

Bigoted 451

Chapter 451: Jun Li Was Furious

Jun Li's intense gaze lingered on Qin Shu. "Yes. I saw you leaving the hospital."

Qin Shu didn't know what to say. Jun Li had actually seen her at the hospital.

No wonder he was so insistent that she needed to rest. He even brought her a tonic soup to drink.

"Thank you." She accepted the soup with quivering hands, ladling the warm broth into her mouth.

Sneaking a glance at Jun Li, he looked like he had lost some weight. It was a worrying sight.

"Is he hurting you?" Jun Li asked softly. His voice was light and airy.

"Pardon?" Qin Shu tilted her head in confusion.

Jun Li repeated himself, his words assuming a placid lilt. "He isn't hurting you, is he?"

Only then did Qin Shu understand what Jun Li was asking. "Why do you think so? He treats me very well."

Jun Li's expression turned cold. "If he treats you so well, why would he make you abort the child?"

Although his tone remained light, it carried an edge of barely concealed anger. Anyone who heard him speak would feel their hearts tremble with unease.

Listening to Jun Li, Qin Shu knew that it was all one big misunderstanding. His reaction was curious, however. Why was he so angry?

Hurriedly, Qin Shu explained, "It's not what you think. It was my own choice. The long and short of it is that the child had to be aborted for medical reasons."

Qin Shu's explanation left Jun Li stunned. It took him a few seconds to collect himself. "Does he know?"

Qin Shu shook her head. "I didn't tell him."

Hearing her admission, Jun Li blinked in confusion. "Why didn't you tell him? Has he been forcing himself on you?"

Qin Shu sat where she was, dazed. Jun Li was not acting like himself. He was usually so serene. Unflappable. This angry visage of his was completely alien to her.

His current countenance was a juxtaposition. Angry but gentle. Serene but furious.

After a long while, she asked, "What's wrong?"

"I'm sorry, I just..." Jun Li realized that he had allowed his emotions to get the better of him. "I just... want you to be happy..."

Before he could finish his sentence, the kettle emitted a high pitched whistle.

"I-I'll get the kettle."

Jun Li scurried to the counter and poured the hot water into several thermos bottles.

Qin Shu watched Jun Li store the hot water in thermos bottles, unsure of what to think. Jun Li was behaving abnormally.

Once he had completed his self-appointed task, Jun Li returned to his seat on the sofa.

The commotion woke President Ba who had been sleeping on the balcony. Sniffing the air tentatively, he discovered the familiar scent of his mistress. "Meow! Meow!"

Just as President Ba was about to leap onto Qin Shu's lap, Jun Li stopped him with a scoop of his arms. "Behave yourself."

President Ba shrunk in on himself like a child whose parent had issued him a stern warning. Looking properly chastised, Jun Li released President Ba and washed his hands in the sink.

All of this happened in a split second.

President Ba sat obediently on the sofa. His dark green eyes peering pitifully at Qin Shu. He did not dare to utter a sound – not with Jun Li still closeby.

By the time he rejoined her on the sofa, Qin Shu had already finished her soup. Retrieving the empty bowl, he asked, "Would you like some more?"

Qin Shu shook her head. "No." She eyed the soup thoughtfully. "This soup..."

"I brought it from home. There's still some soup left. You can heat it up again later when you're hungry." Bending down, he cleaned the used bowl.

Studying Jun Li intently, Qin Shu could not help but find his actions baffling. Why was he taking such great care cleaning her used utensils?

Jun Li cleared the empty bowls and used chopsticks. Something in him had changed. It seemed like a veil of tranquillity had shrouded him. "You should rest. I'll head back now."

Bidding his goodbyes, Jun Li saw himself out the door.

Qin Shu stared numbly as Jun Li left. It took her a while to break free from the image of his departing figure.

"Beep!" A notification signalling that she had received a new message sounded.

Picking up her phone, she noticed it was a message from Jun Li.

Jun Li: I just don't want you to suffer.

Qin Shu gripped her phone tightly, moved by his message.

Jun Li had always been good to her, waving it off as a result of her looking like his sister. She was sceptical, however. Not even her own brother treated her as well as he did...

Outside the apartment...

Jun Li put away his phone, basking in the sun's warmth. He felt like he was on cloud nine.

For the next two days, Qin Shu stayed in her apartment and did not venture out. Gu Yan's words echoed in her mind like a mantra; repeating the importance of keeping up her health.

In these two days, Jun Li delivered her three meals.

It was the same that day.

Qin Shu sat on a chair wearing her home clothes. She waited for Jun Li to set the table. When he was done, they sat opposite of each other and partook in their meal.

They ate in companionable silence. Midway through their meal, Qin Shu asked, "Are you nice to me because your sister and I look alike?"

Jun Li's grip on his chopsticks tightened. Meeting her hesitant gaze, he smiled. "You can try it if you'd like."

Qin Shu chewed on her food, trying to puzzle out the meaning hidden in his words.

Seeing her pensive expression, Jun Li prompted her with a hint, "Have you ever wanted a brother who would spoil you senseless?"

"Of course I have. I think it's a wonderful thing to have a brother who spoils you."

Jun Li nabbed a rib off his plate and placed it into her bowl. "Then don't think too much. Eat more. You're so thin. You really need to take better care of your body."

"Okay." Qin Shu clenched her chopsticks and chomped on her food, putting her thoughts aside for the moment.

Smiling happily, Jun Li delighted in the gusto with which she devoured her food.

Jun Li accompanied Qin Shu on the balcony after lunch. There they basked under the sun for a time, content in each other's company.

Having enjoyed some sunshine, Qin Shu's cheeks were rosy and a thin coating of perspiration gleamed on her skin and hair. Jun Li brushed his hand against her seaweed-like hair, playing with the strands that hung lazily on both sides of her cheeks and down her shoulders. It was silky and smooth to the touch.

Qin Shu froze.

Was Jun Li caressing her hair?

Jun Li chuckled and said with a dotingly, "I've wanted to do this for a long time."

"Hmm?" Qin Shu raised her head and looked at Jun Li questioningly.

Jun Li regarded her with an expression of tenderness. "I used to love rubbing her hair like this. Her hair was soft like silk and fluttered in the wind much like yours."

Qin Shu knew who he was talking about. He was referring to his sister – his sister he hadn't seen in seven years.

Retracting his hand, he whispered, "Rest well."

Then, he turned around and left.

Qin Shu saw him out, standing vigil at the door till she could not see Jun Li's anymore. When he was no longer in sight, she closed the door wistfully.

Ye Luo called in the afternoon.

"Young Madam, Qin Hai has been sent to the mental hospital."

Chapter 452: The New Roommate Is very Special

Qin Hai raved and ranted at the mental hospital. His barbed words were unpleasant to the ears. Qin Shu, as the victim of her father's anger, weathered the storm of his words quietly with her head bowed.

Ye Luo stood silently at one side. He was not comfortable intervening in the private affairs between father and daughter.

Qin Shu: "Where is Mu Lan? What about her daughter?"

Ye Luo: "I'm looking for them. We'll discover their whereabouts soon."

Qin Shu: "Let me know when you find them."

Ye Luo: "I will."

A cold glint flashed in Qin Shu's eyes. She would not let Mu Lan and her daughter off so easily.

Around four in the afternoon, the doorbell rang.

Thinking it was Jun Li who had come calling, Qin Shu opened the door to her apartment without hesitation. Instead, she was greeted by the sight of a slender man wearing a white shirt and a pair of black pants. Standing at 1.75 metres, he was not particularly tall.

The man's hair was cropped short into a neat cut. He sported a mole in a small corner next to his right eye. His skin was as fair as porcelain which, when combined with his shapely eyes and brows, lent him an air of angelic beauty.

Beside him was someone she knew. It was Qiao Ran.

Just as Qin Shu was sizing up the cherubic young man, so too was he studying her.

Qin Shu had been wearing her black-rimmed spectacles for a day now. She needed to get used to wearing them.

Despite having her glasses on, no one would doubt her beauty. Her skin was as pale as jade, smooth and unblemished. It complimented her exquisite looks perfectly.

"Senior Qiao, who is this?" Qin Shu sent Qiao Ran a questioning look.

"Qin Shu, this is Bo Ye, a freshman who will be living in the same apartment as you." Qiao Ran introduced politely.

Qin Shu greeted Bo Ye with a warm smile. "Hello, my name is Qin Shu. It's nice to meet you."

“Likewise. My name is Bo Ye.”

Bo Ye’s voice was cold and indifferent.

Turning to Qin Shu, Qiao Ran said, “You two should try and get to know each other.”

Qin Shu nodded with a smile, “Don’t worry, Senior Qiao. We’ll get ourselves acquainted in no time.”

“I’m glad. I’ll be taking my leave, then. The student council is quite busy at the moment. I should head back to help.” Qiao Ran bade farewell and left.

“Come in, Bo Ye.” Qin Shu made way for him to enter.

Bo Ye walked past her with his password box in hand.

Qin Shu closed the door and followed him in.

“There are a few rooms here. You may pick whichever one you’d like.”

“Thank you.”

Carrying his password box, Bo Ye made for an unoccupied room on the second floor.

Qin Shu followed Bo Ye’s movements with a keen eye. He seemed rather aloof.

Bo Ye rarely ventured out of his room. Though he was not the friendliest person around, he was more than willing to help out whenever he could.

The days passed routinely. Qin Shu noted a certain habit of his. Bo Ye did not eat breakfast.

On a particular day, before leaving the house, Qin Shu gave him a bowl of lean meat porridge and a bottle of soy milk. “You should have something to eat before going out.”

Bo Ye stared at Qin Shu in disbelief. “Is this for me?”

Qin Shu nodded. “Yes, I bought it along the way. It isn’t good for your stomach if you don’t eat breakfast.”

“Thank you.” Bo Ye accepted the food gratefully, parting with a small remonstrance. “You don’t have to buy one for me next time.” Bo Ye stepped out of the apartment with the food in hand.

Qin Shu shook her head and followed him out.

It was the start of a new semester.

Entering her lecture hall, Qin Shu looked around in search of a seat. Her eyes landed on a figure hunched in a corner. Although the figure’s hair was draped over her face in a messy curtain, Qin Shu instantly recognized Ye Xue for who she was with her natural blond hair.

She sat alone.

As she had been busy as of late, Qin Shu did not know how Ye Xue was doing.

She took the empty seat beside Ye Xue and sat down. Feeling a presence close by, Ye Xue curled in on herself like an armadillo.

Qin Shu frowned, seeing her classmate's unusual behaviour. "Ye Xue, what's wrong?"

Ye Xue raised her head, seeking the source of the familiar voice.

"Qin Shu." Her voice trembled in excitement.

Ye Xue did not sound like herself. Worriedly, Qin Shu asked, "Is something wrong?"

Shaking her head, Ye Xue reassured her, "N-no, I-I'm fine. I was just worried about you. I haven't seen you in a long time. I'm glad you're okay..."

Qin Shu giggled at Ye Xue's words. "How have you been?"

"I-I've been well, thank you..." Ye Xue gripped her pen tightly. The professor had arrived and was standing on the podium.

Qin Shu bowed her head and conversed with Ye Xue softly. She felt as if she had returned to the past.

Having met with calamity, Qin Shu thought Ye Xue would be changed irreparably by the experience. Thankfully, no lasting harm to her personality was evident.

They went their separate ways after the lecture since they were taking different subjects.

The next class...

Qin Shu walked into the classroom and found an empty seat to sit down.

A while later, a person took the seat beside her. It was a tall man with a straight back. When he sat down, his shadow eclipsed her daintier form.

It was Han Xiao.

Seeing him caused her to think of the photo he had sent her a few nights past.

After putting his things down, Han Xiao turned to face Qin Shu. He saw her wearing a pair of black-rimmed spectacles that covered her delicate eyes and brows. It was a shame she was concealing her looks again. "I thought you would be reluctant to leave home."

"Why would I be reluctant? I still have classes to attend. It's not like I've already graduated from university." Qin Shu laughed.

Han Xiao switched on his laptop, getting ready for class. Scrolling through his chat logs from that night, he asked, "Don't you think you and Xiao Budian are a lot alike?"

Qin Shu tilted her head in thought but eventually agreed. "Yes, I do think we share a few similarities."

Han Xiao was not sure what to make of Qin Shu's response. Peering into her limpid eyes, it felt wrong to doubt her. Yet, who else but she could be but his Xiao Budian?

"Are you pretending not to recognize me?"

"I'm not pretending – I'm really not!" Qin Shu shook her head repeatedly. "When I was eleven, my mother did not send me to Qishan. If I had been to Qishan at all, don't you think I would remember?"

“You went to Qishan two years earlier than we did. You were nine when you arrived at Qishan.” Han Xiao corrected.

“Even if this Xiao Budian was there two years earlier than everyone else, it couldn’t have been me.” Qin Shu retorted. She felt lost, not knowing what to say. The reason she always wore makeup was to prevent herself from being mistaken for Xiao Budian. She knew it would be troublesome, otherwise. Albeit, she had underestimated just how much trouble her looks would invite.

“Let’s go to class. You’ve been away for a long time.” Failing to obtain a confession, Han Xiao decided to change the topic. It was enough for him to know that Qin Shu was his Xiao Budian.

Qin Shu shrugged, glad that he had let the matter drop. Han Xiao was right. She had been absent from lectures for far too long.

After school...

On the way back to her apartment, Qin Shu remembered the meeting she had promised Ye Xue she would attend. Spinning on her heel, she headed for the women’s dormitory.

Elsewhere, dorm room 407 was a hubbub of noise.

A few girls were sitting around discussing which campus hunk was the most handsome and charming.

“I think Fu Tingyan is the most handsome. When I looked into his eyes, it felt like a bolt of lightning hit me!”

“No, no! Jiang Yu is the most handsome. Have you seen how athletic he is? He’s the prince of our university’s basketball team!” Lu Yan cried out dreamily.

Ye Xue, who was doing some practice questions, pursed her lips when she heard Lu Yan mentioning Jiang Yu’s name.

“I think your roommate has the hots for him. Are the two of you rivals in love?” A girl chattered slyly in Lu Yan’s ear.

Chapter 453: Avenging Ye Xue

“I think so too. Jiang Yu is rather close to Ye Xue. I even saw him buying her ice cream, once,” another girl chimed in.

Lu Yan sent Ye Xue a withering glare. Although they had been dormmates for a little over a month, it was enough for her to know how weak-willed she was. Ye Xue knew she had a crush on Jiang Yu. Yet, she still had the audacity to snub her. Perhaps it was time for her to learn who her betters were.

“Do you think Jiang Yu likes Ye Xue?” The girl hazarded a guess.

“...”

Lu Yan snorted. “Jiang Yu would not be interested in someone like her. Ye Xue isn’t even fit to carry his shoes.”

Lu Yan did not bother to lower her voice and Ye Xue heard every word she said. Unconsciously, her hands balled into fists.

Seeing her taunt fail spectacularly, Lu Yan hissed angrily and stalked to where Ye Xue sat. With a sharp crack, Lu Yan slammed a fist into the back of Ye Xue's head, sending her careening face-first into her keyboard. "Do you like Jiang Yu?" Lu Yan growled in disgust.

The computer screen flickered and died, its contents presumably deleted by the force of the impact. Ignoring the pain hammering away at her forehead, Ye Xue scrambled to check on her work. All that greeted her was a blank screen. Hours of hard work had gone down the drain just like that.

Infuriated by Ye Xue's lack of response, Lu Yan yanked her hair and forced Ye Xue to look into her eyes. The fact that Ye Xue refused to acknowledge her question rankled her. It was as if Ye Xue was looking down on her.

By the time she felt a painful tug on her hair, it was already too late for Ye Xue to react. Lu Yan's assault forced her backwards and caused her chair to wail in protest as it scraped against the floor.

Lu Yan glared at her menacingly. "I'm asking you a question. Are you dating Jiang Yu? Do you find excuses to seduce him on a daily basis?"

The pain was blinding. She felt like a ragdoll with her hair being wrenched from side to side. If she did not know better, she would have thought Lu Yan was ripping her hair from her scalp. Holding back her tears, she choked out a few words, "I-I'm not... I..."

"Lies! Even now you deny the truth. They all saw you flirting with him. You disgusting vixen! How dare you seduce the man I love?!" Lu Yan practically screamed the last few sentences. Raising her hand, she slapped Ye Xue's pretty face over and over again.

Her swelling cheeks, from being slapped two days before, had yet to subside. Now that she was being slapped again, they instantly swelled; taking on the appearance of two bright tomatoes.

"Lu Yan, she must have done it on purpose. She knows how you like Jiang Yu so she deliberately seduced him with her pitiful wiles."

"Look at her! She's just using her woeful looks to garner Jiang Yu's sympathy."

Lu Yan's two cronies fanned the flames from the side. Neither of them liked Ye Xue much nor did they take kindly to the way she wooed many a male student with her woebegone looks.

"I'm not! Let go of me... Please..." Ye Xue pleas fell on deaf ears as the ever-burning pain in her cheeks would attest. She tried wriggling free but every time she did so, Lu Yan would stop her with a harsh tug of her hair. Ye Xue was in so much pain that her forehead was layered in a thick film of perspiration. She feared what her captors would do to her if she continued to resist.

"Still not confessing, I see. That's alright. We'll have to things the hard way, then. I know of a lot of women like you. You act all innocent, pretending to be meek and helpless when really, you're all wolves in sheep's clothing; playing the damsel in distress to seduce good, honest men."

The more she looked at Ye Xue, the more she grew sickened by her paltry display of helplessness. Lu Yan wanted nothing more than to wipe that loathsome look off her face, permanently. Just as she was about to slap Ye Xue again, the sound of someone knocking at the door echoed.

“Dong, dong.”

Lu Yan paused, turning towards the door.

“I’ll get it.” A tag-along of Lu Yan’s walked over to the door and opened it. The person knocking was Qin Shu.

“Hello, is there someone you’re looking for?”

Qin Shu was not familiar with the girls living on the fourth floor. When an unfamiliar face greeted her at the door, she asked, “Is Ye Xue around?”

“No... She went out to buy something.” Lu Yan was in the midst of teaching Ye Xue a lesson. It would not be good if anyone walked in while the lesson was still being taught.

At this moment, the sound of a chair scraping against the floor resounded from within the room.

Qin Shu peered over the girl’s shoulder in confusion. The door had not been opened completely and only a small gap was visible. Coupled with the girl blocking her view of the room’s interior, Qin Shu could not see anything of note.

“Is there anything else you need?” The girl asked nervously, her eyes darting from side to side.

Qin Shu hesitated for a second but turned away. “I’ll come back later, then.”

Before Qin Shu could change her mind, the girl slammed the door shut in her face and rejoined her friends who were tormenting Ye Xue. “It was some girl who was looking for Ye Xue. I managed to convince her that Ye Xue had gone out.”

Offering the girl a curt nod, Lu Yan turned her attention back to Ye Xue. “Did you think someone was going to save you? Dream on! If you blab on us, I’ll find someone to rape you. Let’s see whether Jiang Yu would ever look at you again. The vile wench that you are.”

Ye Xue paled in fright. Lu Yan had always been a bully – forcing her to finish work that was not hers – but now she was taking things a step further. If these beatings were merely the beginning, how much worse were things going to become?

She could not understand why this was happening to her. Why was Lu Yan treating her like this?

She had only bumped in Jiang Yu that one time. Sure, they might have had a few words but it was not anything intimate.

Tears pooled in Ye Xue’s eyes, threatening to spill over her cheeks. It was getting harder for her to suppress them. She just wanted the pain to stop.

“You’re still crying?” Lu Yan glowered at Ye Xue’s pathetic expression with hate-filled eyes. Jiang Yu must have fallen prey to Ye Xue’s depraved deception. There was no other reasonable explanation that could justify her being so close to him.

With the answer repeating itself in her mind, Lu Yan's fury reached an all-time high. Raising her hand, she wanted to give Ye Xue a lesson she would never forget.

No sooner had she raised her hand than the door was kicked open violently from the outside.

Everyone in the room froze, stunned by the abrupt turn of events. Qin Shu stood at the doorway. Her wintry gaze swept over the inhabitants of the room sending chills down the spines of those who met her eyes.

Ye Xue caught sight of Qin Shu through her puffy, tear-stained cheeks. A glimmer of hope danced in the depths of her eyes.

Along the way back to her apartment, Qin Shu replayed her encounter with the girl who had met her at the door and felt something was fishy. Not in her wildest dreams did she imagine Ye Xue being tortured in her own dorm room.

Her cheeks were badly bruised and swollen. Blood trickled down the corner of her lips and from the wound on her forehead.

No wonder Ye Xue had looked a little strange when she saw her earlier that day...

Qin Shu rushed to Ye Xue's side. "Is this how you usually bully Ye Xue?"

"Stay out of this. You should mind your own business if you know what is good for you. You don't want to end up like her." Despite her words, Lu Yan was actually quite afraid.

"You should worry about yourself." Qin Shu's eyes were cold and stern. She reached out and grabbed Lu Yan's wrist. Exerting a bit of force through her fingers, she snapped Lu Yan's wrist with an audible "crack".

"Ah!" Lu Yan squealed like a pig brought to the slaughterhouse.

Her face took on a ghastly pallor as she struggled and failed to cope with the intense pain emanating from her wrist. The hand gripping onto Ye Xue's hair slackened with her broken wrist.

The two girls were so frightened by the sound of Lu Yan's screams that they cowered in a corner, silent and unmoving.

Qin Shu regarded Lu Yan's pained expression. As much as she did not enjoy resorting to violence, sometimes it was a necessary evil. Snapping Lu Yan's wrist was an adequate punishment in her book since it allowed her to sample some measure of the pain she had inflicted upon Ye Xue.

Staring Lu Yan in the eye, Qin Shu said, "This is only a small taster of all the pain you have done to others..."

With a casual wave of her hand, Qin Shu slapped Lu Yan more than a dozen times. She did not stop slapping her until her face resembled a pig's head, bleeding from multiple orifices. Satisfied with her work, Qin Shu threw Lu Yan to one side as if she was a sack of potatoes.

Lu Yan crumpled onto the floor groaning in pain. Everything seemed to flash in and out of focus.

Having dealt with the main perpetrator, Qin Shu strode in the direction of the two girls. When they saw Qin Shu marching over, their faces turned as white as a sheet and they tried to make themselves as small as they could.

Chapter 454: Reversing Black and White

Seeing them cower in fear, Qin Shu sneered, “The two of you weren’t afraid when you bullied Ye Xue, were you? So why are you both acting like cowards now?”

Qin Shu grabbed the girl who had answered the door. The girl was so scared that she confessed, “Don’t hit me. I didn’t hit Ye Xue. Only Lu Yan did. She always torments Ye Xue. P-please, let me go...”

“You’re an accomplice – that makes you just as guilty as Lu Yan.” hissed Qin Shu.

Lifting the girl’s chin, Qin Shu slapped the girl black and blue.

She did the same to the other miscreant quivering at her side.

In the hallway, a large crowd of students had gathered to watch the show. Loud voices ricocheted off the walls. Some egging on the participants to the conflict, while others shouted for help from the professors and lecturers of the university.

Qin Shu eyed the three girls who were crying and shook her head. They had received their just desserts.

Walking over to Ye Xue, Qin Shu examined her wretched form. Her hair was in a mess, her cheeks were puffy and red, and tears pooled in her eyes. She sighed.

Straightening Ye Xue’s hair and wiping off the blood-stained mouth, she gently reproached her friend. “Why didn’t you say anything? Don’t you know how to stand up for yourself? Even if you can’t beat them, you can’t just let them roll over you like that. Bullies hit hardest when they know their victims won’t retaliate.”

Ye Xue sobbed quietly as she listened. She had been trying so hard to fend off her tears but the words of her friend struck home, unleashing the torrent of tears she had dammed up.

Qin Shu jabbed in the direction of the three girls and said, “See? The next time someone bullies you, just do as I did and hit them back. Don’t be wishy-washy in the way you handle bullies. If you can’t do it, I’ll do it for you. That’s what friends are for, right?”

Ye Xue wailed into Qin Shu’s shoulder, her tears falling in a seamless cascade of emotions. It felt like her pent up frustrations were being unleashed all in one go. It hurt. It really, really hurt. Yet, it also evoked an indescribable sense of warmth.

“Alright, let’s get you to the infirmary. It’ll probably have something for the swelling.”

Slinging Ye Xue’s arm over her shoulder, Qin Shu supported Ye Xue out of the room and towards the infirmary.

The crowd outside parted as they hobbled past.

A while later, a professor and a lecturer rushed over to attend to the three girls who had been beaten up.

Part of Lu Yan's arrogance stemmed from the fact that she was a niece to one of the university's lecturers.

Seeing his niece all battered and bruised, the lecturer rushed her to the hospital.

The other two girls were sent to the hospital together in an ambulance.

Once Lu Yan had taken some painkillers, the lecturer asked her what happened.

Lu Yan blamed the whole incident on Ye Xue and Qin Shu, shedding crocodile tears and pretending to be miserable.

"Uncle, Ye Xue and Qin Shu attacked me! They were jealous of my beauty. Look at what they have done! Not only did they disfigure me but also rendered me lame in one arm. It hurts so much..."

Lu Yan yowled hysterically. Despite being dosed heavily on painkillers, she acted out a convincing skit dramatizing her suffering.

When the lecturer saw how much pain she was in, his heart ached and he believed her without a second thought.

"Rest and recover. I shall have a word with the dean. We can't have such barbaric students loitering on campus. They'll be expelled, I assure you. Don't worry. If I have my way, I'll make sure they compensate you fully for all your medical expenses."

The lecturer stalked out of the ward angrily. He could not let such an injustice stand. He needed to speak to the dean as soon as possible.

With her uncle dancing in the palm of her hand, Lu Yan did not believe that Qin Shu and Ye Xue would trouble her any further. How could they if they were both expelled, after all?

A smug smile tugged at Lu Yan's lips. There was no way Qin Shu and Ye Xue would not be expelled for what they had done to her.

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The outraged lecturer returned to the university with a chest full of grievances and marched to the dean's office with purposeful strides.

The dean's office...

The lecturer parroted Lu Yan's words with righteous indignation, repeating himself for good measure.

"Dean, those students ought to be expelled! If they're beating up fellow students now, just imagine what they might do in the future. The reputation of the Imperial University is at stake!

The dean listened with a pensive look donning his face. "Expulsion is a serious matter. It is only ever a last resort." the dean frowned.

“With all due respect, you didn’t see how badly those three girls were beaten up. If we had arrived any later they could have died. Think of what the press would say! The reputation of the Imperial University would be tarnished beyond repair.”

The lecturer noticed the dean’s hesitation and decided to add fuel to the fire. Any institution of repute would be wary of the press. A few well-placed reviews could either make or break the university’s reputation.

The dean took the words under advisement and said, “Very well. You have my endorsement. The two offenders shall be expelled. Hopefully, they will reflect on their actions and become better individuals with this expulsion.”

“Yes. You’re right, esteemed dean. We can only pray that they won’t make the same mistake again.”

Satisfied with the dean’s verdict, the lecturer took his leave and stepped out of the office.

The first person he called was his niece, Lu Yan, to inform her of his success.

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“Qin Shu thank you for your help. If not for your timely intervention, I wouldn’t have gotten away with just minor injuries,” whispered Ye Xue as she nursed her aching cheeks.

“There’s no need for thanks. We’re friends. Just... Don’t let them use you as their punching bag. Fight back.”

The world is a cruel place – and crueller still to those unwilling or unable to stand up for themselves. Bullies preyed on the weak but feared to take action against the strong. Therefore, it was imperative never to show weakness in the face of a bully.

“I understand. The next time someone bullies me, I’ll fight back.” Ye Xue stuttered. Her declaration was one devoid of conviction.

Arriving at an intersection, Ye Xue paused and said in a soft voice, “I’ll go back to the dormitory.”

“What do you mean you’ll go back to your dorm. Move-in with me. There are plenty of empty rooms in my apartment.” Qin Shu stared at her friend with a raised brow. She did not feel comfortable allowing Ye Xue to return to her dormitory.

Even if the problem posed by Lu Yan had been sorted out, there was still Zhang Yan and Li Yan who shared the dorm room. They would, no doubt, return to their bullying ways in short order. A person’s innate character did not change overnight.

“I don’t want to inconvenience you...” Ye Xue was touched by Qin Shu’s kind gesture but she did not want to burden her friend more than she already had.

“It’s not an inconvenience at all. The apartment really is quite big.”

“I’ll accompany you, then. If your sure, that is.”

Ye Xue was so happy that a smile bloomed on her face. Not even the pain she felt, in doing so, could put a dent in her smile.

Qin Shu beamed with joy. She was thrilled to have Ye Xue as a roommate.

On their way to the dormitory, they met Fu Tingyan and Jiang Yu.

Ye Xue was so ensconced in her bubble of happiness that she did not notice them until they right by their side.

Jiang Yu greeted them cheerfully. However, when he caught sight of Ye Xue's face, he could not help but ask, "What's wrong with your face?"

Mortified, Ye Xue hid behind Qin Shu. She did not want Jiang Yu to see her hideous form.

"Why are you hiding?" Jiang Yu asked gloomily. He was not some ferocious beast.

"We've known each other for a long time. There's no need to be shy, right?"

Jiang Yu recalled Fu Tingyan telling him how Ye Xue was very shy.

Fu Tingyan: "..."

Qin Shu: "..."

At first, she had not hidden behind Qin Shu because she was feeling shy. After Jiang Yu remarked of her shyness, however, she terribly so.

Despite having known each other for so long, she still felt rather self-conscious in Jiang Yu presence.

Chapter 455: Accidentally Breaking into the Bathroom

Ye Xue remained silent. Seeing as Ye Xue was too shy to speak for herself, Jiang Yu turned to Qin Shu and repeated his question. "What happened to her face?"

"Ye Xue was bullied by her roommates. Things got physical and she ended up the way she is now. We were just returning from the infirmary."

"Ye Xue's roommates hit her?"

Anger bubbled in Jiang Yu's chest. How could they do such a thing? Gently, he extricated Ye Xue from Qin Shu's side and pulled her closer. With his other hand, he cupped her chin and inclined it towards him. Her cheeks were puffy and swollen, with large palm prints decorating each side.

It all happened in an instant. Before Ye Xue had any time to react, she found herself being held by Jiang Yu. She was not as strong as he was so she could do little to break free. The lack of control over her situation caused her heart to flutter with fear and worry.

This was the first time she had ever been so close to Jiang Yu. To think they would meet under such circumstances... Ye Xue's puffy, red cheeks darkened a few shades, taking on a rich burgundy hue. She was utterly mortified.

"Who was it that hurt you?" Jiang Yu snarled.

“You don’t know her. Please, let go of me.” Ye Xue muttered with a blushing face.

Jiang Yu noticed the dark flush colouring Ye Xue’s cheeks and thought she was feeling skittish. “Are you being self-conscious again?” Jiang Yu released her hand questioningly.

Ye Xue stared at her shoes, not knowing what to say.

“Her roommate’s actions need to be reported to the university. She definitely can’t continue staying there.” From the rage suffusing his form down to his balled fists, Jiang Yu looked like he was gearing up for a fight.

Qin Shu tilted her head thoughtfully. Jiang Yu’s behaviour was unusual for someone he barely knew. Did he have a crush on Ye Xue?

“Qin Shu has invited me to stay with her. We’re on our way back to my dormitory to collect my things.”

“That’s great! Xiao Qi and I will help you. Four pairs of hands are better than two. We’ll have your things moved in no time!” Nudging Fu Tingyan with his elbow, Jiang Yu asked, “Don’t you think so, Xiao Qi?”

“...Yes,” Fu Tingyan replied morosely.

Ye Xue was not about to look the gift horse in its mouth. Besides, it was free labour!

“Alright, let’s head over together.”

The group of four arrived at the female dormitory in short order.

Ye Xue did not have much to pack so it did not take long for them to help her pack up.

Each of them carried a few things and set out for Qin Shu’s apartment.

Neither Fu Tingyan nor Jiang Yu knew that Qin Shu had moved into a studio apartment.

After walking for a while, Jiang Yu asked, “Qin Shu, where are you going? If you keep going that way, you’ll leave the female dormitory.”

“I’ve moved to an apartment. I don’t live in the female dormitory.”

“Wow. You’re living the life now, aren’t you?” Jiang Yu came to an abrupt halt, stunned by the sudden revelation. He recovered quickly enough and soon sported a teasing smile.

When they reached the entrance of the apartment, Qin Shu unlocked the door and let them in.

Turning to Ye Xue, Qin Shu said, “Follow me upstairs to pick out a room. There are plenty of spares.”

“Okay.” Ye Xue followed Qin Shu obediently up the stairs, marvelling at the size of what was supposed to be a studio apartment. It was much bigger than she had imagined. Perhaps it would not be so bad living with Qin Shu after all.

“Living in an apartment like this would be awesome!” Jiang Yu stared at Fu Tingyan with soulful eyes.

“Xiao Qi, let’s move in too.”

Fu Tingyan surveyed the apartment with a critical eye. Living in such an apartment would be a vast improvement to the cramped living space offered in the dormitory.

Ye Xue picked the room next to Qin Shu's own.

The rooms were all relatively clean – if a bit dusty. It was nothing a little dusting could not solve.

With Fu Tingyan and Jiang Yu's help, Ye Xue's things were moved in quickly. It saved them a lot of time they would otherwise have had to expend shuttling back and forth.

Feeling an urge to use the bathroom, Fu Tingyan made for the first one he saw.

The first thing he saw upon entering was the figure of a man undressing. The two of them gaped at each other slack-jawed. Neither one of them had expected to encounter the other.

The man's skin was as pure as porcelain without a single blemish marring it. In a corner next to his eye was a small beauty mark. He regarded Fu Tingyan with arched brows furrowed in consternation. He did not look pleased.

The shirt he was wearing hung loosely against his lithe figure. He had not taken it off completely and only a portion of his back was visible.

Frowning, Fu Tingyan asked, "Do you live here?"

"Who are you? Don't you know to knock before entering?" Bo Ye hissed coldly.

Bo Ye often used the bathroom on the first floor of the apartment because the one in his own room was faulty and did not work properly. He did not expect anyone to barge in without so much as a knock on the door.

Instead of taking offence over Bo Ye's harsh tone, Fu Tingyan guffawed uproariously. "You didn't lock the door and you blame me for not knocking? That's rich. Anyway, you aren't a girl. What's so weird about two men using the same bathroom?"

Having lived alone for a long time, Bo Ye did not have a habit of locking the door. Living with Qin Shu was no different. This unexpected situation was a first for him.

In the end, it was his own fault for being complacent. Sighing, Bo Ye simply pointed at the door and asked, "Can you go out now?"

"Wash up. Don't mind me." Fu Tingyan was not used to being the centre of attention but he still walked towards Bo Ye with determined strides.

Bo Ye stood rooted to the spot, unflinching. He glowered at Fu Tingyan as he approached. "Can't you go somewhere else?"

"Don't make a mountain out of a molehill." With a quick grabbing motion, Fu Tingyan drew the shower curtain open.

"We're all men. There's nothing to be embarrassed about."

Having said his piece, he strolled out of the bathroom and shut the door behind him.

Idly, Fu Tingyan wondered who had arranged for a man to live in the same apartment as Qin Shu. His musings were cut short by the sound of the bathroom door locking behind him.

“Xiao Qi, let’s head back.” Jiang Yu padded down the steps to the first floor.

“There are boys living here.” Fu Tingyan flashed a brief look in the direction of the locked bathroom. The man he had met seemed rather awkward.

“That’s fantastic! Let’s move in too. Qin Shu and Ye Xue are both girls. What if that man harbours some unsavoury motives? Who will protect them?”

Fu Tingyan did not respond.

“Let’s go. We’ll move in tomorrow – after school, of course.” Jiang Yu took Fu Tingyan’s silence as an acceptance of his proposal.

Fu Tingyan glanced at him. “I don’t recall agreeing to this suggestion of yours, do you?”

“Come on! It’ll be fine. Don’t be such a stick in the mud! I think it would be cool if we all lived in the same apartment.”

Their voices faded into the distance as they departed.

Qin Shu stepped out of Ye Xue’s room and saw Bo Ye going upstairs. He was wearing loose-fitting pyjamas, and his hair was wet and dripping with water.

His angelic features were twisted in a scowl.

“Did you take a shower downstairs?” She asked in bewilderment.

“The shower isn’t working,” Bo Ye’s answer was a curt affirmation.

Qin Shu nodded hesitantly, deciding it was best to leave him be for the moment. Just as she was about to return to her room, Bo Ye paused mid-step and asked, “Who was that man?”

“To whom are you referring? Fu Tingyan or Jiang Yu?” A hint of confusion flashed in her eyes. Did either one of them offend Bo Ye in any way?

“The one in the dark coat.” Bo Ye specified.

“Oh! He’s Fu Tingyan. Is something troubling you?”

“No. I was just curious.” Bo Ye bit out, resuming his climb up the stairs and to his room.

Qin Shu shrugged helplessly. Bo Ye was not a very sociable person and some would go so far as to call him cold. That was just how he was. She had gotten used to it having lived together in the same apartment for some time.

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The next day...

Qin Shu was an early bird and she was usually the first to arrive in the kitchen. It came as quite a surprise, therefore, when she found breakfast ready and waiting. Ye Xue, who was seated at the table, beckoned her to join in on the meal.

Taking in the sight of several small sides and a hearty bowl of porridge, Qin Shu felt her tummy rumble in arousal. The food smelled divine. “Ye Xue, did you cook all of this?”

“I-I helped myself to the ingredients in the fridge – I-I’m sorry for not asking you for permission to use them. I... I just wanted to thank you for your help. I hope you don’t mind...”

Ye Xue never had a chance to cook back in her dorm. With so many ingredients just sitting in the fridge she felt an insatiable urge to cook. What better way was there to thank Qin Shu while satisfying her own inane yearning than to whip up a meal for them both? She was killing two birds with one stone!

Chapter 456: You Are Fired.

“I’d love to try your cooking.”

Qin Shu pulled out a chair and sat down. Just as she was about to dig in, she saw Bo Ye making his way down the stairs. He was wearing his favourite shirt and pants.

“Bo Ye, come and join us. Ye Xue’s made breakfast.”

Bo Ye paused mid-step glancing at the food laid out on the table.

Ye Xue had heard from Qin Shu that there was a man living in the apartment with them. He seemed... cold. He did not come across as an overly friendly or sociable person.

“I-I made it myself. It probably isn’t as good as the food you can buy outside... You’re welcome to try some...” Ye Xue twirled a lock of her hair nervously. She was not sure how Bo Ye would react to her invitation.

Bo Ye’s first instinct was to reject her but on second thought, he decided not to. Placing his bag on the empty chair beside him, he sat down and joined the two women for breakfast.

Ye Xue picked up an empty bowl and filled it with porridge before passing it over to him.

Bo Ye nodded in thanks. A quick survey of the spread was enough for him to identify them. They were all common dishes – nothing out of the ordinary for a simple Chinese breakfast. He sampled a bit of each and was pleasantly surprised by the taste of the food. It was not half bad for a home-cooked meal.

“It’s pretty good,” he praised.

“E-eat as much as you’d like! There’s m-more than enough food for three people.” Humming happily to herself, Ye Xue picked up her own chopsticks and tucked in. It was the best day of the school term yet. She was particularly relieved to have such a reasonable roommate, unlike Lu Yan.

Bo Ye did not eat much. He only had that one bowl of porridge before setting his cutlery down. “The porridge was delicious. Thank you for letting me have a bowl.” Bo Ye thanked her politely.

“Ye Xue’s cooking is fantastic. It’s much better than anything sold outside.” Qin Shu offered her wholehearted praise for Ye Xue’s delightful cooking.

Listening to the praise being heaped on her, Ye Xue felt both happy and abashed. It was rare for anyone to praise her like this. “I-if it’s alright, I-I’ll continue preparing breakfast. We can have other things too! M-maybe some flour for p-pancakes? I-I’ll go and buy some later.”

“Then I’ll be off. I’ve got a lecture to attend.”

Bo Ye slung his bag over his shoulder and strode out.

Ye Xue stared at Bo Ye wordlessly. Was he always so abrupt?

“Don’t mind him. He’s always like that. He isn’t one for small talk. I’m definitely looking forward to breakfast tomorrow so make enough for me, please!”

Qin Shu was used to Bo Ye. Having lived in the same apartment for some time now, she knew not to be offended by his aloof demeanour – it was just the way he was.

“O-okay! I’ll remember to prepare a little more tomorrow.” Ye Xue continued ladling spoonfuls of porridge into her mouth. Perhaps she ought to cook up a meal for Jiang Yu and Fu Tingyan too? It was the least she could do to thank them for their help.

“That sounds good,” Qin Shu replied in between mouthfuls of porridge.

Suddenly, the door to the apartment was thrust open from the outside and several men barged in.

Qin Shu frowned. Some people really were lacking in manners. Did not they know to knock before entering?

“I suppose one of you must be Qin Shu and the other, Ye Xue. I’ve come to inform you both of your expulsions. Pack up your things and leave. The university does not welcome hoodlums like either of you. The lecturer swaggered towards them with an air of condescension. “Don’t take this the wrong way. I’m just here to settle the score.”

Ye Xue paled in fright. Things were happening so quickly that she barely had the time to process them. She was expelled. She had gotten them both expelled. It was her fault for getting them in trouble.

“It’s my fault. The things that happened yesterday have nothing to do with Qin Shu. Expel me but not her.”

The lecturer eyed Ye Xue with disdain. She had not suffered even one-tenth of the injury his niece had. “Expulsion is too lenient a punishment for students like you. The university will not have its good name dragged through the mud because of bad apples like you. You are to blame for your own actions.”

Qin Shu finished the last mouthful of porridge in her bowl and dabbed her mouth clean with a paper napkin. “Don’t you know, sir, that knocking on the door before entering is the most basic of courtesies? You should be ashamed of yourself for lacking even that small decency.”

Her words were sharp and they cut deeply. It left the lecturer speechless. He had come to settle a grudge sown by these villainous women. There was no need for him to listen to their treacherous words.

Harrumphing in displeasure, Qin Shu hissed coldly, “If I hadn’t arrived sooner, Ye Xue might have died! Lu Yan and her compatriots were ready to bully her to death. She should be expelled for all the grief she has caused!”

The lecturer’s face took on an ugly shade of red. “Truly, the wicked remain unrepentant and unwilling to admit their wrongs. Not only did you break Lu Yan’s hand but also slapped her black and blue. If she is

disfigured for life, can you bear the responsibility for the suffering she will face? I insist that you pay for whatever medical fees the three girls incur in the process of receiving their treatments. It is only fair and just.”

Ye Xue hurriedly explained, “Lu Yan was only hurt because she refused to let go of me. Qin Shu was just trying to save me.”

Qin Shu ushered Ye Xue behind her, shielding her from view. With an arched brow, she retorted, “I am not like Ye Xue and I won’t be so easily cowed into submission. I dislike violence as much as any other person but I’m not about to sit back and allow someone to walk all over me. If they hit me once, I’ll return them their dues ten-fold. What Lu Yan suffered was only the tip of the iceberg – a score I settled on Ye Xue’s behalf. As for those medical fees, I certainly agree. Lu Yan should be held responsible for her actions and compensation should be given to Ye Xue. That is what I think is fair and just.”

“You hit someone but you find excuses to exempt yourself of liability. Don’t you think you’re being too much?”

Furious, the lecturer reached out and made a grabbing motion in Qin Shu’s direction.

Qin Shu spun to the side and kicked the lecturer in his abdomen. She had put her whole weight behind that kick. Thus, she was quite shocked when the lecturer recovered so quickly. Most people would not have had the strength to stand up let alone swipe at her in retaliation.

Fortunately, the lecturer missed her. Judging from the way he was clutching his stomach, it seemed her kick had been effective after all. The lecturer tipped over as he lost his balance, landing face-first on the ground with a thud. His face was twisted in a grim spectre of pain.

Hearing the commotion, campus security, who had been waiting outside, rushed in to help the lecturer off the ground.

The lecturer was in so much pain that he shook like a leaf caught in a strong wind. Gasping for air, he shouted angrily, “What are you all standing around for? Escort this barbaric woman to the Public Security Bureau!”

Security moved to detain Qin Shu.

“Who dares?”

A voice sounded in the living room carrying with it an air of imperious authority.

The security personnel stopped in their tracks as they noticed Jun Li’s slender figure strolling lazily towards them.

Qin Shu looked over her shoulder and saw Jun Li approaching with an insulated box in hand. In all likelihood, the box contained more soup for her to drink.

It was at this time that Bo Ye reappeared. He did not dawdle at the door. Instead, he made for the couch with a single-minded purpose and sat down.

Bo Ye must have seen the lecturer storming towards her apartment aggressively and had returned posthaste.

The lecturer turned around and caught sight of the third young master. Puzzled, he could not help but wonder what the director of the university was doing here.

Jun Li casually strolled into the kitchen and placed the insulated box of food on the table. His purple eyes swept over the security personnel and the lecturer. "What's going on here?"

The lecturer bit back his pained groan and explained, "Third young master, we've come to apprehend these two women for their violent acts against three other students of the university. All three of the victims are in hospital with one of them suffering serious injuries to her face. She'll likely bear some form of disfigurement for life."

The lecturer sucked in a deep breath before continuing, "The dean has seen fit to expel them for their actions. I am here merely as his spokesperson. They need to be held accountable for the medical fees incurred by those three students."

Tears welled up in Ye Xue's eyes as she listened to the lecturer pervert the events to his advantage. "I- It's not true! He's lying! It was Lu Yan and her cronies who were bullying me. Qin Shu only intervened to save me!"

Jun Li regarded Ye Xue quietly. Her cheeks were red and puffy, lined with palm prints on either side of her face. She looked like she was about to cry. Shaking his head with a sigh, he opened the insulated box and fished out a pot of scalding soup for Qin Shu to drink.

The lecturer and campus security looked on with stunned faces. What was going on?

A bad premonition wormed its way into their hearts.

Ye Xue mirrored the expressions of their uninvited guests. What was Professor Jun up to?

Jun Li filled a bowl with the soup and placed it on the table for her. His eyes shone with deep, loving affection. "Drink up while it's still hot. I'll handle this mess for you."

Qin Shu smiled and nodded gratefully. "Okay." She sat back down and picked up her spoon to drink the soup.

It was a scene that shattered everyone's expectations.

Chapter 457: Sudden Action

It was an unbelievable sight. Did the third young master actually bring Qin Shu soup to drink?

What on earth was going on?

Ye Xue was stupefied by the scene unfolding before her eyes.

Even Bo Ye was taken aback.

Turning his attention to the intruders, Jun Li asked, "If what you've said is true, then please show us proof of your claims. Otherwise, you're merely slandering their good names. The law takes a harsh stance against those who slander others."

“I will look into this matter, personally. I’m curious, however. If the investigation turns out the way I think it will, and Ye Xue’s words are proven beyond a doubt, then it is only fair if Lu Yan is made to face the same repercussions as those you have suggested Qin Shu ought to face.” Jun Li eyed the lecturer and his entourage of security personnel calmly.

Tapping his chin in thought, Jun Li continued, “I certainly agree with you that any medical fees incurred must be compensated in full. I think it is only fair. Don’t you agree, esteemed lecturer?”

The serenity in Jun Li voice made it sound like he was reading off a well-rehearsed script.

The instructor’s face, which had paled due to the intense pain he was feeling, dipped several shades lighter upon hearing Jun Li’s words. If Ye Xue’s account of the was true, then Lu Yan was in a lot of trouble. Not only would she have deserved the beating but also all the subsequent consequences resulting therein. The situation looked grim. Compensation would cost her a hefty sum but that aside, time locked up in the Public Security Bureau would leave a permanent mark on her record. The latter being infinitely worse than the former.

Seeing his subordinates standing in a daze, Jun Li frowned and barked, “Do you or do you not understand what I’ve said?”

“Y-yes. Yes, I understand.”

The lecturer hurriedly nodded, his forehead gleamed with cold sweat.

Campus security carried him out of the apartment.

Silence descended in the apartment.

Ye Xue rocked from side to side, feeling somewhat at a loss.

By then, Qin Shu had finished her bowl of soup. Just as she was about to speak to Jun Li, he beat her to the punch. “You’re absolutely right. You should never allow yourself to be bullied. If someone hits you, make sure you pay them back tenfold.”

Qin Shu laughed cheerfully. “Are you encouraging me to hit others?”

“I’d rather hurt another than let myself be hurt,” said Jun Li seriously.

Qin Shu was stunned by Jun Li’s response. For some reason, she felt that his words sounded familiar.

“Don’t worry. I’ll handle this matter. You should rest.” A faint smile tugging at his lips.

With his daily delivery complete, Jun Li stepped out of the apartment. He had some matters to attend to.

Bo Ye had left earlier.

Turning away from the door, Qin Shu checked on her good friend. Ye Xue was timid by nature and the whole debacle had really stressed her out.

“It’s going to be all right. Jun Li always keeps his word.”

Pacified, Ye Xue heaved a sigh of relief. "You seem rather close to the professor. Do you know him well?"

Qin Shu recalled the first time they met. It was at a confectionery. The memory of which always warmed her heart. "I've known him for a long time now. He is a good man."

"I trust you."

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Jun Li instructed Su Ying to investigate the matter.

Su Ying was very efficient and before long, he had collected material evidence and testimonies from Lu Yan's underlings. The truth aligned with Ye Xue's account of the events that transpired. All the beatings, insults and abuse were recorded in grave detail.

With truth on their side, a verdict was reached and the two girls were acquitted.

The lecturer who had maligned them so terribly was fired. It was hard to say if anyone would ever employ him again.

The security guards who accompanied him shared in his fate.

Meanwhile, in a particular ward at the hospital...

Lu Yan was lounging in bed. Much of the swelling in her face had subsided and she no longer looked like an overripe tomato. She was sipping on a fruity blend, waiting for word of her uncle's success.

Suddenly, several individuals burst into the private ward she was staying in.

Lu Yan froze. Like a deer caught in the headlights, she did not know how to respond. The only thing she was certain of was that they did not hold any good intentions towards her. "W-what's going on?"

Juying stood at the helm of the group. Glancing at Lu Yan, it was as if he were looking at a corpse.

"Don't you know what you've done? Malicious slander, persistent abuse and emotional trauma. These are but a handful of the crimes you've committed against student Ye Xue." sneered Juying disdainfully.

"By decree of the Imperial University, you are hereby expelled and barred from entering any of the other universities in the region. This is your notice of expulsion. In addition, the university has mandated the compensation of a million dollars to student Ye Xue for the harm you have inflicted upon her."

Lu Yan nearly fainted before she could even find an opportunity to retort. "On what basis have you levelled these accusations against me? Where's the evidence? I-I was beaten up! Y-you can't do this to me!"

"The evidence has all been collected. I would advise you to come with us quietly. We'll escort you to the Public Security Bureau. There, you'll have an opportunity to review the evidence for yourself."

The more he listened to Lu Yan's voice, the more annoyed he felt. "What are you guys doing? Hurry up and take her into custody!"

Juying strode out of the ward without sparing Lu Yan a second glance. He had said his piece. He was not about to waste his breath on someone like Lu Yan.

Lu Yan was thrown into the car by two men, and then directly left the hospital.

Two of Juying's men dragged Lu Yan by her arms to the car where she was thrown unceremoniously into the backseat.

Burdened by a compensation amounting to a million dollars, Lu Yan had no choice but to accept a stint behind bars for not being able to cough up the amount. Naturally, she was beggared such that further education was nothing more than a pipe dream.

Everything was settled in a matter of a few hours and both Qin Shu and Ye Xue were astounded by Jun Li's speed and efficiency.

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Word travelled quickly and before long, Fu Tingyan and Jiang Yu had learnt of the university's verdict. Arriving at Qin Shu's apartment, they hoped to see for themselves whether the two women had been absolved of guilt.

They would not have needed to do so had they already been living with her. Unfortunately, Fu Tingyan had yet to approve of Jiang Yu's suggestion to move in.

Qin Shu greeted them at the door. When she saw Jiang Yu, she nudged Ye Xue in front of him and said, "Please take Ye Xue to the infirmary."

Ye Xue tried to protest but Qin Shu would not hear any of it.

"No problem. I'd be happy to take her to the infirmary." Jiang Yu readily agreed. With a boyish grin, he said, "Let's go."

Ye Xue sent her good friend a pleading look which she ignored with a saint-like smile painted on her face. Sighing in defeat, she looked away and trailed behind Jiang Yu as they stepped out of the apartment.

The sky had grown dark by the time they set out and street lamps flickered to life one after another.

Ye Xue quivered nervously. It was her first time out and about with Jiang Yu unchaperoned. Although the infirmary was not far from Qin Shu's apartment, the distance seemed to increase exponentially with each step she took. It did not help that she felt uncomfortable being alone with him. Keeping her head down as she walked, she tried her best to ignore the awkward atmosphere in the air.

Jiang Yu had his hands in his pocket as he walked. His athletic figure cut an impressive sight under the warm halo of orange light.

Looking over his shoulder, he found Ye Xue with her head bowed. It was almost as if she could not stand the sight of him. Every time they met, she would stare at her feet like they were the most interesting specimens in the world.

“Don’t walk with your head down. It’s a bad habit that’ll leave you hunched. You don’t want to be the next Quasimodo.”

Ye Xue’s bowed head whipped up so fast that she nearly gave herself whiplash. She straightened her back and corrected her posture as best she could. She did not want to become a hunchback.

With her head raised, Ye Xue’s swollen face was visible for all to see. Her puffy red cheeks resembled a pair of overripe peaches.

“I’m not some ferocious beast. There’s no need to lower your head whenever you see me.”

Ye Xue looked down in embarrassment with her lips pursed in a thin line. She did not know what to say.

They arrived at the infirmary a while later.

Noticing that Ye Xue was being accompanied by a man this time, the doctor asked, “Is this your boyfriend? He’s really handsome.”

Ye Xue blushed and quickly explained, “N-no, he’s just my classmate. He’s not my boyfriend...”

The doctor thought Ye Xue was simply shy so he smiled and said, “You’re in university. There’s nothing wrong with being in a relationship.”

Ye Xue could not find the words to explain her situation so she chose the path of least resistance and kept silent. Softly, she asked the doctor if he could change the gauze.

Jiang Yu stood by her side, listening to their interaction. Sneaking a peak, he realized that Ye Xue’s face had turned bright red – like that of an apple. He found her shy demeanour rather endearing.

As soon as the doctor finished changing her gauze, Ye Xue rushed out of the infirmary. She was afraid that the doctor would embarrass her further with his silly comments.

Jiang Yu followed her in slow, unhurried strides.

The two of them walked for some time.

Staring at Ye Xue thoughtfully, Jun Li came to a decision. He took two swift steps and stopped in front of Ye Xu.

Jiang Yu’s sudden action caught her off guard. Colliding into his outstretched arms, she stammered an apology. “I-I’m sorry.”

Before she could extricate herself, Jun Li pulled her closer with one hand while the other dug into his pocket. Murmuring quietly, he asked, “Do you still like me?”

Chapter 458: Overjoyed, Man Gets Jealous Easily

Her arm was suddenly grabbed, making it impossible for Ye Xue to retreat. She raised her head to look at Jiang Yu and heard his question. Her face turned red, not knowing how to answer his question.

Ye Xue was only 1.6 meters tall, she could be said to be a lot shorter when standing in front of Jiang Yu, who was 1.84 meters tall.

Jiang Yu looked down at Ye Xue and saw that her face had turned red again. He could not help but tease her, "I'm just asking you. Are you embarrassed? Then, if I kiss you, wouldn't you be even more embarrassed?"

Ye Xue was shocked by Jiang Yu's words and could not speak for a long time. "You, you, we..."

Jiang Yu continued to ask, "Answer me first. Do you still like me?"

Ye Xue lowered her eyes and was silent for a while before nodding. "Yes, I've always liked you."

This time, it was Jiang Yu's turn to be silent.

"Liking you is my own business. I don't want my liking to cause you trouble. I..."

Before Ye Xue could finish, Jiang Yu spoke up. "Let's try dating. I don't know if I like you, so I want to give it a try. You can also reject it."

Ye Xue widened her eyes as if she couldn't believe her ears. Jiang Yu suggested dating her?

She had never thought that she would have any interaction with Jiang Yu. She just wanted to silently like him.

Faced with such a huge temptation, Ye Xue couldn't think of anything else. She followed her inner thoughts and said, "I promise you."

Seeing that Ye Xue agreed readily, Jiang Yu was stunned for a few seconds. "You have to think clearly. I'm not sure if I like you or not. I also don't know what it feels like to like someone, so I want to try."

"I know, but I like you. I want a chance." Ye Xue used all the courage she had in her life on Jiang Yu without considering the consequences.

Jiang Yu looked at Ye Xue. Her red and swollen cheeks were still like a bun. He suddenly leaned over, and Ye Xue froze. Her eyes widened as she looked at the handsome face that was gradually enlarging. She even forgot to breathe, as if she had guessed what would happen next.

Jiang Yu kissed her cheek. It felt pretty good. Then, he stood up straight and smiled at her. "Stamp it first."

"Oh." It took Ye Xue a long time to react, and her face reddened a little.

"Let's go back." Jiang Yu walked next to her, sticking very close to her and walking toward the apartment.

Ye Xue's heart kept beating in a messed up rhythm along with that kiss.

The two of them were side by side, and their hands inevitably touched each other. Ye Xue retracted her hand as if she was scalded.

Jiang Yu originally wanted to hold Ye Xue's hand, but she retracted her hand as soon as he touched her, as if she was scared. He had no choice but to put his hand back into his pocket.

In The Apartment

Qin Shu ran into the room with her phone. She was going to take a video call with a man, so she left Fu Tingyan alone downstairs.

Fu Tingyan felt bored sitting alone on the sofa. He glanced at the huge apartment and stood up to walk to a room on the side. The name "Exercise Room" was written on it.

The third floor of the apartment was the balcony of the attic, the second floor was full of rooms, and the first floor was a public place with exercise equipment.

He pushed the door open and was stunned when he saw the person inside doing pull-ups.

The person was tall and slender, and the curve of his waist was obvious.

With his movements, he could see it very clearly.

His arms were slender, and he had seen them before.

It was the boy who was showering in the bathroom. He was very beautiful and cold.

After a while, the boy went to do push-ups again. His legs were together, and his toes were on the ground. His hands were on the ground, and his body was in a straight line.

His curves were very good-looking, and he didn't look like a man.

Fu Tingyan stood at the door, watching the boy doing his push-ups. He did not open his mouth to disturb him as he wanted to see how long he could do push-ups for.

Bo Ye wore a bluetooth headset, and listened to music while exercising. He did not notice Fu Tingyan, the person who saw him showering last night, standing at the door and watching him do push-ups.

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In The Room

Qin Shu sat at the head of the bed, holding her cell phone. As soon as she opened the video, she saw a man sitting in front of his desk. He was wearing a pure black suit with a well-cut cut and a navy blue shirt underneath. He was clearly only 24 years old, but he was more composed and reserved than a tycoon who had been in the business world for decades.

Behind him was a row of bookshelves, and she knew all the books on them.

"Baby Yu, I miss you. Did you miss me?"

Fu Tingyu looked at the girl in the video. Her jet-black hair fell down. Her face, which was originally not big, was covered by the hair on both sides, making her face look smaller.

The light in the room was very good. The girl's slightly red cheeks could be clearly seen. Her eyes seemed to have stars in them and were very bright.

"I want to hug you, especially at night."

Looking at the man in the video, Qin Shu pursed her lips and smiled. "Come here. I'll let you hug me when you're here."

The man looked at the girl and pursed his lips and smiled. Did she think that he did not want to go over?

He wished that he could appear in front of her in an instant like in a fantasy novel. Then, he would hug her tightly and feel her body heat and smell her breath.

"Wait for me then."

"Okay. When you're here, I'll give you a big bear hug."

Seeing the girl laughed, the man's gaze fell on her lips.

"I want to kiss you now."

Qin Shu looked at the man's pitch-black eyes. Now? How could she kiss him through the screen and the internet?

She thought for a while and made a "Mwah" gesture toward the screen. "Is this okay?"

The man looked at the girl's pouting lips and his eyes darkened. Such a kiss could barely satisfy his craving. "Okay."

Qin Shu saw that it was almost time and didn't want to waste the busy man's time.

"Then you go ahead and don't tire yourself out. Rest early tonight."

Qin Shu knew that the man was practicing martial arts and desperately wanted to recover his strength. He had enough work to do in the company. With martial arts practice, he was even busier.

When he received the video call, the man realized that the girl was sitting at the head of the bed differently from the last time. He was still puzzled and waited for the girl to bring it up.

After hesitating for a while, he said, "Okay."

Qin Shu was about to hang up when she suddenly remembered that she had moved into the apartment and had forgotten to tell him.

"I forgot to tell you. I've moved into the student apartment now. It's much bigger than the dormitory, and it's very comfortable to live in."

Then, she added, "No matter how comfortable it is, it's not as comfortable as home."

The man was a little happy when he heard that, so he asked casually, "You live alone?"

Qin Shu shook her head. "No, there's a total of three people including me. Ye Xue moved here, and there's a boy."

The man frowned, expressing his displeasure. "A boy?"

"Yeah, he's very cold. He hardly says a sentence a day. He stays in his room on weekends and doesn't come out much."

The man's expression softened slightly when he heard that. "What does he look like?"

"He's quite good looking. He..."

Before Qin Shu could finish her sentence, the man interrupted her from complimenting another boy. "Keep a distance from him."

The man was indeed jealous. How could he be jealous like that?

Qin Shu could not help but laugh. "I don't have to keep a distance from him. He doesn't like to be close to others."

"Remember what you said."

Chapter 459: Two of Them Fought

Qin Shu knew what the man meant. Before he left, the man had also said it, and now he mentioned it again. It was as if he had a recording, he would have a protective amulet.

"Well, you should rest early."

Before hanging up, the man suddenly said something in a low voice, making her blush like an apple.

"Hooligan," she whispered.

The man saw the girl's flushed face and hung up the video call in satisfaction.

Qin Shu held her phone and recalled the man's whisper in her ear. Her face couldn't help but blush a little. She found that the man was really becoming more and more hooligan, saying everything.

Qin Shu put down her phone and patted her flushed face, which was still a little hot.

She stood up and walked into the bathroom to wash her face. She wiped the water stains with a towel and then went downstairs.

Qin Shu walked down the stairs and found that there was no one in the living room, but she heard the sound of fighting.

She walked to the door of the exercise room and found that it was open. Bo Ye would exercise inside when he had nothing to do.

She walked in with doubt and saw that the two boys were fighting.

On the huge yoga mat, Fu Tingyan grabbed Bo Ye's hand and pressed it behind him, his legs were pressing down on Bo Ye's legs.

Bo Ye was pressed down and could not move. The hair on his forehead fell down and covered his good-looking face. He clenched his teeth tightly. Perhaps he was too angry, even his fair face turned red from anger.

Who could explain what was going on?

"You guys, what's going on? Why are you guys fighting?"

Bo Ye looked up at Qin Shu and struggled. He said to Fu Tingyan who was behind him, "Let go of me."

Fu Tingyan saw Qin Shu coming and was about to let go of the boy under him. When he heard the cold words, he deliberately tightened his grip. "Your body is quite flexible."

After saying that, he let go of the boy, stood up, and walked out. When he passed Qin Shu, he did not explain what had just happened and was about to walk out.

Qin Shu reached out to grab his sleeve and asked in a low voice, "You're not going to explain?"

Fu Tingyan said, "You've never seen boys fight before?"

"There has to be a reason, right?"

"Oh, then go ask him."

After saying that, Fu Tingyan left.

Qin Shu, "..."

Bo Ye stood up from the ground, rubbed his aching wrist, and walked out.

Qin Shu waited for Bo Ye to come closer before asking, "What happened to you guys just now?"

"Just sparring." Bo Ye's voice was a little cold. After saying that, he brushed past Qin Shu and walked out.

"..."

Sparring?

Just now, sparks were flying everywhere. It was clear that they did not like each other.

Qin Shu shrugged helplessly and turned to walk out. She found that Ye Xue had already returned. She was standing in the living room with one hand covering her face in a daze. Her bun-like cheeks were flushed red.

When Jiang Yu and Ye Xue walked to the door of the apartment, they saw Fu Tingyan coming out. Therefore, Jiang Yu went back with him and didn't enter the apartment.

When Ye Xue saw Qin Shu, she ran over excitedly and hugged Qin Shu.

Fortunately, Qin Shu stood steadily. Otherwise, she would definitely fall when Ye Xue pounced on her like that. "What's wrong with you? Why are you so excited?"

"I'm dating Jiang Yu. Just now, I, I was too excited." Ye Xue couldn't suppress the joy in her heart and was eager to share it with Qin Shu.

"Congratulations, Congratulations. It's finally bearing fruit." Qin Shu was also happy for Ye Xue. She was really happy to be dating the person she liked, and that kind of happiness is indescribable. So, no wonder she was so excited.

The corners of Ye Xue's mouth curled up into a smile.

Qin Shu could not help but ask, "Did you take the initiative to confess?"

Ye Xue shook her head. "Jiang Yu took the initiative to bring it up. He has never liked anyone before. He doesn't know what it feels like to like someone, so he wants me to try dating him."

Qin Shu knew that Ye Xue would not take the initiative to confess. As for Jiang Yu's previous experience, he was dating another girl, and they broke up after less than a year.

She did not know the reason.

Now that Jiang Yu and Ye Xue were dating, she hoped that what happened before would not happen again.

Ye Xue lay in bed so excited that she could not fall asleep. In her mind, the image of Jiang Yu kissing her cheek last night kept coming back to her, and her face began to blush again.

The next day, Ye Xue woke up very early. She cooked the preserved egg and lean meat porridge and also made steamed dumplings stuffed with pork fat.

Qin Shu looked at the preserved egg and lean meat porridge and the steam dumplings on the dining table and couldn't help but praise, "Ye Xue, whoever marries you in the future will have delicious food to enjoy."

Yesterday, they had agreed that Ye Xue would prepare breakfast, so Bo Ye came down half an hour earlier than usual.

When he reached the dining table, he heard Qin Shu's words. He also echoed, "There are too few girls who know how to cook these days."

"Don't laugh at me. Eat while it's hot." Ye Xue was a little embarrassed from being praised. She took a food box and placed the steam dumplings and the chopsticks, which were in another drawer, into the food box.

Qin Shu picked up the steam dumpling with her chopsticks and brought it to her mouth to take a bite. She chewed on it, and the taste was not worse than the outside eatery. On the contrary, it was even more delicious.

Bo Ye lowered his eyes and ate the steam dumplings and the preserved egg and lean meat porridge in front of him.

Bo Ye did not talk much, and he spoke even less when he was at the table. In this way, he was similar to Fu Tingyu.

Ye Xue finished her breakfast. "Take your time to eat. I'll be leaving first." After saying that, she carried the food box and rushed out of the door.

Qin Shu looked at Ye Xue's back as she left. She knew that she was sending it to Jiang Yu. She retracted her gaze and lowered her head to continue eating the porridge.

Bo Ye put down his chopsticks and took out a tissue to wipe the corner of his mouth. "I'll be leaving first."

After Bo Ye finished speaking, he carried his bag and left the house.

Qin Shu finished eating the last steam dumpling and also left the house.

In the next few days, Jiang Yu and Fu Tingyan came to the apartment quite frequently. They basically come every night.

Qin Shu glanced at Fu Tingyan who was sitting on the sofa. Jiang Yu and Ye Xue were sitting on the other side of the sofa.

The two of them had just started dating, and it was also their first time dating.

Jiang Yu taught Ye Xue how to play games. As long as Jiang Yu was interested, Ye Xue would be interested.

The two of them sat very close to each other.

Qin Shu retracted her gaze and looked at the laptop on her lap. She was chatting with Chu Ciwen about the company.

When brothers were dating, one of them had to accompany them.

Fu Tingyan had accompanied Jiang Yu to the apartment. He and Jiang Yu had ganged up and let Ye Xue win.

After Qin Shu and Chu Ciwen finished talking about the company, they turned off their computers and went up to the second floor.

At this time, her phone suddenly rang. She took out her phone and looked at the caller ID. It was Ye Luo.

After the call was connected, she heard Ye Luo's cold and hard voice. "We've found them. They're in the Qi Nation. Should we bring them back?"

"Not for now. How are they doing over there?"

"They're doing very well. They're even getting close to the local dignitaries."

Hearing that they were doing very well was within Qin Shu's expectations. With money and schemes in hand, they could live a comfortable life wherever they went.

"I'll make a trip there myself."

Qin Shu's body was already much better. Regarding Mu Lan and Qin Ya, this mother and daughter pair, she wanted to do it herself so that they would regret fleeing the country and getting close to the dignitaries.

Ye Luo on the other end of the phone paused for a moment, as if contemplating whether to stop Qin Shu from going to Qi Nation.

Chapter 460: Want a Successor

"Not telling Fourth Master?" Ye Luo reminded.

Qin Shu thought for a while and said, "Up to you."

Ye Luo said nothing.

“Send me their details.”

“Okay.”

Qin Shu hung up the phone and planned to leave for the Qi Nation in two days.

Ye Luo glanced at the hung up phone. Since Qin Shu had said so, he had nothing to worry about.

He put away his phone and went to the study room.

At this moment, in the study room.

Fu Tingyu was dealing with something.

Ye Luo pushed open the study room door and walked in. When he saw Fourth Master at the desk, he walked straight to the desk and stopped. “Fourth Master, Young Madam is going abroad to look for Mu Lan and Qin Ya.”

Fu Tingyu’s eyes paused and he looked up at Ye Luo.

Ye Luo told him everything.

Fu Tingyu said in a low voice, “Let her go. You follow her. Let me know when you get there.”

“Got it, Fourth Master.” Ye Luo heaved a sigh of relief. He thought that Fourth Master would stop him.

When Ye Luo turned to leave, Fu Tingyu stopped him again. “Wait a minute.”

Ye Luo turned around and looked at Fu Tingyu who was in front of the desk. “Fourth Master, do you have any other instructions?”

Fu Tingyu emphasized, “Protect her well.”

“Understood, Fourth Master.”

Ye Luo turned around, opened the door of the study room, and walked out, preparing to leave for the Imperial College.

Fu Tingyu stared at the computer desk in front of him. He suddenly understood why his father had let him learn management, finance, and other knowledge since he was young. His father’s goal had been to do nothing and spend all day with his wife.

He rubbed his forehead. When will Babe give him a successor?

It’s better to have the baby early, as it will take more than 10 years to nurture a child.

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Qin Shu threw the cell phone to the bed and went downstairs.

Jiang Yu and Fu Tingyan had left.

Ye Xue sat on the sofa, still playing with the mobile phone.

Qin Shu walked to the sofa before sitting down, picked up a kettle to pour herself a glass of water, "Why are you still playing with your mobile phone? Not going to read?"

"I'll remember this first. I can't die before I even make an appearance."

Because Jiang Yu said that she didn't even know how to win effortlessly.

When Qin Shu saw Ye Xue being so serious, she just smiled and didn't say anything.

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The next afternoon, Ye Luo rushed to the Imperial College and stayed in a hotel. Then, he made a call to Qin Shu.

Qin Shu was still in class. It was Han Xiao's class.

Every time there was a class, she and Han Xiao would sit in the last row and talk in a low voice. The teacher on the podium couldn't hear what they were saying.

Her phone vibrated.

When a call came in, it vibrated.

Qin Shu took out her phone and saw that it was Ye Luo. She switched her earphones and answered the call.

"Young Madam, I'm already in the Imperial College."

Hearing this, Qin Shu knew that Ye Luo had already told the man about going abroad. She lowered her voice. "Did he ask you to come?"

"Yes," said Ye Luo.

"Pick me up at school tomorrow morning."

After Qin Shu said that, she hung up the phone.

Her voice was very low, and Han Xiao, who was sitting at the side, only heard a few words.

After Qin Shu hung up the phone, he asked, "Are you busy tomorrow?"

Qin Shu nodded. "Yes."

Han Xiao looked at Qin Shu for a long time before he retracted his gaze and continued with his lesson.

After class, Han Xiao and Qin Shu walked out of the classroom together. Suddenly, someone called out to Han Xiao from behind.

"Han Xiao, wait a moment."

Han Xiao turned around to look at the person who called out to him. It was a girl.

Qin Shu also stopped and turned around to look at the girl. She was very beautiful and wore branded clothes that were simple yet elegant. Looking at her behavior, one could tell that she was born in a prestigious family.

“Are you free tonight? Let’s go to the movies together. I bought two movie tickets. It would be a pity if we don’t go.”

The person who invited Han Xiao to the movie was a sophomore student, Yan Jing. She was the prettiest girl in her department, and there were many guys chasing after her.

Han Xiao rejected her directly. “I’m not free.”

After being rejected, Yan Jing was stunned for two seconds. Then, she smiled and asked, “Are you busy tonight? If not tonight, tomorrow night is fine too.”

“You can find someone else.” Han Xiao turned his gaze and looked at Qin Shu. “Let’s go.”

Qin Shu glanced at Yan Jing, who wore a hurt expression. Then, she went downstairs with Han Xiao. “You broke the pretty girl’s heart just now.”

“I don’t want to watch a movie with her. Of course, I have to reject her directly.” Han Xiao didn’t feel that he had done anything wrong.

Yan Jing, who was behind Han Xiao, watched Han Xiao leave so decisively. She was very unwilling to give up.

“Yan Jing, did you get an appointment?” Xu Qin, Yan Jing’s best friend, came over to ask.

“I was rejected.” Yan Jing held the movie tickets tightly in her hand.

“It’s hard to woo the school’s top students. As long as you’re single, you’ll have a chance.” Xu Qin looked at Han Xiao who was already far away, and Qin Shu who was beside him. Yan Jing was deep in thought. “Han Xiao seems to be very close to that Qin Shu. I heard from my junior that they sat together and chatted in class several times.”

“Is Qin Shu his girlfriend?” Yan Jing saw Han Xiao and Qin Shu walking out together.

“I don’t think so. If it was his girlfriend, he didn’t say he was taken when chased by other girls.”

“Let’s go, we will think of other ways.” Xu Qin pulled Yan Jing to go downstairs.

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In the evening, Qin Shu informed Ye Xue that she was preparing to go to Qi Nation early tomorrow morning.

Although Ye Xue was puzzled, she didn’t ask.

Qin Shu went upstairs to pack her things, when someone suddenly knocked on the door.

Qin Shu stopped what she was doing and turned to open the door. She saw Bo Ye standing outside.

“What’s the matter?”

Bo Ye said hesitantly, “I have a thorn at my lower back. Can you help me take it out?”

Qin Shu was also a little hesitant. There were only two girls in the apartment, she and Ye Xue. There were no boys, and Bo Ye wasn’t someone who would easily ask for help.

In the end, she agreed. “Okay, okay.”

Bo Ye said, “Go to my room.”

“Then you go first. I’ll be right there.”

“Okay.”

Bo Ye turned around and left.

Qin Shu was only wearing suspenders. She picked up a coat and put it on before leaving the door.

When she passed by the stairway, she saw Fu Tingyan and Jiang Yu walk in. They came almost every day at the same time.

Qin Shu’s eyes lit up when she saw Fu Tingyan. Fu Tingyan was a boy. It would be more convenient if she asked him to remove the thorn on Bo Ye’s back.

Bo Ye was the kind of person who didn’t like to be touched by others. A boy was always slightly better than a woman like her.

Thinking of this, Qin Shu quickly went downstairs and pulled Fu Tingyan up.

Fu Tingyan was forced to follow Qin Shu’s footsteps. “Qin Shu, what are you doing? They will misunderstand if they see this.”

“I’m your sister-in-law, what misunderstanding?” Qin Shu pulled Fu Tingyan and said, “I asked you to help.”

“The two downstairs don’t know? What do you want me to help you with?” Fu Tingyan knew that Qin Shu wanted his help, so he went upstairs as well.

“Bo Ye has a thorn in his back, and he wants me to help him pull it out. It’s not convenient for me as a woman, so you help him pull it out.” As Qin Shu spoke, she had already pulled Fu Tingyan to the door of the room.

When Fu Tingyan wanted to refuse, Qin Shu pulled him in.

“...”