

At School 36

Chapter 36: Simply Insane

Ding!

When the elevator door opened, Ji Haoyu did not give Jian Ai a chance to speak. He turned around and directly entered the elevator. Jian Ai was about to go forward and grab the elevator door to argue with him when Wang Yunmei caught up and grabbed her.

The elevator door slowly closed. Jian Ai glared at the person inside unwillingly, but Ji Haoyu did not seem angry. Instead, he gave Jian Ai a provocative smile.

“Xiao Ai, forget it. We can’t mess with Young Master Ji...” Wang Yunmei sighed and said to Jian Ai.

Putting aside the fact that they could not afford to offend Ji Haoyu, who would dare to offend him in Baiyun City?

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Jian Ai looked at the tightly shut elevator door and felt a fit of nameless anger in her heart. The first thing she wanted to do after her rebirth was to let her mother leave this place. Everything was under her control, yet someone threw a wrench in the works unexpectedly. And this person just so happened to be someone she could not afford to provoke, Ji Haoyu, the only heir of Ji Group. His status and position were beyond her reach!

“Mom, are you going to stay and be the general manager?” Jian Ai asked Wang Yunmei after she regained her senses.

This happened so suddenly that Jian Ai felt that it was unreal. Ji Haoyu had just handed over the position of the general manager of such a big Yaochi Club to her mother just like that. How was this any different from pulling someone from the streets?

This was not being willful with money, right? This was simply insane!

“Since Young Master Ji said it himself, no one can joke about it. Although Mom has never been a manager, I can only take things one step at a time.” As she said that, Wang Yunmei could not help but squeeze out a smile. “Mom knows that you don’t want me to drink anymore. Don’t worry, once you become a manager, you won’t drink often.”

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After hearing what Wang Yunmei said, Jian Ai nodded. As long as her mother did not drink alcohol every day and could avoid liver cancer, she would agree to anything.

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On the other side, the moment the elevator door closed, the smile on Ji Haoyu’s face completely disappeared.

The phone rang. Ji Haoyu picked it up casually. On the other end, Qiu Jiahao's excited voice could be heard. "Hey, Young Master Ji. How was it? Did you receive the person?"

"No!" Ji Haoyu said coldly, expressionless.

Qiu Jiahao was stunned for a moment. Then, his tone became serious. "What's going on? Didn't she say that she would be flying to Baiyun Airport tonight?"

"I don't know either." Ji Haoyu hid his expression, making it impossible to tell whether he was happy or angry. He said calmly, "Let her be."

Qiu Jiahao couldn't help but sigh. "What should we do then? I even specially prepared a party for her! Why don't you come over yourself? I'll drink with you!"

"You guys have fun on your own. I'm not going." After speaking, Ji Haoyu hung up.

Chapter 37: Breakfast Stall

Because Ji Haoyu's sudden appearance disrupted her plans, Jian Ai couldn't sleep that night. Although her mother had become the general manager of Yaochi Club and didn't need to drink like before, this still wasn't part of Jian Ai's plan. Jian Ai didn't hate this sudden loss of control, but she definitely couldn't accept it.

In a daze, Jian Ai vaguely heard sounds coming from the living room, followed by the sound of the door opening and closing.

She picked up the alarm clock on the bed and looked at it under the night light. It was already three in the morning. Her mother and brother getting up and going to the breakfast stall had caused a commotion earlier on.

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The breakfast stall at home only sold fried dough sticks, fried rice cakes, soy milk, and porridge. Although there weren't many varieties, at least they didn't have to stay up late. The shop selling buns across the street was often busy from midnight.

Jian Ai was no longer sleepy. Thinking that she did not need to go to school the next day, she got up, washed her face, changed her clothes, and went out.

Before dawn, Baiyun City was at its coldest. Because Jian Ai had learned the mental cultivation techniques, she did not notice it. She just habitually tightened her collar and walked towards the breakfast stall under the moonlight.

There were four or five breakfast stalls on the street. Although South City District was a slum, the population density was ranked second in the entire city, and was second only to Haicheng District, the largest economic district. Most of the people here were from poor families. Many of them had to go out to work early in the morning, so although the breakfast stalls at the street sold cheap food, their business was reasonable.

The moment Wang Yunmei entered the breakfast stall, she was shocked. She immediately put down her work and rubbed the remaining flour on her apron.

“Xiao Ai, why are you up? What time is it?”

Wang Yunmei had a worried look on her face. As she spoke, she didn’t forget to close the stall’s door, afraid that the cold wind would blow in.

Jian Yu, who was in the room, poked his head out as well. When he saw his sister, he frowned. “Look at you running around when you have just recovered from a fever. Why are you here so early in the morning instead of sleeping?”

Jian Yu’s tone was full of worry and concern.

“I’m fine. If I can’t sleep, I might as well come over and help,” Jian Ai smiled and said in a relaxed tone.

Seeing that her mother and brother were about to nag at her again, Jian Ai quickly said, “Okay, Mom, I know you and Brother are worried about me, but I’m not made of paper. I don’t need to go to class during the day. I’ll go back to sleep after breakfast with you guys. I really can’t sleep now.”

Wang Yunmei wanted to say something but Jian Yu interrupted her. “Mom, it’s cold outside. Let Xiao Ai stay in the stall.”

Hearing her son’s words, Wang Yunmei thought for a moment before nodding. However, she didn’t forget to remind her, “If you’re tired later, ask your brother to take you back on his bike. The stall is cold too. Don’t sleep here, lest you catch a cold later.”

This was the first time Jian Ai had come to the breakfast stall to help. Usually, her mother would protect her and her brother would dote on her. Jian Ai didn’t even help her wash the dishes and sweep the floor, let alone help in the breakfast stall. Although her family condition was average, Wang Yunmei had always believed that her daughter should be raised well. Fortunately, she wasn’t spoiled by the rich. Jian Ai was also sensible and put all her energy into studying. That was how she succeeded in her previous life.

The three of them busied themselves for a while before dawn broke over the horizon. It was five in the morning.

“Auntie Mei!” At that moment, a shout came from outside the door.

Chapter 38: You’re Auntie Mei’s Daughter, Right?

Wang Yunmei quickly stood up and greeted him. She walked out as she answered, “Liangzi is here!”

The moment the door opened, the person called Liangzi carried a big bucket in. He had a cold aura around him but had a smile on his face. “Auntie Mei, Uncle Wu said that the tofu was pressed well today, so this soy milk is good too.”

After putting down the bucket, Liangzi turned around and went out again. “There’s another bucket, Auntie Mei!”

When the two buckets of soy milk were brought in, the person called Liangzi finally had time to catch his breath. Wang Yunmei liked this child called Liangzi, so she immediately greeted him. "You must be tired, right? I just happened to have oil here. Quickly sit down. Auntie Mei will fry two fried dough sticks for you to eat."

As if they were very familiar with each other, Liangzi didn't stand on ceremony and sat down.

Jian Ai was the one who brought out the fried dough sticks. Liang Zi had never seen Jian Ai before. He was stunned for a moment before he reacted and smiled. "You are Auntie Mei's daughter, right?"

Jian Ai looked at the boy with canine teeth and smiled. "Are you Uncle Wu's son?"

When Liangzi heard this, it was as if he had heard something incredible. He hurriedly widened his eyes and shook his head. "No, no. Uncle Wu's son is my big brother. I was sent by my big brother to help Uncle Wu deliver soy milk to your house every day!"

Although Jian Ai had never met Uncle Wu's son, she was very familiar with Uncle Wu. Uncle Wu's house wasn't far from her own, but it was famous around the area because Uncle Wu's braised tofu was the best. Uncle Wu had people deliver the soy milk he made every day to their breakfast stall. A bowl of soy milk costs thirty cents, and a bucket could be sold for twenty yuan. Uncle Wu only collected two yuan per bucket.

There was no difference in receiving the two yuan. However, Uncle Wu was very considerate. He saw that it was not easy for Wang Yunmei to take care of two children alone, so he wanted to help her. However, if she did not want a single cent, he was afraid that Wang Yunmei would feel uncomfortable, and he was even more afraid that the neighbors would gossip about her. Therefore, he symbolically collected two yuan per bucket.

It turned out that Liangzi was not Uncle Wu's son. Seeing his reaction, Jian Ai could not help but laugh. "You call him big brother. People who don't know might think that Uncle Wu's son is a gangster!"

When Liangzi heard this, he paused. He opened his mouth but didn't say anything. He hurriedly took a bite of the fried dough stick since he didn't want to be scalded, but then he grimaced in pain. He didn't forget to nod and praise, "Delicious. It's so fragrant!"

After eating the fried dough sticks, Liangzi stuck his head out to bid farewell to them. Then, he turned to Wang Yunmei and said, "Auntie Mei, Uncle Wu said that you shouldn't leave later after you've closed your stall. He's coming over to tell you something."

"Alright, take care on the road. Tell Old Wu that I'll be waiting for him in the stall," Wang Yunmei answered.

Not long after Liangzi left, the stall started to serve customers. Wang Yunmei was in charge of fried dough sticks and fried cakes. Jian Yu was in charge of making soy milk and porridge. Jian Ai was in charge of receiving and collecting money.

Many of the guests were residents of this area. Although Jian Ai could not name them, many of them were familiar faces. Naturally, these people recognized Jian Ai. They all knew that Wang Yunmei was pretty, her son was handsome, and her daughter was also beautiful.

"Boss, look at how beautiful your son and daughter are. Your daughter looks exactly like you. She's very pretty and sensible. She'll be filial in the future," a nearby auntie said to Wang Yunmei as she paid the bill.

When Wang Yunmei heard that, she smiled and said, "Thank you, Big Sister, for your kind words!"

The peak hour for breakfast was only two hours. After 8 am, the customers became sparse.

Chapter 39: Demolished

The whole family sat down and started to have their breakfast. At the dining table, Wang Yunmei looked at Jian Yu and wanted to say something. Jian Ai knew that her mother hadn't told her brother about her becoming the general manager of Yaochi Club.

Jian Yu noticed his mother's abnormality. He frowned and asked, "Mom, do you have something to say?"

"It's just..." Wang Yunmei didn't know what to say. To be more precise, she still hadn't reacted yet. She didn't even know if this general manager was something good or bad for her.

In any case, she had promised her two children to resign yesterday. In the end, not only did she not leave the nightclub, but she was even promoted to the position of general manager.

Seeing that her mother couldn't open her mouth, Jian Ai helplessly said, "Yesterday, Mom went to Yaochi to resign. Due to some unexpected circumstances, Mom became Yaochi's new general manager."

"What?" Jian Yu's handsome face was full of surprise. It was obvious that he didn't have time to react. In the end, he laughed. "Don't joke around. How is that possible? Yaochi is the Ji Group's nightclub. How can our mother be the general manager?"

Jian Ai sighed. Not to mention her brother, but even she had not recovered yet.

Seeing the expressions on her mother's and sister's faces, Jian Yu's smile froze on his face. After a while, he carefully looked at Wang Yunmei and asked, "Mom, don't tell me this is real?"

His sister said that his mother became the general manager of Yaochi because of some unforeseen circumstances? What kind of unforeseen circumstances would cause such a thing to happen?

Wang Yunmei nodded slightly and looked at Jian Yu. "Mom knows that this is a bit ridiculous, but Young Master Ji said it at that time, so I had no choice."

"Young Master Ji?" Jian Yu was startled and immediately asked, "The Young Master of Ji Group, Ji Haoyu?"

"Brother, it's a done deal. Mom signed the contract yesterday," Jian Ai took a sip of soy milk and said.

Jian Yu couldn't digest this news for a long time. It wasn't because he felt that the position of a general manager at Yaochi wasn't good, but because his mother becoming the general manager was unbelievable. What kind of attitude did Ji Haoyu have when he handed this position to his mother?

“Oh, Xiao Ai is here too?”

Just as they were talking, a tall figure pushed open the door and entered.

The visitor was dressed plainly. He was tall and burly and looked to be in his forties. He had a crew cut and a clean beard.

“Uncle Wu is here!”

Jian Ai and Jian Yu stood up at the same time. Jian Yu turned around and moved a stool in front of Wu Shaoqi. “Uncle Wu, please sit.”

“Uncle Wu, you haven’t eaten yet, right? I’ll get you a pair of chopsticks.”

Jian Ai was about to enter the kitchen when Wu Shaoqi stopped her. “Xiao Ai, don’t be busy. Uncle Wu already ate. Sit down and eat.”

“Liangzi said earlier that you were looking for me for something?” Wang Yunmei was very familiar with Wu Shaoqi, so she did not waste any time on pleasantries and asked directly, “What is it?”

Jian Yu and Jian Ai also stopped eating and looked up at Wu Shaoqi.

Wu Shaoqi first took a look at the stall. When he saw that there were no other customers, he lowered his voice and said, “I received news yesterday that our South City District is going to be demolished!”

“Ah? Demolished?” Wang Yunmei’s eyes widened in shock.

Wu Shaoqi nodded. “Director Yang of the City Planning Bureau is a regular customer of my shop. He often drives to South City early in the morning to buy my tofu. Yesterday, he came to tell me secretly that our South City District has been listed as a priority for rebuilding.”

Chapter 40: Demolition Was a Good Thing

“No... this South City District is a huge area and there are so many people. How do we rebuild it?” Wang Yunmei asked.

Wu Shaoqi smiled and explained, “It’s impossible to demolish South City all at once. Director Yang said that they would demolish it bit by bit and rebuild it bit by bit. The sooner they start, the sooner they will be demolished. Our area is the closest to Zhonglou District, so we would be one of the first to be demolished.”

“Then I won’t be able to open this breakfast stall anymore?” Wang Yunmei muttered.

“Even my tofu stall that has been open for decades has to be moved, let alone your breakfast stall. That’s why I’m telling you now so that you can plan. Xiao Ai is studying at a good school like Erzong. She would need to spend quite a bit of money!”

As Wu Shaoqi spoke, he stood up. His gaze landed on Wang Yunmei as he said, “Yunmei, think about it first. If you have any difficulties, feel free to ask me. I will help you if I can.”

Wang Yunmei immediately said gratefully, "Old Wu, you've been helping our family in secret all these years. I feel really bad about it."

"Let's not talk about this. I've raised my son all by myself, so I know how difficult it is. It's naturally even more difficult for a woman like you to raise two children. If I can help, I'll help." As he said that, Wu Shaoqi waved his hand. "Alright, I'll go back first. Liangzi will be leaving at nine. The stall can't have no one there."

After sending Wu Shaoqi off, Wang Yunmei sat down and sighed. She muttered, "Why did they suddenly want to demolish the place? There was no news at all."

Jian Ai and Jian Yu looked at each other and then at Wang Yunmei. Jian Ai then said, "Mom, it's a good thing for our family that they are demolishing South City at this time. The timing is just right."

Wang Yunmei froze, not knowing what her daughter meant.

Jian Ai explained, "You're the manager of Yaochi Club now. Although you don't have to drink as much as you used to, you still have to get off work very late, even later than before. You have to wake up early for this breakfast stall. Even if you don't want to be the manager of this club, I don't plan on letting you continue to open this. Now that there are demolition works, the breakfast stall definitely can't be opened. I don't have to say much anymore. This is the first reason."

"Secondly, the good thing about the demolition is that we can receive a demolition fee and a relocation house as well. Our house is not small. The front and back yards are a few hundred square meters. We can get a lot of money. When the new neighborhood is built, we can still receive a relocation house."

"Xiao Ai, how did you know about all these?" Jian Yu was surprised to see his sister talking so much.

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Normally, a child of Jian Ai's age would not know anything about demolition. However, she was very clear about it. There were some things that even he, her brother, did not know.

Jian Ai knew very well that she was a real estate tycoon in the capital in her previous life. She knew about this area very well. Demolition was a good thing for the commoners, and it was also a good thing for city construction unless they met unscrupulous developers. It was precise because of these unscrupulous developers that there were so many demolition disputes.

"Isn't that something everyone knows?" Jian Ai blinked at Jian Yu.

Jian Yu didn't argue with Jian Ai about this. Instead, he looked at Wang Yunmei and said, "Mom, if that's the case, demolition is indeed a good thing for our family."