jian Ai mentioned was also his own.

However, Lin Yi didn't expect that his mental activity had infected others. Even Jian Ai had completely noticed it.

"Jian Ai, you're right. The more I know you, the better I think you are. I'm not worthy of you!" Lin Yi whispered.

Lin Yi even felt that other than his family background being superior to Jian Ai's, everything else about him was not worth mentioning. His family background was not something he could choose. It was something his parents brought him, and it had nothing to do with him.

As such, Lin Yi felt he was useless.

Jian Ai shook her head helplessly and looked at Lin Yi. "People can't be compared because everyone's lives are different. Their choices are also different. There's no comparison."

"As long as you're kind enough, motivated, and sincere enough, you can be worthy of anyone."

"Including you?" Lin Yi looked into Jian Ai's eyes and asked sincerely, "Do you think I'm worthy of you?"

"Of course!" Jian Ai said without thinking, "Of course you're worthy of me. What's there to be puzzled about?"

However, in the next second, Jian Ai felt she had to make things clear. "But Lin Yi, you still have to understand that being worthy is one thing, but feelings are another! There are too many people in the world who are worthy of me. It's impossible for me to be with these people just because they're worthy. Relationships are between two people. It's your business if you like me. I don't think I have the right to tell you not to like me because relationships are emotional. If everyone could remain rational about relationships, I wouldn't have said so much to you today."

"You're very good, and I'm very happy and honored that you like me. But Lin Yi, I can only say that I liked you before. We missed each other, right?"

Lin Yi looked at Jian Ai with a slightly pained expression. Even though there were ten thousand voices in his heart telling him not to ask, he still asked, "So you can't go back to the past?"

At this moment, Jian Ai looked at Lin Yi's expression and felt a sharp pain in her heart. She had always felt that being liked was an exceptionally blissful thing. Now, she understood that happiness had to be built on mutual feelings.

With her relationship with Lin Yi, rejecting him made her feel like a sinner.

However, in the end, Jian Ai nodded. "I'm sorry, Lin Yi. That past is too far away for me!"

So far that... she could no longer grasp the feeling and temptation of liking him once.