

Schoolgirl 271

Chapter 271: Sleep In My Room. New Year's Program

Both Yun Jian and Yun Zhu were surprised when Si Yi spoke, especially Yun Jian who was confused about the meaning behind his words.

As for Yun Zhu, his adorable face dropped as he tilted his head. He was only eight, so he did not understand why the handsome big brother was stopping him from sleeping with his sister when he had asked her and received her approval.

Before both of them realized anything, Si Yi's tall build was already in front of Yun Jian.

He curled a good looking brow upward and turned to look at Yun Zhu. His short hair swayed a little as his melodious baritone voice repeated his intention. "You're not allowed to sleep with her."

Yun Zhu's arrival was a surprise.

No one had cleaned up a proper room for him at the unexpectedness.

If Yun Zhu wanted to sleep with Yun Jian, however, Si Yi was against it even when he was just a little boy.

Yun Zhu frowned at his words. His gaze at Si Yi was puzzled. "Big brother, why can't I sleep with my jiejie?"

The corner of Si Yi's lips tugged, a boyish charm evident on his smirk. He stuttered before making up an excuse. "Because you're a boy."

He added in the next beat. "Sleep in my room tonight."

Si Yi then made his way upstairs.

He did not have a further explanation anyway.

"Ridiculous," Yun Jian muttered softly as she watched the young man head up before she petted her baby brother's head.

"Xiao Zhu, then you sleep with him tonight, okay?" Yun Jian looked at her brother with a bright grin.

"Mm!" Yun Zhu was a good boy, quickly understanding that he could not sleep in the same room with his sister.

Yet, the big brother just now looked so intimidating... Never mind, it was better for him to listen to his sister anyway.

When Qin Yirou came home at night, Yun Jian introduced Yun Zhu to her and explained the situation to her. She did not tell her that Yun Zhu was her younger brother in their previous life but she made up something that was closer to reality.

She told her that Yun Zhu's mother was now hospitalized from a serious injury and she took Yun Zhu back to care for since she thought that he was a poor kid.

Qin Yirou was a kind-hearted woman. Moreover, her savings had been growing since she started working in New Cruise. She could afford to take care of an additional child. Moreover, Yun Zhu was lovable. Qin Yirou took an instant liking to the little boy, calling him Xiao Zhu casually.

Yun Jian transferred schools for Yun Zhu as well. He was already a first grader as he was eight years old. Now that he came back to Longmen City with her, Yun Jian found someone to settle the school transfer procedure so he could go to school as usual.

At the same time, Yun Jian went back to her usual school routine as well.

Since Zhang Shaofeng, LingYichen, and Chen Xinyi knew that Yun Jian was New Cruise's director, they came to her every day. Despite that, Yun Jian did not forget to train Zhang Shaofeng daily.

In a blink of eyes, it had almost been three months since her rebirth.

When school was dismissed on Friday, Yun Jian went to Yun Yi's school to look for him.

Although, she did not manage to find him in his classroom.

"He went to the music room. The New Year is coming. Your brother is taking part in a performance for the New Year's program, so he's busy practicing in the music room now!" A boy in class who knew that Yun Jian was Yun Yi's younger sister kindly pointed the direction to her.

Thanking him, Yun Jian then made her way to the music room where Yun Yi was.

Chapter 272: He Learns The Guitar. An Arrogant Peacock

Di Yi Senior High School that Yun Yi was studying in was an elite school that not everyone could enroll in. An exclusive state-run school like this had an incredibly high standard of education as well.

Here, not only could students receive education from elite teachers, they could develop their interests and hobbies of choice, including various musical instruments.

Every student in the school could choose a musical instrument they preferred to practice and there were specific teachers teaching them how to play.

Just as Yun Jian approached the music room, she heard a jumbled orchestra of musical notes coming from different musical instruments. The discordant sounds they made were grating one's ears like unruly noises.

When she stepped even close, she saw the young man who stood in front of the classroom with his long fingers plucking the guitar strings, quiet and gentle like a pool of spring.

Her elder brother, Yun Yi, learned the guitar. He was remarkable at it too.

Before he studied in this school, he had already practiced the guitar. The start of his music journey was due to his junior high teacher. She was a beautiful lady who loved playing the guitar.

When Yun Yi's interest in guitars grew, his junior high teacher gifted him her guitar when she found out that he liked the instrument but could not afford one for practice.

Yun Yi kept learning on his own then, never once stopping ever since.

“Xiao Jian.” Yun Yi who noticed Yun Jian swiftly put his guitar aside and made his way to her.

“Yun Yi.” Yun Jian called out with crescent eyes and commented, “You played well”.

Yun Yi made an abashed chuckle and brought Yun Jian into the classroom.

The mix of unharmonious notes was still terrorizing the music room as students practiced diligently on the music instrument of their choice.

“Yun Yi, this adorable girl is?” While Yun Jian was scanning the place, a voice sounded rather abruptly.

A pretty girl who wore a long preppy dress in pink with prominent features stood before Yun Jian checking her out in dismay. Her tone was laced with threat.

Yun Jian was displeased with her first glance at this girl.

“She’s my younger sister, Yun Jian,” Yun Yi answered with a smile and introduced the girl to Yun Jian. “She’s Chen Yubing, the pianist for our New Year performance.”

The introduction by Yun Yi was brief but Yun Jian noticed that Chen Yubing was stealing peeks at Yun Yi, her adoration for him brimming in her eyes.

Yun Jian also discovered that Chen Yubing who carried a sense of hostility to her changed her conduct after Yun Yi stated that she was his younger sister.

“Wow, so you’re Yun Yi’s younger sister!” Chen Yubing exclaimed before she took a furtive glimpse at Yun Yi. She walked over to hold Yun Jian’s hand like they had known each other since forever, before taking her to the only piano sitting in the music room.

At the same time, she was talking like a broken record, as if afraid that her talent was unknown to others, “It must be your first time here, right? Hah, do you want to learn how to play the piano? I’m not the best now, only making it to grade nine at the moment, but I can teach you a little!”

The way she spoke gave others the feeling that she was an arrogant peacock, hardly inducing any fondness from one.

Chapter 273: A Show-Off. She Knew How To Play Too

Although Yun Jian did not like Chen Yubing, she followed her over to the piano.

She could feel that her brother only saw Chen Yubing as his friend, but it was undeniable that Chen Yubing’s tone when she spoke to her was both pompous and fawning, and the reason was fairly simple – because Yun Yi was her elder brother.

“Come, sit here.” Chen Yubing led Yun Jian to sit on the bench before the one and only grand piano in the music room.

She then stood on the side, pressing a few piano keys before her thumb went down on one of a specific key as she told Yun Jian, “This key is Do.”

She repeated the motion several times and introduced the keys to Yun Jian respectively.

Yun Jian acted like she knew nothing, nodding along with a small smile.

Yun Yi stood right beside them. He was wearing a smile as well, his cheerful demeanor was a fresh sight. He was handsome, the type who looked fresh and sunny.

Chen Yubing could not be blamed for stealing glances at him repeatedly with infatuation flowing from the bottom of her eyes.

As Yun Yi smiled watching his younger sister sit in front of the piano with a small smile playing on her pretty face, he actually felt glad. After all, he thought that he could have lived life a bit tougher, but he didn't wish that upon his mother and definitely not for his sister. To forever stay in the lowest class of society was not an option, especially when Qin Yirou had worked her entire life to take care of both of them.

Not everyone could afford to learn the piano during this era.

Yun Yi had high hopes. He hoped that he could study hard and get accepted into a university, graduate, and then be the family's breadwinner. Not only was he going to take care of his mother, but he would also make life easier for his sister, indulging her with whatever possessions she wished for or any education she desired.

Of course, he currently had no idea that Yun Jian was the director of New Cruise.

Chen Yubing could feel Yun Yi watching her teach Yun Jian the piano from where she stood and felt her heart thumping wildly. A thought struck her at the same time – she was going to show off in front of Yun Yi!

“Hey, can you come up for a bit? I'll play a song for you and then teach you how to play it,” Chen Yubing told Yun Jian as softly as she could.

With a grin, Yun Jian stood up straightway. She wanted to see what tricks Chen Yubing had up her sleeves.

Still spotting Yun Yi from the corner of her eyes, Chen Yubing eagerly took over Yun Jian's seat and placed her hands on the piano, immediately playing a fairly smooth melody.

This was the most familiar song which she could play the best.

As the soft melodious music was played, the students around them who were busy practicing their New Year performance could not help stopping to listen to Chen Yubing. Some had even exclaimed praises.

Chen Yubing espied the compliments from the corner of her eyes, pleased with a hint of pride. She was amazing. How could Yun Yi not like her?

The song thus ended.

Chen Yubing stood up again to let Yun Jian sit in front of the piano again and told her softly, “You can try to play the piece I did by ear and try to pick it up.”

Her words were overflowing with pride.

“Mn.” Yun Jian nodded and paused for a beat before her fair hands found their place on the piano keys.

Suddenly, they came alive, dancing on the keys and replaying the familiar melody. It was inexplicably melodious and pleasant – but was that not the piece that Chen Yubing had just played?

Yun Yi's sister knew how to play too? In fact, she was playing better than Chen Yubing who was ninth grade in piano!

Chapter 274: A Welcoming Party. You Coming?

"You know how to play this piece?!" Chen Yubing's alarmed question sounded with a hint of surprise and embarrassment amidst everyone else's stupor and Yun Yi's widened eyes.

She knew how to play it! Yun Yi's sister knew how to play the piano!

Chen Yubing's shock and mortification could not even be described with words.

She had just shown off in front of Yun Jian not knowing that the latter was looking at her like she was a joke! She did not even say anything! Yun Jian did not tell her that she knew how to play, was she waiting for her to make a fool out of herself?

Instantly, Chen Yubing glowered.

"Yeah, Xiao Jian, you knew how to play the piano?" Compared to Chen Yubing's bewilderment, Yun Yi was much more composed albeit he was also astonished.

"I learned it from Xiao Yan when I was in Xinjiang Town." Yun Jian smiled. She was not making things up. The original owner of this body had gone to Lu Feiyan's house to pick up some piano playing when they were all still in Xinjiang Town.

Lu Feiyan's family was better off than Yuan Jian back then, with both her parents working as teachers. Lu Feiyan herself learned the piano from a teacher and the original owner of Yun Jian's current body used to learn from Lu Feiyan for some time, except that she did not pick up much.

Yun Jian grinned and continued speaking, "But it's my first time hearing this piece."

First time and she played so well!?

Those in the music room were stunned once more while Chen Yubing stayed frozen on the spot like she was given a harsh slap.

Yun Jian had only heard it once and played it so well? What did that make her then? Practicing this piece almost chafed her fingers off! Chen Yubing paled at the realization.

Yun Yi smiled gladly at what he heard, patting Yun Jian's head softly with his long fingers. "I see."

He remembered who Lu Feiyan was. That was his younger sister's best friend.

"Mm," Yun Jian hummed with a smile and a nod.

"Oh yeah, are you coming home today?" Yun Jian asked, blinking and swiftly changing the topic.

Chen Yubing was directly ignored.

"Mm, yes." Yun Yi thought about it for a second and nodded.

In exchange for a conducive studying environment, it had been weeks since Yun Yi returned home but he knew about the addition to his family, Yun Zhu, and expressed his warmest welcome.

“Let’s go to a restaurant then. Mom isn’t working overtime too. Let’s throw Xiao Zhu a welcoming party,” Yun Jian said with a beam.

“Sure!” Yun Yi nodded and went to pack his things to go home with Yun Jian. “Wait for a bit, Xiao Jian. I’ll go back with you.”

After that, Yun Yi bid goodbye to his peers and kept his guitar to exit the music room with his sister, all the while never paying attention to Chen Yubing.

As Yun Jian and Yun Yi made their way out of the school toward the road, someone sporting short hair with a short-sleeved t-shirt came walking from the opposite. He was sweaty, looking like he just came back from a run.

It was none other than Xu Haozhe who just finished a run.

As the son of a mafia boss, Xu Haozhe had always kept a habit of training himself.

The moment he saw Yun Jian, he told Yun Yi with a smile, “Yi, your sister’s here to pick you up from school? I’m so envious of you!”

He then greeted Yun Jian.

“Heh.” Yun Yi chuckled and extended his invitation to Xu Haozhe. “Zhe, we’re going to a restaurant tonight. You coming?”

Chapter 275: Little Yun Zhu. Is The Gum Good?

Yun Jian was not puzzled by Yun Yi’s invitation. After all, Xu Haozhe was his best friend. When they were poorer, he had helped Yun Yi a lot.

Yun Jian chorused, “Yeah, come along. The more the merrier.”

Xu Haozhe laughed flashing his white teeth and said, “It’s so rare that Yun Yi’s sister is inviting me to a restaurant. I’d be silly not to go, wouldn’t I? Haha!”

“That’s set then, Zhe. See you at six at our old place,” Yun Yi spoke with a toothy grin as well.

“Mm.” Xu Haozhe nodded with a smile.

They then went their separate ways for the day as Yun Yi and Yun Jian went back home together.

Qin Yirou had been wanting to hold a welcoming party a long time ago. Tonight, she invited Dong Ruan and Si Yi as well.

It was said to welcome Yun Zhu but at the same time, she was thanking Dong Ruan for taking her in during her hardest of times.

As for the welcoming party, it was nothing big. It was just a gathering of friends and family to have a meal together and chat over it. It was that simple.

When Yun Jian got home, Qin Yirou was already ready.

She had even changed Yun Zhu into new clothes, making the boy glow brighter in his young charm.

“Jiejie! Gege (Mandarin for elder brother)!” When little Yun Zhu saw Yun Jian and Yun Yi, he could not help running over with his short legs to spin around both of them happily.

“Did you listen to the teachers in school, Xiao Zhu?” Yun Jian asked, bending down and pinching Yun Zhu’s chubby cheeks.

“Xiao Zhu is a good boy. The teacher praised Xiao Zhu today!” Yun Zhu puffed his chest to display his pride.

He looked like he suddenly remembered something and stuck his stubby fingers into his pants pocket and probed around, finally fishing out something. It was a pack of Wrigley’s chewing gum.

“Jiejie, Si Yi-gege came to pick Xiao Zhu up in school today. He bought me bubblegum because I was complimented by the teacher. It’s yummy, Xiao Zhu saved two pieces for Jiejie and Gege!” As he spoke, Yun Zhu pulled out the two remaining gums from the pack and thrust them to Yun Jian and Yun Yi’s hands respectively.

He then stared directly at Yun Jian and Yun Yi in his pink supple cheeks.

When Yun Jian heard Yun Zhu addressing Si Yi as “Si Yi-gege”, the corners of her lips twitched. She wore a helpless smile looking at the small boy who was bought over by Si Yi by just a pack of gum, before tearing the wrapper of said gum and tossing it into her mouth under the boy’s anticipated gaze.

Yun Yi did the same.

Right when Yun Jian started chewing the gum, Si Yi appeared by the staircase in a set of black casual wear. With both hands in his pants pockets, there was an adequate sense of leisure on his handsome face. He came down the flight of stairs one at a time with his long legs.

“Si Yi-gege!” Yun Zhu who was standing in front of Yun Jian staring at her and Yun Yi chew gum suddenly called out in excitement.

In the next second, he had sprinted over to Si Yi and stuck himself to him.

Patting Yun Zhu’s head with his fair fingers, but Si Yi’s eyes were instead on Yun Jian. The tenderness in his eyes was unable to be concealed. With a smile, he arched a brow at Yun Jian. “Is the gum good?”

Chapter 276: Of Course It’s Good. Xiao Zhu, Kick Him

The abruptness of Si Yi’s question froze Yun Jian’s chewing the gum and almost made her swallow it.

“It’s given by Xiao Zhu, of course it’s good.” With her quick thinking, Yun Jian answered with a grin as she watched little Yun Zhu who was attached to Si Yi farther away.

“Hehe, Jiejie, this is Si Yi-gege’s reward to Xiao Zhu!” Yun Zhu stuck his head out from Si Yi’s side and looked at Yun Jian with a giggle, his lively character immensely adorable.

Yun Jian smiled at him and gave Si Yi a grateful look.

She was indebted to her baby brother in their past life. For Si Yi to be so kind to her brother and bringing Xiao Zhu happiness, Yun Jian was sincerely thankful to him.

“Are you all ready? Let’s go!” Qin Yirou hooked arms with Dong Ruan as they came down from the stairs.

Qin Yirou who was upstairs for a moment was wearing a brand new leather coat. Dong Ruan had picked it out for her and the coat complimented her skin tone very well.

With some money saved after their daily expenditure, Qin Yirou did not have to keep wearing her old patched clothes anymore. During the moment of joy, she bit the bullet and bought herself a leather coat to celebrate. Of course, she had also bought plenty of clothes for Yun Jian and Yun Yi before her own purchase..

“Mm, we can go now.” Yun Jian’s eyes turned into crescents as she beamed, adoring and pretty in her teenage youth.

She went over to hold Yun Zhu’s hand and all of them made their way out of the house. They were all walking there.

Qin Yirou planned to buy everyone a good meal, so they were eating at Longmen City’s four-star hotel, Crystal Rhythm Hotel. She had only invited Dong Ruan and Si Yi anyway.

Dinner at the hotel would cost significantly more, but she was using her salary that she had been saving for months. She could still afford to buy everyone a meal.

The Crystal Rhythm Hotel was where Yun Yi and Xu Haozhe had referred to as their “old place”. This was where Xu Haozhe was ambushed by a sniper and Yun Jian killed the sniper with a single shot.

When they came to the hotel entrance, Xu Haozhe was already there waiting for them.

Xu Haozhe greeted with a grin when he saw Qin Yirou and Dong Ruan, “Hi, madams.”

The boy had met Qin Yirou before. He had talked to her when he was Yun Yi’s best friend, after all.

“Hey, Xiao Zhe, it’s been a while,” Qin Yirou greeted happily.

After the greetings were exchanged, Xu Haozhe went to Yun Yi and turned to greet Yun Jian. His tone was teasing. “Hi, Yun Yi’s sister, we meet again! Care to sit down and chat later?”

Just as he flirted, Xu Haozhe felt the temperature of the air around him dropping. Shifting his gaze away from Yun Jian, he saw a handsome guy who stood beside her looking at him with a deep piercing stare.

He looked like he was going to kill him. Xu Haozhe could not help the shudder that ran through him.

“Uh, haha, I’d better sit with Yi later.” Xu Haozhe rubbed his nose and chuckled awkwardly.

Pressing her lips together, Yun Jian watched Qin Yirou and Dong Ruan lead the way into the hotel with their arms hooked together before Yun Yi and Xu Haozhe followed. Standing her spot and holding little Yun Zhu’s hand, Yun Jian suddenly swooped down and whispered to Yun Zhu, “Xiao Zhu, kick him.”

Si Yi stood beside Yun Zhu, so the little boy was sandwiched right between both of them.

When Yun Zhu heard Yun Jian, he looked up and asked Yun Jian in loud innocence, "Jiejie, why are you asking me to kick Si Yi-gege?"

It was only obvious that Si Yi who stood beside him heard Yun Zhu's loud question. He raised his brow with a smile.

Chapter 277: About Wasting Food and A Coincidence

Yun Jian did not expect Yun Zhu to actually voice her whisper aloud. She immediately covered his mouth and pulled him along to speed walk into the hotel.

"No, no, it's nothing. Xiao Zhu, you heard wrong," Yun Jian said while she patted her brother's hair as they walked.

Looking at the blush that crept up Yun Jian's cheeks, a charming smile made its way onto Si Yi's face before he, too, took large strides to the hotel following Yun Jian and keeping up with her.

The dishes were served once all of them were seated as Qin Yirou had already made a reservation.

They were not in a private room but the large hall on the ground floor. A private booth was a lot more expensive than the dining hall and Qin Yirou could only afford a meal at the dining hall as Crystal Rhythm Hotel was a four-star hotel after all.

As dishes were served one by one, Yun Jian took a big drumstick piece for Yun Zhu.

Little Yun Zhu was too thin. He probably did not have much to eat during his impoverished days with Yun Hailan, especially when the latter was doing worse than Yun Jian's family when she was just rebirthed.

"Have more, Xiao Zhu." Yun Jian placed the large piece of chicken into Yun Zhu's bowl.

Yun Zhu shook his head when he received the dish, however, picking it up with his chopsticks and dropping it to Si Yi's bowl. He made a pout with his rosy lips and spoke, "Xiao Zhu doesn't like drumsticks. Si Yi-gege will eat it."

Uh... Yun Jian felt a huge question mark hovering over her head. Since when did Xiao Zhu get attached to Si Yi so much? Why did she not know a thing as his elder sister?

"Xiao Zhu, don't put the drumstick in Si Yi-gege's bowl even if you don't like it. It's impolite to do so," Yun Jian advised with a pat on the boy's head. In addition, Si Yi probably would not have the chicken when she had picked it up with her chopsticks.

In spite of it, Si Yi had picked up the drumstick in his bowl and took small bites to slowly devour the meat by the time Yun Jian had just finished teaching Yun Zhu the meal etiquette.

Yun Jian swallowed the rest of her words and kept quiet.

"But Si Yi-gege said that I can give him what I don't like because we can't waste our food!" Yun Zhu blinked, looking at Yun Jian with utterly innocent eyes.

Little Yun Zhu's words left no room for Yun Jian's comeback. How dare he teach Yun Zhu things like this! Yun Jian turned around to glare at Si Yi, looking absolutely like a young wife who was grumbling about her husband.

Si Yi pressed his lips together and returned her a charismatic smile.

At the receiving end of the handsome grin, Yun Jian felt her heart skip a beat. Quickly lowering her head, she stuffed herself with the contents of her bowl.

As for their interaction, no one on the table noticed as Xu Haozhe was busy chatting with Yun Yi, while Qin Yirou and Dong Ruan were engaged in an animated conversation as well. There was only Yun Zhu who was seated between Yun Jian and Si Yi looking up left and right.

'What are Jiejie and Si Yi-gege doing?'

"Oh, you guys are here for dinner too? What a coincidence!" A familiar female voice suddenly rang behind Yun Jian.

Tilting her head, Yun Jian saw Chen Yubing in a long maxi dress with a side braid greeting them with a smile as she walked toward them.

Her? Yun Jian frowned.

Chen Yubing made her way over directly and scanned Yun Yi unabashedly before she spoke to Qin Yirou like they had known each other for a long time, "You must be Senior Yun Yi's mother, right? I've often heard Senior Yun Yi mentioning you in school. I'm Chen Yubing, Senior Yun Yi's school friend. It's such a coincidence to actually bump into all of you here!"

Chapter 278: Awkward! They're Occupied Tonight

It was not actually a coincidence. Chen Yubing had eavesdropped on Yun Jian and Yun Yi's conversation when they were in the music room. Later, at the school gate when Yun Yi told Xu Haozhe to meet at their "old place", Chen Yubing's friend overheard it and told her.

There were only a handful of places that Yun Yi and Xu Haozhe frequented. It was impossible for Chen Yubing not to know when she had been admiring Yun Yi secretly.

Therefore, she found her way here.

It was predictable that she had dressed herself up intentionally before coming as chances were high that she would get to meet Yun Yi's mother today!

Her guess was correct as proven. She did see Yun Yi's mother, Qin Yirou, and quickly headed for them to greet her.

"Oh, it's Xiao Yi's friend from school? Hello, it's nice to meet you!" Qin Yirou stood up to greet her once she heard that Chen Yubing was Yun Yi's schoolmate.

It was only normal that Qin Yirou had always been friendly to her children's friends, treating them as their guests, but Yun Yi made an unnoticeable frown.

“Have you eaten? Would you like to have dinner with us?” Not noticing anything wrong, Qin Yirou asked Chen Yubing warmly.

“Um... wouldn’t that be intruding?” Chen Yubing scanned the table and wore an embarrassed look but she took her seat near Yun Yi anyway.

Honestly, Qin Yirou did not really plan for Chen Yubing to sit for dinner. She was just being courteous. However, she could only go along with her offer when she saw that Chen Yubing actually sat down.

“No, no, make yourself comfortable since you’re Xiao Yi’s friend!” Qin Yirou answered politely with a smile.

Yun Jian did not expect Chen Yubing to be this shameless. Once she turned away, she saw her brother creasing his brows so deep that his frown could probably kill a fly.

The atmosphere did not feel as joyous as it was before Chen Yubing’s presence. Yun Jian could even feel Chen Yubing’s glances of feigned nonchalance toward Si Yi and was immediately piqued.

Yun Jian was right with her instinct.

Chen Yubing had only seen Si Yi after she sat down. His flawless face looked like a sculpturing God had painstakingly carved and molded, anyone would fade in presence sitting beside him. Nonetheless, Chen Yubing had only taken a few extra glimpses. She was well aware that a man like this would not belong to her, so she shifted her gaze back to Yun Yi.

With her addition to the table, everyone picked up their rice bowl and tended to their own dinner, the chatters earlier died down to an extremely awkward ambience.

When dinner was done and they exited the Crystal Rhythm Hotel, Chen Yubing tagged along like a piece of chewing gum on the shoes’ sole. She maintained her position behind Qin Yirou along the way and kept bringing up topics to suck up to Qin Yirou.

“It’s a rare occasion that we get to gather. Should we go shop together? I remember the newly opened Pacific Shopping Mall has a lot of new ranges this season. They’ll fit you just nice! Let’s go have a look?”

Chen Yubing was thinking that every woman was vain. She could please Yun Yi’s mother first and rest assured, Yun Yi would fall for her!

“Uh...” Instead, Qin Yirou frowned and looked at Chen Yubing like she was troubled. Qin Yirou did hear about the new shopping mall in Longmen City that was named the Pacific Shopping Mall. All women were vain, so was Qin Yirou.

Chen Yubing had assumed correctly, but she did not guess something else.

The Pacific Shopping Mall’s rent was expensive, so the shop tenants had also increased their selling price. The cheapest adult clothing cost a few hundred to a thousand yuan each!

The quality and design of the clothes were excellent, certainly, but Qin Yirou had spent a lot on buying everyone dinner tonight. How could she afford it when Chen Yubing was currently suggesting to pick out expensive clothing for her?

“My mom’s occupied tonight. She won’t be able to go.” Just as Qin Yirou was caught in between, Yun Jian spoke up to respond to Chen Yubing without sounding very amiable. After that, she added.

“My brother’s occupied tonight as well.”

Chapter 279: Lu Haoze Says That The Elder Is Back

“Yes – yes, uh, Miss Chen Yubing, excuse us for the night. I’m afraid we can’t shop with you,” Qin Yirou chorused, acutely aware that Yun Jian was helping her out of the dilemma.

“Chen Yubing, it’s time to leave, go home and practice your piano,” Yun Yi who had been silent could not help telling the girl off too. His tone brimmed with impatience.

“I...” Chen Yubing who was instantly isolated bit her lips and left begrudgingly after seeing Yun Yi’s annoyed gaze, dropping her reluctant parting. “I’ll be going then. Senior Yun Yi, see you in school!”

Chen Yubing did not sound like she was giving up.

Yun Jian narrowed her brows. She was not going to let a woman like this go near her brother.

Chen Yubing’s appearance had taken a toll on the group’s jolly spirit but it was fortunate that Qin Yirou and Dong Ruan still wore smiles along their way home.

As of now, Yun Jian had no idea that Chen Yubing’s unwillingness to give up on her brother was the cause of the girl’s pathetic end, but this would all be in hindsight.

Si Yi had temporarily left Longmen City to tend to some matters, so Yun Jian did not see him for the next few days. She went back to her usual life anyway.

New Cruise had begun to stabilize. While its sales now were not as astonishing as the period right after the auto show, it was steady with millions to tens of millions Chinese yuan in net profit each month.

Zhang Zhifan and his brothers were over the moon. Never in their dreams had they imagined that they were earning several times more money doing business with Yun Jian than when they were loan sharks. More crucially, their current jobs were honorable!

Zhang Zhifan especially, when he stood in the crowd, would have people pointing at him exclaiming, “Look, that’s New Cruise’s big boss!”

Yun Jian had millions to tens of millions yuan of income each month as well, a special right she had for being New Cruise’s director.

It was now a few days from the New Year program, approximately one week to go.

The students who had been rehearsing for the show, all busy like bees while Yun Jian who did not sign up for any performance was relatively free.

The New Year Joint Program was a collaborative effort from Yun Jian’s school, Longmen Yi Junior High School, and Yun Yi’s school, Di Yi Senior High School.

The former was the best junior high school in town while the latter was the best senior high school, so both schools came to an agreement. Each school would provide fifteen performances for the New Year

Joint Program every year, totaling thirty performances, and all the students in both schools would come together to enjoy the program.

They would have to judge which school was better at performing too, but the activities were just to develop the students' interests and hobbies.

It was not the day of the program yet but all the kids were already eager and excited.

When school was dismissed on Friday, Yun Jian followed the steady stream of students out of the school alongside Zhang Shaofeng, Ling Yichen, and Chen Xinyi.

Four of them had just gotten to the school gate when Yun Jian was stopped by a tall shy boy who seemed thoroughly flustered.

"Hey, Yun Jian," the boy called out to her softly but his voice was swiftly drowned in the ruckus of the students finishing school.

Yun Jian who had a sharp sense of hearing caught it anyway and turned to see Lu Haoze standing on a higher step, 'shouting' at her with a whisper as quiet as a mosquito buzz.

Her eyes brightened. Could it be the elder who knew about her past life's master was back?

Chapter 280: Of The Elder And Yulong

When Yun Jian made her way to him, Zhang Shaofeng and the other two followed.

Three of them were not unfamiliar to Lu Haoze since they had met him before.

"You guys head over first," Yun Jian turned to the trio and told them.

Zhang Shaofeng, Ling Yichen, and Chen Xinyi would report to Zhang Zhifan at New Cruise during the weekends when they did not have to study.

All three of them were determined to learn from Zhang Zhifan and wanted to make something out of themselves in the business world.

"Mm, we'll go there first." Zhang Shaofeng nodded at Yun Jian and left with Chen Xinyi and Ling Yichen.

Yun Jian turned to Lu Haoze and squinted her eyes, telling him, "Let's talk somewhere quieter."

They then went to a quiet place. Looking at each other, Lu Haoze flushed again as he was stared at. He was just an adorable little brother. Not daring to meet Yun Jian's gaze anymore, he lowered his head and told Yun Jian with his eyes now on the ground, "Our elder came back. I told him that you're looking for him, so he asked me to come to you to see when you're free to meet."

Lu Haoze had spoken in one mouthful, already blushing like an apple by the time he was done.

"I'm free now," Yun Jian answered with a smile.

Lu Haoze then took her to his house to meet their clan elder.

They went back to the school gate first to take the bus on Route 11 to the east station, then took the bus from there into the village. It took nearly one and a half hours of bumpy rides before they arrived at Lu Haoze's house.

It was located in a small town where it was some distance away from Xinjiang Town, one on the opposite of another.

Lu Haoze's family stayed in a Chinese quadrangle. It was not just them, their clan's direct and extended lineage as well as the elders all lived here.

The Lu Family was a family of ancient arts, a hidden clan now. All relatives of Lu stayed in the same house and had never split from the main household.

When Yun Jian entered the Chinese quadrangle with Lu Haoze, an old lady who was enjoying the evening breeze sitting in the courtyard shouted when she saw them, "Xiao Ze, you brought back a girl this time! Wow! Is this your girlfriend? She's very pretty!"

The old lady's teasing flustered Lu Haoze so much that his ears went red.

He quickly replied, "Granny, don't be silly. This is my friend, Yun Jian. She's here to meet the elder."

"Oh, I see. I thought you've finally grown up!" The old lady tutted and watched Lu Haoze lead Yun Jian into the house with a grin.

"Uh, my granny likes to tease. Don't be miffed!" Lu Haoze explained to Yun Jian frantically.

"It's fine," Yun Jian replied with a beam and crinkled eyes.

"Hahaha, Xiao Ze, you've brought her over so soon?" A strong baritone voice of a man rang as an old man in his sixties came in through the door with a smile.

"Elder!" Lu Haoze called out when he saw him.

"Mn." Elder Lu made a dismissive wave to quiet the boy and circled Yun Jian twice before saying, "So you're his disciple? Tsk, I didn't expect that old fella to take in a disciple!"

Listening to Elder Lu's tone, Yun Jian was quick to believe that he knew the old man who had taught her all sorts of knowledge in her past life.

She spoke up impatiently, "Do you know him? Do you know where he is now?"

Elder Lu laughed before he suddenly reeled his expression in and looked serious. He provided no further elaboration when he uttered the words, "Yulong Mainland."

Yun Jian felt her eyes twitch with Elder Lu's words. Yulong Mainland, the world in the cave of the catacomb!