

At School 201

Chapter 201: Swallow This Breath First

Zhonglou District's Fourth Hospital.

Liu Yong almost lost his life from Jian Ai's beating. When he was sent to the hospital, he was already on his last breath. He had been hospitalized for a few days now and only woke up this afternoon.

On the hospital bed, a thick layer of gauze was wrapped around his head, revealing only two eyes whose swelling had just subsided. His neck was stiff, and Liu Yong couldn't move even though he wanted to.

On the chair at the side sat a middle-aged woman who was covering her face and crying. Although the woman was almost forty years old, she had maintained her looks well and was still charming. It was just that her heart ached for her injured and unconscious son. She even washed her face with tears every day. As such, her eyes were red and swollen, and her face was filled with fatigue.

The man standing in front of the window glared at her impatiently and said unhappily, "Alright, stop crying!"

This person was the boss behind Starlight Bar, Liu Yong's father, Liu Zhigang.

Liu Zhigang was tall and burly, and he had a fierce look on his face. His exposed arm had a terrifying tattoo. This person had quite a bit of face in the Zhonglou District. Besides opening two bars, he was also secretly a moneylender who had a group of hired thugs beside him. Usually, no one dared to provoke them, and whoever saw them would have to show courtesy.

However, Zhonglou District was only slightly richer than South City District in the economically developed Baiyun City. It was nothing compared to Haicheng District and Wanbao District.

As the saying went, crafty people existed in remote and backward villages. Liu Zhigang was the local tyrant of the Zhonglou District and had been tyrannical in this area for many years. Although there was not much development, he had done many illegal deeds.

Sun Fang stopped crying when she heard Liu Zhigang's words. She looked at him with eyes that were as swollen as walnuts. "Husband, it's been so many days. Didn't you find her?"

Over the past few days, Sun Fang had already interrogated him countless times.

Liu Zhigang sighed but his tone softened. "Alright, Fangfang, don't bother about this matter. I have my own plans."

As a father, how could he not feel heartache when his son got beaten up? If it were in the past, he would have found that person even if he had to dig three feet into the ground to take revenge.

But... But...

He could not afford to offend that person!

As if she had noticed Liu Zhigang's perfunctory attitude, Sun Fang immediately said anxiously, "What's your plan? I think you just want your son to be bullied for nothing."

“What are you talking about?!” Liu Zhigang’s face turned fierce as he said angrily, “My son was beaten up like this in my own bar. Do you think I feel good?”

But what if he felt uncomfortable?

He would have to hold it in obediently.

As long as it was someone he could afford to provoke, why would he remain indifferent after so many days? This was clearly not his style.

However, Liu Zhigang knew that it was useless. Sun Fang only had eyes for her son, who had been beaten up badly. She didn’t relent and said, “I don’t care. If you don’t help your son get back at her, I’ll call the police. I don’t believe the police won’t care!”

“Please, can you not get involved?” Liu Zhigang had a helpless look on his face, but he didn’t dare to say anything. He could only soften his tone and coax his wife. “We really can’t afford to offend that person. Are you going to throw me into this as well?”

“Why don’t you think about it? Without some background, who would dare to touch my son in my bar?”

“We’ll take this lying down for now. However, I promise you that if there’s a chance in the future, I’ll help my son vent his anger, okay?”

When Sun Fang heard Liu Zhigang’s words, she knew that she had met a tough nut. Although she was unwilling, she could only nod after Liu Zhigang coaxed her.

However, when she turned around and saw her son lying on the hospital bed like a mummy, she couldn’t help but cry again. Seeing this, Liu Zhigang could only sigh in his heart.

People said that women were made of water, but his wife was simply made of waterfalls.

Chapter 202: Entering the Village

After school, Xia Qinghuan, Jian Ai, and Guan Tao got on the bus to South City together.

As soon as she got into the car, Xia Qinghuan looked around with wide eyes, her face full of curiosity.

Seeing this, Jian Ai smiled helplessly and asked in a low voice, “You haven’t taken this before?”

Xia Qinghuan nodded excitedly.

The daughter of the Xia Group always traveled by her family car when heading out. There were countless luxury cars in the garage at home, so why would she take the public transport?

Let alone buses, Xia Qinghuan could count the number of times she sat in a taxi with her fingers.

The bus moved and stopped. Xia Qinghuan found it quite interesting. Also, this direction was the complete opposite of her house. After half the bus ride, the buildings became older and the streets became narrower.

As soon as they entered Zhonglou District, Xia Qinghuan could not help but say, “So Zhonglou District is so dilapidated.”

“Is this your first time in Zhonglou District?” Guan Tao was a bit surprised and asked with a shocked expression.

Xia Qinghuan nodded without hesitation.

Guan Tao: “...”

Jian Ai: “...”

Guan Tao and Jian Ai couldn't help but look at each other, thinking that this was too exaggerated.

She was a local of Baiyun City, after all. Although Zhonglou District's economy was behind, it was still neighboring Haicheng District. Furthermore, there were many tall buildings, so it was not considered dilapidated.

This was the first time Xia Qinghuan had come to Zhonglou District in fourteen years...

Jian Ai could not help but take a look at Xia Qinghuan and gave her a heads-up. “That's not all. When we reach South City, you'll know what true dilapidation is.”

Xia Qinghuan smiled indifferently and thought to herself, “Everyone knows that South City is a slum. Even if they haven't been there, they're already mentally prepared.”

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Twenty minutes later, when Xia Qinghuan stood at the junction and looked at the short flat houses, fences, and courtyards that could be seen everywhere, as well as the potholes on the big dirt road, she froze on the spot as if someone had poked her aperture.

Had she...

Entered a village?

Jian Ai and Guan Tao looked at the dumbfounded Xia Qinghuan and couldn't help but look at each other and smile. Guan Tao was the first to say, “Miss Xia, South City welcomes you.”

Gu gu gu...

An old hen passed them by leisurely. The corners of Xia Qinghuan's mouth twitched imperceptibly.

“Let's go. My house is just in front.” Jian Ai did not tease her. Instead, she naturally pulled Xia Qinghuan's hand and walked home together.

After a while, Xia Qinghuan came back to her senses. The shock in her eyes faded, and it was replaced with curiosity and scrutiny.

South City was an old district. Although it was poor, the population was very dense. Therefore, once it was demolished, these people would flood into the city in batches.

Under the tree by the road, on the stone bench at the entrance of the courtyard, older people could be seen everywhere. Occasionally, a mud-covered child would run past.

Looking at the small and dark houses, Xia Qinghuan's heart thumped. Jian Ai and Guan Tao had grown up in such an environment.

Xia Qinghuan was born into a top-notch noble family, so she naturally had never seen the suffering of the people at the bottom. At that moment, her emotions were complicated, and she felt a lingering heat from shock.

When they reached Jian Ai's house, Guan Tao bade farewell to the two of them and went home. Jian Ai explained to Xia Qinghuan, "Guan Tao's parents get off work relatively late. Usually, after she finishes school, she'll go home and cook dinner for Uncle and Auntie."

Xia Qinghuan nodded with a blank expression, and she felt an indescribable sadness in her heart.

Although she had become good friends with Jian Ai and Guan Tao, she had never really understood them.

After bringing Xia Qinghuan into the house, Chen Jin stuck his head out of the kitchen as usual. When he saw Jian Ai return with a girl, he was first stunned, but then he smiled and greeted, "You're back!"

Chapter 203: Actually Chasing After Celebrities

Xia Qinghuan knew that Jian Ai had a brother, but she still asked in a low voice to confirm, "Is this your brother?"

Jian Ai's expression froze. Chen Jin was three years older than her, therefore he was indeed her brother. She nodded slightly. "He's not my biological brother."

That was the only way she could describe it. Otherwise, she wouldn't know how to introduce Chen Jin to Xia Qinghuan.

Hearing this, Xia Qinghuan smiled and greeted Chen Jin, "Hello, Brother."

Chen Jin acted naturally. He nodded at Xia Qinghuan with an easygoing expression and didn't say anything before retreating to the kitchen.

"Sit anywhere," Jian Ai said as she went to the table to pour a glass of water.

Xia Qinghuan sat down on the sofa and couldn't help but look around Jian Ai's house.

The entire house was probably not as big as her room, but it was very clean. Everything was tidied up, and the appliances that she should have were also present.

"It's going to be demolished soon here. My family bought a new house in Haicheng District, but it's not renovated yet," Jian Ai casually said as she sat down.

"Really?" Xia Qinghuan was delighted to hear that. "Then, we'll be living nearby in the future."

Jian Ai smiled and nodded. She reached out her hand. "Let me see the script. I haven't seen it yet."

She initially thought the script would be the same as in the novel, but when Jian Ai flipped it open, she realized that there was almost nothing else besides the lines.

Some important lines would at most label the feelings needed for this line in brackets.

It looked tedious.

Xia Qinghuan had already marked out her lines in colored pens. As the third female lead, the number of lines she had was naturally not as much as the first and second female leads. However, for Xia Qinghuan, who was filming for the first time, it was not considered a small amount.

Fortunately, it was a youth drama, and the role played was about the same as Xia Qinghuan herself. The acting requirements were not that high, so as long as she was not too stiff, there should be no problem.

Xia Qinghuan chose a few more emotionally charging segments and Jian Ai helped her analyze them bit by bit. The two of them often exchanged opinions, and it was quite smooth.

“Let’s eat first!”

At this moment, Chen Jin had already finished cooking. He looked at the two people who were engrossed in their discussion and greeted them.

Xia Qinghuan did not stand on ceremony. She washed her hands and went to the dining table.

“Why didn’t I see Auntie and your brother?” Xia Qinghuan asked, puzzled.

Jian Ai said calmly, “My mother just finished her surgery. My brother has been taking care of her in the hospital these days.”

At this moment, Chen Jin raised his eyes to look at the script on the table and asked curiously, “What were the two of you looking at just now?”

“A script.” Jian Ai smiled and looked up at Chen Jin. “Qinghuan is going to film. The female lead is Yun Buyao.”

Hearing Yun Buyao, Chen Jin was stunned.

When he came back to her senses, he said agitatedly, “Really? Yun Buyao?”

Xia Qinghuan nodded repeatedly. From Chen Jin’s appearance, she knew that he also liked Yun Buyao.

“Are you her fan too? I admire her too!”

Chen Jin nodded fervently with a silly look on his face. His look of a fanboy was obvious. “Oh, she’s a goddess. Can you help me get her autograph?”

“No problem. If you’re free, I can take you around the production team!” Xia Qinghuan was exceptionally passionate when she saw someone of her own kind.

“Alright, alright!” Chen Jin agreed.

Jian Ai: “ ...”

She didn’t expect Chen Jin to actually chase after celebrities? She really couldn’t tell!

After a while, Chen Jin and Xia Qinghuan talked about Yun Buyao’s works. Jian Ai had not even seen some of them, but Chen Jin did.

It seemed that he was a true fan.

Chapter 204: Accompany Me to the Team

After the meal, they all sat on the sofa and read the script together.

Jian Ai and Xia Qinghuan discussed the roles, while Chen Jin looked at the two of them.

“When will the filming start? What if you’re supposed to be in school?” Jian Ai suddenly looked at Xia Qinghuan and asked.

Erzhong was a traditional Chinese school, unlike the foreign high schools that only had two classes in the afternoon. Erzhong had four classes in the afternoon, and it would be five or six in the evening when school ended.

“Filming starts on the first of May. When we’re in school, I’ll go to the production team after school.” Xia Qinghuan pursed her lips and said, “It must be hard, but I like it. It’s worth it.”

Jian Ai shook her head helplessly. It had been some time since she became friends with Xia Qinghuan, and they were tablemates. After interacting with her, she more or less understood Xia Qinghuan’s character. This lady was completely different from typical rich young ladies. She had her own views and ideas.

Since she really liked acting, Jian Ai believed that she could persist.

After a while, Xia Qinghuan suddenly raised her eyes to look at Jian Ai. The stars in her eyes flickered, but Jian Ai felt that there was a conspiracy.

“What...”

Jian Ai felt her scalp tingle and she frowned.

Xia Qinghuan chuckled and leaned towards Jian Ai, whispering, “Jian Ai, be my assistant, okay? Accompany me to the production team. I’ll give you a salary!”

Jian Ai: “...”

What the hell was that idea?

Without thinking, she shook her head and rejected, “I don’t want to.”

“Oh...” When Xia Qinghuan heard this, she immediately hugged Jian Ai’s arm and started to act spoiled. “I’m begging you. Those playing smaller roles than me have an assistant and manager accompanying them to the production team.”

Jian Ai rolled her eyes. “Your family is a huge entertainment company. Are you still lacking an assistant? Why don’t you ask your father to give you one or two?”

Xia Qinghuan pursed her lips. “I’ve said it, but my father didn’t give one to me. He just wanted me to suffer so that I would back off.” As soon as she finished speaking, she shook Jian Ai’s arm hard. “Help me put on a show. I’ll give you a salary!”

“I have plans for the first of May. I’m going overseas.” Jian Ai was helpless and explained, “Besides, I’m just a fourteen-year-old girl. How would I help? I’m just going to be a joke!”

As she spoke, Jian Ai glanced at Chen Jin, who was looking at the script. Her eyes lit up. "Let him accompany you!"

Although Chen Jin was only seventeen years old, the childishness on his face had already faded. He was 1.75 meters tall, so he was not considered short. He was still more intimidating than a fourteen-year-old girl like her.

Chen Jin looked up with a confused expression. "Huh?"

Xia Qinghuan reacted and was delighted. "Alright, Brother. Didn't you want to see Yun Buyao? Follow me into the production team, okay?"

Jian Ai added, "There's a salary too."

Xia Qinghuan: "Five hundred yuan a day!"

Chen Jin: "..."

He only received one thousand yuan a month in Starlight Bar, but this girl was going to give him five hundred yuan a day?

He could even see Yun Buyao!

Chen Jin was rather tempted.

However, he could not help but feel a little afraid. "But I've never done such a job before."

It was fine to let him enter the production team to do odd jobs, but he was going to be an assistant now and even pretend to be a manager. He did not know how to do that.

However, Xia Qinghuan did not care. Her request was simple. She needed someone to be by her side when she entered the production team. It was a matter of face. Knowing or not had nothing to do with it.

Even if Chen Jin was standing beside her, it was enough!

Jian Ai comforted him. "It's fine. Just treat it as you're going in to study. Every celebrity has an assistant and a manager. Just take a look at what others are doing."

Chen Jin pursed his lips and struggled internally.

"Really?"

Xia Qinghuan quickly nodded. "Sure!"

Chapter 205: The Past (1)

Haicheng District, Xilong Villa.

The Jian Group had developed residential villas in the prosperous area of Haicheng District, and every inch of land in the district was expensive. The most expensive district was the commercial center. Xilong Villa was built there as a residential area and was so expensive that even ordinary families could not afford it.

Hence, Xilong Villa was also known as the home of rich families. Top-notch families in Baiyun City bought a property there.

Xilong, Alley Four, Number 68, Jian family.

Qiao Shuyi was dressed in light pink casual wear made of silk, and she was leaning against the leather sofa. Her fair skin was without makeup, and her hair cascaded down her shoulders like a waterfall. She had a refined and elegant aura that did not match her age.

“Madam.”

Nanny Xu came out of the kitchen and took a look at Qiao Shuyi, who was leaning on the sofa. Her expression froze, and she slowly said, “The soup is done. We can start eating.”

Qiao Shuyi retracted her gaze from the television and looked up at the clock on the wall.

It was almost eight in the evening, but Changsheng was not back yet.

“Sir is busy with work these few days, so he’s always back late. Madam, why don’t you eat while it’s hot?” Nanny Xu had been in the Jian family for more than ten years and had been taking care of the family since Qiao Shuyi was pregnant. Hence, she was less worried when she spoke.

Sir and Madam were very much in love, with the wife being very reliant on the husband. Even as the husband returned late, she would reveal a melancholic look on her face.

Qiao Shuyi sighed and stood up from the sofa. She said to Nanny Xu, “Leave some food for Changsheng. If he goes out to socialize, he’ll have to eat another meal when he comes back.”

“Madam, don’t worry. I’ve kept them.” Nanny Xu smiled and looked at the stairs on the second floor. Then, she said, “I’ll go up and call Miss.”

Qiao Shuyi nodded slightly and went to the dining table for her meal.

The Jian family was one of the top-notch noble families in Baiyun City. Their dinner was sumptuous, with eight dishes and a soup. However, Qiao Shuyi sat at the dining table alone and looked at the table full of dishes in a daze. She did not touch her chopsticks for a long time.

Qiao Shuyi was born in a family of scholars in the capital, and the Qiao family was a high-ranking family in the capital. They were involved in both business and politics.

When she was young, Qiao Shuyi was already a socialite in the capital. She was beautiful and had a great temperament. She was also talented, intelligent, and dignified. She had charmed countless men from rich families.

Later, the Jian Group’s business entered the capital, and under a freak combination of circumstances, they formed a good relationship with the Qiao family. To gain a stable footing in the capital, Old Master Jian knew that he had to hold onto the Qiao family, a huge tree that was deeply rooted in the capital.

Hence, he thought of letting his son marry the Qiao family’s daughter.

Qiao Shuyi knew that there was an ulterior motive to this marriage. However, she did not know that although Jian Changsheng was not married at that time, he already had a two-year-old son.

Jian Changsheng loved Wang Yunmei so deeply that they had a two-year-old son. Naturally, he wouldn't listen to Old Master Jian and marry Qiao Shuyi, someone whom he had never seen before.

However, Old Master Jian used the position of the Jian Group's chairman to force Jian Changsheng to submit. To Old Master Jian, even if Wang Yunmei gave birth to a grandson of the Jian family, he would never admit it.

In his eyes, benefits were always above all, and family was no exception.

Jian Changsheng was not the only son in the family. He had an elder sister and a younger brother. It wasn't yet confirmed that he was going to be the next chairman.

In the face of the Jian Group, which was worth over a hundred million yuan at that time, Jian Changsheng was eventually tempted.

Chapter 206: The Past (2)

When Jian Changsheng abandoned Wang Yunmei and their son, Wang Yunmei was already more than a month pregnant. At that time, Jian Ai was in her mother's stomach and had no idea about all of this.

Jian Yu was only three years old. He couldn't remember anything. Hence, he didn't have any impression of Jian Changsheng.

Disheartened, Wang Yunmei took Jian Yu away from the house where she lived with Jian Changsheng and returned to South City to live. After a month, she gave birth to her daughter and named her Jian Ai.

After Jian Changsheng left, he went to the capital. When he was young, Jian Changsheng was so handsome and refined that Qiao Shuyi fell in love with him at first sight. With their parents' help, they got married. Everything seemed to happen naturally.

However, after they got married, Qiao Shuyi felt Jian Changsheng's coldness and alienation towards her. He would only show a smile to her when outsiders were present. In private, except for two or three times a week, he rarely took the initiative to talk to her.

Even so, Qiao Shuyi still loved Jian Changsheng and believed that time would reveal a man's heart.

Because of this, she didn't go out to work and rarely attended cocktail parties and social gatherings in upper-class societies. She stayed at home wholeheartedly and became a good wife for Jian Changsheng.

Fortunately, Qiao Shuyi got pregnant less than two months after the wedding. The baby was born eight months later and was named Yiyi.

Jian Yiyi was less than half a year younger than Jian Ai.

The birth of his daughter made Jian Changsheng's attitude towards Qiao Shuyi change tremendously. Perhaps it was only when he faced his flesh and blood that Jian Changsheng felt like he had a home. The guilt he felt towards Wang Yunmei had almost been obliterated by the passage of time.

Two years later, Qiao Shuyi gave birth to another son, named Jian Yichen.

Qiao Shuyi played a huge role in making her parents-in-law very happy. Jian Changsheng successfully took over the Jian Group and doted on his children very much. He also fell in love with his wife, Qiao Shuyi, over time.

Qiao Shuyi was satisfied and happy to finally receive the response of her loved one. She had been by Jian Changsheng's side for more than ten years, but because of this, she became increasingly dependent on Jian Changsheng.

The Group's business grew, and Jian Changsheng spent less time at home. Their son was with his grandparents, so the father-daughter pair was closer. Their children were also at the age of rebellion, so they rarely spoke to her about their heartfelt emotions.

In the huge Jian family villa, Qiao Shuyi often sat alone in the living room in a daze.

However, she was willing to endure it. Her love for Jian Changsheng could be said to have reached an extremely high level, and she had long lost herself.

Not long after, Nanny Xu came down from the second floor but Jian Yiyi couldn't be seen.

Qiao Shuyi looked up and understood. "Not alright yet?"

Nanny Xu shook her head helplessly. "Why don't you eat first, Madam?"

Qiao Shuyi sighed and nodded. Her daughter was obedient in front of Changsheng, but only she, her mother, knew how arrogant and rebellious her daughter was.

When she reached home after school today, she went upstairs without a word. Seeing her unhappy expression, Qiao Shuyi did not take the initiative to speak to her.

Just as she was about to eat, she heard the door open.

Joy filled Qiao Shuyi's face, and she instantly radiated with vitality. She was like a puppet that suddenly came to life, and she quickly stood up and walked out to welcome him.

Seeing this, Nanny Xu sighed silently.

"Husband, you're back!"

Jian Changsheng had returned.

As Qiao Shuyi went up to help him remove his suit and tie, she asked with concern, "Are you hungry? Nanny Xu just made dinner. I'm about to eat."

Chapter 207: Wanting to Go on a Trip

Jian Changsheng looked at Qiao Shuyi gently. "Didn't I say that if I don't come back before seven in the evening, you can eat first? You don't have to wait for me."

Qiao Shuyi smiled indifferently, and her eyes were gentle. "Nanny Xu prepared dinner late today. I wasn't waiting for you."

Jian Changsheng smiled. He knew that his wife didn't mean what she said.

“Is Yiyi back?” Jian Changsheng asked casually.

Qiao Shuyi nodded and said helplessly, “I don’t know what happened in school, but she came back and went upstairs without a word. She locked herself in her room. Nanny Xu went up to call her but she didn’t come down.”

In the end, she looked at Jian Changsheng with a strange look. “You’ve spoiled her.”

A daughter was meant to be pampered. Jian Changsheng looked up and said, “I’ll go up and take a look.”

Qiao Shuyi nodded slightly. Her daughter was the closest to Changsheng. Whenever she was angry, only Changsheng could coax her.

Jian Changsheng quickly went upstairs, and Qiao Shuyi asked Nanny Xu to heat the dishes.

While the dishes were being heated up, Jian Changsheng brought Jian Yiyi downstairs.

Qiao Shuyi looked up at her daughter. Although she looked a little reluctant, she eventually came down.

Indeed, fathers were the best.

The family of three sat down together. The atmosphere instantly became much warmer. Jian Changsheng scooped a bowl of soup for Jian Yiyi. And with a kind fatherly look, he said, “Eating while still being angry is not good for your health. Let’s not think about it first. Be angry only after you finish eating?”

Qiao Shuyi chimed in, “Yiyi, did you fight with a classmate in school? Or did a teacher criticize you?”

Jian Yiyi didn’t want to say it, so she didn’t know what to say.

She then muttered, “I’m fine. Dad, Mom, let’s eat.”

Jian Changsheng and Qiao Shuyi looked at each other and didn’t say anything.

“Husband, have you been busy at the company recently?” Qiao Shuyi asked casually.

Since Jian Changsheng was often not at home, Qiao Shuyi could only talk to him at night when he was back.

Jian Changsheng smiled. “It’s fine. I mentioned a few projects were in operation before.”

“Wasn’t there a city government land auction a while ago? I didn’t have time to ask you about it. How was it?”

Sighing softly, Jian Changsheng couldn’t help but feel regretful at the thought of the auction. “There was a large piece of land and another one with the best location. Both were good, but another company snatched them away.”

With that, he smiled in relief. “Forget it. Since I didn’t get it, there’s no point in thinking about it.”

Qiao Shuyi was puzzled, but Jian Yiyi, who had not said anything, asked, “Which company was it? Is there a real estate company in Baiyun City that can compete with the Jian Group?”

Qiao Shuyi also chimed, “The Chen family?”

“No.” Jian Changsheng shook his head. “It’s a new company called East Sea Real Estate! I’ve asked someone to check it. It’s a corporation that was registered not too long ago. Its subsidiary only had one million yuan as registered capital, but there’s a lot of liquid capital. The two pieces of land cost more than a hundred million yuan.”

When Qiao Shuyi heard this number, she was also a little shocked, but she didn’t ask further and just nodded lightly.

Then, she turned to Jian Changsheng and said, “Husband, it’s the first of May next week. I’m planning to take Yiyi and Yichen on a trip.”

“Okay!” Jian Changsheng agreed readily. He didn’t forget to care about Qiao Shuyi. “I’m afraid that you’ll be bored if you stay at home every day. It’s good to go out for a walk during the holidays. Do you plan to stay in China or go abroad?”

Qiao Shuyi’s gaze landed on Jian Yiyi as she asked gently, “Where does Yiyi want to go?”

Chapter 208: A Hypocritical Mask

No matter how scheming a child was at this age, she was still a child after all. How could she not like to go out and play?

Jian Yiyi smiled when she heard that she was going on a trip.

“I want to go abroad. Both Australia and Europe are fine!” Jian Yiyi smiled.

“Okay.” Qiao Shuyi smiled and said to Jian Changsheng, “Husband, if you have time, let’s go together?”

Jian Changsheng was about to refuse when Jian Yiyi leaned forward and said, “Dad, come with us! We haven’t gone out to play for a long time. Brother will be happy if he knows this as well!”

Looking at his daughter’s face, he thought to himself that it had indeed been a long time since he last accompanied his wife. It was a good thing that the company was not busy during this period and that the two children were on holiday. If they missed this opportunity, who knew how long they would have to wait for the next time they went out together?

Jian Changsheng’s heart softened, so he nodded. “Okay, Dad will go with you. We’ll go out together as a family.”

“Dad is the best!” Jian Yiyi was delighted. She forgot about her displeasure in school.

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The next morning, as soon as Jian Yiyi entered the school building, a voice called her.

Turning around, she saw Jian Ai leaning against the window on the side of the corridor, looking at her calmly.

Jian Yiyi was stunned but she didn’t show much emotion on her face. As usual, she looked friendly. “Jian Ai, you called me?”

Jian Ai nodded slightly. “Can I talk to you alone?”

There were many students around them, so they instinctively looked at Jian Yiyi a few more times. After all, she was a popular figure in school. Under everyone's gaze, Jian Yiyi couldn't refuse, but when she looked at Jian Ai's expressionless face, she knew that Jian Ai was here for Lin Yi.

Although she didn't reject her, she didn't nod. Instead, she asked, "What is it?"

She ignored the meaning of Jian Ai's words.

Jian Ai sneered in her heart but smiled gently on the surface. "Let's talk in the lecture theater!"

As soon as she finished speaking, not caring if Jian Yiyi was willing or not, Jian Ai grabbed Jian Yiyi's wrist and walked towards the lecture theatre at the end of the corridor.

Jian Yiyi felt a little uneasy. Just as she was about to pretend to cry softly, Jian Ai's cold voice sounded in her ears. "I'm the lowest ranking person in Erzhong. If anyone wants to put on an act, it should be me!"

Jian Yiyi: "..."

This was why Lin Yi was at a disadvantage. Most people would believe Jian Yiyi's pitiful act in front of him.

But to act pitiful in front of Jian Ai? Who in the entire school was more pitiful than Jian Ai?

In a daze, Jian Ai had already brought Jian Yiyi to the lecture theatre at the end of the corridor and closed the door.

Jian Yiyi rubbed her painful wrist. A trace of viciousness flashed across her eyes.

When she looked up, her expression was weak again.

"Jian Ai, you're hurting me."

Hah...

Jian Ai sneered in her heart. She thought to herself, *'How professional. She's still acting?'*

"There's no one else here. You don't have to work so hard," Jian Ai said calmly. She raised her eyebrows at Jian Yiyi and went straight to the point. "We're all classmates. There's no need to do this."

Jian Yiyi snorted in her heart. Indeed, she was here for Lin Yi.

Seeing the ridicule in Jian Ai's eyes, no matter how good Jian Yiyi's acting was, she couldn't continue to pretend even if someone saw through her. Otherwise, wouldn't she become a clown?

Jian Yiyi tore off her hypocritical mask and her smile disappeared. She looked cold.

"What are you trying to say?"

As soon as she spoke, her tone changed.

Chapter 209: If You Can't Get It, Destroy It

Jian Ai smiled but her expression didn't change. She looked at Jian Yiyi and said calmly, "I want to know what you want to do."

Jian Ai had never understood Jian Yiyi's way of thinking. She took advantage of Lin Yi's absence to cause trouble and let the rumors spread, making everyone believe that she was with Lin Yi.

However, a lie was a lie.

Lin Yi had to go back to school eventually, and Jian Yiyi couldn't possibly sing a one-man show for the rest of her life.

Lin Yi didn't like her, so he naturally wouldn't cooperate with her. When the truth came out, she would be the only one to lose face.

So... what was Jian Yiyi up to?

Even someone as meticulous as Jian Ai was stunned because Jian Yiyi's action was like shooting herself in the foot.

Jian Ai didn't hide her expression. Jian Yiyi looked at Jian Ai's eyes and knew that she was puzzled.

A conflicted look flashed across her eyes, and for the first time, Jian Yiyi spoke the truth. "I misunderstood something. I thought Lin Yi liked me."

Jian Ai was enlightened by her words.

The knot in her heart that was filled with question marks instantly resolved.

Jian Ai said, "So you let public opinion ferment, and then you decided that since Lin Yi *liked* you, you wanted to use everyone's help to force Lin Yi to confess to you sooner?"

Jian Yiyi looked up at Jian Ai and didn't say anything.

It was considered a silent agreement.

"What did you misunderstand?" Jian Ai frowned curiously. Jian Yiyi had transferred here for less than a month, and they were all present when she was with Lin Yi. She didn't think Lin Yi had shown any signs of liking Jian Yiyi.

Jian Yiyi pursed her lips. Although she was a little embarrassed to say it, it was impossible to stop now that Jian Ai had seen through her. It was meaningless even if she didn't say it.

"When the villa caught fire, Lin Yi risked his life to return to the fourth floor for a fountain pen. I heard this by accident."

Jian Ai: "..."

On Lin Yi's birthday, she and Jian Yiyi both gave him a fountain pen.

So, Jian Yiyi misunderstood that Lin Yi went back to look for the one she gave him?

"If you knew that it was a misunderstanding, why didn't you explain?" Jian Ai lowered her tone. After all, Jian Yiyi was just a fourteen-year-old girl. "Yesterday at the cafeteria, as long as you nodded, everything would have been resolved."

Because of Jian Yiyi's refusal, such a simple matter became such a complicated situation.

Jian Ai's attitude softened slightly so that Jian Yiyi was less guarded against her. But the dark side of her heart gradually appeared. She smiled and sneered. "Why should I nod?"

Jian Ai frowned and saw the disdain in Jian Yiyi's eyes. She continued, "Everyone thought that we were together. Why would I nod at that time?"

"What about Lin Yi? Didn't you think about him?" Jian Ai couldn't believe it. Jian Yiyi's sudden change surprised her.

Jian Yiyi saw this and mockingly smiled at Jian Ai. "If he doesn't like me, why should I think about him?"

Jian Yiyi's expression changed. She raised her eyebrows indifferently and said in a relaxed tone, "If you can't get it, destroy it."

Her tone was cold and indifferent.

However, in the next second, Jian Yiyi couldn't laugh.

The ridicule on Jian Ai's face intensified. A... recording pen had appeared in her hand!

Chapter 210: Hold On

"You..."

Jian Yiyi was shocked and angry. She looked at the white recording pen in Jian Ai's hand and was speechless.

Jian Ai was usually a person of few words. Even after she became friends with Xia Qinghuan, she never showed off. Jian Yiyi never expected that she would fall for Jian Ai's trap.

For a moment, she felt angry in her chest. She glared at Jian Ai with her big eyes. "You were pretending just now!"

Shock, surprise, and gentleness matched her emotions.

They were all fake. She was so good at pretending but she still ended up getting tricked by Jian Ai!

Jian Ai only curled her lips and revealed a playful smile. "The same goes for you. Since you like to act so much, there has to be a supporting role, right?"

As she spoke, she asked, "My acting skills are not bad, right?"

At this moment, Jian Ai seemed to have changed into a completely different person from what Jian Yiyi remembered.

She hid it even deeper than she did. Usually, Jian Ai would shrink into a nobody, but she was such a calculative person.

Without waiting for Jian Yiyi to speak, Jian Ai said, "Your immature tricks can fool some blind fools, but those of us who know Lin Yi know what you're up to."

“You couldn’t force Lin Yi to confess, so you wanted to put Lin Yi in front of everyone to help you accept everyone’s curses so that you can retreat unscathed?”

Jian Ai shook her head with a look of pity. “Dream on!”

“What do you want?!” Jian Yiyi gritted her teeth. She no longer looked as gentle as before.

Jian Ai snorted with a mocking look on her face. “I don’t want to do anything. I just want to clear Lin Yi’s name. No one is obligated to wipe your ass for what you’ve done!”

As she spoke, Jian Ai looked at the recording pen in her hand indifferently and gradually wiped the expression on her face. “At the cafeteria during lunch is your last chance. If you clarify and apologize nicely, even if everyone despises you in their hearts, they wouldn’t be too harsh on a ‘weak’ girl like you. Otherwise, I’ll take the recording in my hand to the broadcast room and let the entire school hear it. I believe you haven’t forgotten what you said just now. Once your nature is exposed in front of everyone, the image of a goddess that you’ve painstakingly built will collapse. At that time, the gains won’t make up for the losses!”

As soon as she finished speaking, Jian Ai smiled and walked out under Jian Yiyi’s unpredictable expression.

She had already said what she needed to say. Jian Yiyi was a smart person, so she naturally knew what to choose.

“Jian Ai!” Jian Yiyi suddenly said. Jian Ai paused but didn’t turn around, waiting for her to continue.

Ruthlessness filled Jian Yiyi’s eyes, but she said, “If you like Lin Yi, I can give him to you. You don’t have to be so ruthless.”

Jian Ai chuckled as if she had heard something funny. She turned around and didn’t hide the ridicule and disdain in her eyes. She opened her thin lips and said slowly, “Do I need you to give way?”

Jian Yiyi: “...”

She froze on the spot and watched Jian Ai leave the lecture theatre.

Jian Yiyi gritted her teeth and held it in.

She usually enjoyed showing her mask to others. She enjoyed the feeling of deceiving everyone, and this also contributed to her vanity and conceit.

Jian Ai had grasped this point just now. With every word she said, Jian Ai would show a shocked expression to cooperate with her.

As a result, Jian Yiyi looked at Jian Ai’s expression and became smug for a moment. That was why she said, “If you can’t get it, destroy it.”