

Chapter 201: Who Sang Wrong

The teacher was a very serious middle-aged woman named Jiang Wei. She was not beautiful, but stylish.

She was very imposing when she wasn't smiling, and none of the trainees present dared to mess around with her.

As soon as she came in, everyone obediently sat in their seats.

Of course, everyone's thoughts were still on Xia Qinghan and Xia Xibei.

Xia Qinghan had been brought in by Bai Meixue, so everyone knew that she had connections.

Bai Meixue was an experienced and well-known industry elder, so everyone treated Xia Qinghan really well.

Especially the boys. They preferred her type: non-aggressive and ethereal. Meanwhile, even if they didn't like her, the girls wouldn't show it.

No one would have thought that when Xia Xibei came, Xia Qinghan's goddess-like image, which she had maintained for a while, would begin to crack.

It was one thing to accuse someone of stealing. But shouldn't she have apologized after the truth came out?

But then she got sick? What a coincidence!

Even the students of Qing Ye High School had doubts about this matter, let alone these young men and women, who were on their way into the entertainment industry.

Seeing everyone's suspicion concerning her, Xia Qinghan's face remained impassive, but her fingernails were about to break from her strong grip.

Damn Xia Xibei!

Jiang Wei stood in front of the piano, looking at the young people before her with a serious expression.

"There's someone new today?"

She noticed Xia Xibei right away.

"Hello teacher." Xia Xibei stood up, introducing herself, "My name is Xia Xibei."

"OK. Sit down."

Jiang Wei's eyes stayed on Xia Xibei for a few more seconds, the meaning in her eyes very mixed.

Soon, her gaze turned to everyone else. “Well, let’s practice voice first.”

She demonstrated how to open one’s voice, from low to high and from high to low.

Everyone followed the pronunciation.

As soon as class started, Xia Qinghan immediately controlled her emotions and focused her mind on studying.

After a while, Jiang Wei suddenly frowned.

“There seems to be a noise.”

Everyone looked at each other, knowing that her so-called noise meant there was wrong pronunciation occurring.

But who had made the noise?

Their ears weren’t as sensitive as the teacher’s, so they couldn’t hear the problem.

However, everyone subconsciously turned their attention to Xia Xibei.

Nothing like this had ever happened before. But today, Xia Xibei came in and suddenly there was a problem. Who wouldn't get it?

Xia Xibei's face remained unchanged in the face of everyone's suspicion.

Jiang Wei's gaze stayed on her face for a while, then she suddenly called out Xia Qinghan's name.

"Qinghan, step out."

"Yes."

Xia Qinghan walked out immediately.

Everyone's expressions were a bit complicated, seeing her being called up by the teacher as an example once again.

Xia Qinghan straightened her back, looking serious.

"Sing it once."

Jiang Wei started to play the piano and Xia Qinghan opened her mouth to begin.

“Ma-a-a-”

Listening to how effortlessly Xia Qinghan sang the tone up, the envy in everyone’s eyes could not be hidden away.

“Very good.”

When Jiang Wei praised Xia Qinghan, her face became even more red, even as everyone else became more envious than ever.

Jiang Wei had a serious personality, and she didn’t praise people so easily.

They were so envious of Xia Qinghan for being praised by her!

“Sing along with everyone.” Jiang Wei looked at the students. “Control your voice! Don’t pretend to understand, don’t try to pass it off as okay!”

Hearing what she meant, everyone couldn’t help but glance at Xia Xibei.

Xia Xibei maintained the same expression she had before.

After another round of vocalization, Jiang Wei stopped suddenly once again, her face gloomy.

“Whoever sang it wrong, step out!”

Chapter 202: Breathtaking Voice

Everyone knew that Jiang Wei’s hearing was superb, able to identify mistakes amongst numerous voices.

Hence, even though no one noticed the problem, all of them felt that she was right when she stated that there was a mistake.

However, who was the one that had sung incorrectly?

All of them couldn’t help but turn to look at Xia Xibei.

Even with all eyes focused on her, Xia Xibei kept her composure, showing no sign of guilt.

Jiang Wei’s glance swept across each and every student in the room before finally calling out, “The newbie, come here!”

She didn’t even address her by her name, which clearly showed how much distaste she had for Xia Xibei!

Some of them couldn't help but sympathize with Xia Xibei. Her upcoming days would be tough now that she had offended the teacher immediately after joining the class!

However, what on earth had she done to offend her?

Xia Xibei stepped forth with all eyes pinned on her.

"Teacher."

Xia Xibei was wearing a calm, placid expression that showed no sign of nerves, which made Jiang Wei feel even worse.

However, she did not erupt right away, instead commanding, "Sing it again right now, on your own this time!"

"Sure," Xia Xibei nodded.

Jiang Wei sat down and started playing the piano.

The sound of the piano began to flow out, starting from the low notes.

Xia Xibei opened her mouth and sang along.

“Ma~a~a~”

Jiang Wei felt chills cascading down her spine. This voice...

Despite being stupefied, she did not stop what she was doing, increasing the span of the notes instead.

Very soon, everyone was deep in shock.

They had realized that Xia Xibei’s gamut was extremely broad!

At the point where most people would usually begin to struggle, she could still handle the notes with complete ease!

How was that even possible?!

Their jaws dropped and their mouths got wider and wider as she sang, feeling as if they were at the brink of suffocation.

In the end, when Jiang Wei finally stopped, every single person in the room was in a daze.

Just how broad was Xia Xibei’s gamut?

She had amazing control over both low and high notes!

Moreover, everyone could hear that her voice was clear and mellow, singing all the notes clean and beautifully.

Her voice... It was a brilliant gift from the heavens!

The scene was dead silent, everyone left speechless.

Jiang Wei fell silent as well. Her lips moved for a second, but she did not say a single word.

Xia Xibei's performance was absolutely breathtaking. There was no way she could be the one who sang it wrong earlier!

Jiang Wei had mixed feelings.

She admitted that she had some pre-existing bias.

She was friends with Bai Meixue, and not long ago, Bai Meixue brought up Xia Xibei to her, claiming that the girl was ill-intentioned and lacked competence. She even said that the girl had come in through shady means.

Jiang Wei had always had a strong distaste for people like that. Therefore, she decided to teach Xia Xibei a lesson.

Xia Xibei did not get it wrong just now. Although her voice was a little soft, she had sung it correctly.

She was only trying to put Xia Xibei under pressure by claiming that she had sung incorrectly.

She had originally thought that Xia Xibei would begin to make mistakes under the pressure, allowing Jiang Wei to criticize her.

But who would have expected her to put on such a breathtaking performance?!

Jiang Wei couldn't even get the critical words out now!

Although she was the teacher, the students would doubt her if she blatantly lied like that.

After all, they were no longer toddlers, easily deceived by the teachers.

Besides, she was very fond of Xia Xibei's voice.

What kind of songs could she handle with an outstanding voice and such a wide gamut? With her innate basics, she could master more advanced skills in almost no time.

If she could add a rich and soulful touch to her singing, she would be even better than she already was.

At this moment, she couldn't help but doubt what Bai Meixue had told her.

Did this young lady really come in through questionable means? With such competence and good looks, was there a need for her to take a shadier path?

With a thousand thoughts jostling in her head, she simply responded in a cool manner, "Pretty great, keep it up. Let us carry on."

Chapter 203: It's All a Misunderstanding

For the subsequent classes, everyone had become a little absent-minded.

Xia Xibei's looks alone had given them enough to worry about, but no one had expected her competence to be so nerve-racking too.

Those who had thought that their voices were great fell silent the moment Xia Xibei started singing.

It was clearly the same song, but why did it sound so different when Xia Xibei sang it?!

They were left with no strength to retaliate at all!

Xia Qinghan's face had turned very pale.

Never in a million years had she expected Xia Xibei to have such a great voice!

She had thought that Xia Xibei was bound to embarrass herself in front of everyone, but who would have seen her splendid show coming?!

As she recalled Xia Xibei's performance, her nails dug deep into her palms, to the point that they almost drew blood.

Luckily, everyone's attention was focused on Xia Xibei at the moment, so no one noticed her unusual behavior.

Xia Qinghan only managed to regain her calm towards the end of the class.

The next class was dance class, which she had the most confidence in.

Xia Qinghan had begun to learn dancing from a young age. After so many years of training, she had a soft figure and her dance moves were beautiful.

Although some of the trainees had been training for a year or two, no one could compare to her.

This time, she would show Xia Xibei the difference between them!

During the breaks, a lot less people showed up beside Xia Qinghan, with only Xiaoshi and Nini left.

After all, the words that Xia Xibei had said a short while ago were still fresh in their minds.

“Qinghan, about what Xia Xibei said just now...” Xiaoshi brought up gingerly.

With a look of grievance, Xia Qinghan shook her head, “I never thought she had so much hostility towards me!”

“What actually happened? She was falsely accusing you, wasn’t she?”

“In fact, the whole thing was all a misunderstanding!” Xia Qinghan explained in a helpless manner. “We were both deceived by the same person!”

“Deceived?” Both of them were shocked. “How did you get deceived?”

“Previously, a good friend of mine lost her bracelet, and someone said that Xia Xibei might have stolen it. The one who said that was a close friend of Xia Xibei. Although we doubted it, we still went to ask her about it. We didn’t actually plan to make a big deal out of it, as we were all batchmates. However, that girl insisted that the bracelet was in Xia Xibei’s bag. So in the end, we had no choice but to search her bag.”

“What happened next?”

“Then we found the bracelet in that girl’s bag!”

At that point, Xia Qinghan put on an enraged look.

“Only then did we realize that the girl was making a fool out of us! A few days later, that girl dropped out of school.”

“What?” they exclaimed, their jaws dropping.

“Yea, that girl was way too much! She fooled us all!” Xia Qinghan was so mad that her cheeks were flushed red now. “She was good friends with Xia Xibei, so why would we doubt her when she stood up to testify? But who knew...”

“Was she really good friends with Xia Xibei?” Nini was doubtful, “Good friends wouldn’t do such things to each other, would they?”

“How am I supposed to know what had happened between them? I just heard somewhere that the reason they had fallen out with each other was because of a guy.”

“They were love rivals?!”

“Shh! Don’t speak so loud!” Xia Qinghan stopped them in a hurry. “It was just a rumor that I heard, I’m not really sure.”

Sighing, she continued, "But no matter what, we had all been fooled. And I happened to fall sick after that, and so I didn't get a chance to apologize to Xia Xibei. That's why things turned out this way."

"So it wasn't your fault at all!" Xiaoshi said with fury. "It was trouble that this so-called good friend of Xia Xibei invited, wasn't it?!"

"Right! Birds of a feather flock together. Xia Xibei can't be totally innocent either!"

Nini was equally mad.

Chapter 204: Out-of-the-world Imagination

"Something's not right!" Xiaoshi exclaimed all of a sudden.

"What's wrong? Why do you say so?" Xia Qinghan asked hastily, her heart skipping a beat.

"Why do I find this incident so strange?" Xiaoshi was wearing a look of suspicion on her face.

"How is it strange?"

“Just think about it! That person was Xia Xibei’s good friend, so she should be helping her! Why did she show up out of nowhere and accuse her of stealing that bracelet?”

Nini scowled too, “You’re right, that is weird. If they really were good friends, she wouldn’t have done that!”

“Let’s sort it out properly.” Xiaoshi put on a solemn look as she declared, “Let’s not look at the process, but focus on the outcome instead! The person who benefited most from the incident in the end should be the mastermind!”

The realization hit them the moment her words came out.

“Right!” Nini nodded right away, “That’s why I find it so strange! So it was all just a show written and directed and acted out by the same people!”

“Xia Xibei must have colluded with that person to defame you!” Xiaoshi was outraged. “They had been singing a duet all along!”

“Certainly!” Nini nodded heavily. “They were purposely putting you in a bad position!”

They had seen things like that way too often.

Such things were very common in the entertainment industry, most of which were publicized by the artists themselves.

They started by playing the victim, and when they managed to gain popularity after the big fuss, people would even pity them for being victimized!

But who would have known that the perpetrator did not even exist in the first place?! It was all just a show they had written to gain sympathy from the people!

Having seen these types of things too often, the two of them couldn't help but begin their own conspiracy theory.

It seemed to them that it was a show put on by Xia Xibei and her friend to lure Xia Qinghan into the trap!

In the end, people would think that it was Xia Qinghan who tried to throw dirt on Xia Xibei's name!

Therefore, Xia Xibei could even demand an apology from Xia Qinghan in a righteous manner.

Just the thought of it made their hairs stand on end!

As she listened to their theory, Xia Qinghan almost couldn't conceal the smile at the corners of her lips.

Her intention was simply to steer herself clear from anything related to the matter. She hadn't expected them to complete the story with their own imagination!

Indeed, people who had spent enough time in the industry had a tendency to complicate simple matters.

However, why would she argue against it when what they were saying gave her the upper hand?

“Haih, I’m not really sure what’s real and what’s not,” she heaved a sigh, “But the incident put us on bad terms, and now she’s treating me like a foe...”

“What do you have to care about!” Nini cut her off furiously. “You have nothing to be guilty about! You should be mad! It was your reputation that they destroyed!”

“Yes!” Xiaoshi nodded along, “You’d better not go near her. Be careful not to get eaten up!”

“Right! We don’t have such wicked minds; we could all get fooled so easily.”

Looking at their righteous manners, Xia Qinghan nodded, “Alright, I know.”

At the other end of the classroom, Xia Xibei’s ears pricked up and she retrieved her spiritual power. Her face was expressionless, but she was totally speechless at heart.

She never would have thought that those two girls would be even more naive and stupid than Liu Zhijing and Tao Yueying!

Their imaginations were out of this world! How did they even come to such a conclusion?!

With those brains, if they kept sticking with Xia Qinghan, they would be eaten whole in no time!

It was truly a tragedy that people with such brains made it into the entertainment industry, wasn't it?

Xia Xibei raised her brows and shot a look at the two girls glaring at her from a distance, flashing them a bright smile.

Let your big sister save you with my heart of gold this time!

Chapter 205: Warm-up for Dance

The next class was dance. The company had employed a world renown dance tutor, one who was proficient in many types of dances and had coached many singers before.

It was a young man who seemed to be in his twenties whom everyone called Laosha. With a tall, slender build, he wasn't exactly a handsome guy, but his chubby face was pretty adorable.

He was dressed in a cool hip hop-style outfit with a cap lowered over his face. Upon stepping inside, he couldn't help but raise his brows, "Yo, we have a newcomer today?"

"Nice to meet you, teacher. My name is Xia Xibei," Xia Xibei responded with a smile.

“You’re really pretty, young lady.”

Laosha’s eyes shone when Xia Xibei smiled, and he couldn’t help but compliment her.

The others’ faces darkened, looking at Xia Xibei with displeasure in their eyes.

Although Laosha was in his thirties, his chubby face made him look young. He had been a tutor here for a few years now and had seen many trainees come and go. However, he had never made such remarks to anyone in the past.

Although the students in the room were all good-looking, he only praised Xia Xibei, which roused dissatisfaction from the others.

Meanwhile, Laosha wasn’t bothered at all. He found the young lady very beautiful indeed.

Apart from her good looks, her temperament stood out as well. Even among a big group of good-looking youngsters, she was still the special one who captured people’s attention at first glance.

Her body was well-built too, with long arms and slender legs, but they didn’t make her look disproportionate in any way.

To be a celebrity, and more importantly, a celebrity whom many adored, it took more than just good looks, but also certain distinguishing features!

There were so many beautiful guys and girls out there, the most important thing was to make people remember them at first sight!

Xia Xibei had done well in the context of being “unique.”

Although he knew that the rest of them were unhappy, Laosha didn't care.

And sure enough, neither did he care how much trouble he had potentially caused Xia Xibei.

It was the entertainment industry that they were dealing with, so the public's love and hatred were inevitable. If they couldn't get over such trivial problems, they'd better pack up and go home.

“Alright, let the class begin!”

After offering Xia Xibei the quick compliment, Laosha quickly shifted his thoughts.

“Let's do a warm-up first.”

As he spoke, he demonstrated the moves.

Despite their displeasure, the trainees quickly dispersed and began doing the warm-up stretches.

Xia Qinghan stood in a conspicuous spot, but one that certainly wouldn't be missed, and began warming up.

She had been dancing for many years, so she could easily manage many moves that others found difficult with her soft, flexible body.

"One, two three, four, two, two, three, four, three, two, three, four..."

Laosha clapped out the rhythm and made them move along to it.

With a hint of a smile on her lips, Xia Qinghan did a thorough split.

A few low grunts sounded out from the surroundings. It wasn't an easy split at all! And for those with rigid bodies, it was practically killing them!

As she listened to the agonized grunts surrounding her, Xia Qinghan felt happy.

"Not bad, keep it up."

Laosha walked in front of her, nodding with a smile.

“Thank you, teacher,” Xia Qinghan replied with a smile.

Laosha made his way to the back and she couldn't help but turn to look as well. Xia Xibei was at the back, and she wondered how she was doing.

This was Xia Xibei's first lesson, so could she manage such a difficult stretch on the first try?

Even though Laosha looked friendly and amiable, he was known for his strictness! He never spared anyone for mercy, be it a guy or a girl!

Once, someone wasn't able to do a split, so he pressed the person down by force!

She wondered how badly Xia Xibei would cry in a short while, when her bones became stiff!

As she thought of that scene, Xia Qinghan turned to look, but was flabbergasted instead!

Xia Xibei had managed to do the split!

Chapter 206: Amazing Flexibility

Xia Qinghan wasn't the only one watching Xia Xibei; everyone else was too.

What did good looks account for? Competence said it all!

Therefore, everyone was still keeping an eye on Xia Xibei while busy with the warm-up.

And then their jaws dropped once again!

The splits and squats that gave everyone else a hard time were a piece of cake as far as Xia Xibei was concerned!

The trainees around Xia Xibei felt a surge of dizziness when they saw Xia Xibei lower her body in a flash—and then she did it again!

Her long, pretty legs split in two directions, sitting steadily on the floor in the next second!

The trainees behind her couldn't help but step back a little. Her legs were too long, so they had no choice but to make room for her.

Then they took a look at her face. She seemed to be at complete ease, her expression showing no sign of agony.

Everyone's eyes grew as wide as saucers.

"You've trained before?" Curious, Laosha asked her as he walked up to her.

“You can say that,” Xia Xibei lied without any change in her expression. “I train once in a while when I’m at home.”

The others’ lips were twitching.

How could anyone be so great at this just by training at home? What a joke!

However, great flexibility really wasn’t something that anyone could have just by envying others.

“Press forward,” Laosha said.

“Sure,” Xia Xibei nodded. Her upper body toppled forward, her slim waist pressed straight onto her thigh and her head leaning against her shin.

The others felt as though they were being torn apart.

Although they had been training for a long period of time, their flexibility simply wasn’t as great as Xia Xibei’s. It was too much of a challenge to complete the move perfectly.

“Very good,” Laosha nodded with satisfaction. “Come on, switch your moves!”

Everyone hurriedly switched their moves, all of them bustling.

When the warm-up ended, all of them felt as if their joints had been dislocated and reassembled, sweating profusely.

But then they took a look at Xia Xibei. She looked completely at ease, and there was hardly any sweat on her.

They couldn't quite describe their feelings. If they hadn't been training together, they would have thought that she was goofing off or using shortcuts!

However, great flexibility didn't mean much!

Dancing required the coordination of rhythm, moves, and limbs. Moreover, strength was also a crucial component.

With her skinny arms and legs, she surely didn't have much strength.

When the real deal began, she would know how hard it truly was!

"Alright, I'll begin by demonstrating once."

Laosha turned on the music and moved his arms and legs. The instant the prelude sounded, he began dancing with the rhythm.

All of the trainees watched Laosha closely, fearing that they might miss one of the moves.

Laosha was a very strict coach. Anyone who didn't pay full attention would be berated terribly.

Furthermore, the moves that he taught were brilliant, but difficult to master. Anyone who didn't follow the rhythm closely would lag behind.

Everyone was striving to be better than before, in the hopes that they could debut as soon as possible. Who would dare to be careless at this point?

Xia Xibei was standing at the back, watching Laosha's moves with a relaxed look on her face. She had memorized all his moves by heart.

It was no wonder that the company had hired Laosha as the dance tutor, even with his high pay. His moves were brisk, sharp, and attractive, wasting no time. Every move he made was brilliant and on point, which made people want to move along with the music.

The other trainees held their breaths as they watched his moves closely, their eyes shimmering with envy and adoration.

If they could dance that way, it would never be hard to gain fans!

Two minutes later, the music stopped and Laosha came to a gradual halt as well, panting softly.

“Are you clear now?”

Of course, he was just randomly asking, not expecting a real response. He wasn't that perverse, to the point that he expected them to master the moves simply by watching it once.

Much to his surprise, however, Xia Qinghan stepped forth.

“Yes, I am!”

Chapter 207: Learnt the Moves

She had mastered the dance?

Everyone's attention was captured at once, turning to look at Xia Qinghan in deep shock.

This dance wasn't simple at all. In fact, it was rather complicated. A lot of the moves seemed attractive, but they weren't easy to achieve. Besides, some of the moves were particularly tough, requiring a few rounds of practice to memorize.

But Xia Qinghan was claiming that she had mastered it already. Wasn't that an exaggeration?

Laosha looked at Xia Qinghan, asking with a scowl, “Do you mean you’ve watched it clearly or you’ve mastered it?”

They weren’t the same thing at all.

“I have memorized all the moves,” Xia Qinghan clarified, adding in a serious manner, “Of course, some of the moves might not be perfect, and I might require a few more rounds of practice.”

Her honest words put a smile on Laosha’s face.

He would have been mad if she claimed to have mastered it thoroughly.

Anyway, he did not believe that anyone could learn something at such a terrifying speed.

Therefore, he was glad that she had the courage to bring up her own weakness.

“Well then, give it a try.”

“Sure.”

With looks of envy and jealousy pinned on her, Xia Qinghan shot Xia Xibei a glance, then puffed up her chest and lifted her chin before walking to the center.

Everyone made way for her as Laosha replayed the music, stating, "You may start."

The music began and Xia Qinghan took a deep breath, starting to move her body with the beat.

When she finished, all of them couldn't help but applaud.

Xiaoshi and Nini were applauding and cheering and whistling with all their might, shouting out, "Amazing!"

It turned out that she really had memorized Laosha's moves! She was replicating them almost perfectly!

That was totally spectacular, wasn't it?!

Sure enough, like Xia Qinghan herself had said, she had learnt many of the moves only superficially, so her strength and other aspects were neither accurate nor perfect at the moment.

However, ordinary people couldn't memorize all the dance moves the first time the way she had done.

Just imagine how powerful her memory was!

The others would have taken at least two or three times to memorize all the moves.

“She really is a scholar! Her memory is remarkable!”

“Scholars will be scholars!”

“Absolutely amazing!”

“I have no idea how many times it would take me to memorize the moves!”

Their compliments almost made Xia Qinghan lose control of her joy, her lips curving upwards.

“Not bad, indeed,” Laosha nodded too, a small smile on his lips. “You did memorize all the basic moves, but there are still a lot of moves that need to be perfected.”

“I get it. I’ll definitely practise hard,” Xia Qinghan nodded seriously with a respectful look on her face.

Laosha felt good when he saw her serious attitude.

As a tutor, his biggest fear was coming across slow-witted, dense students. He would throw up blood if he had to teach them more than a few times!

It was great to have clever students like her; the more the better!

In fact, Xia Qinghan had only managed to imitate the surface, but not the core. She had been doing soft, graceful dances from a young age, so she wasn't quite impressive at dances that required strength, like this one did.

However, Laosha was satisfied enough to see such a performance on her first attempt.

Feeling happy, Laosha couldn't help but ask, "Did anyone else master it too?"

Of course, it was a random question once again. People like Xia Qinghan, who was able to master the moves on their first try, were few and far between.

The others exchanged glances, seeming rather timid and hesitant.

They had only managed to memorize some of the moves. Although Xia Qinghan had repeated it a while ago, they still hadn't memorized it completely.

Laosha's glance swept across all the trainees, not having high expectations to begin with.

"Well then, let us..."

"Teacher, I'll give it a try!"

Everyone turned around to look, meeting Xia Xibei's beautiful eyes.

Chapter 208: I'm Better than Her

Upon seeing Xia Xibei step out, Xiaoshi and Nini couldn't help but frown in distaste, whispering to each other.

"What's she trying to do? Steal the spotlight from Qinghan?"

"Haha! How can it be that easy? Let's see her embarrass herself!"

Just who did Xia Xibei think she was? Was she someone who could compare herself to Xia Qinghan?

Although Xia Xibei sang well and could do splits, those things did not really mean anything.

Would she still be so proud of herself when she started dancing for real?

It took a long period of training to dance well! Xia Xibei had just come in, so did she really think she was that amazing?

Apart from the two of them, many others were having the same thoughts.

The dance had only been demonstrated twice, if Xia Qinghan's performance was counted. Could Xia Xibei really manage to do the complete dance?

Considering the strife between Xia Xibei and Xia Qinghan, however, everyone knew her intention.

It was clear that she couldn't stand how Xia Qinghan was getting all the attention!

However, one had to be competent if they wanted to suppress someone else! Otherwise, this would just be downright shameful for her!

Filled with complicated emotions, everyone watched as Xia Xibei made her way to the center.

"You wanna try too?" Laosha looked at her with raised eyebrows.

"Yes."

"You think you've mastered it?"

"Yup."

Laosha's interest was piqued by her concise replies, so he decided to throw more questions at her.

"How well do you think you've mastered it?"

“Very well.”

Everyone around her couldn't help but sneer with disdain upon hearing her words, some scowling while others pouted in distaste.

“How well do you think you can do then, when compared to her?” Laosha kept asking.

“Better than her.”

The others burst into an uproar.

How audacious of her!

How dare she claim to be better than Xia Qinghan before she even started dancing! She was absolutely shameless, wasn't she?!

But Laosha was extremely amused.

“You have that much confidence in yourself?”

“Of course.”

Xia Xibei also noticed the way Laosha was expecting her to make a fool of herself. However, not only did she not shrink back in fear, she grew even more confident instead.

“You’ll see if I’m good or not when I begin dancing in a while.”

God damn it! How flagrant and unrepentant!

The faces of the trainees around her had become distorted.

Her bragging was incredible! It was as though she was already the queen of dance!

Originally, they didn’t have much of an impression of her. All they knew was that she had some bad blood with Xia Qinghan.

However, that didn’t give her permission to behave so blatantly and audaciously, did it?

A competent person showing off was confident, but an incompetent person showing off was simply stupid!

Did she look forward to being ridiculed that much?

As though she couldn't see the looks of contempt on the others' faces, Xia Xibei looked towards Laosha, asking him, "Teacher, shall we begin?"

"Sure, let's begin."

Laosha did not question her further, playing the music instead. "I hope your performance won't let us down."

Xia Xibei's clear, confident voice sounded as the prelude began, "Rest assured, I won't let you down!"

Then Xia Xibei started moving.

As her arms swung abruptly, changes began to unfold. In the meantime, her legs were placed in a different position.

As the music played, it was as if Xia Xibei's moves had shaken the gates in everyone's heart, awakening their souls.

Their eyes couldn't help but widen in wonder as they watched Xia Xibei's slender figure closely.

The music gradually quickened and Xia Xibei's moves sped up alongside it, hitting every beat with marvelous accuracy.

The trainees felt as if they were watching Laosha's dancing figure, but Xia Xibei was skinnier than Laosha, and so much more beautiful than him too.

Her soft, slim waist swayed with strength, her arms and legs moved in beautiful harmony, her hair fluttered in the air, and her fierce glance swept across the room...

It all formed a charming, enthralling picture that no one could tear their eyes away from.

When Xia Xibei finally stopped, the entire room was absolutely silent!

Chapter 209: The Birth of a Queen

Everyone only recovered from their petrified state when the music from the next song began to play.

When they recalled Xia Xibei's performance, however, they couldn't help but inhale a sharp breath.

She had really managed to complete the dance!

No, they should not say that. She had managed to replicate it perfectly!

Her moves, her strength, those angles... They were all identical to Laosha's!

Due to the difference in body shape, however, her moves seemed way more unique and charming; they just couldn't take their eyes off of her!

The trainees were at a loss for words for a long time, but Laosha's stupefaction was in no way less than theirs.

Compared to the inexperienced trainees, Laosha saw so much more from the dance, as he was the choreographer.

This was a rather explosive dance, requiring sufficient strength to express correctly.

While Xia Qinghan was dancing just now, she had only managed to touch the bare surface of the dance. Her moves were soft and feathery, which didn't quite bring out the beauty.

But Xia Xibei was a whole different story.

She danced with adequate strength!

No! To be more precise, she managed to replicate the same amount of strength he had!

In the midst of his daze, Laosha felt as if he was watching himself in the mirror. Every raise of her hand and every lift of her leg seemed so familiar!

Despite her skinny, feeble appearance, Xia Xibei's strength was extraordinary!

Her moves were on point and in time, her eyes ferocious and tempting... If she was on stage, fans would scream with madness!

This was clearly a queen born for the stage!

“How was it?”

Xia Xibei’s words brought everyone back to reality, pulling them out of their deep shock.

Right now, all of them were wearing the same inexplicable expressions on their faces.

Shock, surprise, reverence, envy, jealousy, adoration... With so many different emotions entangled in their hearts at once, their faces were on the verge of distortion.

Such prodigies actually existed! They had just witnessed the birth of a prodigy with their very own eyes!

“Great! Amazing!”

Laosha’s forbearance was much better than theirs. He came back to his senses immediately, clapping his hands.

With him in the lead, everyone else started clapping along too.

Pa! Pa! Pa!

The sound of applause got louder and louder.

“Absolutely wonderful!” Laosha applauded while singing her praises. “I didn’t expect you to dance so well!”

Xia Xibei had concealed her ferocity by this time and was now acting rather bashful.

“Thank you.”

“How many years have you been dancing for?”

During the warm-up a while ago, Laosha did not ask that question despite Xia Xibei’s outstanding performance.

However, now he felt that he had to ask.

“Me?” Xia Xibei pointed at herself and shook her head, “I didn’t start dancing until I was seventeen.”

She wasn’t lying. She had never danced before the age of “seventeen.”

During her previous life, she had only started dancing in her twenties.

Due to her late beginning, she had expended a great amount of effort in order to keep up with the rest.

In fact, she was born with artistic talents, but she hadn't had an opportunity to express it in the past. Later, it would only take her a few years to have shocking accomplishments.

In other words, it was all because of her past efforts that she could perform with such ease now.

As a matter of fact, what she had done right now could really be considered bullying. Her situation was truly extraordinary, after all.

However, it was Xia Qinghan who had just been bullied.

How would the others know what she had been through? They were instantly horrified upon hearing that she hadn't learnt dancing before.

"You're kidding!" Laosha's eyes went extremely wide, staring at Xia Xibei in disbelief. "You're lying to me, aren't you?!"

The others were all having the same thoughts. If someone who hadn't learnt dancing before could put on such a fabulous performance, then they really were pretty rubbish, weren't they?

“What’s the point of lying to you guys?” Xia Xibei shrugged.

All of them were petrified once again, realizing that she wasn’t kidding.

Chapter 210: An Outrageous Existence

So this was the first time she had danced?!

She was totally kidding, wasn’t she?!

No one dared believe what Xia Xibei had just said. Just how inhuman would someone have to be to learn things at such a terrifying speed?

Xia Qinghan looked even more awful, with her face both flushed and pale at the same time, as if someone had just slapped her face.

She had been proud of her performance just moments ago, but Xia Xibei had given her a brutal slap on the face!

She had always thought that dancing would give Xia Xibei a hard time, as she had never learnt it before.

Xia Xibei had never learnt dancing, indeed, but who would have thought that it would be completely effortless to her?!

Anyone who wasn't blind could see the difference between the two of them.

The trainees were wearing looks of shock and fascination on their faces. Even Laosha was looking at Xia Xibei with undisguised obsession in his eyes!

"She's more than just a scholar; she's a goddess!"

"That's freaking heavenly, isn't it?!"

"I thought monsters couldn't become gods?!"

As she listened to people's adoring comments about Xia Xibei, Xia Qinghan felt like her heart had plummeted into an ice-cold chasm, her limbs numb and her tongue bitter.

"Alright, stop talking!" Laosha was the teacher, so he brought everyone's attention back to him with a clap of his hands. "Let's start practicing!"

"Yes!"

The others nodded, but their eyes remained glued to Xia Xibei.

This time around, no one could recall their contempt towards her. All that was left was apprehension, envy, and reverence.

If they had such a horrifying ability in learning, they could debut anytime soon, couldn't they?

They couldn't help but lament within. Why did people like her even exist? Putting her good looks aside, just why was she so amazing at everything? Would anyone else even make it out alive?!

"Focus!" Laosha shouted, a scowl on his face. "Don't get distracted if you aren't as great as her!"

Their hearts went cold for a second and their faces flushed red. Quickly pulling their scattered thoughts back together, they concentrated on the dance practice.

He was right! They weren't bestowed with talents like Xia Xibei's. If they didn't work hard, they would end up being nothing at all!

Besides, demons like her were rare in this world. They shouldn't compare themselves with pervs like her!

Many of them channeled their sorrow and rage into motivation, watching Laosha's moves closely. They couldn't afford to be distracted now.

Laosha nodded in satisfaction when he saw their efforts.

It wasn't a bad thing to have an outrageous existence like Xia Xibei work beside them. At least it would make them understand that there were mountains beyond mountains. Without hard work, they would be eliminated sooner or later.

When he turned around to look, Laosha was even more satisfied.

Despite Xia Xibei's impressive performance, she was still practicing intently along with the rhythm.

And much to their surprise, her dance moves changed every time she practiced.

As the music flowed, her moves became more precise, even adding a touch of uniqueness to her dancing.

She had only been replicating the dance a short while ago, leaving everyone flabbergasted by her terrifying learning ability.

Right now, however, her moves were even more unbridled and eye-catching, the look in her eyes growing even more mesmerizing.

Her moves were tough and attractive earlier, but now that she was dancing in a more mellow way without losing her strength, she was even more gripping.

The look in Laosha's eyes showed that he was getting more and more impressed.

It wasn't as if he hadn't met prodigies before, but prodigies like Xia Xibei were far too rare!

He considered himself a genius, but in front of Xia Xibei, he didn't even have the strength to retaliate!

Just imagine how spectacular a scene an outrageous genius like her would make in the days to come!

Although the others were focused on their practice, they could still see Xia Xibei's moves in the mirror, their attention inevitably captured by her as time went on.

When everyone finally came to their senses, only Xia Xibei and Xia Qinghan were left dancing to the rhythm.

Chapter 211: Worse Setback

It was only by the time she felt that the atmosphere had changed did Xia Qinghan realize that everyone but her and Xia Xibei had stopped dancing.

Under their subtle gazes, her moves stiffened, little by little.

From the mirror, she saw that Xia Xibei wasn't affected at all. Her timing was precise, and her moves were clean and well executed.

Then she took a look at herself. The moves that she had thought were pretty good seemed flimsy and powerless when compared to Xia Xibei.

With her heart palpating fast, she came to a stop. Her face switched from red to ashen to pale, wishing she could dig a hole and hide there right now!

“The difference is too big, isn’t it?”

“Yea, I didn’t feel that way when they were dancing individually, but when they stand next to each other though... Goodness! This is public humiliation!”

“I’d die of embarrassment if that was me!”

Those words drifted into Xia Qinghan’s ears bit by bit and sliced through her flesh like a blunt knife, making her bleed all over.

Her face kept turning more and more ashen. Her lips moved, and she forced out a small smile, claiming, “I need to use the washroom.”

She left in a hurry, leaving behind everyone’s looks of contempt and ridicule.

Her emotions only broke loose when she stepped into a cubicle!

There, she clenched her fists tight with all her strength, trying to refrain from losing control.

'God damn Xia Xibei!' Xia Qinghan cursed in her heart, her cheeks flushed and her eyes red with anger.

If anyone else had been here, they would be horrified to see the person in front of them. How could this hideous person be the same gentle, beautiful, soft-hearted young lady that they knew?

If the last shred of sanity that she had hadn't reminded her that this wasn't her own home, Xia Qinghan might have torn this place apart!

God damn Xia Xibei! Why must she always set herself against her?!

Hadn't she mastered the dance already? Why did she keep dancing?!

When she found out about the disparity between her and Xia Xibei just now, Xia Qinghan did not admit defeat, despite feeling shocked and displeased.

So what if she memorized the moves quickly? She would still be able to defeat her in the end!

Therefore, she intended to diligently learn from Laosha.

But who would have expected everyone to stop at one point, leaving her and Xia Xibei as the only ones dancing?!

That was the reason why the contrast seemed so obvious!

The disparity wasn't that great when they were dancing on their own. But a short while ago, they were standing not far from each other, doing the same exact moves, so the difference could be seen with just a glance!

Xia Qinghan was furious, grinding her teeth so hard that they were almost crushed to dust.

She knew that Xia Xibei had done it on purpose! Xia Xibei wanted to embarrass her in front of everyone there!

However, she wouldn't admit defeat just like that!

Xia Xibei was just a broke, petty child; what did she have to compete with her?

After taking a few deep breaths to adjust her mood, Xia Qinghan finally stepped out of the washroom.

By the time she returned to the dance classroom, Xia Qinghan's expression was back to normal.

However, she couldn't help but freeze once again when she saw Xia Xibei, who was surrounded by a crowd.

What were they doing?

"Look, this is how this part should be done," Xia Xibei's voice rang through the room. "Come on! Arms, legs, one, two, three, four..."

“Oh, I see!”

The others couldn't help but marvel. So it wasn't that hard after all!

“Let us continue.”

Xia Xibei didn't seem to notice Xia Qinghan's return, carrying on with instructing the other trainees on the moves instead.

The others only shot Xia Qinghan a glance, then went back to concentrating on their own moves.

Laosha had gone out to pick up a call just now, so Xia Xibei had become their assistant coach.

Much to their surprise, Xia Xibei was much friendlier than they had imagined!

Xia Qinghan found out that there was something worse than embarrassing herself in front of everyone, which was this: no one cared about her at all!

Chapter 212: Grievance and Tears

Xia Qinghan fidgeted for the rest of the class.

When she watched other people learn to dance from Xia Xibei, her heart felt as if it was on fire.

However, if others looked at her, she felt that they were laughing at her.

What angered her the most was Xia Xibei's indifference towards her.

Several times, when their eyes met, Xia Xibei quickly turned away, refusing to even look at her.

Xia Xibei's eyes were extremely cold, as if she was not worth mentioning.

What did Xia Xibei mean by that?!

Xia Qinghan's heart seemed to have been bitten by ants, which was extremely uncomfortable.

Seeing that everyone was liking and admiring Xia Xibei more and more, she felt as if the air had become thinner and she was about to suffocate.

During class, she was in a trance and couldn't concentrate.

Despite this, Laosha didn't criticize her, all of his attention on Xia Xibei!

Thinking of this, Xia Qinghan gritted her teeth with hatred.

She had never suffered like this before in her life!

She had always been the center of attention in a crowd. She enjoyed the wonderful feeling of being watched by everyone, making her feel as if she was the most beautiful and outstanding person there.

But today, everything was beyond her control!

Xia Qinghan couldn't recover, not even after class ended.

When class finally wrapped up, she couldn't resist going to Bai Meixue.

As soon as she stepped into her office and saw Bai Meixue, she burst into tears.

"Auntie Xue!"

Bai Meixue immediately became flustered upon seeing Xia Qinghan crying.

“What happened? Who hurt you?!” exclaimed Bai Meixue, circling Xia Qinghan and checking for any signs of harm. After confirming that there were no injuries, she breathed a sigh of relief, but was still very nervous.

“Tell Auntie Xue. What’s the matter? Who dared to bully you?”

Before she could even open her mouth, Xia Qinghan couldn’t help but start crying again.

“Don’t cry! What happened?” Bai Meixue’s heart was breaking. “What the hell happened?”

If Xia Qinghan hadn’t held her back, she might have rushed out to ask someone about the situation.

“I- I...”

Xia Qinghan felt so wronged that her tears flowed profusely, her pitiful look really making Bai Meixue feel awful.

“Don’t worry. Take your time, let’s talk it out.”

After Xia Qinghan cried for a while, she finally revealed what had happened today between sobs.

“...Xia Xibei was targeting me!” she finally concluded.

“That little b... That girl can do this?”

Bai Meixue was shocked too.

Bai Meixue knew about Xia Xibei’s living situation, believing that she had no resources to learn these things.

In other words, Xia Xibei had no other merits other than a pretty face.

Even if she had talent, that talent must be developed through the use of money!

No matter how talented Xia Xibei was, after joining the company, she still needed to go through long-term training in order to grow.

However, she did not expect Xia Xibei to have such powerful strength!

At this moment, Bai Meixue couldn’t help but wonder, what kind of life had Xia Xibei lived before?

“I was almost laughed to death by everyone today!” Xia Qinghan brazenly vented in front of Bai Meixue. “I don’t want to be a star anymore!”

“Nonsense!”

Bai Meixue's face turned grim immediately, taking Xia Qinghan aback.

"Why are you comparing yourself to her?"

Bai Meixue took a deep breath, suppressing the vicious fire in her heart before comforting her, "You and her don't live in the same world! Even if she performed well here, the company isn't hers! Do you think it's that easy to debut?"

Chapter 213: Top Student Image

Bai Meixue had never expected Xia Xibei to join this company.

However, Xia Xibei wouldn't be able to control things after she joined.

"Don't worry. No matter how powerful she is, without the stage, she can't show anything!" Bai Meixue comforted Xia Qinghan. "Also, you must remember that you and she are not from the same world! Don't compare yourself to her, do you understand?"

Bai Meixue's face was stern, speaking very seriously.

It was the first time Xia Qinghan had seen Bai Meixue being so serious and awe-inspiring, so she nodded obediently, "Yes, I understand."

After being comforted by Bai Meixue, Xia Qinghan finally calmed down.

Right! Why was she comparing herself to Xia Xibei?

It didn't matter if Xia Xibei was amazing. What was the point if she didn't have any opportunities or a stage?!

Wasn't this industry full of people who had talent but no opportunities, who had no choice but to leave in resignation?!

"Don't worry. I will plan everything for you," Bai Meixue said softly, caressing Xia Qinghan's head lovingly

"Yes. Thanks, Auntie Xue," Xia Qinghan nodded docilely.

"However, you can't fall behind in your studies," Bai Meixue continued. "We are going to build you up as a top student character, so you must maintain your grades."

"Top student?" Xia Qinghan asked in surprise.

"That's right," Bai Meixue nodded. "Many stars have their character settings. You have to follow the most popular route when the time comes. Being a top student is the most popular."

Being a top student was not only great for getting student fans, but it appealed to parents as well!

Every parent hoped that their children would find a positive role model.

A top student idol not only enabled kids to like them, the image pleased their parents as well.

If the parents were satisfied, it improved the purchasing power of the students as well, since their spending money was controlled by their parents.

"I understand," Xia Qinghan nodded, a little proud. "That isn't a problem. My grades have always been great."

"Of course, I know that," Bai Meixue smiled and tapped her nose. "That's why I am going to create this persona."

She knew Xia Qinghan better than everyone; of course she knew the best way.

"By the way, there will be an answering competition show coming up. I am going to sign you up."

"Answering competition?" Xia Qinghan was taken aback for a moment. "What is it?"

"The show is called 'Million Dollar Wisdom and Courage,' and you answer questions to pass levels," Bai Meixue explained. "The topics are not difficult, but they do cover a lot of areas."

“Is this show... Does it have good ratings?”

“It’s not on yet. What ratings do you want?” Bai Meixue gave her a scornful look.

“But, the ratings for this type of show...” Xia Qinghan’s expression was mixed.

This kind of question-answering program usually didn’t have good ratings because they usually weren’t that interesting.

“Don’t worry, you are just going on for a bit. It’s good for creating your image.”

As long as Xia Qinghan performed well on this show, they could hire online commenters and marketing accounts to make her top student image go viral.

“Okay.”

Xia Qinghan finally understood, immediately smiling brilliantly.

“So, after you go back, you have to study hard for me. Then you can be confident when you go on the show.”

“Is... Is there no question bank?” Xia Qinghan hesitated.

“Not for the time being,” Bai Meixue shook her head. “If necessary, we will prepare one when the time comes.”

“OK.”

After talking to Bai Meixue for half an hour, Xia Qinghan’s mood had improved greatly.

So what if Xia Xibei performed really well? Did she have anyone to plan everything for her?

Chapter 214: Milk Tea Shop Opening

Xia Xibei didn’t know what Xia Qinghan and Bai Meixue were plotting, and she didn’t have the time to care, because today was the grand opening of the milk tea shop.

After finding a location for the store, Fang Yongxin had been very involved in the store, following the progress every day.

With all her effort, the milk tea shop was finally going to open.

Saturday was when the mall was the busiest. There were many people coming and going, and a red banner attracted everyone’s attention.

Delicious and Healthy: Milk Tea that will never make you gain weight!

The slogan wasn't exactly easy to say, but the message was very appealing.

Non-fattening milk tea? Was that a joke?

Everyone knew that milk tea was a drink high in both sugar calories, sure to make you gain weight.

Yet, the milk tea shop called "Jiabei Sweet" was using such a banner. It was false advertising!

While everyone was thinking this, after smelling the sweet scent wafting over to them, they still walked over.

Today's grand opening offered customers a "buy one get one free" coupon for the milk tea.

Everyone's eyes lit up when they looked at the colorful milk tea molds on the counter.

These milk teas were gorgeous!

There were a total of seven cups in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The colors were fresh and juicy, as bright and beautiful as a starry sky, some mixed with coconut pearls. Even knowing they were molds, they were very appetizing.

“This milk tea is not fattening?” someone couldn’t resist asking.

Since people chose to drink milk tea, they were naturally prepared to gain weight.

However, this shop was advertising a non-fattening product, so everyone had to ask.

“Of course!”

The shop assistants were all beautiful, young women with smiling faces.

“Our milk tea is laboratory tested, so we can confirm that the calories and sugar content are only one-tenth of that of ordinary milk tea! It will satisfy your taste buds and there will be absolutely no weight-gain!”

The passers-by looked at each other.

Calories were one thing, but if the milk tea only had one-tenth the sugar of a normal drink, was it even milk tea? Milk tea had to be sweet!

“You mean the milk tea is not sweet?”

“No, our milk tea is very sweet!” The clerk held out small cups of milk tea for the customers to sample.
“Here, try it!”

The passers-by reached out hesitantly, picking up small cups of milk tea and sipping on the drink.

After they did so, their eyes widened in shock.

It was delicious!

The milk tea had a rich, milky aroma with just the right amount of sweetness. The taste was silky, but whatever had made it that way was not greasy at all. The more you drank, the more you wanted.

“It’s delicious!”

“I really won’t get fat after drinking this?” someone with glittering eyes asked loudly.

“Absolutely not!” the clerk smiled and nodded. “It has herbs, so it is good for your health!”

“But I don’t taste any herbs...”

“Well, that is our secret recipe!”

Secret recipe or not, fattening or not, the milk tea was indeed delicious.

The milk tea also looked amazing.

Many people were intrigued when they saw others walk out with their beautiful and attractive milk tea in high-quality, exquisite cups.

And there was a “buy one get one free” offer going on today!

Soon, a long line had formed at the door.

Xia Xibei and Song Jiaren helped out in the store while wearing their hats and masks, both of them incredibly busy. When they saw the crowd outside, their smiles became brighter.

“Great!” Song Jiaren was very happy. “Everyone loves it!”

She was confident there would be a lot of repeat customers!

Half an hour later, news came from the front that there were two large takeout orders, each of which was more than 100 cups of milk tea!

Chapter 215:

Who Are You?

“A big order?”

Song Jiaren became excited.

This area had a lot of office buildings, most of them filled with companies.

These companies usually ordered afternoon tea, which always included milk tea, cake, fruit, etc.

It could be said that stores nearby often had bulk orders.

But Song Jiaren didn't think a big order like that would come this quickly!

Fang Yongxin came to the back of the store. She was just as happy.

“Yes, big orders!”

Fang Yongxin managed the milk tea shop, so she was overjoyed about the orders.

“One is for a large beauty salon near here. The other is for a company upstairs,” she explained.

“I didn’t think that we would become popular so soon!” Song Jiaren was very excited. Her hands kept working, very skilled.

She had not done chores at home before, but when she got here, she showed her superior hands-on skills.

This made Fang Yongxin think that maybe Jiaren should do more chores at home?

“It’s our opening day, so we have a “buy one get one free” offer going on. Maybe that’s why they are interested.”

Although Fang Yongxin was happy, she did not exaggerate the situation.

“As long as they drink it, we can keep them coming back to us!” Xia Xibei stated proudly.

“Exactly!” Song Jiaren took the time to applaud. “We can definitely keep them!”

Their delicious milk tea would definitely keep everyone around.

Who didn't like drinking milk tea that was non-fattening, delicious, and healthy too? Especially office workers. They would absolutely be interested.

After a busy afternoon, Song Jiaren was exhausted. She walked out of the back of the store, taking off her mask and hat.

"What are you doing here?" a surprised voice sounded.

Song Jiaren looked over and hesitantly asked, "You are...?"

A slender young woman, less than 160 cm tall, was in front of her. She had beautiful eyes, but there was a trace of sadness in her expression, inviting pity.

She wore a white dress that outlined her slim waist, which was narrow and looked easily breakable.

Just this one glance made Song Jiaren dislike her.

She definitely liked people with straight-forward personalities. This girl looked moody and sentimental; she wasn't her type of person.

Although she didn't know who this girl was.

The girl looked at Song Jiaren in surprise, asking in return, "Do you work here?"

Song Jiaren was wearing an apron with “Jiabei Sweet” printed on it. Although she had lost a lot of weight, she still looked much bigger than ordinary people.

The difference was especially obvious when compared with this girl.

“You know me?”

Song Jiaren frowned, thinking that the girl’s tone was a little strange.

“I know you,” the girl nodded, “You’re Little Qi’s friend.”

“Little Qi?”

Song Jiaren was taken aback. It took her awhile to realize she was talking about Yu Ziqi. Through Xia Xibei, Song Jiaren had also gotten to know Yu Ziqi.

Yu Ziqi was thinner than Song Jiaren, but he was still fat. The two of them were quite eye-catching together.

Moreover, Yu Ziqi had a very simple personality, so he got along well with them.

“Who are you?” Song Jiaren asked with a frown.

“My name is Zheng Xiaowen. I am Little Qi’s deskmate at school, and also the neighbor who grew up with him.” Zheng Xiaowen said softly, her face slightly lowered.

Song Jiaren frowned. Those words sounded a little odd.

However, she didn’t overthink it and continued to ask, “Did you want to buy some milk tea?”

“I was just passing by,” Zheng Xiaowen smiled in reply. “So you work here?” Raising her voice, she added, “But I thought that the milk tea here didn’t make you fat?”

Chapter 216:

Fake Advertizing

These words made the other people look over.

Everyone was stunned when they saw Song Jiaren’s body shape, their expressions a bit strange.

If you went to a beauty salon and saw that the technician had acne, you would definitely doubt the effectiveness of that salon.

If you went to a gym and saw a flabby fitness coach, who would dare to go to another class?

The owner of this shop was claiming that their milk tea was non-fattening, but if their clerk was fat, everyone began to wonder about the truth behind this claim.

Earlier, everyone had been busy buying milk tea and hadn't noticed the clerk inside, so they didn't think too much about it.

Now that this had been mentioned, people began to feel a bit differently.

Was this milk tea really non-fattening?

Did she gain weight after drinking this?

If so, their advertising was ridiculous!

Thinking this way, everyone began to show dissatisfaction, hesitating before placing their orders.

Zheng Xiaowen's words made Song Jiaren's face turn grim. She was not stupid, naturally understanding that Zheng Xiaowen had bad intentions.

Although she didn't know when she had offended Zheng Xiaowen, now was not the time to analyze this matter.

She gave a cold laugh, “You mean, our milk tea has fake advertising?!”

“I- I didn’t say that!”

Zheng Xiaowen seemed to be frightened by her, immediately taking two steps back to get away from her.

Her action almost made Song Jiaren go ballistic.

This girl was definitely here to mess up their store-opening!

Song Jiaren finally understood why she had gotten a bad feeling about Zheng Xiaowen just now. Her instincts were right!

“Jiajia.”

Xia Xibei heard the noise and came out from inside the store, stopping next to Song Jiaren.

Song Jiaren’s anger was calmed down by Xia Xibei, but she still stared at Zheng Xiaowen fiercely.

While Zheng Xiaowen was being stared, her face grew pale and her body trembled slightly, making her look pitiful.

Song Jiaren felt her hand itching to move, wishing she could get some close contact with Zheng Xiaowen's face.

However, today was their grand opening, and it shouldn't be ruined by someone like her.

Before Xia Xibei could speak, Song Jiaren snorted, "Our store doesn't use fake advertising. No matter how much milk tea you drink, you won't get fat."

Zheng Xiaowen glanced at her, smirking but saying nothing. She was obviously not convinced.

The other customers continued to watch the show.

As the crowd watched on, Jiaren Song took out her cell phone.

"This is how I looked like before. I drank a lot of milk tea, and I am much thinner now!"

She clicked on a photo, the girl on it almost filling the whole screen.

The people standing close by were taken aback after seeing the photo clearly.

"What the- She's so much thinner now!"

Although Song Jiaren was still fat at the moment, she had lost a lot of weight, her facial features much more visible than they were in the photo, where her body seemed to overflow off of the screen.

Song Jiaren nonchalantly handed the phone to other people and continued, "This was me a month ago. I have lost more than ten kilograms now."

"Ten kilograms?!"

The crowd drew a collective breath. The speed of her weight loss was crazy! Moreover, didn't losing so much weight in a month affect your health?

However, seeing Song Jiaren's glowing face, everyone knew the answer to their question.

"How did you get thinner?" a slightly chubby girl raised her voice and asked.

"Heh heh. Of course, I have my ways! Anyway, I drank two cups of our milk tea a day, but I still did not get fat!"

Speaking of this, Song Jiaren's mood immediately improved.

Chapter 217: Milk Tea for Weight-loss

Song Jiaren had a lot to say about weight-loss.

Although she didn't reveal Xia Xibei's role in the change, she only looked towards her.

After all, this was all due to Xia Xibei. What if Xia Xibe didn't like her talking rashly?

When she met Song Jiaren's eyes, Xia Xibei gave a small smile.

"Everyone, our store now focuses on milk tea that is non-fattening. After a while, we will also launch milk tea that will help you lose weight."

'What?!' everyone thought in shock.

"Milk tea that helps you lose weight? Are you joking?"

Today's milk tea was already a surprise, and now there was weight-loss milk tea?

Weight-loss tea?! Could someone this pretty be exaggerating?

"Can a clerk like you say this?" Zheng Xiaowen asked weakly.

The others were suddenly stunned.

Right! Could a clerk be responsible for this kind of statement?

Song Jiaren was about to say that Xia Xibei was not a clerk when she was interrupted by Fang Yongxin, who had just arrived at the scene.

“Our store will launch new products from time to time, and our milk tea is different from other milk teas as the effect is different. We are now working on milk tea that can help you lose weight, which will be launched in a short time. Please look forward to it!”

Fang Yongxin looked elegant and graceful, so at a glance, people knew she was the boss.

Since she had spoken, people had no comments to make.

However, people were curious. Was weight-loss milk tea really possible?

Xia Xibei smiled to herself upon seeing these people’s intense curiosity.

In the next few years, the concept of health preservation would become very popular. By then, major stores would launch various health preservation drinks that had different effects.

They were just seizing the market first, allowing her to come up with unique products.

“Don’t worry, if we dare to say such things, we will naturally be responsible for these words!” Fang Yongxin said loudly while smiling with confidence. “As for whether it’s true, everyone can wait and see.”

Seeing her confident and elegant smile, the young customers couldn’t help but blush, gaining confidence in this store at the same time.

Of course, even if they couldn’t lose weight, that was fine. The milk tea in this shop was really delicious!

Soon, the line started moving once again.

Seeing that the small incident had been resolved, Song Jiaren was relieved. However, she became angrier too.

Grabbing Zheng Xiaowen, who was about to leave, she demanded, “Were you here to make a scene?”

She and Zheng Xiaowen didn’t know each other before this, let alone have any bad blood between them, but Zheng Xiaowen had still behaved oddly.

“Wh- What are you talking about? I don’t understand!”

Zheng Xiaowen was a little nervous. She wanted to pull her hand out and started to sweat.

“You don’t know what I said?” Song Jiaren gritted her teeth and whispered, “Do you think I’m a fool?”

“Let go...”

“That’s enough,” Fang Yongxin interrupted their dispute. “Let’s go inside and talk.”

There was a small lounge inside for them to settle this matter privately.

Zheng Xiaowen’s face became paler upon hearing those words. She pulled her hand away and quickly said, “I have something to do, so I need to go!”

Then, she quickly walked out.

“Don’t go!”

Song Jiaren’s temper was out in full force and she couldn’t bear this, immediately chasing after her.

Xia Xibei quickly said to Fang Yongxin, “Auntie Xin, let me go with them.”

As soon as she left the door, Xia Xibei heard Song Jiaren’s annoyed voice ring out from up ahead, “Damn! Why are you crying?! I didn’t hit you!”

Chapter 218: In a Dilemma

When Xia Xibei rushed over, she heard an excited “Bark,” followed by a golden figure running towards her.

Xia Xibei took a closer look and saw Asura rushing to her, his tongue sticking out excitedly.

She stroked Asura’s head and looked forward, then frowned.

In addition to Zheng Xiaowen and Song Jiaren, who were not far away, Yu Ziqi was also here.

At this time, Zheng Xiaowen had tears in her eyes and a wronged expression. She was carefully hiding behind Yu Ziqi.

Song Jiaren angrily stood across from them, as if she was about to start a fight at any moment.

It was apparent that Yu Ziqi was also a little flustered by this scene.

However, because of Asura’s actions, the weird atmosphere among the three of them had been broken.

Yu Ziqi looked at his rebellious dog helplessly, not knowing what to say.

“Little Qi...”

Realizing that Yu Ziqi’s attention had been taken away by Asura, Zheng Xiaowen couldn’t resist poking his arm, bringing his focus back to her.

Yu Ziqi came back to his senses, a little embarrassed. He began to speak, “Sister Jiajia, you’ve...”

“What about me?!” Song Jiaren’s anger flared up once again. “Why don’t you ask her what she did?!”

Seeing Zheng Xiaowen’s pathetic look, Song Jiaren could not wait to slap her.

Just now, when Song Jiaren caught up to Zheng Xiaowen, before she could even grab her, Yu Ziqi had showed up.

Seeing Yu Ziqi, Zheng Xiaowen rushed over and hid behind him. At the same time, she started crying.

Song Jiaren was livid upon seeing this.

What did Zheng Xiaowen mean by saying she had bullied her?!

“Jiajia,” Xia Xibei spoke softly, bringing Asura over with a calm expression, “What happened?”

It was only a blink of an eye, so how had it become like this?

Song Jiaren was very upset, explaining the situation just now.

“...I didn’t even make her responsible, and now she’s crying?!”

Zheng Xiaowen shivered, her body trembling slightly as she whispered, “I’m sorry, I-”

“Don’t say ‘I’m sorry’!” Song Jiaren interrupted her in annoyance. “Tell me first, what did you want today? Why did you come here and make a scene?!”

“I- I didn’t do anything!” Zheng Xiaowen defended herself quietly. “Did- Did I do something wrong?”

Seeing her delicate and fearful look, Song Jiaren became even angrier. She hated these types of weak, willowy girls. Zheng Xiaowen just made her more and more upset.

“Sister Jiajia, don’t worry, let’s talk it out,” Yu Ziqi said in a hurry, wanting to make peace.

One was his friend while the other was his deskmate. He was in a dilemma.

“Talk it out?!”

Xia Xibei stopped Song Jiaren, interrupting her tirade. “Don’t worry, let’s talk.”

When faced with Xia Xibei’s clear gaze, Zheng Xiaowen’s eyes flickered. She couldn’t help but look away, not daring to meet her eyes.

Seeing this, Xia Xibei almost smiled. This girl really had something going on.

“There’s too many people here, so let’s find a place to sit down and talk,” Xia Xibei spoke, the others not disagreeing.

Zheng Xiaowen glanced at them with vague emotions, continuing to bow her head silently, looking like a pitiful, bullied girl.

“How about that store we went to before?” Yu Ziqi suggested.

“OK.”

Zheng Xiaowen’s face changed slightly as she listened to the familiar conversation between the two of them.

Although she quickly hid that expression, the change did not escape Xia Xibei’s eyes.

Seeing Asura following Xia Xibei, Zheng Xiaowen had an idea. She smiled and ordered, "Asura, let's go."

Unexpectedly, Asura glanced in her direction but ignored her, continuing to wag his tail at Xia Xibei.

Chapter 219: Identity Exposed

Asura did not bother Zheng Xiaowen at all, wagging its tail vigorously at Xia Xibei instead. It looked like it would pounce on Xia Xibei at any moment.

As for Zheng Xiaowen... Who was she?

It was a pretty awkward moment.

Song Jiaren couldn't help but chuckle, her anger dying down a lot.

Zheng Xiaowen's face was also flushed red due to awkwardness and embarrassment.

Yu Ziqi did not think much of it, but tried to explain Asura's behavior.

"Don't take it to heart. Whenever Xibei is around, even I don't have a place, although I'm the owner."

Zheng Xiaowen laughed awkwardly but did not speak.

“Asura, let’s go.”

Xia Xibei waved her hand at Asura with a smile and Asura went up to her obediently.

Looking at how Asura was fawning over Xia Xibei, the look on Zheng Xiaowen’s face turned awful. She had to bite her lips to hold back her dismay.

Very soon, the group of people arrived at the restaurant where they had gone the last time.

When she saw how the manager treated Yu Ziqi with great respect, Zheng Xiaowen’s glooms disappeared and her eyes almost shone.

Xia Xibei snorted at heart, getting to know Zheng Xiaowen a little more.

After they sat down, Xia Xibei stroked Asura, who was sprawled beside her and unwilling to leave her side.

She asked, “Qi, don’t you want to introduce her to us?”

Yu Ziqi nodded, “She’s Zheng Xiaowen, my deskmate. This is Xia Xibei and that’s Song Jiaren. They are both good friends of mine.”

“Is she just your deskmate?” Xia Xibei flashed a thoughtful smile. “Aren’t you related in any other way?”

“What- What are you talking about!”

Yu Ziqi blushed at her question.

“What are you thinking about?” Xia Xibei repeated with a laugh. “Apart from being your deskmate, isn’t she also the neighbor whom you grew up with?”

Zheng Xiaowen’s face paled upon hearing her words.

Yu Ziqi did not notice her reaction, slightly baffled at the moment. “We used to be neighbors when we were kids, but that was years ago!”

Zheng Xiaowen’s face became even paler, if that was possible.

At that point, Song Jiaren couldn’t help but burst out in laughter, “So I suppose the so-called childhood sweethearts are all made up, then?”

Song Jiaren’s reaction confused Yu Ziqi even more.

“We lived in the same area before 4th grade, but her family moved away after that.”

“So that means that she isn’t your neighbor right now?” Song Jiaren continued asking.

“Yup,” Yu Ziqi looked at them in bewilderment, then became shocked when he looked at Zheng Xiaowen. “Xiaowen, what’s wrong with you? Why is your face so pale?”

“I- I-”

Zheng Xiaowen’s face switched between being pale and turning red every few seconds. How she wished she could dig a hole and hide in it right now...

She hadn’t expected Xia Xibei to expose her so flagrantly right away! This identity shouldn’t have been exposed so soon!

But how could she have known that Xia Xibei was now living in the same area as Yu Ziqi!

If Zheng Xiaowen had lived in the same area as them, how come Xia Xibei had never met this “deskmate” before?

“Hahahaha!”

Song Jiaren was extremely delighted.

She wasn't a fool. How could she not know what Zheng Xiaowen was thinking when her reaction was so obvious?

Song Jiaren finally realized why Zheng Xiaowen had come to find fault with her.

It was all because of Yu Ziqi!

Having thought of that, she couldn't help but size up Yu Ziqi.

"What- What are you doing?" Yu Ziqi felt rather awkward under her gaze, almost covering his body with his hands.

"Nothing. I'm just trying to figure out which part of you looks good."

"Whoof!" None.

Yu Ziqi's eyes welled up with tears, claiming, "It's enough that Asura thinks I'm good looking!"

Being able to understand Asura, Xia Xibei's lips twitched at his words. However, she couldn't bring herself to tell him the truth.

Chapter 220: Song Jiaren Hit the Roof

Not only did Yu Ziqi's comic remarks not divert Song Jiaren's attention, it made her even more unsatisfied with Zheng Xiaowen.

It didn't matter if Zheng Xiaowen was Yu Ziqi's childhood sweetheart or deskmate, Song Jiaren wasn't planning to drop the matter anytime soon.

"Zheng Xiaowen, I'd really like to know, do you have any displeasure towards me?" she asked in a forthright manner.

"Wha- What are you talking about?"

Zheng Xiaowen was caught unaware, not expecting Song Jiaren to be so straightforward. "Wh- Why would I have any displeasure towards you?"

Her expression was rather stiff, and her gaze was drifting around. Clearly, she was being dishonest.

Xia Xibei did not say a word, quietly watching Song Jiaren hit the roof instead.

"You don't?" Song Jiaren snorted coldly, "If you don't harbor any ill thoughts about me, what did you mean by those words you said back at the shop?"

"I- I was just curious..."

“Curious?”

Song Jiaren crossed her arms in front of her chest and sneered, “If you’re deskmates with Yu Ziqi, you should be at least fifteen or sixteen years old by now. Even a toddler knows when to say what, yet you don’t? Weren’t you trying to make a scene by saying those things back there? Did you think I was a fool, or are you actually the fool instead?”

While listening to Song Jiaren’s remarks, Zheng Xiaowen’s face continuously switched between being red and turning ashen. It was an extremely embarrassing moment for her.

“I... I didn’t!”

“You didn’t? You’re not a fool, then? If you’re not a fool, I suppose you’re just evil by default!”

Zheng Xiaowen’s face flushed red at those words.

How could she admit it? Admit that she was a fool? Or that she was evil? Neither of those was good!

She was completely helpless. She hadn’t expected Song Jiaren to be different from ordinary people. Rarely anyone would blow their tops off so straightforwardly despite being angry.

She hadn't encountered people like Song Jiaren before, those who started fights upon the slightest disagreement. If this was somebody else, she would usually have enough confidence to deal with them. However, Song Jiaren clearly did not play by the rules!

Having thought of that, she turned to Yu Ziqi to seek help, her eyes damp with a hint of tears.

Yu Ziqi was also startled by Song Jiaren's words.

He didn't know what had actually happened, but it seemed like it wasn't a small matter, as Song Jiaren was really mad!

"Sister Jia, don't get mad, Xiaowen didn't mean it..."

"What's your relationship with her though?" Song Jiaren cut him off ungraciously. "Are you her boyfriend? Or a family member?"

"Of course I'm not- I'm not her boyfriend!" Yu Ziqi panicked, shaking his head and waving his hands in denial.

Xia Xibei noticed that the flames in Zheng Xiaowen's eyes died off when Yu Ziqi denied those words.

It was fishy indeed.

However, Zheng Xiaowen's level was too low to even compete with Xia Qinghan. When faced with the likes of Song Jiaren, who hit people right under their belts, she had no choice but to retreat in fear.

However, Xia Xibei wouldn't pity her no matter how pathetic she was. She had to take responsibility for the words that she had said.

Thinking the same thought, Song Jiaren slammed the table.

"If you're not related to her in any way, how do you know if she meant it or not? Do you guys share a brain?"

Yu Ziqi had never come across something like this before, rendered helpless right on the spot.

"I..."

"Whoof! Whoof!" Too stupid!

"Look, Asura said you're stupid!" Song Jiaren added immediately. "Oh, little Qi Qi, don't just judge a book by its cover!"

Yu Ziqi was so embarrassed that he almost buried his head under the table.

Looking at the predicament that the poor boy was in, Xia Xibei finally spoke up.

“Alright, it’s all over now. We don’t expect much, either.”

Before Zheng Xiaowen could feel glad, Xia Xibei went on, saying, “Just apologize sincerely to us and own up your mistake. After that, we’ll drop the matter.”