

Crippled 51

Chapter 51: I Only Know A Little

"I only know a little about the violin," Shen Hanxing smiled a little embarrassedly. She said softly, "I express my understanding of this piece of music from an amateur's perspective. I hope you don't mind if I don't express it well. I feel that this piece of music symbolizes a person's life. In the early stages, it was full of disasters, endless struggles, and cynicism. Later on, after experiencing a lot, it gradually reached a reconciliation with the world and also with itself. And thus, it completes a psychological transformation."

Shen Hanxing was feeling a little emotional. Music could often express things that words could not express. A few minutes of music could create and express what life was.

"I feel that this part can be slightly modified..." Shen Hanxing threw away her emotions and her fingertips landed on a certain part of the music score. She voiced her opinion, "The melody here is too gentle compared with the earlier melody line, so it sounds a bit dissonant. The connection between the different moods is not enough. How about this, let's change it to D first..."

Shen Hanxing did not notice that Old Lady Lin's eyes became brighter and brighter when she articulated her thoughts.

'When it came to composing music, Old Lady Lin, displayed a stubbornness that was unlike those of her age. She kept discussing with Shen Hanxing the modification of the piece. In order to convince Shen Hanxing, she would hum a short phrase to prove that what she said was right. When it was really impossible to determine who had the better suggestion, she even dragged Old Master Lin, who was painting at the side, to be the judge.

In the end, neither of them was convinced by the other. They angrily looked at each other for a moment, but the two of them could not help but laugh.

"You're already so old, yet you're still childishly arguing away with young people," Old Master Lin teased her as he poured tea for them. "You're probably tired from all that talking. Quickly drink some tea and catch your breath."

After arguing for a long time, the two of them were already thirsty. When they picked up the teacup and drank tea, Shen Hanxing and Old Lady Lin looked at each other. They both cherished the chance to meet a bosom friend.

"It's rare for someone to have such a good chat with her." There was a smile in Old Master Lin's eyes. He deliberately said, "Since you've helped my wife look at her composition, then you can't be playing favorites. Help me look at this painting that has just been completed."

Shen Hanxing's face was slightly red. It was rare for her to reveal the shyness of a young maiden. Now that she had calmed down, she realized that her behavior earlier as she argued with Old Lady Lin over a music score was too childish. It was really too inappropriate.

After she heard Old Lin's words, Shen Hanxing calmed down for a moment before slowly nodding her head and agreeing. Although life in the slums was tough, she could be considered lucky. She met many good people and learned many skills that others could not imagine.

Playing the violin was one of them, and the other was painting. However, she felt that her painting skills were not very good. She could not understand what the new artists in society were painting, She also could not understand how those few lines that were put together could be understood as the unfairness of fate and a struggle against fate...

In her opinion, the paintings that were sold for millions of dollars were not as good as the paintings that the old man, who could not afford to eat and wore tattered clothes, taught her at that time. The highly valued paintings were even worse than the beautiful scenery of the wetland park that Old Master Lin had created in a short period.

"You know about oil painting?" Seeing her expression, Old Lin was a little surprised. He had casually brought it up to change the topic and liven up the atmosphere. However, he was now actually a little interested. "Come, come, come. What do you think of this painting? Don't worry, go ahead and voice your opinions boldly."

"Actually, I don't really know much either. I just learned a little from an old man," Shen Hanxing thought for a moment. She was afraid that the Old Master Lin would have high expectations of her, so she took precautions first by saying that.

'What she did not realize was that when she said she learned a little, the corner of Old Lady Lin's mouth twitched. Her expression was complicated. Again, she had said 'learned a little'. Shen Hanxing told her that she knew a little about the violin, but she was more knowledgeable than Lin Ran.

Shen Hanxing did not know what Old Lady Lin was thinking. She stared at the painting on the canvas and mused over it. She said, "I think the composition of this painting is very clever. It uses the combination of light and shadow to show the wetland park under the sun... in this painting, I like this part the most."

Shen Hanxing pointed at a distorted willow tree in the corner. After a moment of hesitation, she said, "It's clearly a beautiful painting, but there's a strange-looking willow tree. It seems to imply that there are people who suffer even when they are living a peaceful life. But no matter how much suffering there is, it will grow into a big tree and bloom with vitality. At a glance, it gives people endless hope and light."

It was really strange. She could not even say a word of praise for the works of those modern and cutting-edge painters who were praised by people. Yet, she felt so much for such an ordinary landscape painting.

Old Lin's expression gradually became solemn as she spoke, and his smiling face also became stern...

Chapter 52: Giving A Slap In The Face With Facts

Oh no.

Shen Hanxing wondered if her nonsense had upset Old Master Lin. Artists always had all sorts of quirks. When faced with someone like her, who only had shallow knowledge but was carelessly commenting on his work, he would probably find it intolerable.

If she angered these two, she didn't know if Ji Ning would be implicated. It was all her fault for not being able to control her mouth when she saw the work she liked. Shen Hanxing subconsciously wanted to apologize.

However, Old Lin was the first to speak. He stuffed the brush into her hand and said, "Draw a few strokes for me to see. Draw whatever you want to draw."

Shen Hanxing was stunned. What was this? Was he angry and forcing her to draw? Was he trying to slap her in the face with the fact that she knew nothing?

Shen Hanxing's scalp went numb. She looked at Old Lady Lin for help only to see Old Lady Lin smiling at the scene in front of her. She looked like a bystander. It seemed that even a bosom friend could not be relied on, so Shen Hanxing had no choice but to bite the bullet and take the brush. "Then forgive me as I show my embarrassing skills."

Shen Hanxing really liked to draw. The act of drawing was quiet and silent. One would put all their attention on the canvas before them and pour out their emotions to their hearts' content. Thus, Shen Hanxing still had the habit of drawing.

At this moment, she took the old man's brush. Her movements did not seem unfamiliar. After calming herself down, she had a good idea of what to do. She quickly put the brush on the canvas and sketched out the shape of her favorite willow tree with a few strokes.

Compared to Old Lin's willow tree that had settled after experiencing so many things, the angle of her willow tree was even more bumpy and sharp. When Old Lady Lin saw the light in Old Lin's eyes, she could not help but shake her head with a smile.

"This old man... still not contented even after retirement.'

Having been with Old Lin for decades, how could she not understand the reason why his face had darkened earlier? It was clear that he had cherished talented people so he wanted to take her in as his student. That was why he had adopted a serious attitude earlier.

Unfortunately, even if they were husband and wife, she did not intend to hand over the talented Shen Hanxing. Old Lady Lin was slowly calculating in her head how to win against her husband and snatch this good student. That impatient look made it hard to imagine that there were countless people outside crying and shouting, wanting the couple to take them in as their students.

Unfortunately, the two of them had high expectations of their students. Thus, no one could meet their standards to become their students. The two of them had not taken in any students for more than ten years.

“Your strokes here are too heavy, and it’s not smooth.”

After Shen Hanxing finished drawing, Old Lin still had a serious expression on his face. His expression was hard to decipher as he nitpicked her strokes. Shen Hanxing listened obediently and looked at what Old Master Lin had pointed out. As expected, she noticed the inadequacies in her drawing.

She thought that it was no wonder the reclusive ‘experts’ that she’d encountered before were unwilling to reveal their names and claimed that they were amateurs. It seemed like they were indeed amateurs. Now that she had met two old artists with artistic accomplishments, her flaws were endlessly exposed.

“That being said...” Old Lin rubbed his chin, and his expression eased up slightly before revealing a smile once again. “These won’t be considered flaws next time. Instead, it’s your unique painting style. Your paintings are very spiritual.”

It had been a long time since he’d seen such potential, and his love for talent grew even stronger. “Do you want to learn how to paint? Call me teacher and I’ll teach you how to paint.”

Shen Hanxing was shocked. Why did he suddenly want to become her teacher?

Thinking back to those ‘teachers’ that she had met by chance, Shen Hanxing had lived a busy life for a long time. Every second of her life was filled with learning, and she had no time to herself at all. This caused her to be instinctively fearful when she heard that she had to learn.

“Old Lin, you’re not being honest,” Old Lady Lin was immediately dissatisfied. “Everything is first come first served. Hanxing should formally be my student first. Her talent in violin is much better than her talent in drawing.”

It had only been a short while, but she had already familiarly addressed Shen Hanxing as ‘Hanxing’.

“Can’t you tell how spiritual her painting is?” Old Lin did not give in. “This level of painting skill cannot be obtained without more than ten years of hard work. She has both talent and diligence. It’s a waste if she doesn’t learn to paint.”

A young girl who grew up in the slums and was not even twenty years of age. Yet, how was she able to paint for more than ten years?

Art was a money-burning profession to begin with. What was it that supported her and let her persevere her studies on how to paint even when it was difficult for her to eat or drink? It must be her love for painting!

The elderly couple imagined Shen Hanxing’s unquenchable love for art despite living in poverty. She must have lived frugally in order to go on learning the things she was passionate about. When they thought of this, the way the elderly couple looked at Shen Hanxing changed. Their hearts ached terribly for her.

Shen Hanxing: “...”

‘I’m not... I did not. Don’t blindly imagine it.’

Chapter 53: The Geniuses Of The Past

Shen Hanxing did not know whether to laugh or cry. Seeing the elderly couple was about to fall out and slam the table in anger, she quickly tried to persuade them. She said, "Grandma Lin, Grandpa Lin, please don't be like this. I have no intention of learning these."

"Girl," Old Lin was shocked. "Do you know who I am? Do you know how many people outside there offer their houses and cars and beg me to take them in as students? And you actually don't want to learn from me?"

"What do you have to show off?" Old Lady Lin's eyes widened. "I'm not inferior to you either. Previously, there was a prince from a foreign royal family who wanted to learn the violin from me, but I didn't agree to it!"

These two actually had such a background?

Shen Hanxing grew up in a slum abroad after all. After being tricked by her father to return to the country, she also married at lightning speed. She did not know much about the people and things in this country. Initially, she thought that they were simply Maestro Lin Ran's parents. However, it seemed that they were even more accomplished than Lin Ran?

That would make sense. If one did not have outstanding parents, it would not be possible to raise a child to the caliber Maestro Lin Ran was at.

According to Old Master Lin and Old Lady Lin, their statuses might be even more valuable than Lin Ran's. Their artistic achievements were extraordinary.

Shen Hanxing's eyes lit up.

Old Lin and Old Lady Lin thought that she had thought it through. They raised their heads proudly. "You choose. Who do you want to learn from?"

"No, I don't want to be your student," Shen Hanxing smiled a little embarrassedly. She looked at the two elders with eager eyes. "I'm not very talented. I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you, but..."

She politely poured a cup of tea for the two elders, and she lowered her head slightly. "I have younger brothers and sisters in my family. I'm sure the two of you know the one who likes to play the violin. It's Maestro Lin Ran's new student called Ji Ning. There's another one called Ji Mo. He loves oil paintings very much and is also very talented..."

Shen Hanxing asked bashfully, "I wonder if you two masters are interested in teaching them?"

She was too competent as a sister-in-law. She was constantly thinking about the future of her younger brothers and sisters. For the sake of getting a better education for the children, it was not a big deal for her to humble herself. In any case, she could not let the children suffer. And even if they were poor, they could not skimp on education!

It was normal for the elders to be a little humble for the children!

Under her repeated pleas, the two elders, though they were disappointed, agreed to her request to occasionally guide the two children. They agreed to let Shen Hanxing bring Ji Mo along the next time they came over. Shen Hanxing stood up in satisfaction and left to take Ji Ning home.

As national treasures and world-class artists, the two elders who enjoyed the highest of honor in the world looked at each other. They did not know whether to laugh or cry.

“silly girl,” Old Lin scolded with a smile, “She doesn’t know how blessed she is. She doesn’t think more for herself, wasting away her talent like that.”

“As long as you live happily, there’s no such thing as wasting anything,” Old Lady Lin was much calmer. She said with pity, “Look at her understanding of the music. It’s clear that she’s suffering in her heart. Now that she can find a way of life that she likes, we can’t force her to change, right?”

“I just feel like it’s a pity. Based on her talent, once she learns from us, her accomplishments in the future will definitely not be lower than yours or mine.” Old Lin sighed, “Moreover, I feel that her style is familiar. It’s a little similar to senior brother’s, but he has already stopped painting for so many years.

No one has been able to contact him. I suppose Hanxing probably did not have any interaction with him either. Sigh, I might have seen wrongly.”

“If you put it that way...” Old Lady Lin frowned as well. “Actually, I think her understanding of the violin is somewhat similar to that person from back then.”

A few decades ago, the country was in a difficult period of turmoil. Countless geniuses were born at the right time, and they experienced many hardships during the ten-year catastrophe. Many geniuses who were supposed to shock the world and be the focus of the world were gone. Even those who survived chose to live in seclusion and had not appeared for a long time.

“It seems that we are overthinking this,” Old Lin shook his head regretfully. “How can there be such a coincidence in the world?”

The two elders sighed and thought about the past. The two of them did not speak for a long time.

Shen Hanxing did not know about their conversation. She brought Ji Ning back to the Ji family. In the evening, she received a call from Xiao Yu.

“Hanxing,” Xiao Yu sounded a little anxious. “Han Yin might have gone to look for you. If she goes to your place, let me know. I’ll go pick her up.”

“What’s going on?” Shen Hanxing, who was reading, suddenly sat up straight. “What happened?”

Han Yin wasn’t the type to run around for no reason and make people worry..

Chapter 54: We Can Talk After You’ve Cried Enough

“Aunt Han is sick,” Xiao Yu’s tone was a little dispirited and upset. “It’s kidney disease. The hospital said that the treatment would require a kidney transplant, which would cost a lot of money. Han Yin said that she was going to quit school and work in order to raise money for the treatment. I scolded her, and she ran away.”

Shen Hanxing was stunned.

The children in the slums rarely had both parents. Most of them were orphans or had biological parents who threw them abroad to fend for themselves. Thus, they had to grow up with the elderly in the family.

Han Yin’s father was a disabled person. He had lost an arm and a leg in an accident a few years ago. He had been living on subsistence allowances and he set up a small stall. He could barely make ends meet running the stall. Aunt Han was Han Yin’s mother. She was mute. Her small frame carried Uncle

Han in and out every day. Her face was full of wrinkles that showed years of suffering.

When Han Yin was born, there was a migration trend in the country. An agent had told them that he could bring the children abroad for free to live a good life. Uncle Han and Aunt Han believed it. Thus, they asked the agent to take Han Yin away, who was only six years old back then.

However, they did not expect the agent to be a swindler. He brought children abroad to sell. Subsequently, Han Yin accidentally went to the slums and got to know Shen Hanxing and the others... Later on, when she got older, the country she was in dealt with people who were not registered residents of

the country. As Han Yin and the others who were not registered residents, the government deported them back to their own country.

After returning to the country, Han Yin and the others tried to find their parents. Shen Hanxing also met Han Yin’s parents. Although Uncle Han and Aunt Han were living poorly, they always had a kind smile on their faces. They gave Han Yin and the others the warmth of a family that they had never felt

before.

Therefore, Shen Hanxing could understand Han Yin’s intention to quit school and work in order to treat Aunt Han’s illness. However, just because she understood did not mean that she would agree with this idea.

“Hanxing?” Xiao Yu could not help but call out when Shen Hanxing did not speak for a long time.

“Yes,” Shen Hanxing replied softly. Coincidentally, a servant came over at this time. The servant said prudently, “Madam, the guard called to say that someone called Han Yin is looking for you. Do you know her? Should we let her in?”

“She’s my friend. Get someone to bring her in,” Shen Hanxing instructed the servant. Then, she said into the phone, “Han Yin is here. Don’t worry, I will persuade her.”

With Shen Hanxing’s interference, Xiao Yu was instantly relieved. “Okay, then I will go over to pick her up later.”

Shen Hanxing nodded. Not long after the call ended, Han Yin, whose eyes and nose were red from crying, entered the room. The moment she saw Shen Hanxing, she could not help but wail loudly.

She cried so loudly that Ji Yang and Ji Ning, who were in their rooms, secretly opened their doors to see what was going on.

Han Yin was only 16 years old, a young girl. Her pretty little face was still childish, and now she was crying so hard that she was out of breath. Her snot flowed down from her nose. She looked very ugly, but at the same time, she was full of vitality at her age.

Shen Hanxing's head hurt from Han Yin's crying, She threw a packet of tissue at her and said, "Cry it out first. We can talk after you've cried enough."

"Sister Hanxing!"

Hearing her words, Han Yin choked and could not cry anymore. She wiped her tears away forcefully. She hugged and rested her arms on her body. "The doctor said that my mother needs to have the surgery as soon as possible. It's not that I don't want to listen to Brother Xiao Yu, but my mother can't wait any longer."

As she spoke, she felt like crying again, "My grades aren't that good either. I'm different from you, Sister Hanxing. You always placed first in your grade, but even so, you dropped out of school because of your grandmother's illness. If you can do it, I can do it too. Some time ago, a talent scout came to me and said that I'm good-looking, If I sign a contract with their company, I can act and earn a lot of money. That way, my parents can live a good life."

Shen Hanxing sneered, "Is that so? Tell me which company the talent scout is from that they dare to say such words?"

Shen Hanxing had always been the leader of their group. Han Yin obediently took out the talent scout's business card and handed it over. Han Yin did not forget to add, "That talent scout said that although their company is small, its development prospects are very good. I have also checked and this is indeed a proper company. There is a formal contract to sign as well. It's not a scam."

In the end, she was still a young girl. She thought that signing the contract would protect her rights and interests. But she did not know that the terms of the contract were akin to selling her body.

"Do you understand the legal clauses?" Shen Hanxing was so angry that she poked her head. She reprimanded, "You only know how to sign the contract. Can you see the traps in the terms of the contract? Do you know whether this contract is protecting your rights and interests or whether it's exploiting

you? You can't even tell these things apart. Do you still think that you've grown up and can stand on your own?"

"And you're even comparing yourself to me? Is dropping out of school a glorious thing?" The more Shen Hanxing spoke, the angrier she got. She glared at Han Yin with all her might.. "What do you think you're doing? Do you think I'm dead?"

Chapter 55: I Love You So Much!

She was closest with Han Yin, Xiao Yu, and Chu Feng, The four of them were famous in the slums for their close friendship. Among them, Han Yin was the youngest. Everyone treated her as their little sister and protected her.

“But I can’t ask you guys to solve everything for me.” Han Yin’s eyes were red. She knew that her brothers and sisters were good to her, but she couldn’t take their kindness for granted and rely on them for everything.

The kidney transplant surgery required 200,000 dollars. Moreover, she also had to pay for the post-operative rehabilitation and various expenses. Thus, she needed to prepare at least 250,000 dollars. That was not a small amount. To the current Han Yin, it was an astronomical figure. How could she bear to make things difficult for her brothers and sisters who grew up with her?

“Han Yin, you’re still young,” Shen Hanxing sighed. “Your job right now is to study hard and strive to enter a good university. Only then will you have more options to explore in the future. Now You’re telling me that you want to drop out of school and go to an agency. Do you really like acting or do you lack money?”

Han Yin bit her lip. “Sister Hanxing, I know you’ll be angry if I tell you the truth, but I’m really not interested in studying. I like acting. My mother’s illness only strengthened my determination to drop out of school.”

She liked to interact and act out different lives on the screen.

“The entertainment industry is not as simple as you think,” Shen Hanxing paused, then she continued, “If you really like it, you can apply to major in this field for university. I won’t stop you. You know how it is with the gossip in the entertainment industry. Nowadays, the entertainment industry also looks at one’s education.”

After saying that, she smiled, she tapped Han Yin’s nose. “Most importantly, don’t forget that I have already married into a wealthy family. Aunt Han is not only your mother, she’s also my family. I will pay for her treatment.”

“Then I will borrow this money from you, Sister Hanxing, I will write an IOU,” Han Yin sat up straight and said seriously, “I promise that I will work hard to earn money in the future and return this money to you, Sister Hanxing.”

Children from the slums were pragmatic. They knew the power of knowledge better than anyone else. To the poor, knowledge could indeed change their fate.

Shen Hanxing did not stand on ceremony with her and nodded directly. Han Yin and the others were friends and family to Shen Hanxing, She hoped that they could lead a good life in the future. However, that did not mean that they had to break their wings and live under her protection, relying on her

forever.

“Since you like the entertainment industry and want to be an actress, I will keep an eye out for you,” Shen Hanxing warned her. “You are not allowed to make decisions without consulting us and then say that you are dropping out of school. Do you understand?”

“Got it, Sister Hanxing,” Han Yin stuck out her tongue and coquettishly nuzzled Shen Hanxing like a clingy caterpillar. “Sister Hanxing, why are you so good? I love you so much.”

The Ji brothers and sisters, who had been observing upstairs, felt sour in their hearts.

If she was here to talk to Shen Hanxing, then she should just talk. There was no need to hug her like that. Shen Hanxing was their sister-in-law! She even said ‘I love you’ to their sister-in-law. She really had no shame. It was so mushy!

Ji Mo returned home from school and was stunned for a moment when he saw the scene in the living room. “Sister-in-law, I’m back. This is...”

“This is my little sister, Han Yin.” Those upstairs also took the opportunity to come down. Shen Hanxing simply introduced them to each other.

Ji Qian quickly took over Shen Hanxing’s arm and secretly glared at Han Yin. Then, she said coquettishly, “Sister-in-law, I’m already hungry. Shall we have dinner?”

‘Did you hear that? The whole family is about to have dinner. You, who don’t know what was good for you, should quickly leave!’

Ji Ning didn’t manage to snatch the seat beside sister-in-law. She lowered his head and took the fruit plate from the servant’s hands. She placed the plate of fruits in front of Shen Hanxing. “Sister-in-law, eat some fruit first.”

“Dinner will be served later today. More guests are coming in a bit,” Shen Hanxing smiled and patted Han Yin’s hand. She said gently, “Xiao Yu and Chu Feng will arrive in a while. Let’s have a meal together and then I’ll get someone to send you back.”

“Okay.”

Seeing the Ji family fighting with her for Shen Hanxing’s attention, warning bells rang in Han Yin’s head. She nodded without hesitation and leaned her head on Shen Hanxing’s shoulder. Han Yin said coquettishly with a smile. “You are the best, Sister Hanxing”

Damn it, another actress fighting with them for her attention!

The Ji siblings secretly exchanged glances. They usually did not like each other. However, for the first time, they reached a tacit understanding. For now, they would have to unite and chase out the outsider who was fighting for their sister-in-law’s attention!

Shen Hanxing was completely oblivious to the turbulent waves between them. She waved at Ji Mo, who was still standing at the door with his backpack on his back. “Xiao Mo, sit down and write for a while. Are you hungry? If you’re hungry, eat some fruit first to fill your stomach.”

“Thank you, sister-in-law. I’m not hungry,” Ji Mo smiled obediently. His naturally curly bangs flicked along with his movements, adding a cute childishness to it..

Chapter 56: The Whole Family Fighting For Attention

Suddenly, Shen Hanxing thought of something. “Oh right, I accompanied Xiao Ning to her violin class today and got to know Maestro Lin Ran’s parents.” Shen Hanxing smiled and said, “Old Master Lin promised to teach you how to draw. When we go to Maestro Lin Ran’s house next week, you should come along too, Xiao Mo.”

After she came back, she specially looked up the elderly couple’s information. That was when she found out just how shocking their identities were. The numerous awards on their Baidu Encyclopedia pages made her speechless.

Shen Hanxing was very satisfied to be able to find such a suitable teacher for Ji Mo.

Ji Mo’s eyes flashed with a complicated light. The feeling in his heart was strange and complex. He subconsciously asked softly, “Sister-in-law, you know that I like to draw?”

“Aren’t you always drawing when you’re resting?” Shen Hanxing nodded very naturally. She said matter-of-factly, “I’ve seen your sleeves stained with paint several times. I guess you were too engrossed in drawing and didn’t see it on your clothes. This time, I coincidentally met a suitable teacher and got them to guide you.”

She said it very simply, as if finding a teacher was a small matter that couldn’t be more convenient. However, the person she mentioned was the famous artist, Old Master Lin. He was the role model of countless people who had spent their entire lives learning to draw. Many people had tried their best to get his guidance, but they couldn’t even get a single word in, much less become his student.

Ji Mo suddenly thought of his own biological mother. That woman had never cared about what he liked or disliked. She would only urge him to fight for more family assets to take care of her retirement. That woman only cared about herself, she would never trouble herself to find a teacher for a little hobby of his.

‘The more understated Shen Hanxing’s attitude was, the more complicated the hearts of the Ji brothers and sisters became. What price had she paid and what method had she used to make Old Master Lin, who did not accept students, agree to guide Ji Mo?

“Oh right,” As though the bomb that was dropped wasn’t enough, Shen Hanxing patted Ji Ning’s head again. “Old Lady Lin, who is also Old Master Lin’s wife, is highly accomplished in the violin. If there’s anything you don’t understand in the future, feel free to ask her.”

Ji Ning’s eyes instantly lit up. She asked in disbelief, “Is it the person I’m thinking of? She promised to teach me occasionally?”

Her fingertips trembled with excitement and tears were about to fall. She was too happy. Everything that had happened in the past few days made her feel as if she was in the clouds, as though this was all a dream.

Even a violinist like Old Lady Lin was willing to give her pointers. Sister-in-law must have put in a lot of effort for her, right? Ji Ning's eyes welled up. This strong feeling of being loved and being placed in someone else's heart made her indescribably moved. Her eyes turned red.

Ji Ning held back her tears and smiled brightly. "Thank you, Sister-in-law!"

"We're all family," Seeing that she was about to cry again, Shen Hanxing's temples twitched. She casually took an apple and stuffed it into Ji Ning's mouth. "Study hard. I believe in you."

The apple was sweet and delicious. Ji Ning nodded her head vigorously as she chewed on it and smiled shyly.

Ji Qian looked at her brother and sister with jealousy. She was furious. For the first time, she felt horrible because she was not artsy and she wasn't skilled in anything. However, she was about to feel even worse.

Han Yin added fuel to the fire and acted coquettishly to Shen Hanxing. "Sister Hanxing, we're going to be separated into the different subject combinations in school soon. Can you help me with this?"

Shen Hanxing's attention was instantly diverted.

"How infuriating! Where did this girl come from? Why was she so annoying!"

It was rare for the Ji siblings to have the same thoughts. Ji Qian was so angry that she became a pufferfish. She pushed Ji Ning's back and silently urged her, "Go, get sister-in-law back!"

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Ji Ning slowly blinked and grabbed Shen Hanxing's sleeve. She pulled it slightly, and Shen Hanxing looked over. Ji Ning raised her timid little face and asked nervously, "Sister-in-law, the teacher taught me a new finger technique today. I don't really understand it. Can you help me? It was my first class today so I was too embarrassed to ask the teacher..."

Shen Hanxing didn't suspect her. She nodded with a smile, "Okay, then let's go to the music room and see how you play it. Maestro Lin Ran is your teacher. If you have anything you don't understand, you have to ask him boldly. Don't be afraid."

"Mmm, I will work hard," Ji Ning's face flushed red and she stood up happily. "Then I will bring you upstairs, Sister-in-law."

The living room had become the main battlefield for the girls.

Ji Yang and Ji Zhou looked at each other and their gazes fell on their obedient but scheming younger brother.

Ji Mo, who had rarely been bothered by his older brothers since he was young, was silent.

Something flashed across his eyes. He grabbed the strap of his school bag and chuckled lightly, "Sister-in-law, you haven't seen my drawing, right? I'm afraid that Old Master Lin will be unhappy with me during class.. Can you help me take a look and give me some pointers?"

Chapter 57: I Want to Go Back to My Room to Read!

Ji Mo gripped his backpack tightly, his face revealing the uneasiness of a teenager.

Unknowingly, they seemed to have already gotten used to Shen Hanxing's omnipotence. Asking for advice did not sound strange at all.

"Sure," Thinking of the painting that Old Master Lin had criticized, Shen Hanxing hesitated for a moment. "But I only know a little about this..."

"It's alright," Ji Mo immediately smiled and replied, "I'll be at ease after you look at it, Sister-in-law. Besides, I've already chosen my subject combination in school. I can... help Sister Han Yin with it."

He did not want Han Yin to pester his sister-in-law. He was also unwilling to pay attention to this girl who had suddenly appeared to snatch his sister-in-law away. Ji Mo's smile did not change, but he was feeling very disdainful.

"Okay."

Shen Hanxing was gratified by their mutual kindness and care for each other. She said with a smile, "Dinner will be served in a while. Let's hurry."

Ji Yan, who had just come downstairs, saw that the living room was suddenly half empty. He was stunned. "What are you doing?"

"Ji Ning wants sister-in-law to teach her the finger technique that she just learned." Ji Qian lay on the sofa weakly, her eyes empty. "Ji Mo asked sister-in-law to help him look at his drawings."

At this moment, she could no longer care about being afraid of her cold and powerful big brother. She hated herself for being a bad student and could only watch as her sister-in-law was snatched away at a critical moment. Meanwhile, she was left in the living room with these annoying brothers.

Ji Yang and Ji Zhou pursed their lips, and sparks appeared in their eyes once again.

Ah, indeed, without their sister-in-law, the other party was still so disgusting to them.

Ji Yan looked at his three ordinary siblings sitting on the sofa, looking depressed. Ji Yan's dark eyes swept past them, and he couldn't help but feel a little disgusted. He turned his wheelchair and went upstairs again. It was better to go back to the room and read more documents than to stay with these incorrigible stupid siblings.

Ji Qian jumped up when she saw her brother leave.

"What are you doing?" Ji Yang frowned and scratched his hair in annoyance. "You nearly scared me to death with that sudden movement."

"Want to go back to my room to read!" Ji Qian said aggressively. "Call me when dinner is ready."

Sister-in-law was always right. If she wanted Ji Qian to read more, then Ji Qian would go and do some reading!

Ji Qian went upstairs in high spirits. Her home slippers made a crisp sound as they stepped on the wooden floor, like a triumphant song before a battle. Ji Zhou and Ji Yang stared blankly at her back. While they were at a loss, an inexplicable sense of urgency welled up in their hearts. It was as if everyone

had a direction to work towards and things to do. Each of them took big strides towards their respective goals. Only the two of them stood foolishly on the spot as they watched the others leave.

Ji Yang's frustration grew more and more intense. He suddenly raised his foot and kicked the marble coffee table. He cursed, "Damn it!"

The frustration that he could not get rid of made Ji Zhou, who was lazy and uninterested in everything, feel a little angry. Ji Zhou suddenly sat up straight. "What the f*ck are you doing?"

"I just felt like it. Why the f*ck do you care?" Ji Yang pinched his fingers, making a cracking sound.

"You f*cking disturbed me!" Ji Zhou did not show any signs of weakness. The two of them were on the verge of a fight.

The servants stood at the side in fear and trepidation. When they saw that the two of them looked like they were about to fight at any moment now, they were so scared that they did not even dare to breathe.

"Second Young Master, Third Young Master

go back to your room and rest for a while? I'll call both of you when dinner is ready."

'Please, both you young masters better go back to your rooms and stay there.'

When Madam was not present, everyone in this house was a bag of explosives. Who knows when they might explode. It was simply too scary.

Hearing the word "Madam, Ji Zhou and Ji Yang froze. During this period, how could they not see Shen Hanxing's asked of them as a family? If they dared to make a move, no one would benefit from this today.

Getting beaten up was a small matter, but the thought of her looking at them with disappointment...

Ji Yang was even more annoyed now. He was so angry that he wanted to kick the coffee table again. But just as he raised his foot, he retracted it. He could not help but curse again, "F*ck!"

He tousled his hair and got up. He grabbed his coat and then walked out.

"Third Young Master!" the butler's heart thumped. He hurriedly chased after Ji Yang and asked, "It's almost time for dinner. Where are you going?"

"Haircut!" Ji Yang gritted his teeth in anger and left without looking back.

Hair-haircut? The butler stood rooted to the ground. He must have heard wrongly. Sigh, his ears were no longer working well with his old age..

the butler's calves and stomach felt weak, but he did not dare to let the two of them really fight. Thus, he could only muster up his courage and try to appease them.

. "Madam might take a while before she comes downstairs. If you guys are bored, why don't you

Chapter 58: Cut Open His Heart and Let Her See It

The third young master had always treated his hair as his treasure. How could he go and get a haircut when he would go and dye his hair every few days?

Back when Mr. Ji was still around, he did not like third young master's hair. In order to get him to cut his hair, he cut the third young master's living expenses for a month. However, the third young master insisted on it and refused to give in. Even if he did not have money, he would not cut his hair.

"It seems like I have to find a time to go to the hospital to have my ears checked," the butler muttered. He actually heard that the third young master was going to have his hair cut. This was too scary. What if he heard something wrong and offended the masters the next time?

Ji Zhou glanced at the butler with an unknown gaze and sat back down on the sofa. His large hands with distinct joints covered his eyes and also blocked his obscure expression.

Their father was a playboy, and his mother was not inferior to him either. After realizing that it was impossible for her to marry into the Ji family, she took the money that his father gave her and lived a carefree life abroad. It was said that she had recently gotten herself an eighteen-year-old boyfriend.

Eighteen years old. That was even younger than Ji Zhou.

With such parents, he was used to the chaotic life of the wealthy circle. He had long been used to such a muddy life. Everyone was like that anyway, right? This world was so f*cking boring!

Ji Zhou was passionate about racing in all kinds of dangerous places. When he was racing, he had thought countless times that it would be good to die like this. But now, his chest was filled with indescribable frustration and emptiness. For the first time, he felt that his mud-like life was incompatible with

the Ji family.

He smashed the sofa hard. The corners of his mouth were tightly pursed, and he fell into a long silence. A storm was brewing downstairs, but it was peaceful upstairs.

After instructing Ji Ning on the violin, everyone went to Ji Zhou's art studio. Ji Zhou's private space was very important to him. Other than himself and the servants who cleaned the place, his studio was practically forbidden to anyone else.²

It was the first time that so many people had come to this small studio. The empty room instantly became much more populated. Unlike the others, Ji Zhou's studio was not filled with his work. The walls of the studio were clean. Even the drawing board was placed to one side. His back was facing the door as if he did not want anyone to see his work.

This cold and clean way of furnishing the studio fully expressed the owner's rejection of the outside world.

Shen Hanxing stood at the door and looked around. She did not take the initiative to open the drawing board to look at Ji Mo's painting. Instead, she stood where she was and said, "Xiao Mo, you can show your work now."

She was so polite and considerate. This made Ji Mo, who was originally feeling very uncomfortable because his space had been invaded by outsiders, secretly let out a sigh of relief in his heart. On the surface, he still looked obedient and gentle. "Okay, Sister-in-law. Please wait a moment. I'll go and look for it now."

Ji Mo went to look through his completed works. After his finger landed on one of the paintings, he paused slightly. He wore a rather conflicted expression on his face. With his back facing the crowd, dark emotions seethed in his eyes. He was about to break the thin layer of calmness and restraint on the surface.

After much hesitation, he finally picked up another painting.

"Are you done?" Han Yin urged impatiently. "Why does it take so long to pick up a painting?"

"I found it," Ji Mo curled his lips and smiled. "Don't be anxious."

Before turning around, his eyes flashed for a moment. Suddenly, he seemed to have made up his mind and grabbed the painting that he had been hesitating about. Ji Mo's hair had natural curls. The youth stood by the window and smiled. His body was covered with the afterglow of the setting sun. He looked like a little prince who had walked out of a fairy tale, clean and beautiful.

Ji Mo passed the painting over with his fair hands. There was a probing look in his eyes as if he was examining the person in front of him. However, his voice was very gentle. "Sister-in-law, here."

'Til show you just what kind of monster I am that I'm able to make my own mother loathe me. Yet, she's unwilling to abandon me for the sake of money.'

Shen Hanxing seemed to be unaware of his strange behavior. Her expression remained the same as she took the painting and opened it.

When Han Yin and Ji Ning saw the contents of the painting, they could not help but exclaim in surprise. Ji Ning even took a step back in fear. Ji Mo looked at their reactions expressionlessly, but his eyes were flashing with an evil and joyful light. It was as if their reactions pleased him.

However, under the teasing gaze, there seemed to be an even stronger emotion covered in a layer of ice. It was as though he was suppressing sorrow and sadness, which were surging intensely.

Ji Mo no longer looked at their reactions. His gaze shifted to Shen Hanxing's face.

Ji Mo's painting had a very thick dark style. The background color of this painting was thick black. Large patches of black painted a depressing atmosphere on the canvas. It was as if dark clouds were stifling the city..

Chapter 59: Probing

The dark strokes outlined the distant horizon, and the rust color that looked like dried blood depicted the dark red setting sun. There was an iron cage on the empty plain, and a little boy with bare feet and scars was imprisoned in it. The little boy also had a heavy iron chain around his neck.

Blood flowed along his body and meandered on the ground as if it was going to dye the ground under his feet red.

The anguish contrast between black and red was like a huge rock pressing down on one's heart, making it hard for one to breathe. It was no wonder Han Yin and Ji Ning had such expressions when they saw this painting.

Shen Hanxing's expression did not change. She looked as though she was admiring the most ordinary landscape painting, After examining it carefully for a while, she said, "Not bad."

There was not a hint of recoil or anything bizarre on her face.

Hearing this, a strange light flashed in Ji Mo's eyes. There was a smile at the corner of his mouth, but there was not a hint of a smile in his eyes. "Sister-in-law, you think it's not bad?" His voice had a strange rhythm.

At this moment, the youthful aura seemed to have completely faded from his body. He emitted both good and evil auras. Whether it was his smile or his strange tone, coupled with the strange painting that he had drawn with his own hands, it sent chills down people's spines.

The timid Ji Ning clenched her fists. This time, she did not retreat in fear. Instead, she quietly tugged at the corner of Shen Hanxing's shirt and looked at her youngest brother worriedly.

Han Yin pursed her lips and was a little displeased. "Speak properly. Why are you being so weird

Having come from the slums, she had seen all kinds of terrifying scenes. This was just a painting with a dark style. She admitted that it was a little scary when she first saw it. However, it was simply a visual shock that she was not mentally prepared for. After the initial shock, the painting had no other effect on her.

Ji Mo looked at her strangely and did not say anything.

"Of course, it's really not bad. It's rare for someone your age to be able to paint like this. You must have practiced a lot, right?" Shen Hanxing nodded. She was not stingy with her praise. "I can tell that you really like drawing."

That was why he was able to display his emotions on the canvas to his heart's content, allowing his emotions to merge with the painting.

Shen Hanxing sensed Ji Mo's deliberate probing, but she did not want to argue with a child. As long as he did not make any principled mistakes, she would always be lenient towards her younger siblings. She had only joined the Ji family not long ago, so it was normal for the children in the family not to trust her.

Every child had their own personality. She was not an old-fashioned guardian that required every child to be the same.

He was a teenager who was still in high school. Yet he was able to use colors to such an extent, and his painting could bring psychological pressure to people. This was enough to show Ji Mo's talent in painting.

"sister-in-law, don't you think it's strange?" Ji Mo's gaze became more and more cryptic. "Don't you think I am a freak for drawing something like this? Don't you think that I'm not normal?"

A natural criminal, a freak, a sick person, and someone who would definitely commit murder and land himself in prison in the future. From the first time he picked up the brush, these were the words his biological mother used to curse him repeatedly.

Shen Hanxing didn't answer. Instead, she spread out her fair palm. She said gently, "Give me the brush."

Ji Mo's face still had that strange expression that seemed to be mixed with many emotions. He picked up the brush and handed it to Shen Hanxing. Shen Hanxing placed the paintbrush on the easel. She asked, "Do you mind if I add a few more strokes on it?"

"I don't mind, Sister-in-law. Please go ahead," Ji Mo replied. His gaze then fell on the painting.

After carefully sizing up the painting, Shen Hanxing moved without hesitation. She immediately dipped the paintbrush into the paint. In just a few strokes, she had drawn a lifelike wild flower. The wild flower bloomed next to the boy who was sitting with his arms around his knees. In the cage, the boy and the wild flower were dependent on each other.

The blending of the colors gave more radiance to the painting. The golden setting sun shone on the boy and the wild flower added some warmth. The soil that was moistened by the blood had unknowingly sprouted green shoots.

With just a few strokes, the painting that was originally dead silent was given new life and hope. The strange atmosphere was broken, and warm flowers could bloom from the thorns of suffering. Life and hope also sprouted from the mud.

As the original artist of the painting, the corners of Ji Mo's mouth trembled slightly. Complicated emotions seemed to surge in his chest again, causing his eyes to uncontrollably turn red.

"It's so beautiful, Sister Hanxing. Why are you so good!" Han Yin could not help but exclaim as her eyes filled with admiration.. Was there anything in this world that Sister Hanxing doesn't know?

Chapter 60: What Can I Do For You

“sister-in-law is really amazing!” Ji Ning agreed and nodded her head vigorously, her eyes filled with pride.

“It’s Xiao Mo’s painting that’s good. I merely added a few strokes on his painting,” Shen Hanxing did not take credit for it. She smiled as she stroked the two young ladies’ heads. Then, she turned to look at Ji Mo. “At such a young age, you shouldn’t be so bitter and vengeful. Even if the sky falls, you don’t need to hold it up. Just live as well as you can.”

She was clearly not even twenty years old yet and was considered a child in the eyes of many people. However, when she said these words, it did not seem ridiculous. Instead, it was warm and reliable. It was as if as long as she was there, the sky would not fall.

“Next time when we go to Maestro Lin Ran’s house, show this painting to them.”

Ji Mo’s hand that was holding the canvas was slightly retracted. His knuckles were white and his gaze fell on the canvas for a long time. After a while, he nodded gently. “Alright, I’ll listen to you, Sister-in-law.”

Many, many years later, the young painter who had shed his gloomy and lonely self stood on the grand podium, holding a golden trophy in his hand. He gave his acceptance speech on the stage. Many people invited him to admire the paintings, many also wanted to buy and analyze his paintings.

However, they did not know that his favorite painting was not a famous painting that had disappeared without a trace, nor was it a work that had won numerous awards for him.

His favorite painting, the one that he treasured the most, the one he repeatedly wiped and clean, was a painting done by him when he was young. That painting was amateurish and insidious, yet it was given a new life with just a few strokes from someone.

“Sister Hanxing, I didn’t know that you could draw so well.” Han Yin had always been the best at being obedient. She smiled with a fawning expression, “Can you draw me a painting too?”

“You... Why do you want everything?” Shen Hanxing’s face was filled with helplessness and affection. “If you want me to draw you one, then study hard when you return to school. Once I’m satisfied with your exam results, I’ll draw for you.”

“Okay then, it’s a deal!” Han Yin wasn’t afraid at all. She stuck out her pinky. “Sister Hanxing, let’s pinky swear it. Otherwise, liar, liar, pants on fire!”

Ji Ning secretly raised her eyes and looked at the interlocking of their pinkies. She was a little envious. She also wanted her sister-in-law to draw one especially...especially for her. However, she tried her best to open her mouth, but she couldn’t muster the courage to open it. In the end, she could only lower her head dejectedly. The tip of her nose was sore, and her eyes were filled with mist.

She was really useless. Why did she want to cry again? Even she felt disgusted by herself for being such a timid crybaby. In the past, when she was bullied and ridiculed by others, or when she was locked up in a pigsty and forced to work every day without food or clothing, she could try her best to control her tears. She would hide in a place where no one was around before crying.

But now that she had a sister-in-law who cared about her, she felt like she loved to cry even more.

“Does Xiao Ning want it too?”

At that moment, a familiar palm landed on the top of her hair with a pleasant smell. The sister-in-law whom she longed for and relied on smiled at her. When Shen Hanxing saw the tears on Ji Ning’s face, she was stunned for a moment. Then, Shen Hanxing didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “Why are you crying again? Do you want to draw? Then I will draw one for you too, okay?”

How could there be such a good person in this world? Such a good person had even become her sister-in-law!

It was unknown when the setting sun had completely sunk into the horizon. The sky had darkened, and the studio had also sunk into darkness. However, when Shen Hanxing stood there, it was as though she could light up the entire room. The darkness that had once made her extremely afraid had also become a normal change of light to her. It no longer made her scream and lose her composure.

“Sister-in-law.”

Ji Ning opened her mouth and choked on her sobs. The tears that she had held back with much difficulty rolled down her cheeks. However, she couldn’t care less about her tears. Strong emotions surged in her heart, causing her to take a step forward. She asked anxiously, “Then what can I give you,

Sister-in-law? What can I do for you?”

How could she repay this ray of light in her life? How could she repay the sun that had lit up her entire world?

The little girl’s face was thin, and when she cried, she was extremely quiet. She looked especially adorable. She was not the only one, the others also quietly pricked up their ears and focused their attention on Shen Hanxing, who was surrounded in the middle.

Shen Hanxing was stunned for a moment, and then she smiled. “If you really want to do something for me... Don’t cry anymore.” Her tone was gentle, it was as though she was talking about something very ordinary. “A girl’s tears are very precious. Don’t cry anymore. You must live a happy life.”

Ji Ning was stunned for a moment, then she suddenly opened her mouth and cried out loud.

She had never cried so heartbreakingly. She cried without restraint, as though she wanted to vent all the grievances she had suffered since she was young.