

Crippled 391

Chapter 391: Didn't Recognize the Reality

"Didn't you say that you don't know Qiao Xi?" Shen Hanxing sneered, "Then why are you feeling guilty?"

"Xiao Wang, What's going on?" The middle-aged woman came over when she saw the situation, and her eyes were filled with a glint of nosiness as they lingered on Xiao Wang and Shen Hanxing. As though the middle-aged woman was watching an entertaining show, she asked, "Who is this beautiful girl? Looking for Qiao Xi? Xiao Wang, did you quarrel with Qiao Xi again? I told you, how can you always raise your hand against Qiao Xi..."

Did he raise his hand against her? Shen Hanxing's heart skipped a beat. She turned to look at the middle-aged woman and asked, "Auntie, I'm Qiao Xi's friend. I'm here to look for her. Is this man Qiao Xi's boyfriend? Do the two of them often fight?"

The middle-aged woman looked at Shen Hanxing. She had wanted to listen for more gossip-worthy material, but when she met Shen Hanxing's clear eyes, she was suddenly speechless. The middle-aged woman shrunk her neck and replied, "Yes, it's normal for a young couple to quarrel. I... I still have to cook at home. If there's anything, you can ask Xiao Wang." After saying that, she carried the basin and went straight home. With a bang, she closed the courtyard door.

Since he was Qiao Xi's boyfriend, why did he say that he did not know Qiao Xi? Where was he going with Qiao Xi's bag? At this moment, the sound of a heavy object falling to the ground came from the room, followed by a scolding, "You b*tch, don't be so shameless!"

This person's voice sounded very familiar. When Xiao Wang saw that the matter had been exposed, his face instantly turned pale.

Shen Hanxing's eyes flashed with a cold glint. She didn't care about anything else and quickened her pace as she walked into the courtyard.

In the room, Brother Zhao covered his hand that had been bitten by Qiao Xi. His eyes flashed with viciousness and he said, "Your boyfriend has already sold you to me, and you still dare to resist? I think you haven't realized the reality of your situation!"

"Slap!" Brother Zhao raised his hand and slapped Qiao Xi. His big hand unceremoniously tore at her collar. His eyes were filled with excitement. "I'll let you know how powerful I am later!"

"No, let go of me... Don't..." Qiao Xi struggled desperately. Her heart was filled with despair and powerlessness. She wanted to struggle, but her limbs were weak and powerless. Her palm that tried to push him away was soft and could not move Brother Zhao at all. Even her struggle seemed to be light and airy. She wanted to resist but her actions could not follow her wishes. Her cries were so soft that it was almost impossible to hear. She really hated this! She never thought that the boyfriend she liked would actually put something in her water in exchange for a bit of money. He made her unable to run, unable to resist, unable to fight back!

There was no way to ask for help. Qiao Xi cried in despair.

"I want to see who can save you this time!" Brother Zhao smiled malevolently, he proudly sat on Qiao Xi's back. "Little b*tch, do you think I can't do anything to you just because you know Mrs. Ji? So what if you quit your job? You're still going to be sleeping with me!" He bent down and removed the last piece of cloth from Qiao Xi's body, he couldn't wait to tear off his belt.

Qiao Xi closed her eyes in despair. She felt like a pig lying on a chopping board, waiting to be slaughtered. She didn't even have the right to howl or scream. Why would this world treat her like this? What was she living for? Was it just for her to suffer?

"Bang!" At this moment, the door was kicked open. The bright light from outside shone in along with the door's opening. For a moment, it was blinding.

Brother Zhao had half of his pants taken off. He was so scared by the sudden sound that his whole body trembled. He shouted angrily, "Who! Who is it?!"

"You really don't have a good memory." Seeing the scene in the room, Shen Hanxing's anger rose from her heart. She took a step forward and kicked Brother Zhao off the bed. "What are you doing?!"

Seeing Shen Hanxing, Brother Zhao's face turned pale. Mrs. Ji... why was Mrs. Ji here? Why was she here? Where was Wang Wentao? Didn't he ask Wang Wentao to stand guard outside? All sorts of thoughts flashed through Brother Zhao's mind. However, before he could think any further, Shen Hanxing suddenly took a step forward, grabbed his collar, and lifted him.

"Mrs. Ji... Mrs. Ji..." the swelling on his face from yesterday's beating had not subsided. Now that he saw Shen Hanxing, his face was hurting from the beating. Brother Zhao was scared out of his wits. He screamed, "It's not what it looks like. I paid, I really paid! It was Qiao Xi's boyfriend who begged me to sleep with her!"

"Don't you know that ignoring a girl's wishes is considered forced prostitution?" The coldness in Shen Hanxing's eyes became even icier. She slapped Brother Zhao mercilessly, "How about I beat you half to death and then pay for your medical fees?"

Chapter 392: Saved Her Again

"Slap slap slap!" The three crisp slaps added more injuries to Brother Zhao's face. This was not enough. Shen Hanxing directly raised her foot and kicked him two to three meters away. He only stopped flying after he hit the table. The table was shaken by Brother Zhao's body, and the things on the table fell to the ground.

Brother Zhao lay on an assortment of items. His whole body was in so much pain that it was about to fall apart, and he screamed endlessly. When Wang Wentao walked to the door and saw this scene, his whole body trembled. He instinctively turned around and wanted to run. This woman was too terrifying!

"Where are you going?" Shen Hanxing's eyes were burning with anger. She quickly walked forward, grabbed Wang Wentao by the back of his collar, and twisted his wrist. She said in an icy voice, "Do you think you can run?"

"Ah, it hurts!" Wang Wentao couldn't help but cry out in pain. He was pressed to the ground by Shen Hanxing and his face was pressed against the cold cement floor. His tears and snot mixed together as he cried out in pain, "I... I wasn't planning on escaping. I know I'm in the wrong. Please let me go... Qiao Xi, Qiao Xi, quickly get her to let me go!"

This spineless look of his was simply cowardly and unmanly!

Qiao Xi sat on the bed in a daze. She grabbed the blanket with both hands to cover her naked body. She thought... she was going to be... she was almost killed by that b*stard Brother Zhao...

Qiao Xi clenched her teeth tightly. Her entire body was trembling. She opened her mouth to say something, but she could not make a sound. Seeing this, the anger in Shen Hanxing's eyes became even more intense. She raised her hand and slapped Wang Wentao's face. She said, "You still dare to ask Qiao Xi to save you?" Taking money from another man in exchange for his girlfriend's body... It was simply ridiculous and preposterous.

The crisp sound of the slap seemed to have brought Qiao Xi back to her senses. She wrapped herself in the quilt and got off the bed. At this moment, her limbs were weak and her face was frighteningly pale. Her cheeks were red and swollen, and her lips were chapped. She looked extremely haggard. Her outstretched arm was covered with scars that were old and new. She was so thin that she was only skin and bones.

Qiao Xi staggered to Wang Wentao's side and suddenly lowered her head and viciously bit Wang Wentao's ear.

"Ah! You're crazy! It hurts! B*tch!" Wang Wentao shouted. With a ferocious expression, he instinctively raised his hand to hit Qiao Xi, but just as he raised his arm, his arm was controlled by Shen Hanxing. He was pinned to the ground and could not move. He could only roar helplessly, "Let go of me! Qiao Xi! You crazy woman!"

Qiao Xi thought that she might have really gone crazy, driven mad by Wang Wentao. She used all her strength on her teeth. Soon, a thick bloody smell filled her mouth. She wished that she could bite off his ear and eat it! However, because she was drugged, she did not have much strength left. Even if she tried her best, she could only leave a very deep bite mark on Wang Wentao's ear.

"Qiao Xi, that's enough." Seeing Qiao Xi's deranged expression and biting Wang Wentao's ear while crying, Shen Hanxing could not bear it and gently patted her back. Shen Hanxing softly said, "Be careful not to hurt yourself. This man... Don't you think it's dirty to bite him?"

Qiao Xi looked at Shen Hanxing in a daze. Even though the environment in the slums was dirty and messy, Shen Hanxing was still very good-looking. Qiao Xi hadn't studied much, so she didn't know what words to use to describe Shen Hanxing. She only felt that Shen Hanxing's entire body was glowing. Her presence made this shabby and simple house look refined and distinguished.

Mrs. Ji had saved her once again. Qiao Xi did not dare to think about what would have happened to her today if Shen Hanxing had not come... she opened her mouth in a daze. Her lips, which were stained with blood, trembled as she called out in a low voice, "Mrs. Ji..."

"I'm here. Don't be afraid." Shen Hanxing rubbed Qiao Xi's hair, which had turned yellow and shriveled from years of malnutrition. Shen Hanxing gently said, "It's okay. They won't hurt you anymore."

It was okay now... Qiao Xi's tears fell even quicker. She couldn't help but throw herself into Shen Hanxing's arms and burst into tears. It was as though she wanted to cry out all her grievances, despair, and fear. Her crying was heartbreaking and pitiful.

Shen Hanxing hugged Qiao Xi and let her cry loudly in her arms. The hatred in her heart for Brother Zhao and Wang Wentao deepened even further. How could they do such a thing to such a weak girl?!

"Mrs. Ji, thank you. Thank you so much..." Qiao Xi finally stopped crying. She thanked Shen Hanxing repeatedly while sobbing. She thought that the best thing she had done in her life was to show Shen Hanxing the way when Shen Hanxing asked for directions!

"Should I call the police?" Seeing that Qiao Xi had calmed down, Shen Hanxing looked at the two men who were curled up on the ground in disgust. She icily said, "They have committed a crime with their actions. They deserve to be punished!"

Chapter 393: I Will Marry You

Call the police? Qiao Xi was stunned and didn't know how to react.

"No, you can't call the police!" Wang Wentao's expression changed when he heard that they were going to call the police. He wriggled on the ground like a maggot. He crawled in front of Qiao Xi and didn't care about his bleeding ear. He begged, "Qiao Xi, I was wrong. You can't call the police! I still have to go to school... If you call the police, I'll be finished. I was just momentarily confused. I know I was wrong. Qiao Xi, please forgive me!"

Qiao Xi had a complicated look on her face as she looked at Wang Wentao, who always looked down on her. She and Wang Wentao were lovers from a small mountain village. They had escaped from families that valued sons over daughters. When she got together with Wang Wentao, who had entered university, Qiao Xi thought that their suffering was only temporary and that they would have a sweet future together. After he graduated, he would marry her, have a child with her, and have a family of their own. The fantasy of having such a family supported her through heavy work time and again, and let her endure Wang Wentao's beatings again and again.

Qiao Xi felt that the reason why Wang Wentao was so irritable was that the pressure from studying at university was too great. She thought that as long as she earned more money, everything would be better. She gave all her money to Wang Wentao and worked three jobs a day, she also paid for his education. She was afraid that Wang Wentao would be looked down upon at school, so she bought him clothes and shoes worth a few hundred dollars, and bought him a new phone. She willingly ate only steamed buns and pickled vegetables and she would not buy new clothes for years.

But what about Wang Wentao? For just a bit of money, he sent her to another man's bed.

"Wang Wentao, have you ever thought about what would have happened to me if Mrs. Ji didn't come today?" Qiao Xi's eyes were filled with sorrow, "I gave you everything that I could give you, yet you treat me like this. Are you even worthy of me? Have you ever thought about what I should do in the future?"

“Qiao Xi... I-I was just muddle-headed. It was because Brother Zhao gave me too much money. I was blinded by money...” Wang Wentao avoided Qiao Xi’s gaze and he begged bitterly, “I will marry you! Even if you really slept with Brother Zhao, I would marry you! Qiao Xi, you know that I love you. I still want to marry you and have a child that belongs to us...”

“Wang Wentao, are you a man or not?!” Qiao Xi was trembling all over. She grabbed the kettle from the side and threw it directly at Wang Wentao. “I was really blind to be with you for so many years!”

A man who did not even have the courage to face what he had done, was he really worth it for her to like him? Was it worth wasting so many years of her life?! What kind of man did she even like all these years?!

The kettle hit Wang Wentao, making a dull sound. The cold water wet his clothes, and Wang Wentao looked even more embarrassed.

“I’m not a man, I’m not a person. Qiao Xi, I really know my mistake. Please don’t call the police...” Wang Wentao gave up his pride. He desperately said, “I was greedy. Qiao Xi, please forgive me, okay? If I didn’t love you, how could a student of a top university like me be with a village girl who only has a junior high school diploma like you? I rejected so many female students who liked me. I love you, but we’re too poor.” He cried bitterly, he struggled to hug Qiao Xi’s thigh and cried, “I know I’m wrong, Qiao Xi. I regret it. Give me another chance. I’ll treat you well in the future, okay?”

Qiao Xi looked at Wang Wentao with a complicated expression.

“Bang!” At this moment, Shen Hanxing suddenly raised her long leg and kicked Wang Wentao’s stomach without hesitation. Wang Wentao screamed in pain.

“Such haughty words. Are the university students from top universities that great?” Shen Hanxing’s eyes were filled with anger. She did not show any mercy as she punched Wang Wentao repeatedly. “What right do you have to look down on Qiao Xi? You rely on her for food and clothing. You relied on Qiao Xi all your life. Of course, you don’t dare to fall in love with other people! Because other people are not as stupid as Qiao Xi who loved you and supported such useless trash like you! A gigolo! Qiao Xi is beautiful and can endure hardships. She can even clean up this kind of broken house to make it look neat. But what about you? You are the trash who is not worthy of her! You even dare to raise your status up with your education and belittle Qiao Xi. Where did you get that kind of pride from?”

Shen Hanxing said these to him and punched him. Wang Wentao, this man, even if he was begging for mercy from Qiao Xi, he was still putting on a high and mighty act. It was as if marrying Qiao Xi was like giving alms. What right did he have?

Chapter 394: Please Save Me

Wang Wentao was like a vampire. He relied on Qiao Xi to support him, and he still stepped on her self-esteem to raise his own status. Then, he could enjoy Qiao Xi’s sacrifice with ease. How could he be so shameless!

“Stop hitting me, stop hitting me. I know I’m wrong.” Wang Wentao rolled to the ground and begged with his hands on his head. “Stop hitting me. Qiao Xi, please save me. For all these years we’ve been together, please save me.”

Shen Hanxing’s face was cold, and her clear eyes were burning with anger. It was as though she would only be satisfied if she beat Wang Wentao to death.

Wang Wentao was really afraid now. He cried until his nose was full of snot. He desperately said, “I know I’m wrong. It was Brother Zhao, it was Brother Zhao who took a huge sum of money to give me. I was really blinded by money. I regret it. He was the one who bewitched me. I just couldn’t resist the temptation...”

Not far away, Brother Zhao, who was lying on the ground pretending to be dead, turned pale. He opened his eyes uneasily and looked at Shen Hanxing as if she was a female Asura who had walked out of hell. Her entire body was emitting a murderous aura, and the gaze she looked at him with was filled with murderous intent. No, no, his entire body was in pain now. After seeing Wang Wentao’s miserable state, he was even more frightened and trembled all over.

“Oh...” Shen Hanxing’s last punch landed on Wang Wentao’s stomach. Wang Wentao’s hunched body couldn’t help but vomit, and he spat out a mouthful of blood. There were two white teeth soaking in the blood.

Brother Zhao swallowed his saliva. This... Wang Wentao’s tooth had even been knocked out. Brother Zhao thought that he wouldn’t be able to stand that kind of pain.

“Wang Wentao, you b*stard, don’t you try and put the blame on me!” Brother Zhao clutched his aching stomach and cursed at the top of his voice. Then, he turned his head and forced a smile at Shen Hanxing. As he laughed, he slowly retreated. He said, “Mrs. Ji, listen to me... I admit that I’m lascivious. I’m an old pervert, an old deviant, but Wang Wentao is really the one who is downright trash!” After saying that, he turned around and looked at Qiao Xi. He said, “Qiao Xi, do you think Wang Wentao really likes you? In fact, he has long gotten together with local female students outside. After he graduates, he will get married and directly move to another city.”

In order not to get beaten up, Brother Zhao went all out and told Qiao Xi all of Wang Wentao’s dirty secrets. Brother Zhao continued, “Wang Wentao sold you for a sum of money this time and then went to buy a necklace for that girl as a birthday gift. He told me long ago that he was simply using you as a free nanny so he could have free boarding, food, and even allowance for him to spend. Deep down in his heart, he simply looks down on you!”

This... was simply a melodramatic story in a TV series!

Qiao Xi’s vision went black. All the shocking information that he told her one after another almost knocked her down.

“No, no, Qiao Xi, don’t listen to his nonsense!” Wang Wentao’s face was full of panic. He grabbed Qiao Xi and explained desperately, “He slandered me! Qiao Xi, believe me, I only love you. How can I be with other people?”

“Bullsh*t! I have evidence, so it’s not nonsense!” Brother Zhao threw caution to the wind as he revealed everything. He shouted, “This kid said all these when he was showing off to me. In order to prevent Qiao Xi from finding out, he saved the female student’s phone number as a mobile customer service. If you don’t believe me, you can try calling her on his phone. This kid basically treats you like an ATM. Only a fool like you is still kept in the dark!”

Qiao Xi was trembling all over. She stretched out her thin, frostbitten, and calloused hands and said in a wooden voice, “Wang Wentao, give me your phone.”

“Qiao Xi, believe me. He is talking nonsense. Don’t tell me you would rather believe him than me?” Wang Wentao was even more flustered. He hugged Qiao Xi’s legs and he tried to argue, “There isn’t anyone, there is no female student that I’m dating. She is just a junior. I was afraid that you would be jealous...”

“Phone.” Qiao Xi stared blankly at Wang Wentao and insisted on asking for his phone.

Wang Wentao’s face was pale and he refused to take out the phone. He tried his best to put on an affectionate look. He pleaded, “Qiao Xi, we’ve been together for so long. Don’t tell me that Brother Zhao is able to sow discord between us with just a few words? Trust me, okay?”

“Wang Wentao, do you think I’m an id*ot?” Qiao Xi suddenly laughed, her laughter was sarcastic and desperate. “Even if I was so stupid, I would have woken up the moment you sold me to another man! I’ll take it as though all my youth and hard-earned money have been fed to the dogs!” Her gaze sank, no longer looking at Wang Wentao who was like a dead dog under her feet. With the blanket wrapped around her, she walked in front of Brother Zhao. Brother Zhao’s face turned pale. Under Qiao Xi’s gaze, he unknowingly took a couple of steps back until he was stopped by the cold wall on his back.

Chapter 395: I’m Calling the Police

So he was scared too? Qiao Xi found it funny, and the corners of her mouth did indeed curl up. She kept the smile on her face and bent down slightly. She asked, “Brother Zhao, do you really want to sleep with me so badly? Why? Because I’m not bad looking, or because I look easy to bully, or is it because of something else?”

Qiao Xi’s cheeks were red and swollen, and there was a cut on the corner of her mouth. She looked miserable and haggard. The parts of her body that were not covered by the blanket were so thin that they were only skin and bones. There were also crisscrossing scars on some parts of her body.

The corner of Brother Zhao’s mouth twitched, and he tried his best to smile apologetically. “I... I’m not a human. I’m lascivious. I know I’m wrong. I really know I’m wrong. I won’t dare to do it again in the future...” As he said that, he clenched his teeth and raised his hand to give himself two slaps. “I’ll apologize to you, I’ll admit I was wrong, okay?” He laughed dryly, “How about this? You should still come back to Jin Hai to work. I’ll take care of you in the future, okay?” As he said that, he secretly raised his eyes to glance at Shen Hanxing who was standing at the side.

Shen Hanxing’s expression was cold. She did not say a word and gave Qiao Xi sufficient time to deal with the situation.

“Go to work? And then continue to be reprimanded by you like a dog, bullied by you, and get sexually harassed?” Qiao Xi sneered. Suddenly, she raised her hand and slapped Brother Zhao’s face. Her hands and feet were weak and feeble, and there was no sound when she slapped him. However, Qiao Xi gritted her teeth and used all her strength to slap him a few times in a row. Finally, she stopped slapping and panted, “You coward who bullies the weak and fears the strong! Let me tell you, I’m not afraid of you anymore!” When she had lost everything, when she had nothing to lose, what else in this world could make her fear and make her cower? She was not afraid anymore! She was not afraid of offending Brother Zhao, and she was not afraid of losing her job!

After being slapped more than a dozen times in a row, anger flashed across Brother Zhao’s eyes. Qiao Xi, who had been scolded and cursed by him in the past and did not dare to talk back, actually dared to rebel against him now?

Qiao Xi’s numb eyes were filled with anger, and she suddenly looked more lively. Brother Zhao moved his lips, wanting to get angry but did not dare to. He curled up in a sorry state. Forget it, Wang Wentao was in a much worse state than him.

“Mrs. Ji.” Qiao Xi straightened her body and let out a long breath. However, the pent-up anger in her heart could not be let out no matter how hard she tried. Her eyes were filled with self-mockery and sorrow as she said, “Let’s call the police.”

“Qiao Xi! You can’t call the police!” Wang Wentao suddenly jumped up and desperately tried to pull Qiao Xi.

“Bang!” Shen Hanxing raised her foot and kicked Wang Wentao away lightly. She frowned and shouted coldly, “Stay away from Qiao Xi!” Such a disgusting person was not worthy of getting close to Qiao Xi.

Qiao Xi looked at Shen Hanxing gratefully. Then, she looked at Wang Wentao and said, “No, you’re wrong. I will definitely call the police.”

“Qiao Xi, don’t be rash. I really know I’m wrong. When I graduate, we’ll go register our marriage, okay?” This matter was related to his future so Wang Wentao was completely flustered. He said, “If you call the police, my future will be ruined. Qiao Xi, you can’t be so heartless...” If the police’s notice reached the school, he would definitely be expelled from the school. It was not easy for him to study hard to get into a top university and get out of that poor rural area. If he was expelled from the school, without a degree, would he have to do manual labor or serve people as Qiao Xi had done? No, absolutely not!

“I’m ruthless? No matter how ruthless I am, I’m not as ruthless as you.” Qiaoxi smiled mockingly and said, “Wang Wentao, don’t you love money very much? Is money really that important? In that case, I must destroy your future!”

“Qiao Xi, are you crazy? You can’t do this!” Wang Wentao’s eyes flashed with malice. He suddenly raised his head and said angrily, “What good will it do you if the matter is blown up? I’ve already slept with you so many times! When you return to the village, you’ll just be a used shoe and no one will want you! If you stay here, you’ll also be criticized by others! Do you really want to die together with me?” As he said that, he softened his tone again with snot and tears flowing down his face. He gently said, “Let’s stay together. Let’s get married and have children, okay? Don’t mess around, Qiao Xi. I was wrong. I really know that I was wrong. I will change.”

Shen Hanxing could not help but sneer when she heard that. "A leopard never changes its spots. You are so hypocritical that it makes me sick."

"Mrs. Ji is right," Qiao Xi nodded with a determined look. "No matter what happens in the future, I must call the police today. I want you to pay the price for what you have done!"

"No, no! You can't call the police!" Wang Wentao was about to go crazy!

Chapter 396: We Meet Again

Brother Zhao rolled his eyes and took advantage of the situation to run away. Shen Hanxing and the others had no evidence. As long as he ran away and asked the big boss for help, he would be able to escape from the law!

Bang! However, a huge force came from behind. Shen Hanxing subdued Brother Zhao quickly and took a few steps forward to kick him in the back. "Are you trying to run?"

Brother Zhao screamed and fell to the ground. Shen Hanxing dragged him into the house like dragging a corpse. Then, she called the police.

The police car came quickly. The young policeman could not help but smile when he saw Shen Hanxing. "Mrs. Ji, we meet again."

Shen Hanxing spread her hands helplessly. "I'll have to trouble you again." She had to call the police whenever she came to the city's west side. After a while, she became familiar with the police.

"It's my duty to serve the people," The young police officer had a good impression of Shen Hanxing. He smiled and shook his head. Then, he went to deal with the matter with a serious expression. He handcuffed Brother Zhao and Wang Wentao, lying on the ground. Qiao Xi changed her clothes and went to take a statement in the police station with Shen Hanxing. Just as they went out, the women watching the commotion outside surrounded them. They asked enthusiastically, "Qiao Xi, what's going on? Why are the police here?"

"You couples tend to have conflict. Xiao Wang is so nice. He is a decent university student. How did it end up like this? Why are you so ruthless?"

"Why is there a man in the house? I heard some movement in the courtyard just now. Hey, Qiao Xi, did Xiao Wang get paid to let this man take advantage of you? Did he succeed? How much money did Xiao Wang get?"

"It's also your fault, Qiao Xi. You're pretty. That's why people are willing to pay to sleep with you. Sigh! Women who are good-looking earn money easily."

"This is embarrassing. You ended up alarming the police..."

Qiao Xi's face turned pale. She bit her lips and lowered her head. It was not her fault, but she had to stand there and hear the words of these people who seemed to care but were actually gloating. Wang Wentao's words rang in her mind again. "Slept with many guys... b*tch... whore... dirty..."

Qiao Xi was at a loss for a moment. Her world seemed spinning as she felt herself sinking into an abyss. "Look! Someone paid this woman to sleep with a man. She is dirty! Shameful!"

"No! Please! Someone save me..." Qiao Xi thought.

At this moment, a cold and clear female voice sounded. "Have you said enough?"

Qiao Xi lifted her head and looked at the slender figure before her. Her figure was slim and straight, exerting feminine beauty. She was not timid at all. Instead, she was elegant and firm. It was what everyone yearned for the most.

Shen Hanxing's eyes were sharp. She stared at those gossipy women. "If you're so curious, why don't you follow me to the police station to get to know more?" She had lived in the slums before. So, she knew what those people were up to. They were gossipy and vulgar, and they were conservative and stubborn. If something happened to a girl, it must be because she was wearing too little and dressed gorgeously. If a woman's boyfriend or husband beat her up, she must have been insensible and done something wrong. These women would always try to ask the women to bear with it. They would never feel the pain if they were not the ones suffering it. Those women would put on a good attitude and push the person already distressed into a more bottomless abyss.

"Hey. Why are you so fierce as a girl?" The woman holding the basin curled her lips.

Shen Hanxing glanced at her. The woman was a little scared by seeing the look in Shen Hanxing's eyes. However, she quickly mucked up her courage. "What we said is the truth. As the old saying goes, destroying a temple is better than marriage. Qiao Xi and Xiao Wang have been sleeping for so long. She will need to marry Xiao Wang. It is bizarre to send her future husband to the police station."

The other women did not think anything was wrong with this statement. They all agreed, "That's right. Life has to go on. It's normal for young couples to have conflicts. Why did you have to call the police?"

"Everyone makes mistakes. Qiao Xi should give her boyfriend a chance to change after making a mistake. There's no need to make such a big fuss! Xiao Wang is a university student. How can she ask the police to arrest him? Isn't that ruining his future?"

Chapter 397: Bear With It

Qiao Xi was so angry that her whole body was trembling. Her eyes were red, but she restrained herself from crying. "Since Wang Wentao is so good, why don't you marry your daughter to him?" She took a step forward, looking at those women who stood there and spoke without thinking twice. She rolled up her sleeves to reveal the crisscrossing scars on her arms. "Where were you when Wang Wentao that bast*rd hit me when he was in a bad mood? As neighbors, couldn't you hear it? But did you care? Now that Wang Wentao has made a mistake, you're saying I ruined his life. He was the one who ruined my life first!"

"We couldn't interfere in your matter, could we?" A middle-aged woman grinned and explained, "it's not good for us, outsiders, to get involved in your matters."

“Then why are you meddling now? Why do you have to say something about it now?” Shen Hanxing sneered and said, “Will mocking other people’s miserable experiences make you look superior? Will it make you happy? Since you don’t think it’s a big deal. Then, I wish your daughter or granddaughter marries a man like Wang Wentao in the future!”

Before those women could get angry, Qiao Xi wiped her tears. She stared at them fiercely. “Yes! Since Wang Wentao is so good, I wish your daughters to marry a man like him and get beaten and scolded daily! You will only know how painful it is when you experience it yourself!” Qiao Xi had enough of these women. They kept mocking her by saying it was for her good. Living in an environment like this got her beaten up and looked down upon by Wang Wentao countless times. She was not a fool. She knew those women were part of the reason. But every time, these women would put on a kind and come over to tell her that women had to bear with anything their men did to them. She should endure it, and it would be over. In the past, she was stupid, and Wang Wentao deceived her. But these women were not kind either! They were the ones who encouraged Wang Wentao’s arrogance!

Qiao Xi’s gaze was like a wolf. She wanted nothing more than to pounce on these women who were gossiping to tear them apart. Those women wanted to say something, but when they thought of Wang Wentao’s miserable state when the policeman pressed him into the police car, they all shivered. They did not dare to look Qiao Xi in the eye. They thought, “Oh My, has Qiao Xi gone crazy?”

“If she doesn’t want to hear it, then we won’t talk about it...” One of the women muttered, “we are only saying this because we are her neighbors?” After that, she wanted to flee. She patted her clothes and continued, “Alright, I’m going home to cook for my husband. I’m leaving.”

“Wait!” Shen Hanxing raised her voice and shouted. These women in front of her were people who would even throw their tantrums before the police. But when they saw Shen Hanxing, they were terrified. Shen Hanxing not only had a face that was so beautiful that people could not take their eyes off her. It was also because her clothes were expensive or a special aura on her body that was indescribably elegant and fierce. It made them subconsciously obey her as if she was supposed to be so high and mighty.

“I want to tell you the police arrested Wang Wentao not because Qiao Xi did not do a good job or anything,” Shen Hanxing lifted her head and said coldly, “Wang Wentao was shameless and an ungrateful person. He broke the law. So naturally, he had to accept the punishment!”

After a moment, Shen Hanxing smirked, and she said with a mocking gaze, “You think Wang Wentao is a good person, but you don’t know that he has been cheating on Qiao Xi for a long time. When he graduates, he will dump Qiao Xi and marry that girl! Wang Wentao is a heartless beast!”

Those women were instantly stunned as they thought, “That... Wang Wentao is a bast*rd!”

“Qiao Xi works day and night to earn money only to pay for Wang Wentao’s tuition fee. In the end, he betrayed her?”

“Broke the law? I’ve been thinking Wang Wentao doesn’t look like a good person! He doesn’t know how to be grateful. What a bast*rd!”

The women gathered together and gossiped. After satisfying their desire to talk, they even surrounded Qiao Xi as they spoke, "Qiao Xi, why are you so weak and easy to bully? You should have taught Wang Wentao a lesson a long time ago!"

Chapter 398: Help Me Take Care of Her

Qiao Xi stood rooted to the ground, unable to understand why those women criticizing her changed their attitude. Those women who lived next door always tried to take advantage of her. Yet they held her hand kindly and even looked as if they understood her misery. "Wang Wentao is a university student! He is rubbish! Qiao Xi, you did well. You should have told him that you are not to be messed with long ago! He even wants to dump you and marry another girl? In his dream!"

Those women gathered together and gave Qiao Xi some advice. They not only wanted her to teach Wang Wentao a lesson but also asked her to make a scene at the university and scold that girl who Wang Wentao dated. They surrounded Qiao Xi, dumbfounding her. Shen Hanxing pulled Qiao Xi out of the crowd and took her, still in a daze, to the police car.

In the police car, Qiao Xi was still puzzled. "How... how did they manage to change their attitude so abruptly?"

The police officers on duty watched the entire process and chuckled when they heard this. "That's human nature. They are conflicted."

Were those women bad? Yes, they were. Qiao Xi's boyfriend planned to sell her to another man. They were curious and came to watch the scene. They casually gloated at Qiao Xi to satisfy their curiosity and mocked her in public. They even used Qiao Xi's gossip as a topic of conversation with others, telling them about the things that Qiao Xi had experienced repeatedly.

Many women committed suicide because of similar rumors and gossip.

That was why gossip was a dangerous weapon. However, the women were compassionate, especially when they knew Wang Wentao had cheated on his girlfriend. As women, they stood on Qiao Xi's side and scolded the scumb*g. They even cheered her up.

Although Qiao Xi was still in a daze, the heavy burden on her heart seemed to have dissipated a lot.

"I didn't want to explain anything to them," Qiao Xi sneered. She muttered, "I'm long used to these gossipy women. They could say whatever they wanted. I'll move to another place if I can't take it anymore." Although she didn't have a degree, she was hardworking. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to afford Wang Wentao's expenses. In the future, she wouldn't have to support Wang Wentao anymore. She could save money and rent a small room somewhere else, far away from this place.

"Even if you want to leave this place, you must leave clean and innocent." Shen Hanxing held Qiao Xi's hand and sighed. "You aren't born in this world to suffer grievances. You must believe that you came to this world to live your bright future."

Bright future? Qiao Xi looked at her hand that was shaking Shen Hanxing's. One was fair and tender, while the other was rough and covered with bloody marks, like ugly old tree bark. She subconsciously

shrunk her fingertips, afraid she might accidentally hurt Shen Hanxing's hand. However, she missed the warmth of Shen Hanxing's palm. No one had ever told her that she should live a pure and innocent life, and no one had told her that she did not need to suffer when she came to this world. But she doubted if she could live a bright future. It was like a seed was slowly sprouting in the bottom of her heart. There was a young seedling called ambition taking root and growing.

Qiao Xi's eyes were red, but they had hope in them. She would never want to live like before again. She nodded hard, and tears kept rolling down her cheeks. But she smiled as she wept and said, "Thank you, Mrs. Ji. Thank you so much."

Before Shen Hanxing entered Qiao Xi's house, she sensed something was wrong. She turned on the recorder in her phone to record the conversation in advance. The witnesses and evidence were all in place. Brother Zhao confessed soon for some unknown reason. In the end, Brother Zhao and Wang Wentao were sentenced to fifteen days in detention. Wang Wentao also had to compensate Qiao Xi a sum of money.

After giving their statements, Shen Hanxing walked out of the police station with Qiao Xi. "If you have nothing to do recently, can I trouble you with one thing?"

"Sure," Qiao Xi was already grateful to Shen Hanxing and did not know how to repay her. Now that she heard that Shen Hanxing needed her help with something, she nodded without hesitation. "If there's anything you need me for, feel free to ask, Mrs. Ji!"

"Well, my grandmother lives on the west side of the city," Shen Hanxing clasped her hands together. She said sincerely, "I have to go to school now, and I still have things to deal with at the company. I'm usually busy. Can you stay at my grandmother's house for some time, help me spend more time with her, and take care of her?"

Chapter 399: Something Happened to Grandma

After pausing for a while, Shen Hanxing said embarrassedly, "I know this might be a little unfair to you. Just take it as me hiring you to take care of my grandma. When you find a new job, you can quit anytime."

Qiao Xi's eyes turned red. She was a brilliant girl. She could see that Shen Hanxing was helping her, yet she didn't want to hurt her pride. So she suggested Qiao Xi take care of her grandma. With Shen Hanxing's status and ability, it would be easy for her to employ anyone to take care of her grandma.

Qiao Xi knew that Shen Hanxing was afraid those women would criticize her if she returned to her original place, so Shen Hanxing found a quiet place for her to stay during this embarrassing time.

"I'll take the job!" Qiao Xi nodded as she sobbed. She accepted Shen Hanxing's good intentions. Qiao Xi would do her best to seize every bit of kindness, seize every opportunity to change her fate, and remember Shen Hanxing's help. She would do her best to repay it.

When Qiao Xi agreed, Shen Hanxing smiled. At this moment, her cell phone rang.

"I was talking about grandma, and she called," Shen Hanxing glanced at the screen and smiled at Qiao Xi. "It's just in time. I'll tell grandma. We'll go over now." However, Shen Hanxing did not hear her grandma's voice coming from the other end of the call. It was someone else. "Mrs. Ji, come over quickly!" The nanny's voice sounded anxious. "Your grandma had a heart attack and was sent to the hospital..."

Smash! Shen Hanxing's phone fell to the ground. Grandma had a heart attack? In an instant, Shen Hanxing's thought was a mess. She only had her grandma. She would have no one left if her grandma passed away.

Shen Hanxing staggered and almost fell to the ground.

"Mrs. Ji, are you okay?" Qiao Xi quickly supported Shen Hanxing and asked anxiously, "what happened? Please calm down."

Yes, she couldn't let her emotions take over her now. Shen Hanxing was trembling. She picked up her phone to ask for the hospital's address and quickly hailed a taxi.

"Mrs. Ji, are you okay?" Qiao Xi sat in the back seat of the taxi and looked at Shen Hanxing worriedly. "Do you want to rest first?"

Shen Hanxing's beautiful face was pale. Even her sparkling red lips had faded. Qiao Xi was worried that Shen Hanxing would faint anytime now.

"I'm fine... my grandmother just had a heart attack..." Shen Hanxing's hands and feet were trembling. She gritted her teeth and tried to calm herself down. "Let's go to the hospital first..." She reminded herself to calm down when they rushed to the hospital. They waited at the emergency room entrance. Shen Hanxing was burning with anxiety.

Ji Yan also rushed over after he received the news. The moment he saw Shen Hanxing, his heart ached. He had never seen Shen Hanxing like this. She had always given him the feeling that she was tough. It was as if nothing in this world could defeat her. Nothing could make her give in. But now, she was like a withering rose. She lost her support and was fragile.

"Hanxing," Ji Yan took a step forward and pulled Shen Hanxing into his embrace. He kissed her forehead. "Don't be afraid. With me around, grandma will be fine."

"Mr. Ji," Shen Hanxing lay in Ji Yan's embrace. Her hands clutched the collar of his suit. She finally felt a sense of security and warmth. Tears welled up in her eyes. Her voice choked as she sobbed. "grandma... is old. I'm scared..." She didn't even dare to say that word.

"The doctor is doing his best to save her. She'll be fine," Ji Yan hugged Shen Hanxing tightly, doing his best to give her a sense of security. He comforted her in a low voice, "I've contacted an internationally renowned cardiologist. Don't worry. I won't let anything happen to grandma."

The lights in the emergency room went out, and the doctor walked out. Fortunately, he found her in time. The agency had trained the nanny to deal with a heart attack, so grandma was fine now. Hearing this news, Shen Hanxing heaved a sigh of relief and collapsed in Ji Yan's arms.

When grandma woke up, it was already midnight. It was dark outside. Looking at the snow-white walls of the hospital, grandma was in a daze for a moment.

“Grandma, are you awake?” Sensing the movement, Ji Yan helped grandma up and asked in a low voice, “are you feeling unwell?”

Grandma shook her head gently. Her loving gaze fell on the bedside where Shen Hanxing lay asleep. Her long eyelashes kept trembling, and she frowned as if she had had an unpleasant dream.

Chapter 400: Rest in Peace

“Hanxing was scared out of her wits and just fell asleep,” Ji Yan said softly, “I’ll pour you a glass of water to moisten your throat.”

“Thank you for your hard work,” Grandma’s voice was soft and a little helpless. “I’m getting old. I’ve caused you a lot of trouble.”

“Grandma, what are you saying?” Ji Yan, who had always been cold and distant to others, was extremely gentle when facing Shen Hanxing’s grandma. “you have raised Hanxing. To me, you are my biological grandma. We must take care of you.” Ji Yan’s attitude showed how much he cared about Shen Hanxing, and grandma was pleased. she looked at Ji Yan lovingly and said, “You’re a good child.” She paused. Her eyes filled with reminiscence and sorrow. “Hanxing, she... lived a hard life since she was young. Back then, she insisted on marrying you. I was afraid that she would regret it. I didn’t take good care of Hanxing’s mother. I failed as a mother. Now, I can’t take good care of Hanxing. I’m an unqualified grandma...”

With tears in her eyes, grandma lifted her hand and gently patted Shen Hanxing’s back. The old woman’s palm carried her love for Shen Hanxing. Shen Hanxing, who had a bad dream, felt better when her grandma patted her back. “Hanxing has been independent since she was young. I know I can’t persuade her. Fortunately, you’re a good man worthy of being entrusted with...” Grandma sighed. “Ji Yan, I’ll leave Hanxing to you. You have to take good care of her. Hanxing would treat others well if they treated her well. Don’t let her down.”

Grandma was only in her sixties this year. In upper-class circles, most noblewomen of this age were obsessed with beauty. They were bright and beautiful, with few wrinkles on their faces. Meanwhile, grandma’s hair was gray, and her face was full of traces of the passage of time. She was old, and her words sounded like she was about to die.

“I will treat Hanxing well and won’t let her down,” Ji Yan promised and pulled the quilt for grandma. “Grandma, you must live a long life and watch me fulfill my promise.” He chuckled as he lowered his voice and whispered to grandma, “grandma, let me tell you a secret. I plan to...” He whispered his plan to grandma.

Grandma’s eyes lit up, and she smiled until the wrinkles on her face smoothed. “Good... Good, you’re a thoughtful boy!”

“Grandma!” At this moment, Shen Hanxing, who was sleeping, suddenly sat up. She looked around in a panic and realized that her grandma was smiling at her. Only then did she let out a sigh of relief.

Shen Hanxing's eyes were red. She leaned against the back of her grandma's hand covered with age spots and acted coquettishly. "Grandma, you scared me to death. Did you not take your medicine on time?"

"It's grandma's fault. I made you worry," Grandma caressed Shen Hanxing's hair.

"It's good that grandma is fine," Shen Hanxing lowered her head and buried her face in her grandma's palm. She had dreamt that her grandma had died in her sleep. She had seen her grandma for the last time in the mortuary. That kind-hearted person, the elder who had given her the only warmth in her life, laid in the mortuary dead. Her grandma's body was cold, and Shen Hanxing cried out loud in her dream. She was flustered. Fortunately, this was just a dream. After she woke up, her grandma was still alive. Her grandma's hands were warm. Although her grandma's face was pale, she was alive. Everything was fine.

"You're already married, yet you're still acting like a spoiled child. Aren't you afraid that Ji Yan will laugh at you?" Grandma pinched Shen Hanxing's nose and teased her.

"Even if I'm old, I'm still your grandchild," Shen Hanxing wrinkled her nose and continued to act coquettishly.

"Mm, you are always a child to me," Ji Yan said with a smile. He slowly held Shen Hanxing's hand into his palm and smiled, "grandma and I will dote on you together."

"You have a honey tongue," Sensing grandma's delightful gaze, Shen Hanxing's face flushed. She pulled out her hand that Ji Yan held and acted coquettishly toward grandma. "Grandma, look at him. He only knows how to bully me."

"Nonsense. When did Ji Yan bully you?" Grandma tapped Shen Hanxing on the forehead and sighed. "Grandma is relieved to see you two are well. If you're living well, grandma can die in peace."

Shen Hanxing's expression changed. "Grandma, don't talk nonsense. What do you mean by saying you will die? You will live a long life!"

"Grandma, I've already contacted the internationally renowned cardiologist," Ji Yan said gently, "when your body recovers, I'll take you overseas for medical treatment to ensure your health."

"Overseas? No, I can't go overseas!" Grandma, who listened to Ji Yan and Shen Hanxing with a smile, suddenly refused in a panic.