

## Chapter 281: Poached

Fortunately, Xia Xibei quickly covered up her ruthlessness and asked Liu Manhong, “How many people did they poach?”

Liu Manhong recovered, shaking her head as she snorted, “Several beauticians with many years of experience.”

Before the Wan family opened their beauty salon on the next block, they had poached seven beauticians from her at a high price.

These beauticians took Liu Manhong years to train, and they were now poached away. Of course she was distressed and angry.

Although there were other beauticians left in the salon, the technique of the beautician was very important.

Even using the same product, beauticians using different techniques would get different results.

First, they had poached away the beauticians; next, they would poach the customers.

After all, many customers liked to stay with familiar beauticians because they knew their skin conditions best and provided good services.

Having to find a new beautician and becoming familiar with them once again would annoy the customer.

Even if Liu Manhong didn't say anything, Xia Xibei understood the problem.

She suddenly smiled, "Sister Hong, are the beautician's techniques very important?"

"What do you think?" Liu Manhong glanced at her. "Otherwise, I wouldn't have such a headache."

It took time to train excellent beauticians, but she didn't have time. If the services weren't great, the customers would leave after a visit or two.

Hongyan Salon's customers were regulars for many years. Even if the beauticians had changed, they would continue to come to the salon, but that was only temporary.

If they weren't satisfied, sooner or later, they would leave.

And no one knew what the Wan family would do next...

"What about your products?" Asked Xia Xibei.

"Some are purchased from outside the salon, but most of them are made here. Don't worry, they're legal."

Liu Manhong was not petty about money, so every time a new product came on the market, she would make preparations so that the business could survive for a long time.

“Are they effective?”

“Of course, otherwise people wouldn’t pick our salon.”

Liu Manhong had spent a lot of effort growing the beauty salon to its present-day scale.

However, no matter how effective these beauty products were, they must be combined with the right techniques. Therefore, these products were all to be used at the salon, not sold on the market.

These products were costly to produce, and if they sold less of them for cheaper prices, they would lose money!

To be honest, a beauty salon’s success depended on the skills and techniques of its technicians. The products were secondary.

“If there was a better product that anyone could easily use, would you be interested?” Xia Xibei asked.

“Of course!” Liu Manhong said dismissively. “If there was such a product, who wouldn’t want it...”

As she talked, her eyes were almost closing.

Suddenly, the phone rang.

The harsh ringing awakened her, causing her to almost roll off of the sofa.

“Bark!” King Chu was also taken aback, yelling at the phone.

Liu Manhong frowned and took the phone, accidentally pressing the speakerphone key.

“Sister Hong, is your Hongyan cream being sold anywhere?” a female voice sounded.

“What?” Liu Manhong frowned, and her heart skipped a beat. “What do you mean?”

“I had a facial at the Xianrong salon today. I felt that their products were similar to yours, and they smelled the same too. I was wondering if you had sold any to them.”

Liu Manhong suddenly sat up, her expression changing instantly.

**Chapter 282: Play the Game to the End**

Liu Manhong's face was as dark as the bottom of a pot, and her breathing quickened.

"Damn, they're outrageous!"

She kicked the sofa, and with a bang, lopsided the sofa.

This sight caused King Chu to holler and hide behind Xia Xibei with his tail tucked.

"Sister Hong, are you okay?" the woman on the other end asked in worry.

"It's okay. Thank you for telling me. I'll take care of it."

Liu Manhong hung up and tossed the phone on the coffee table. Then she collapsed on the sofa.

King Chu astutely discovered that his owner was very angry now, and he shouldn't go over.

Seeing that Xia Xibei was about to go over, he whimpered and stretched out a paw to pull her back.

'Don't go!'

Xia Xibei smiled and patted his head. She walked in front of Liu Manhong, asking, "Sister Hong, has the formula leaked?"

Liu Manhong flushed with anger, shouting, "Those scumbags! They stole my employees, and they stole my product! I won't let them get away with this!"

She was angry when her employees were poached, but now the Wan family had stolen the formula for her Hongyan cream, which she worked so hard to develop. It was downright hateful!

At this moment, Liu Manhong gritted her teeth with hatred.

"Should we sue them?"

"No, it's useless to sue them!" Liu Manhong shook her head. "If they dared to play this trick, naturally they are not afraid of me suing them."

And going through legal means would take a long time. Even if she did sue them, they would have ways of dealing with it.

"They want to play this game to the end!" she said through gritted teeth.

"Then we'll play it to the end," Xia Xibei said with a smile.

Liu Manhong was stunned, wondering how she could smile so happily.

“I have something even better than the Hongyan cream.” Xia Xibei’s smile stayed the same. She lowered her voice, as if she was the devil tempting Liu Manhong, “When you use these things, you will be radiant and beautiful.”

Liu Manhong’s expression changed when hearing her voice, and then her eyes suddenly widened, “Are you talking about...?!”

Liu Manhong’s expression was so shocked that she made Xia Xibei laugh out loud, “Hahaha! You think too much!”

Her hearty laughter made Liu Manhong speechless. What did she mean with her mysterious tone?

Xia Xibei returned to her original voice and explained, “I have a skincare pill and various skin care products. The effect is immediate and absolutely incredible!”

Liu Manhong looked at her suspiciously, wondering, “Are you kidding me?”

“Why would I be kidding?” Xia Xibei shrugged. “What I said is true.”

She had wanted to work with Liu Manhong before, but she hadn’t found an opportunity to do so.

Now was the perfect chance.

“Really?” Liu Manhong was still in disbelief. How could a young woman have such things?

Besides, if Xia Xibei had such a beauty formula, she could have sold it to big companies. She would definitely make a lot of money.

“I’ll show you.” Xia Xibei stood up, “I’ll go home and get it.”

Then she opened the door and went out without waiting for Liu Manhong to reply.

As soon as she got to her door, the next door opened and Qiao Yanjue walked out.

“Why did you come back so late?” His tone was calm and there was no obvious problem, but his face was a bit unhappy.

It was almost 11 pm. Who would come back so late?

In the dim light by the door, Xia Xibei didn’t pay attention to his expression. She answered casually, “I’ve been back a while now. I was chatting with Sister Hong. Now I have to go downstairs again.”

“I’ll head down with you,” Qiao Yanjue blurted out.

## **Chapter 283: Enthusiastic Sales**



Finally, Qiao Yanjue followed her downstairs.

Liu Manhong was a little surprised at seeing Xia Xibei come back with a box, and that she was followed by Qiao Yanjue.

“What are you doing here?”

“I’m here to see you,” Qiao Yanjue frowned. “Did the Wan family start something?”

“Hah!” Liu Manhong waved her hand, “It’s no big deal. I’m not an easy target!”

“Why didn’t you tell me?”

Of course Qiao Yanjue knew that Liu Manhong’s fight with the Wan family was because of him.

Seeing what he meant, Liu Manhong couldn’t help but chuckle, “Why are you apologizing to me? I had used your influence back then, and it’s normal to encounter this kind of thing.”

She was able to establish herself so quickly thanks to the Qiao family’s name, so it was normal to be attacked by the Wan family now. While she was upset, she understood her situation.

“I will help you take care of them.”

“No need.”

“No need.”

Both women replied at the same time.

Qiao Yanjue frowned and looked at the two of them, “What do you mean?”

Before Liu Manhong could speak, Xia Xibei spoke first, “Don’t worry about it, we can handle it.”

“You?” Qiao Yanjue’s brows furrowed tighter. “What are you planning to do?”

When did they start to work together?

Xia Xibei shook the box in her hand, adding, “Don’t rush. Let’s take our time.”

She walked to Liu Manhong and handed her the box.

“Sister Hong, please take off your makeup first.”

As an exquisitely made-up and successful woman in the city, Liu Manhong only removed her makeup when she was alone.

Xia Xibei came over as soon as she came back tonight, and she didn't have time to remove her makeup.

Watching the two of them, Liu Manhong shook her head in resignation.

"Fine."

Then she got up to remove her makeup in the bathroom.

Qiao Yanjue watched Xia Xibei take out various bottles and jars with a lot of curiosity, wondering, "What are these?"

"Things which make women beautiful." Xia Xibei arranged the items and glanced at him, "Shall I use them on you?"

Qiao Yanjue immediately stepped back, shaking his head, "No thanks."

He was a man. He just needed to be clean; he didn't need these things.

Seeing his avoidance, Xia Xibei laughed and leaned in front of him, staring at his face, "It's okay! Nowadays, regardless of if you're a man or a woman, skin care is a must. Don't be shy!"

In fact, up close, Qiao Yanjue's skin was very good.

It was clean, there weren't moles or spots, and his pores weren't large either.

Although his skin wasn't flawless, compared to many other people, this kind of skin was already very good.

However, both men and women needed to take care of their skin.

"You are in your twenties and you have to start skin care now. Otherwise, you could look horrible after a few years!"

Seeing a handsome man lose his looks was a heartbreaking thing.

Although Qiao Yanjue would still be handsome in a few years, he still needed to plan ahead!

"Don't worry, my skin care products are all natural, free of additives and scent, and they work very well. You just need to use them for 10 minutes before bed every day. This way, in 20 years, you will appear 10 years younger than your peers!"

Xia Xibei was like a salesperson in a beauty shop, promoting her products enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, Qiao Yanjue froze, because Xia Xibei's flawless face had leaned in front of him, and he could clearly see the fine hairs on her face.

Of course, it was Xia Xibei's opening and closing red lips that made his heart skip a beat.

"Oh!"

Suddenly, Xia Xibei yelped and fell towards him.

Reflexively, he opened his arms and embraced her.

#### **Chapter 284: King Chu, a Pain in the Neck**

Xia Xibei was so close that she did not notice that King Chu was trying to squeeze in between the two of them.

Not only did King Chu not manage to squeeze in, it even tripped Xia Xibei.

Xia Xibei fell, but Qiao Yanjue managed to catch her in time and they both fell onto the couch.

"Woo..."

King Chu was in a daze as it looked at the two humans on the couch, seeming totally clueless.

What are they playing? It looked really fun!

Xia Xibei was cushioned by Qiao Yanjue, who was lying underneath her, and his nostrils were soon filled with a sweet fragrance.

He felt something different the moment they collided.

It was such a strange sensation that his heartbeat almost stopped.

Xia Xibei looked dumbfounded as well; she hadn't expected King Chu to be such a great pain in the neck.

This was too much mischief!

As they collapsed onto the couch, Qiao Yanjue accidentally fell on top of her right leg.

She was quick to respond, but in the midst of her haste, she attempted to hold herself up by pressing her hands against his chest.

Being so eager to get up, she didn't notice where she had placed her hands.

Unexpectedly, however, just when she was about to get up, an enormous force shoved her right back down, and it was followed by a joyous "whoof"!

Then she fell back down again.

The next second, her face turned as red as a cherry!

Because her hand had slid downwards!

'God damn it!'

Xia Xibei couldn't help but curse inside, as this was too freaking awkward!

However, that wasn't the worst part.

"King Chu!" Xia Xibei bellowed in anger.

"Whoof!"

King Chu thought they were fooling around with it, pouncing onto them once again.

Thus, before she managed to get her hand off, it went right back to where it had been mere seconds ago!

Moreover, that place seemed to have even transformed a little!

Xia Xibei's eyes went wide with horror. She froze right on her spot, turning red from head to toe.

That goddamned King Chu!!!!!!

Qiao Yanjue had frozen in place too.

His eyes couldn't help but widen theatrically the first time Xia Xibei touched it, and his whole body went numb.

Right as Xia Xibei removed her hand, he noticed that something wasn't quite right with his body.

Shortly after, the second assault struck!

He should have felt glad that Xia Xibei didn't exert much force when she fell, otherwise he would totally have been done for.

Right now, the position that they were in was immensely, unbelievably awkward.



They had fallen onto the couch together, with Xia Xibei on top and him underneath her, and Xia Xibei's hand was wedged between them, right on an unspeakable place.

And King Chu, the big dog that weighed a few dozen kilograms, was sprawled on Xia Xibei's back, enjoying the moment and barking from time to time.

That voice sounded no different from its cheerful barking while usually playing with them, and not in the least bit had it noticed what kind of disaster it had caused.

Xia Xibei wasn't a weak person. Under usual circumstances, it wouldn't even be a problem for her to toss two King Chu's out of the house. The problem was that this position was so awkward, she couldn't use much force!

She couldn't even free her hand from the narrow space between them, let alone think of using force!

Furthermore, King Chu kept moving on her back, which caused her hand to move around uncontrollably.

She could clearly sense that Qiao Yanjue's response wasn't quite right.

God damn it, god damn it... God damn it!!!

How she wished she could swallow King Chu whole! She had even gotten the spices ready! There was no way she would let it get away with this!

Her cheeks flushed red, Xia Xibei was growling with anger on the inside.

But how could King Chu even know that Xia Xibei was mad? It was still happily sprawled on Xia Xibei's back, seeming very reluctant to leave.

Xia Xibei was boiling with rage and embarrassment, her mind totally blank. She had no idea how she could even begin to get King Chu off her back.

As for Qiao Yanjue, who was lying underneath her... He was faking death with a face as red as a tomato.

"King Chu! Get off of me!"

When Xia Xibei finally mustered up her spiritual power to kick King Chu off her back, Liu Manhong came in.

"Holy jeez! What kind of a position is that?!"

## **Chapter 285: Head Over Heels**

When she stepped out after removing her make-up, Liu Manhong's jaw almost dropped to the floor because of the scene that had unfolded right before her eyes.

She had only gone inside for a little while, so how did things become this bad when she came out?

If Xia Xibei hadn't been on top, she would have thought that it was Qiao Yanjue who had ill motives.

However, such situations could easily rouse suspicion and misunderstanding.

Xia Xibei quickly scrambled to her feet upon hearing Liu Manhong's voice.

Without King Chu being a pain in the neck every step of the way, she finally managed to get up and get her hand off of that unspeakable "somewhere".

Qiao Yanjue bolted upright the second she got off of him and started coughing dramatically.

"Are... Are you alright?" Xia Xibei asked, cheeks extremely red.

Damn it! No words could describe the level of awkwardness!

God damn King Chu! She would make sure to cook soup with its flesh and bones!!

Qiao Yanjue bent and sat down secretively, his legs crossed, trying to separate himself from all the awkwardness.

Liu Manhong was horrified as well. Was this kid sick or something?

Right as she took a step forward, Qiao Yanjue stopped coughing. With his face utterly flushed from all the exertion, he spoke in a lethargic voice, "Sister Hong, could you get me some water..."

Liu Manhong nodded anxiously, then turned around and went to the kitchen for water.

Right after she left, Qiao Yanjue stood up from the couch and hastily said, "I'm going home."

Xia Xibei was startled. Before she could say anything, she caught a glimpse of something with the corner of her eye and immediately fell silent, blushing terribly once again.

Qiao Yanjue was wearing a pair of casual shorts today. They weren't skintight, but it was looking very obvious right now.

Done speaking, Qiao Yanjue quickly headed for the door.

If he stayed here and allowed Liu Manhong to see his situation, it would be even more embarrassing!

That was why he made an excuse to keep her away, all so he could escape.

Once he got out of the house, Qiao Yanjue ran straight for the stairs, not even taking the elevator.

Upon returning home, he dashed into the bathroom.

It took a long while before he got out, a towel wrapped around him as his well-toned body was still steamy from the shower and his cheeks rosy.

He collapsed onto the couch and nearly got all worked up again as he recalled the scene from before.

He pulled the blanket up and covered his face, silently screaming with agony...

He had clearly fallen head over heels!

Before this, he wasn't entirely sure of his feelings because he had never had a crush on anyone, so how could he confirm his feelings for Xia Xibei so quickly?

However, every concession that he made, every time he was gentle, and every bit of affection that he showed had proven that he was now different from how he used to be.

What happened today only made him realize more... That he had fallen deeply in love!

Apart from the usual restlessness that every teenager had, Qiao Yanjue had never given much thought for either men or women; not even for Li Weiyun, whom he had grown up with.

The others always mocked him, saying that he was going to be alone for the rest of his life with his odd personality!

But who would have seen this day coming!

He had known that he behaved differently around Xia Xibei, but he had thought that it was more like a brother-sister kind of affection.

However, no one in their right mind would have such thoughts for a younger sister. Neither would they completely lose their self-control in front of a sister like he did.

If Huo Zijun and the others knew what he was thinking, they would drown him in humiliation!

They had been acting weird even before he was sure of his feelings; now that he was sure, it would only get more terrifying!

Qiao Yanjue turned to the other side of the bed and buried his face in the pillow.

When he finally lifted his head up for fresh air, the look on his face had changed.

The confusion, hesitation and worry that he had felt moments ago were nowhere to be seen now. All that was left in his shimmering eyes was determination.

For the first time in his 24 years of being alive, he had fallen for someone; there was no way he would let her get away!

## Chapter 286: King Chu's Time-out

When Liu Manhong re-emerged with a cup of water in her hand, she was bemused.

"I think I heard the door opening... Eh, where's Yanjue?"

She looked around, but Qiao Yanjue was nowhere to be seen.

"He just left. He said he was busy," Xia Xibei explained with a pale face, forcing out a stiff smile.

"Busy?" Liu Manhong got even more confused. "I just went inside for a little while, so how did he get so busy all of a sudden?"

Xia Xibei tried her best to put on an innocent front, "I have no idea, but he seemed to be in a hurry."

As she spoke, her cheeks couldn't help but flush red again.

How could he not be in a hurry?!

Having thought of that, she couldn't help but shoot a death glare at King Chu, who was standing at the side with an innocent face.

If it wasn't for this dog, things wouldn't have turned out this way! How was she supposed to face Qiao Yanjue after this?!

Having sensed her glare, King Chu looked towards her with a look of bewilderment in its eyes.

“Whoof?”

Looking at how it didn't know what kind of trouble it had gotten her into, Xia Xibei gritted her teeth in anger. How she wished she could stew a pot of dog meat soup with its flesh and bones!

However, King Chu misunderstood it as her signal to play, so it hurried towards her while merrily wagging its tail.

Xia Xibei pulled a long face and bellowed, “Get lost!”

King Chu went stiff on its spot, blinking its big eyes. What was the problem?

“Go stand at the corner!”

As she uttered those words, Xia Xibei even tried getting her intention across with spiritual power.



Stand at the corner? King Chu felt even more perplexed. Why was she giving it a time-out out of nowhere?

Liu Manhong wondered too, "What's wrong? Why should it stand at the corner?"

Despite Xia Xibei's embarrassment, she tried her very best to control her facial expression, explaining calmly, "If it wasn't for it, we wouldn't have tripped, and it nearly crushed us to death too! I have to punish it!"

"Oww... Woo..." King Chu started sobbing pitifully, but nothing it did would change Xia Xibei's mind now.

"Go stand at the corner! Let's see if you still dare to simply pounce onto people now!"

Xia Xibei put on a serious look. If King Chu did it again, she really would die in shame!

Despite its grievance, King Chu had no choice but to trudge towards the corner in a pathetic manner, standing up in a man-like way with its front paws against the wall.

This position was a torment to four-legged animals.

Xia Xibei wouldn't make it stand for too long, but the right amount of punishment was necessary.

"Stand properly!" she yelled in a cold voice.

“Oww... Woo...” King Chu wept in grievance.

However, Xia Xibei’s heart was made out of stone at this time. She was determined to ignore it.

“I guess...” Liu Manhong couldn’t stop her heart from reaching out to King Chu as she watched her beloved pet being put to a time-out.

She knew, however, that King Chu must have done something unacceptable to make Xia Xibei punish it. Considering how Xia Xibei usually got along with King Chu, Liu Manhong wouldn’t interfere, no matter how dearly she loved King Chu.

She also knew that King Chu wouldn’t listen to her even if she asked it not to stand. Thus, she wouldn’t put in the effort.

After punishing King Chu, Xia Xibei took a few deep breaths and got her act together again before telling Liu Manhong, “Sister Hong, now that you’ve removed your make-up, we can start.”

Liu Manhong stopped bothering about King Chu and instead focused wholly on the vials that Xia Xibei had just displayed.

“What are these?”

“The skincare products that I made by myself,” Xia Xibei answered, lifting a bottle. “This is the combination of toner and lotion. You can apply it directly after cleansing your face. Come on, try it on.”

Liu Manhong took the bottle and opened it, a light wisp of fragrance wafted through the air, carrying with it the faint scent of herbs.

She poured out a tiny bit of the liquid and smeared it on her face.

In just a short moment, she marveled, "This feels so nice!"

### **Chapter 287: Instantaneous Effects**

Liu Manhong could feel a change the moment the liquid was smeared across her face, her skin becoming much more bouncy right after.

She took out a mirror and couldn't help but be stunned when she looked at her reflection.

Liu Manhong was in her forties already. Although people couldn't tell her age due to her skin care routine and the fact that she put on make-up, women at this age simply couldn't achieve youthful skin without some medical intervention.

However, she realized that the skin on her face became bouncy and moist right after applying the product, as if it had been fully hydrated again!

"This is eye serum," Xia Xibei explained, handing her another vial.

Before Liu Manhong said anything, she stuck out her ring finger and retrieved a tiny bit of the eye serum. With the same technique, she smeared it in circles around her eye.

This time, she only applied it around one eye.

Just like the lotion, the eye serum was quickly absorbed into the skin.

Once again, she raised the mirror after applying, and couldn't help but draw in a sharp breath!

It was magical!

In the mirror, she could clearly see that the fine wrinkles in the area where she had applied the eye serum had toned down significantly.

The contrast seemed much more obvious when compared to the other eye!

The wrinkles around the eye where the serum wasn't applied were more obvious, and the corner of the eye was even sagging slightly, making her seem rather old.

In comparison, the eye around which the serum was applied was exuding vitality!

The appearance of the eyes alone could show the age difference!

Tentatively, Liu Manhong touched the area beneath her eye with the pads of her fingers, clearly able to feel the resilience of the skin.

On the other eye, however, the resilience was so much worse.

The contrast left her astonished. The effects were too instantaneous, weren't they!

She abruptly turned around and grasped Xia Xibei's arms, demanding, "Did you really make these on your own?!"

Having been grabbed so suddenly, Xia Xibei nearly flung her over on reflex, but luckily managed to hold herself back just in time.

"Of course I did," she replied with a smile. "How is it? It wasn't that bad, was it?"

"This is way more than just not bad!" Liu Manhong's voice was breaking from the agitation and excitement. "This is a downright miracle!"

It was important to note that even medical intervention might not work as rapidly or wondrously.

But these things did!

So many women spent countless dollars purchasing skincare products to delay aging, didn't they?

Sometimes, however, the desired effects simply could not be obtained, no matter how much money one spent.

If they ever got to know how horrifyingly fast these little vials worked, they would go crazy!

"How well did it work, if compared to your Beauty Cream?"

"The difference is between heaven and earth!" Liu Manhong remarked ungraciously, not holding back even though the Beauty Cream used to be the most prized product in her salon.

Having experienced the magical effects of these items, the Beauty Cream would never be able to impress her again.

"These are just the preliminary concoctions."

Those words caused Liu Manhong to become dumbfounded.

"Preliminary concoctions?!" Her voice was so strident that King Chu nearly lost its grip on the wall at the corner.

King Chu turned around, feeling even more confused as it looked at its delirious owner.

What the hell was wrong with this world?!

How could Liu Manhong know what her dog was thinking? She was clinging on tightly to Xia Xibei, questioning her, “What do you mean by preliminary concoctions? Is it the same as what I’m thinking right now?”

Xia Xibei chuckled, “I don’t know what you mean, but what I’m saying is that there will be intermediate and advanced concoctions coming up.”

Liu Manhong’s eyes widened in shock and she drew in a sharp breath. She was so happy, she nearly passed out!

## **Chapter 288: Production and Sales All-in-One**

Liu Manhong was ecstatic.

Having been in the beauty industry for so many years, she had a sensitivity towards skin care products that others couldn’t match.

As soon as these lotions and eye creams were applied onto her face, she had noticed the difference.

The Hongyan cream was actually also a moisturizing cream that slowed down the aging process. Many customers spent money in the store because of this face cream. It could be said that the Hongyan cream was their signature product.

But now, the Hongyan face cream was easily defeated by Xia Xibei's introductory level skin care products.

And this was only the introductory formula!

"What are intermediate and advanced level products like?"

It took Liu Manhong a while to calm down, but when she did, she posed a serious question.

If the introductory level product was this amazing, wouldn't the intermediate and advanced level products be insanely good?!

"The introductory formula works okay and needs to be used every day to maintain the effect. However, this is only a superficial change," Xia Xibei explained with a smile. "The intermediate formula, which is a combination of internal and external use, will have a better effect.

"After you apply it for six months, with both inside and outside impact, you will appear several years younger. As for the advanced formula... It is also both internal and external use. However, the effect is more obvious. After a full course of treatment, the fountain of youth is also possible."

Several years younger, the fountain of youth... These keywords made Liu Manhong breathe heavier.



“Are you... Are you for real?”

“Aren’t the facts right in front of your eyes?” Xia Xibei shrugged.

Liu Manhong looked back at the bottle in her hand, feeling as if she was suffocating.

It was not that she’d seen too little of the world and made too much of a fuss. It was that she’d seen the world and there was nothing this amazing!

Many big-name skincare products focused on delaying aging but could any of them claim the fountain of youth?!

“This...”

“Don’t worry, they all use all-natural ingredients and are not harmful.”

Liu Manhong’s expression became even more shocked, her chest rising and falling sharply.

It was a while before she took in several deep breaths and pushed down the shock in her heart.

“What about the production volume?”

Even if the products were great, if production couldn't keep up, it was useless. If they could only make one set after a long time, then who could they sell it to? And even if they did sell it for a high price, they wouldn't make that much of a profit.

There were so many rich people in the world. It would be a shame not to profit off of all of them!

"The production quantity is negotiable." Xia Xibei's expression was serious, as she elaborated, "For now, I am the one who has the production method, so the yield is relatively low, but I will work with Huo Zijun, Brother Huo, afterwards."

"Huo Zijun? The Huo family's third son?" Of course Liu Manhong knew of Huo Zijun, and she also knew that his family owned a chain of pharmacies.

"Right," Xia Xibei nodded, "When the time comes and the skin care products are produced, we will provide them to the beauty salon."

This was production and sales all-in-one.

"But I will still possess the advanced formula," Xia Xibei added.

"Of course!" Liu Manhong nodded.

Based on Xia Xibei's explanation just now, the advanced formula was unbelievable, so of course she needed to keep it in her own hands.

While Huo Zijun was trustworthy, these things needed to be kept to oneself for peace of mind.

Xia Xibei did not tell her that she actually had even more astounding formulas, which instantly rejuvenated and restored youth forever.

However, even an amazing chef couldn't cook without the right ingredients. This world was different from her last, and she didn't have those ingredients.

Still, an introductory formula was enough to impress the people of this world.

As for the advanced formula... She definitely would not reveal it so casually.

### **Chapter 289: Closing for a Month**

The advanced formula was more difficult to make. Although all the ingredients could be found in this world, and the process was not much more complicated, the most important thing was that it required spiritual power.

As a result, no one other than Xia Xibei could do it.

Unless Xia Xibei had a whim one day and simplified it into a way that could be used in this world, they could only be created with her hands.

The production method was difficult, the effect was amazing, and the sale price would be sky high.

Xia Xibei wasn't worried about sales. There were rich people everywhere.

When one had money, one naturally wanted to improve oneself. There was never a shortage of people willing to spend money.

For now, Xia Xibei needed to focus on the introductory formula.

In addition to the anti-aging products, she had to collaborate with Huo Zijun to produce other medicines.

Besides, the beauty industry had a huge market. There were many other things they could develop as well.

Xia Xibei began to organize the formulas she knew.

Many formulas were known to everyone, even ordinary people, in her last life.

But here, it was all new.

If not for Xia Xibei's devotion to the entertainment industry, she could make enough money to squander for several lifetimes just with these formulas alone.

"When can you provide me with enough products?" Liu Manhong asked.

Her salon was called the Hongyan Beauty Salon, while the Wan family's salon was called the Xianrong Beauty Salon.

"Hongyan" meant beauty of this mortal world, but "xianrong" meant beauty of the gods.

Just the name alone meant the Wan family was very aggressive.

"If you just want business for the face, I can give you products in a few days."

Liu Manhong frowned. Why did that sound weird?

"What if I wanted to make money beyond the face?"

"Then you need to wait a month." Xia Xibei said with a bright smile.

Liu Manhong's eyes widened as she exclaimed, "A month?!"

“Yes, a month,” Xia Xibei nodded. “In a month, I can provide you with several beauty products, not only for the face, but also for the body.”

“The body?” Liu Manhong was shocked. “What are the effects?”

“Scar-removal, weight-loss, muscle-stretching... Anything you can think of, it’s all there.”

Liu Manhong once again drew in a sharp breath.

“Are you telling the truth?!”

“Why would I lie to you?” Xia Xibei shrugged, then revealed a sly smile, “Besides, you can use this month to rest, then fight back afterwards!”

Liu Manhong froze for a moment, but then smiled, “Good idea!”

She imagined that the Wan family would be very excited to see Hongyan Beauty Salon close its doors for a month.

Given their pathetic nature, they would expand more than ever.

But after a month, she would get back all of her clients!

There would be a good show then!

She instantly made her decision, declaring, "OK! Let's fight in a month!"

"I suggest that you give all the stores a month off."

These words, however, stunned Liu Manhong.

She owned seven or eight beauty salons, and they brought her large profits.

If they all closed for a month, the loss of the monthly income, not to mention the loss of customers, would be enough to cause her a great heartache.

What client could hold off on all beauty treatments for a month?

She had money, but if she closed all of her stores, she would have a huge loss!

Xia Xibei looked at her seriously, firmly stating, "If you believe me, let's do this."

Liu Manhong's expression kept changing and her heart turned over.

After a while, she gritted her teeth and nodded, "OK! We will do it! I trust you!"

She was going to fight the Wan family to the death!

### **Chapter 290: Liu Manhong's Decision**

Liu Manhong was also a vigorous woman in work.

Early the next morning, she assembled the managers of all the branches of her salon at one place, delivering a shocking piece of news to them.

"Starting the day after tomorrow, all branches will be closed for a month, while every worker will still receive their pay."

Taking an entire month off of work?!

All of their faces changed dramatically as they exclaimed, "Sister Hong!"

"Sister Hong, don't do that," one of the women spoke with a worried look on her face. "I know that Xianrong isn't being virtuous to us, but we can't just give up on ourselves!"



They had just gotten to know that Xianrong had stolen their Beauty Cream formula, and Liu Manhong chose to close down the premise for a month at this point of time. Wouldn't it seem like they were admitting defeat?

"She's right, sister Hong! Now is just the beginning, you shouldn't do that!"

Some of the weak-minded ones already had tears in their eyes.

"You girls are overthinking it," Liu Manhong shook her head and laughed as she saw the tearful looks in their eyes. "There's no way I would admit defeat just like that. However, I think that it's time for an upgrade, now that our salon has been existing for so many years."

They kept staring at her in bewilderment. Their salon had been keeping pace with the era, and the quality of their products was simply top-notch.

"Sister Hong..."

"Rest assured, we'll be up and running again in a month's time. All of you will still be paid as usual during this month, so it's time for an enjoyable holiday!" Liu Manhong dismissed the subject with a vigorous wave of her hand.

Seeing that they were still hesitant, she laughed, "Don't worry, I've now found much better products than the Beauty Cream, and we'll be able to launch them in a month's time. By then, I'll make sure Xianrong comes to us, begging through their tears!"

Liu Manhong wasn't hiding things from them, but her words didn't quite convince them either.

Xianrong had just declared war with them, yet Liu Manhong chose to close down the salon for a month. They couldn't help but feel insecure and highly strung about the whole situation.

All of a sudden, all kinds of thoughts occurred to them at once.

Apart from the few founding members, who had started things from scratch alongside Liu Manhong, many were starting to change their minds.

Before this, they had also received invitations from Xianrong, which promised them that if they went over, they would be paid at least 1.5 times as much as what they had been paid here!

As far as they were concerned, their income was the topmost priority.

Since their work at Hongyan was quite satisfactory before, they did not immediately accept Xianrong's invitation.

However, now that Liu Manhong had made such a questionable decision, they couldn't help but begin contemplating their options once again.

The Wan family was a prestigious family in City G, not to mention that they ran a pharmaceutical-cosmetic corporation.

How would the unarmed Hongyan be able to compete with a rival that had such a powerful background?

It was said that despite offering cheaper prices, the services that Xianrong offered were the same as theirs. Therefore, many customers had now opted to go to Xianrong.

Now that Hongyan would be closed down for a month under the pretext of being renovated and upgraded, the situation wasn't very convincing.

What if Hongyan didn't open up after a month? What would become of them then? Even if they did, all the customers would be gone by then!

Besides, Xianrong would no longer have vacancies left for beauticians by then!

What if they lost their jobs here and missed the vacancies there...

As these thoughts occurred to them, many of them silently came to a decision.

Only a small minority of them were resolute. After being dismissed, they showed up in front of Liu Manhong immediately.

"Sister Hong, why are you giving up all of a sudden? The battle hasn't even begun! This is so uncharacteristic of you!"

Liu Manhong couldn't help but laugh when she saw how anxious they were, reassuring them, "I'm not giving up. A month from now, I'm gonna make them kneel in front of me and apologize."

Not only did her words not pacify them, they became even more concerned instead.

How did she get the confidence to make such remarks?

However, some of the more attentive ones noticed the difference in Liu Manhong's smile.

"Eh, sister Hong, did you only put on some light make-up today?"