

Physician Wife 71

Chapter 71: Young Mistress of Tianheng

“Long story short, thank you for putting in a good word for me in front of Aiden today. When I become the young mistress of Tianheng Holdings in the future, any clothes that you want to buy, as long as within reason, big sis will wrap up for you.”

Zhong Qianqian saw herself as magnanimous. After how Zhong Nuannuan had treated her, she could just about bring herself to repay her injury with kindness after rising to power.

In reality, she relished watching Zhong Nuannuan using things that she had so generously offered her. This would greatly satisfy her vanity.

Of course, the most expensive item could not exceed 2000 bucks. Anything more than that and it would be out of bounds! However, for this country bumpkin, this was already the greatest gift she could receive.

As soon as they were home, Zhong Nuannuan was just about to bring the clothes that she had ripped off of Jiang Shuwan into her room before the latter stopped her.

“Nuannuan, don’t be so quick to put that gown away.”

“Why?”

“Mum thinks that the gown’s color doesn’t match you well. Bright red matches Qianqian’s skin better. Why don’t you give it to Qianqian and mum will buy you another new gown tomorrow?”

Aiden was watching earlier, therefore Jiang Shuwan could not say anything. She could only resign herself to buying Zhong Nuannuan a 300-thousand-buck gown.

Now that they were home, it was easier to reason with her. She could not bring herself to give Zhong Nuannuan 300 thousand just like that. Later, if the dress was not a good fit for Qianqian, she would immediately sell it off.

The tag was still attached and the dress was in pristine condition. Even in the worst case scenario, she could still get a 250 thousand refund, right?

“Mum, big sis’ skin is darker than mine. I should be the one who looks better in red, right? Or perhaps you think that only clothes that cost two thousand bucks fit me better, hence expensive clothes are all out of my league?”

“Look at you, little brat. Why are you acting all defensive like a hedgehog? So prickly toward everyone in your way!”

“Mum, you’re the one who’s pushed me to the edge, no? Clearly, I’m the star this weekend, but the gown that big sis bought today is twice as expensive as mine. I’ve swallowed the humiliation and accepted it without a protest, yet here you are, extorting this 300 thousand dollar bargain from me and attempting to switch it out for a street stall good.

“Mum, how virtuous of you to pile all the best and most expensive things on dad’s ex-wife’s daughter. You don’t flinch even if it means turning your own daughter into a beggar.

“Oh dear, you’re even comparing me to a hedgehog now... So, are you saying that I’ve gotten the wrong idea? That you’re aware of your being biased, hence you’ve decided to buy me another gown that costs more than 700 thousand bucks? If that’s the case, I’ll give this gown to big sis immediately.”

Jiang Shuwan, “!!!” What should I do, I want to strangle her to death so bad!

“Nuannuan, mum was initially planning to do exactly that. You walked in first just now while mum was talking about it to me in private. She does think that your gown is a little too cheap and feels awful about it. She wants to buy you another piece that’s much more expensive. But, since you like this piece, just keep it then. I have too many red gowns. I think this one looks good on you too.”

Zhong Nuannuan rolled her eyes at Zhong Qianqian, turned, then went upstairs.

“Hey, did you see the look on her face? It’s like I’m indebted to her.” Only once she heard the sound of the door on the second floor closing did Jiang Shuwan utter those harsh remarks.

“Mum—Don’t forget that you’re her biological mother! It’s normal for her to feel crossed at your biasness.” With her heart brimming with love, Zhong Qianqian’s EQ had also seemed to have kicked up a notch.

“I really don’t understand your dad. That woman died so long ago, and her family members never came to look for her. Is it necessary to go so far as to make me her mum? He’s always asking me to be her mum. I’m sick to death of it!”

Chapter 72: Asking For Money

“Mum, what’s there to be annoyed at? I’m going to date Aiden soon. If I can become his woman, we no longer need to live on anyone else’s terms anymore.”

“Even if you date Aiden, I don’t want to see her married to Chi Yang, or the smug look on her face anymore! A sl*t’s daughter is also a sl*t! Since she’s a sl*t, she should remain in the mire all her life, never to rise again!”

“Mum—”

“Alright, alright! I can only vent my frustrations behind her back. I’ll still be a loving mother when I’m expected to. Honestly... she was abducted by the traffickers so many years ago, why is she back now?”

Jiang Shuwan and Zhong Qianqian were watching television in the living room. Seeing Zhong Nuannuan coming downstairs, Jiang Shuwan immediately broke into a grin, saying, “Nuannuan, there are fruits here. Come and eat some, quick.”

“I’ll pass. I’m going out to get some things done. Mum, please give me ten thousand bucks.”

Ever since she discovered that making Jiang Shuwan spend a lot of money would drive her insane, it had become Zhong Nuannuan’s favorite thing to do.

Sure enough, upon hearing Zhong Nuannuan's demand for ten thousand bucks as soon as she opened her mouth, Jiang Shuwan nearly choked on the fruit in her mouth.

"Ten thousand?" Jiang Shuwen's tone went up two decibels. "Why do you need so much money when you're only a student?"

Zhong Nuannuan felt wronged. "Mum, my phone is wrecked after it was smashed to the ground earlier; I have to buy a new one! Also, I'm starting school next week. It's compulsory to live on campus at Jia Yong. I can't go on without money!"

"And you need ten thousand for all that?" Jiang Shuwan was rendered speechless.

"I need at least five to six thousand to get a new phone, right?"

"Five to six thousand? What kind of phone are you getting?"

"S5! I heard that while I was in prison, the S5 has appeared on the market in Camino. The remaining money will be my pocket money."

Jiang Shuwan was so mad that her head hurt.

"You're just a student. Why do you need to use such a sophisticated phone?"

"Big sis is using S5, isn't she? Why is big sis allowed to use one but I'm not? Isn't big sis a student too?"

"..."

"And you can spend more than 4000 bucks of living expenses in a week?"

"Big sis has never gotten less than 10 thousand bucks a week in pocket money!"

"... !!!"

This move simply worked like a charm every single time.

Thus, Jiang Shuwan was forced to fish out 3000 bucks from her purse. "I bought you a 300 thousand gown today. I don't have a lot of money with me anymore. You can buy any phone you like with this money. The remaining money will be your pocket money for next week. Don't keep comparing everything with your big sis. Your big sis' results are better than yours, and your big sis is more sensible than you, so why haven't you mentioned these things before?"

Zhong Nuannuan held the 3000 bucks in her hand. Only after she had put them in her purse did she say, "Big sis seduces my man and stirs up trouble for the family. How is that sensible? How stingy! When dad comes home at night, I'll tell dad that you're ill-treating your own daughter!"

After saying this, Zhong Nuannuan turned around and went upstairs.

"Hey, aren't you going to buy a phone?"

"How am I supposed to buy a phone with this little money! I'd rather just go back to sleep!"

Jiang Shuwan and Zhong Qianqian stared at her disappear in bewilderment. Even Auntie Zhao could not help walking out of the kitchen.

“Madam, why do I have a feeling that there’s something wrong with Second Miss?”

“Did you realize it too, Aunt Zhao?” Zhao Qianqian said, as if she had just seen a ghost, “Ever since Zhong Nuannuan went to prison, her entire demeanor has changed.”

Jiang Shuwen echoed, “Last time, she was always cold and distant. She obeyed whatever we told her and didn’t like to argue with others. She accepted the pocket money no matter how much I gave her. Before she went to prison, I hadn’t given her any pocket money for two months, but she didn’t even ask for any. How did she turn out this way after going to prison?”

Chapter 73: Imprisonment

“To put it bluntly, as things stand, the Second Miss has no sense of shame at all! If we were forced to choose, I prefer Second Miss who wears the cold and distant dead-person persona everyday.”

Zhong Qianqian turned her attention to Jiang Shuwen, asking, “Mum, she hasn’t found out about anything, has she?”

Jiang Shuwen was scared out of her wits. “That... that can’t be!”

“Then why is she behaving this way all of a sudden?”

“Humph. If she has changed, so be it. Even if she finds out that I’m not her mum, what can she possibly do?” Jiang Shuwen put on a look as if to say that she had nothing to lose.

“If she knows that you’re not her mother, what awaits you may well be imprisonment! You can choose not to become a good mother to her, but if she ever learns the truth, don’t expect me to bail you out!”

The main door was not closed. Zhong Kuijun had a meeting at the administrative office and came home earlier than expected. He had only just entered the house when he heard the three women whispering behind Zhong Nuannuan’s back.

Jiang Shuwen nearly jumped out of her skin. She rubbed her chest and stood up whilst saying, “Oh my god, you scared me. Why are you back so early today?”

“Jiang Shuwen, I’m warning you. You better not let Nuannuan notice that anything is amiss and perform your duty as a mother well. If she notices that anything is wrong, don’t blame me for disregarding our relationship as husband and wife when you’re eventually caught!”

Jiang Shuwen was uncomfortable at getting reprimanded. She also held some fears in her heart. Thus, she explained sheepishly, “I know, I know! I’ve been doing well, haven’t I? I even bought her a 300-thousand-bucks gown today! Just earlier, she swindled me out of 3000 bucks, claiming that she wants to buy a phone. In the end, she kept the money in her purse.”

“3000? What sort of phone can you buy with 3000? Don’t you know that a low-end S5 model cost more than 5000?”

“She’s only a student. Why does she need such an expensive phone?”

“So, is Qianqian not a student then? Why is Qianqian using an S5 then? She even bought two!”

“...”

Zhong Kuijun shoved her finger at Jiang Shuwan's nose and growled, "I'm warning you, Jiang Shuwan. Nuannuan is my biological daughter! I'll let bygones be bygones. I won't blame you for what you've done in the past, but since you've inherited the money, you should treat her and my daughter well. Don't put her in unfavorable situations when it comes to petty things like this! I hope during moments when you grow tired of her, you will recall the time she saved Qianqian when she was little.

"This will be the last time! If I find out that you're deducting Nuannuan's pocket money again, mark my words, I'll cut off your brother and his family's income immediately."

Jiang Shuwan and Zhong Qianqian paled. They clammed up sulkily.

After this, Zhong Kuijun turned his attention to Aunt Zhao. "And you! You're merely a servant in the Zhong family. If you're a servant, you must behave like one. If I hear any of those words coming out of your mouth again, you can pack up and get lost."

After saying this, Zhong Kuijun went upstairs and into his study. With a loud bang, he slammed the door shut.

...

"Second Miss, someone's asking for you downstairs."

When the sound of Aunt Zhao's footsteps reached the door, Zhong Nuannuan quickly switched the screen.

"Who?"

"It's Sir Ning. Master is already downstairs keeping Sir Ning company."

"I got it."

Upon hearing that the person was Ning Wenhao, Zhong Nuannuan hurried downstairs.

"Nuannuan, First Lieutenant Ning is looking for you. He says that Chi Yang has sent him to hand something over to you."

When Ning Wenhao saw Zhong Nuannuan, he immediately stood up and greeted her, "How are you doing, sister-in-law!"

Although Chi Yang was not the one standing in front of her eyes, she was delighted.

"Hello. Why are you here alone? Where's Chi Yang?"

Chapter 74: A Gift From Chi Yang

"Big Boss' plate is full these few days. Hence, he can only send me to meet you, sis-in-law."

Zhong Kuijun explained, "These past few days, the entire military base has been observing the special forces soldiers training and drilling. Chi Yang's all tied up."

Zhong Nuannuan nodded. She turned her gaze to Ning Wenhao and asked, "Did he ask you to come and meet me?"

“Mm.” Ning Wenhao nodded. “Big boss has prepared a gift for you. Sister-in-law, give me a minute, I’ll go retrieve it from the car.”

A second later, he went out.

“What’s going on? So secretive,” Beside her, Zhong Qianqian muttered.

She would have been very curious if this had happened in the past. She would have also been green with envy that Chi Yang had personally sent someone to bring Zhong Nuannuan a gift.

However, now... she had Aiden. Her Aiden was Tianheng Holdings’ general manager. When she came home earlier, she searched the internet and discovered that Aiden was not just a general manager. On top of the general manager title, he had yet another title—Tianheng Holdings’ Vice President.

Vice president!

A vice president who was ranked first too!

This implied that Aiden’s shares were directly under Tianheng Holdings’ president!

Tianheng Holdings was a major consortium with a net worth of hundreds of billions!

With a tycoon boyfriend like Aiden to back her up, why did she have to get green-eyed over a gift from a beggarly soldier?

Shortly after, Ning Wenhao returned, this time with a large, delicate box in his hands.

“This is a gift from Big Boss. He can’t come in person, therefore he asked me to make this trip. Sister-in-law, don’t hold Big Boss accountable, alright?”

Seeing that she had received a gift, a gift given by Chi Yang, no less, Zhong Nuannuan was elated as warmth filled her heart.

“How can I? Tell him that I’m thrilled to receive his gift!”

“Alright! I’ll leave you to it then. Big Boss is expecting my report about this.”

“Take care then!”

After setting the gift on the table, both Zhong Nuannuan and Zhong Kuijun sent Ning Wenhao off together.

As Ning Wenhao got into the car, Zhong Nuannuan suddenly asked, “Um... Can you give me Chi Yang’s phone number?”

She looked ashamed. During the six years they had been together, never once had she spent any effort to remember Chi Yang’s phone number. Every time she changed her phone, Chi Yang would save his phone number in her phone for her. Whenever she wanted to give him a call, she only needed to tap on his name. Therefore, she had absolutely no idea what his phone number was.

Ning Wenhao laughed. “Of course. I don’t have to give it to you, though. Sister-in-law, there’s a phone in the present from Big Boss. He has saved his phone number in it.”

Zhong Nuannuan was in a daze. Then, a hint of delight arose from within her heart.

After sending Ning Wenhao away, Zhong Nuannuan turned and bolted back in hurriedly. She had just entered the house when she caught Zhong Qianqian sneakily tearing open her gift box.

“Chi Yang gave that to me!”

Zhong Nuannuan bolted in front of Zhong Qianqian and snatched the gift box away, holding it in her embrace.

Zhong Qianqian lips curled into a sneer. “It’s just a lame gift box, isn’t it? You’re holding it like it’s some kind of treasure. Seriously, you’re acting like it’s your first time every receiving a gift.”

Seeing that the sisters were about to start a fight again, Zhong Kuijun’s head started throbbing. Thus, he quickly changed the subject, “Nuannuan, what did Chi Yang give you? Dad wants to see it too!”

“Alright.” The corner of Zhong Nuannuan’s lips curled up in an insuppressible smile. Tenderly and carefully, she opened up the gift box.

Curiosity was eating away at Zhong Qianqian and Jiang Shuwan inside as they leaned over. When they saw the gown lying in the gift box, their eyes widened. They could not stop themselves from letting out a soft ‘ah’.

Chapter 75: Eyes Green With Envy

1

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation **Editor:** EndlessFantasy Translation

Zhong Nuannuan gently took out the dress and unfolded it. Although Zhong Qianqian had earlier been filled with pride and glee from envisioning herself on Aiden’s arm, even she could not stop herself from feeling jealous. Her eyes soon turned green with envy.

Seeing the looks of surprise and envy on his wife and daughter’s face, Zhong Kuijun asked, “What is it? Is there something special about this dress? It’s indeed pretty. Chi Yang has really good taste.”

Jiang Shuwan and Zhong Qianqian cast Zhong Kuijun a glare as if staring at their enemy, not bothering to conceal the dissatisfaction and contempt on their faces.

“What?” Zhong Kuijun responded with a frown, completely caught off guard after being fiercely glared at by the two women.

“Hmph!” Jiang Shuwan sneered coldly and said with sarcasm, “Sigh, the more we compare ourselves to others, the more aggravated we get. I guess an old and ugly woman like me should just stay home to care for my husband and children.”

With that, she turned on her heel and went to her garden to tinker with her plants.

With a sullen expression, Zhong Qianqian headed straight upstairs and slammed her bedroom door after going into her room.

Zhong Kuijun was confused as he turned to Zhong Nuannuan. “What’s with your mother and sister?”

Zhong Nuannuan shrugged nonchalantly. "Father, I'll head upstairs first."

Then, she happily trotted upstairs to her room while hugging the gift box in her arms.

The women in the family had left Zhong Kuijun alone in the living room, still confused and dazed.

Back in her room, Zhong Nuannuan placed the gift box on the table and carefully took out the dress once more.

There was also a pair of beautiful high heels in the prettiest shade of sky blue that had a silver gradient heel. It was right next to the S5 mobile phone, also a gift.

"Who can ever replace you?

Let us love while we're young,

My dearest, most precious love,

Let us begin our long journey together..."

Just as Zhong Nuannuan was about to turn on her phone to look for Chi Yang's phone number, she received a phone call. As she listened to the cheerful melody of her ringtone, she saw the words "fiance" appear as the caller ID on the screen. A blissful smile immediately crept on Zhong Nuannuan's face.

"Hello."

Zhong Nuannuan tried to make her voice sound as soft as possible, hoping she would be greeted by a gentle and husky voice. After all, couples sounded like that when they chatted on the phone, no?

However...

"Have you received it?"

Chi Yang's voice was as stern as ever. With his tone of speech, it felt like a heavy anvil had just crushed Zhong Nuannuan's heart. She felt like another subordinate of his, a little soldier who had to answer to the director-general's questions.

"Yes, I've received it."

"That's good," Chi Yang continued to speak with his usual commanding voice. As soon as the words came out of his mouth, the conversation fell into a brief silence.

"Alright then, goodbye."

Zhong Nuannuan, "...!"

What was the reason behind his phonecall?

Was it just to ask if she had received his gift? Was it necessary when Ning Wenhao must have already called him and told him that the gift had already been delivered?

He must have made this call because he wanted to talk to her, right?

If this was his idea of a conversation, Zhong Nuannuan would be rendered speechless.

“That...”

“What is it?”

Chi Yang, who was just about to hang up the call, immediately responded with a question the instant Zhong Nuannuan started to speak. Although he sounded blunt, Zhong Nuannuan noticed the eagerness in his tone. He actually did not want to hang up after all.

“I went to Tianheng Holdings with my mother and Zhong Qianqian today. We bumped into Ye Mengxi. She’s a classmate of Zhong Qianqian and mine. She will be attending the banquet this weekend too. When we were at Venia, both of them had their eyes set on the same gown...”

Just like that, Zhong Nuannuan began describing her day tirelessly.

On the other end of the phone, Chi Yang was sitting in his office while listening to her attentively. When the cleaning guard entered the room and saw their director-general talking on the phone with a solemn expression, he was shocked.

Chapter 76: Dead Conversations

He had been working with the director-general for almost half a year now, and this was the very first time he saw the director-general so serious and... nervous.

Yes, nervous!

The guard did not dare to listen in to the conversation, nor did he make a sound. With his head bent low, he quickly left the room.

As soon as he exited the room, he bumped into Song Qing who had come to hand in documents.

Just as he was about to knock on the door, the guard quickly stopped him.

“Second Lieutenant Song, do you need to urgently meet the general-director?”

“I’m here to hand in the drill report. What’s the matter?”

The guard cleared his throat. “I just came out of the director-general’s office, and he’s on the phone. Judging from his expression... He seemed very nervous as if the person on the other end of the line was telling him something serious. I would suggest that if you don’t need to urgently meet him, you can consider waiting for the director-general here until he’s done with his call.”

Song Qing had followed Chi Yang to Jiang District’s military base and was one of his confidants.

He frowned when he heard the guard’s words.

Although he did not know what had happened, he knew Chi Yang well enough to know that he was pretty much an expressionless person. He would not possibly show any signs of nervousness or tiredness even if he were to bear the weight of Mount Tai on his shoulders. What kind of phone call had he received to make him nervous?

Did something happen to his old man in Emperor District?

“Are you sure?”

The guard nodded solemnly. "Yes, I'm sure. The director-general was gripping the phone so tightly that his knuckles had turned white."

The most crucial thing he noticed was the director-general's breathing... He had only been there for a few seconds, but he could already sense that the director-general was tense from his heavy breathing.

Song Qing furrowed his brows and replied, "Alright, got it. I'll just wait for him outside and go in once he finishes the phone call."

In the Zhong family's house, Zhong Nuannuan was rigidly sitting upright as well. Although her voice remained soft and gentle, how could she possibly relax when confronting the cold and serious voice that came from the other line?

"You want me to wear this gown on our engagement party, don't you?"

"Yes."

Zhong Nuannuan was close to tears at this point.

She had talked about her day of shopping, the Venia haute couture gown, the argument with Jiang Shuwan and Lin Xin, and the man who ordered a custom-made dress for his fiancée.

She continued talking non-stop while the man she was on the call with would only give her a string of 'yes' as responses.

In the span of five minutes, he had only said five sentences. He had even managed to end the conversation twice. How was Zhong Nuannuan supposed to continue this phone conversation?

Could he at least have asked her if she liked the gown?

He could even talk about how he had managed to convince the head designer of Venia to design this gown for Zhong Nuannuan. However, he did not.

This exhausted Zhong Nuannuan.

"The gown is beautiful, I love it," Zhong Nuannuan resisted the frustration she was feeling and continued to talk to him in her sweet, gentle voice.

"That's good then."

"..." Was that it?

After a long silence that ended the conversation once more, Zhong Nuannuan spoke again, "The phone came at the right timing too. My previous one had just broken."

"Okay."

...

This time around, it was a sure dead end.

"Alright, that's all. I'm hanging up now."

"Okay, goodbye."

“Goodbye.” After Zhong Nuannuan ended the call, she started to have a mental breakdown although she still had a small smile on her lips.

Ever since she had been reborn, she managed to get a true glimpse into her own heart and realized who she truly loved. She started giving her all in order to love him with every piece of her heart, but she had forgotten that this man had no EQ at all.

In her previous life, their marital life had been bland and boring. Aside from Zhong Qianqian and their mother’s interference, Chi Yang was the main culprit at fault.

The only times they had gotten into fights were when she brought up divorce or when she ran away. When she did run away, he had always found her and brought her home. Aside from those arguments, they would only exchange a few words on a daily basis.

Chapter 77: Drenched In Sweat

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation **Editor:** EndlessFantasy Translation

She had been wanting to have a good chat with him for ages, but their conversations would always end up the same way. A couple of minutes into their conversation and she would have run out of words or topics to talk about.

Zhong Nuannuan fell onto her bed. She placed her palm over her forehead, feeling as if her head was about to explode.

However, when her gaze landed on the gift box on the table, her heart softened.

Well, nobody was perfect.

Her Chi Yang was outstanding in every aspect possible, except for when it came to matters of emotion. That would not affect their relationship, would it?

He did not know how to hold a casual conversation, so she would just have to put in more work to talk to him! It was as simple as that, was it not?

A smile tugged at her lips once again. Basking in the warm afternoon sun, she fell asleep.

Although it had been such a short conversation, she felt extremely drained now. She needed to rest and re-energize herself.

After Chi Yang had hung up the phone, he quickly switched on the air conditioner in his office.

He unbuttoned his collar and reached to touch his neck to find that he was completely drenched in sweat. In fact, he was sweating more than he usually did after his 20-kilometer jogs, with weights too!

When Song Qing entered the room, he was greeted with an overwhelmed-looking Chi Yang who was wiping away his sweat.

“What’s the matter?”

“This is the latest drill report.”

“Just leave it here.”

"Yes, sir."

Seeing that Song Qing was still dawdling in his office, Chi Yang looked at him. "Is there something else?"

"Cough, cough... Boss, are you okay?"

"Yeah, I'm fine."

"Your old man... Is everything alright?"

"Yes."

"..." Why was he drenched in sweat then?

Something was obviously going on!

"Is something going on with you? If you tell me, perhaps I can try and help." Seeing Song Qing struggling with his words, Chi Yang thought that he was facing a problem and offered to help his subordinate resolve it.

'I think I should be the one trying to help you here!' thought Song Qing.

Song Qing was confused by Chi Yang's abnormal attitude. His mouth opened wide, and he was stunned for a moment before responding, "No, everything's fine. Boss, if there's nothing else, I'll excuse myself now."

"Alright."

After all, everyone had their own secrets. Although they were brothers, it would not be good to continue pestering if the other person was unwilling to share.

Song Qing left the office, leaving Chi Yang alone at his desk.

As Chi Yang thought back to his conversation with Nuannuan, the thick layer of ice he had encapsulated himself in began melting from the corners of his eyes. Now that there was nobody else around, a small smile crept to the edge of his lips to form a handsome grin that was so bright and tender that it could melt the Arctic glaciers.

He used to be afraid of how she was repulsed by him and hated him, so he had never dared mention their engagement dinner. Therefore, the gown had been left in a corner all this while.

However, he had finally sent it out today.

Most importantly, his lady liked it very much.

...

Zhong Qianqian, who had just suffered a blow to her ego, rushed back to her room to phone Aiden.

She took deep breaths to calm herself down as she waited patiently for Aiden to answer the phone.

While waiting for Aiden to answer her call, she gave herself words of encouragement and said, "It's okay, Zhong Qianqian. You still have Aiden! He's the Vice President of Tianheng Holdings and the General Manager too! Chi Yang is just a soldier. He can't even be compared to Aiden!"

No matter what sort of background Chi Yang came from, his status was nowhere near Aiden's.

However, the phone rang for a long time and nobody answered it. Zhong Qianqian waited for a solid minute until the call ended itself.

Still, no one answered.

Her sixth sense grew stronger as Zhong Qianqian felt even more unsettled.

Perhaps Aiden was busy at the moment and muted his phone.

Yes, that must be it!

Chapter 78: Investigate Chi Yang

After all, Aiden was the Vice President cum General Manager of Tianheng Holdings' international headquarters. He must be swarmed with a myriad of affairs every day, so it should be normal for him to miss phone calls.

If he did not like her, he would not have pulled Zhong Nuannuan aside to ask about her.

With that in mind, Zhong Qianqian reassured herself and managed to calm down.

If she wanted to be a distinguished and noble socialite, she must learn to be reserved and poised. She could not afford to repeat the same mistake as she did before with Chi Yang.

As the old saying went, 'a watched pot never boils'. She must be patient in order to accomplish her goal.

She would wait for Aiden to take the initiative to call her back and ask her out. Only then would she proceed with her next move.

...

Jiang Shuwan soon realized that she would only be bringing contempt upon herself after lashing out on Zhong Kuijun, so she quickly returned to the house. She rushed to the kitchen and prepared a tray of fruits for him. She even fed him the pieces bite by bite. Then, she finally spoke, "My dear Kuijun, do you really not know Chi Yang's true identity?"

"What are you planning again this time? Let me tell you this, Chi Yang will never fall for Zhong Qianqian. Both of you should just forget about it!"

"Tsk!" Jiang Shuwan pouted and continued, "Our darling Qianqian already has another pursuer. It's Aiden! Who cares about that other guy now!"

"Then why are you asking about him?"

"I'm just genuinely wondering if you're pretending to not know Chi Yang's true identity."

"Is it really necessary for me to pretend? What are you trying to say?"

A glimmer flashed across Jiang Shuwan's eyes as she did some mental calculations. "Do you know how much Chi Yang spent on that dress for Nuannuan?"

"How much?"

“7.5 million!”

“...!!!”

“It’s a custom-made gown designed by the head designer of Venia himself! We only know the price of the gown, but the shoes didn’t look cheap either.” Jiang Shuwan proceeded to tell him what had happened at the Venia shop today.

“No matter how hardworking a 26-year-old military officer is, it would be almost impossible for him to become a captain through hard work alone. It’s obvious that he comes from a certain background, but we’re just not sure how high status his background is.”

As Zhong Kuijun remained silent, Jiang Shuwan took it as a good sign to continue talking. “You didn’t want to investigate Chi Yang before, but looking at the 7.5 million haute couture gown that he gifted Zhong Nuannuan today, I think you should meet with the chief of staff tomorrow.”

Noticing a flash of anger in Zhong Kuijun’s eyes, Jiang Shuwan quickly added, “Don’t be angry and let me finish first! You just need to meet with his chief and tell him about this incident. Express your worry that Chi Yang might have acquired the money from a questionable source, perhaps he had even violated certain rules in order to get this large sum. After all, he’s about to become your son-in-law, so it’s only right for you to act cautiously. You can’t possibly ask Chi Yang about it straight to his face, and that’s why you decided to consult his chief.

“The chief of staff should be informed of all his ins and outs. Who knows, he might even tell you Chi Yang’s identity right off the bat! I’m guessing that Chi Yang comes from quite a good background! Don’t forget, you’re getting old yourself. The chances of you getting a promotion are getting lower as time goes by. If Chi Yang’s family really is of high status, they might give you the support and boost you need. You might be able to take another one or two steps forward. If you were to become a general, imagine the honor you will bring to Zhong family.”

Zhong Kuijun’s eyes shone brightly after listening to Jiang Shuwan’s speech.

He had been eyeing the position of the director of equipment operations for some time now, but it was a high military division rank. As Jiang Shuwan said, it was difficult for him to get a promotion.

If he could receive support from Chi Yang’s family, he could become a general and maybe even a major general. Then, his dream of becoming the director of equipment operations would be fulfilled. His life would be perfect.

...

At night, Jiang Shuwan called Zhong Qianqian and Zhong Nuannuan down for dinner.

Having received Chi Yang’s present, Zhong Nuannuan was filled with so much joy that she ate an extra bowl of rice.

Zhong Qianqian, on the other hand, was clearly bothered.

Chapter 79: Zhong Qianqian’s Desperateness

She sneaked several glances at Zhong Nuannuan all throughout dinner. When she could not hold it in anymore, she said, "Nuannuan, did you manage to buy a new phone for yourself today? If you weren't able to, let me give you another 3000 Yuan for you to buy the S5 you wanted."

Zhong Nuannuan was about to eat a piece of pork belly slice when her hand trembled. The slice of meat then dropped on the table.

Zhong Qianqian took another slice and plopped it into Zhong Nuannuan's bowl. "Here, eat some more."

She was beginning to show kindness without reason. She must have done something!

"It's okay. Chi Yang gave me an S5, so I'm good now."

Zhong Qianqian replied enviously, "Chi Yang is so nice to you. He must love you very much."

"Of course." Zhong Nuannuan nodded unashamedly because that was indeed how she felt.

Then, Zhong Qianqian let out a heavy sigh. "Sigh, I wonder how Aiden feels about me. Does he see me just as a platonic friend or does he have feelings for me?"

Zhong Nuannuan continued eating her dinner with her head lowered, completely ignoring Zhong Qianqian.

"Nuannuan, your sister is talking to you," Jiang Shuwan reminded unhappily.

"Huh? Oh? Are you talking to me?"

Zhong Qianqian, '... Did you think I was talking to a ghost?'

"I thought you were talking to mother. I don't know, I was walking with mother the whole time today. I haven't spoken to him very much, so I don't know him well enough to judge."

"Didn't he pull you aside to ask about me?"

"He called me aside earlier to ask about my release from prison and the banquet this weekend."

"But mother clearly heard him asking about me! He asked if I had a boyfriend!"

Zhong Nuannuan nodded. "Oh! Ah! Yes!"

Zhong Qianqian was getting frustrated. "What do you mean oh oh ah ah? He was specifically asking you whether I have a boyfriend or not. Did you not notice anything from his expression that time? When he asked whether I have a boyfriend, did he look anxious or eager? When he heard that I'm single, was he happy? You should know all this, right?"

Zhong Nuannuan dipped the thick slice of pork belly in a plate of sauce and threw it into her mouth before taking a mouthful of rice. Then, she continued answering contentedly, "I wasn't paying much attention. You know that I don't pay much attention to any other man aside from my Chi Yang."

Zhong Qianqian, "...!!!"

"Qianqian, what's wrong?" Jiang Shuwan could tell that her daughter was behaving oddly. It was starting to worry her.

“Mother, I called Aiden just now to tell him about the banquet this weekend, but he didn’t pick up both my calls. It has been two hours already, and he hasn’t called me back.”

“And here I thought that something bad had happened! Do you remember who Aiden is? He’s the Vice President cum General Manager of Tianheng Holdings. For someone like him, time is money. Do you think he’s like those in the military base who have the time to call and chat on the phone when they don’t have training? Qianqian, you’re a girl. Not only should you be reserved, but you should also carry yourself with elegance. The most important thing is to remember to be virtuous, do you understand?”

Zhong Qianqian felt much better after being comforted by Jiang Shuwan.

After dinner, instead of staying in the living room, Zhong Qianqian headed upstairs as usual.

Zhong Nuannuan had nothing to do either, so she went upstairs as well.

She took out her phone and dialed the familiar number that she knew so well. The person on the other end answered after one ring.

“Big boss.” A pure British accent sounded from the other end of the phone. The person’s voice was laced with evident excitement. “Do you finally have a phone?”

“Yes.”

“Big boss, Zhong Qianqian called me twice this afternoon, but I didn’t pick up.”

The person on the other end was begging to be praised. Zhong Nuannuan smiled. “So what are you planning? Are you coming to the banquet this Sunday?”

Chapter 80: Free Lunch

“Of course, I’ll go! It’s the big boss’s banquet, so I’ll definitely attend!”

“What are you going to do about Zhong Qianqian? Do you still want to be my brother-in-law?”

On the other end of the call, Aiden’s face changed. “Big boss, you know that I only like beauties. I thought that you had a good relationship with your sister. In the end... Big boss, I was wrong. You taught me that there’s no free lunch, and we can’t reap without sowing.”

“You’ve been flirting so much today, do your eyes hurt now?”

“Big boss, please. I’m eating dinner. I’m going to vomit if you keep saying that.”

While listening to Aiden’s pleas, Zhong Nuannuan recalled how much he had wanted to be her brother-in-law. She laughed out loud.

“Oh right, big boss...”

Aiden wanted to say that his partner, Selina, was there, but Zhong Nuannuan had an incoming call. The caller ID showed that it was her fiancé calling. She was ecstatic and immediately hung up on Aiden.

“Hello? Hello?”

Seeing how easy it had been for Zhong Nuannuan to hang up on him, Aiden felt that the distance between him and his big boss was getting bigger.

“Hello.”

“Nuannuan.”

“Yeah, I’m here.”

“Were you in another call earlier? Am I disturbing you?”

“No, it was just an insurance agent.”

“Have you eaten?”

Zhong Nuannuan could hear the sound of a cello coming from the other end of the phone. Her smile grew even bigger.

“I’ve eaten. Have you?”

“I’ve eaten too.”

When Zhong Nuannuan was thinking about how to continue the conversation, Chi Yang asked, “What did you have for dinner?”

“I had braised beltfish, roasted pork belly, steamed sea bass, boiled shrimp, and kimchi soup.”

“Are you full?” Chi Yang continued asking.

“A little bit.”

“If you’re full, you should take a walk around the neighborhood to improve your digestion. Don’t lie down after you eat. The food will retain in your stomach due to indigestion, do you understand?”

“I understand.”

When Zhong Nuannuan wanted to ask Chi Yang the same question, Chi Yang asked her again, “Have you tried on the gown?”

“I did!”

“Does it fit?”

“Yeah, it does. The color suits me too. Ye Mengxi might just die from anger if I wear it this weekend.”

“Zhong Qianqian too. Wouldn’t she be the one to die from anger first? She’s such a jealous person.”

“Hehe, I don’t think she has the time to get jealous of me. After all, the general manager of Tianheng Holdings is showing an interest in her.”

“Oh? What happened?”

Zhong Nuannuan told Chi Yang about her meeting with Aiden today at Tianheng Holdings. Of course, she did not tell him that Aiden was her brother and that she was the chairman of Tianheng Holdings.

“I’ve heard about Tianheng Holdings and Aiden. They had seemingly appeared out of nowhere five years ago. Their stores are everywhere around the world now. However, there are a lot of rumors about Aiden. He changes his girlfriends almost as often as he changes his clothes. I heard that he is generous though. Each time he breaks up with a girl, they would receive a gift from him. Materialistic girls like Zhong Qianqian who loves to compare herself with others will be compatible with him”

He continued to talk without waiting for Zhong Nuannuan’s reply. “You have to distance yourself from people like Aiden. He’s dangerous.”