Sidekick 601

Chapter 601: Cai Ningxuan (2)

Wen Cheng firmly believed that his sister was the best at identifying antiques in the family. He had always thought this.

However, Wen Nuan was never interested in antique-related matters. After she got married, she ended up spending her entire time taking care of her family.

Wen Nuan replied quietly: "I definitely won't be able to win against you. Let's not compete."

However, Wen Cheng refused to accept this: "Nah, we're just guessing the price of the item. It's just for fun! Furthermore, if I make profits on an item today, you can have a share of the profits."

Wen Cheng recognized his sister's ability in this area. He knew that he could sometimes make mistakes. However, ever since young, his sister had never been wrong. Therefore, he hoped that she would be able to give him some advice today.

If he were to just bring his sister and niece, Wen Cheng was worried that his wife and daughter would think too much about the situation. Therefore, he brought his family along as well.

"Ahh, alright then," Wen Nuan replied softly.

At times like this, Cai Qinyue had no contribution at all.

The Wen family was talented in such an area and Cai Qinyue was not.

She was like an outsider.

It was also Cai Qinyue's first time coming to Cai Ningxuan.

Previously, Cai Qinyue asked her husband to bring her along. However, Wen Cheng refused.

He said that there were a lot of restrictions on who was allowed here. Furthermore, he said that the people who frequented this place were all individuals who he could not afford to offend. Provoking someone here would have detrimental consequences. Wen Cheng also told her that he only went there to do business.

However, Wen Cheng brought Wen Nuan and Jian Yiling to the place today! He didn't even mention those words to them!

Wen Ruo did not say anything. Instead, she lowered her head. She didn't want others to see the expression on her face.

Similarly, Jian Yiling was also very quiet. She took small sips from a teacup. It was as though she had no interest in the place.

After a while, a gong sounded. Then, a man who wore traditional clothing walked onto the stage. He used a pole to hang up a lantern.

"It's starting," Wen Cheng said to the others in the private room. This was the signal that the auction was going to officially begin.

The first item appeared on the stage.

It was a blue and white porcelain vase.

If anyone was interested, they could raise up a sign and signal to the judges. Then, they could observe the item up close.

"Sister, what do you think?"

Wen Nuan turned around and asked Jian Yiling: "Yiling, take a guess on the price of this vase."

"Two thousand," Jian Yiling replied.

Not twenty thousand dollars. Rather, just two thousand dollars.

Jian Yiling wasn't paying much attention to the stage.

"Yiling, this is a Qing Dynasty blue and white porcelain vase," Cai Qinyue reminded Jian Yiling from the side.

"It's fake," Jian Yiling replied.

"Hahahaha," Wen Cheng laughed when he heard Jian Yiling's words.

He wasn't laughing at his niece. Rather, he was approving of his niece's words.

"Yiling's opinion is very similar to mine," Wen Cheng said.

Wen Nuan smiled as well: "Yeah, I agree too. This is definitely a counterfeit. However, the workmanship is still very good. The person who made this deserves two thousand dollars."

Upon hearing this, Cai Qinyue's face darkened. She felt that she was being mocked.

"But you haven't even gone down to examine the vase. How are you certain about this?" Cai Qinyue asked.

"Ahh... You won't understand," Wen Cheng replied. How could he explain this to a layman?

He could say that the color of the vase was not right. Or perhaps, the stamp on the vase was poorly made. However, these things may not be applicable to other counterfeits.

Therefore, judging such items came down to experience and knowledge. It was difficult to explain in a few words. If it was simple, everyone would become an antique expert.

Upon hearing this, Cai Qinyue felt even more upset.

Chapter 602: Cai Ningxuan (3)

When the auction began, almost no one bid on the item.

In fact, the first bid was a bit more than one thousand dollars. The bid did not even reach two thousand dollars.

The person who bid obviously knew that this vase was a counterfeit.

In the end, the vase was sold for one thousand and eight hundred dollars. It was basically the same as the price that Jian Yiling had guessed.

However, the final price of the vase seemed to mock Cai Qinyue's previous words.

On the other hand, Jian Yiling did not think too much into the situation.

She merely looked at the vase from a scientific perspective.

For example, she looked at the ink of the calligraphy and the material used in constructing the item. Therefore, if the material appeared after the dynasty mentioned, it was undoubtedly a counterfeit.

The person who made the blue and white porcelain vase had made an obvious mistake. The stamp that they used on the vase was incorrect.

Therefore, there was no need to go up close to determine the authenticity of the vase.

Then, the second auction item came out.

It was a painting.

"Sister, what do you think about this painting?" Wen Cheng asked Wen Nuan.

"I'm not sure. I need to take a closer look at it," Wen Nuan replied.

This painting could not be judged from a distance. She needed to be up close to observe it.

"Okay. Let's go down to take a closer look."

Wen Cheng's thoughts on this matter were the same.

Thus, Wen Cheng asked the woman wearing a cheongsam to take them down for a closer look.

In addition, Wen Cheng invited Jian Yiling to come along. However, Jian Yiling shook her head and declined.

After Jian Yiling refused, Wen Cheng did not ask his daughter Wen Ruo to join him.

When Wen Ruo noticed this, her face went pale.

Wen Cheng did not ask Wen Ruo to come along because he knew that she had little talent in antique identification.

Wen Ruo was talented at drawing and calligraphy. He recognized her ability in these aspects. However, she was less talented when it came to identifying antiques.

As a result, Wen Cheng did not want his daughter to make a fool of herself. That was the reason why he did not invite her.

However, Wen Ruo did not think this way. She was shocked that her father invited Jian Yiling and not her when he was planning to go and identify a painting. This really hurt her self-esteem.

Then, when Wen Cheng and Wen Ruo returned from observing the painting, they continued to talk. Cai Qinyue and Wen Ruo could not contribute anything to the conversation.

Finally, Wen Cheng decided to not participate in the bidding. He wasn't sure about the authenticity of the painting.

Then, the auction continued.

When a folding fan appeared onto the stage for auction, Cai Qinyue could not hold herself back anymore.

Cai Qinyue asked her daughter: "What do you think about this fan?"

Wen Ruo commented: "I think it's pretty good. I can't pick out any faults from the painting and the words on the fan."

"Do you think it's authentic?"

"I think so."

"I agree," Cai Qinyue replied. She liked the fan on the stage. Therefore, she wanted to bid for it.

"Husband, I want the folding fan. Can you help me bid on it?"

Wen Cheng frowned: "This folding fan... It might have some problems."

Wen Nuan turned around to convince her sister-in-law as well: "The painting and words on this folding fan seem to be a bit strange."

Wen Nuan did not dare to be absolute with her words.

Even an expert in this area could easily make a mistake from time to time.

Therefore, Wen Nuan could only be vague with her words.

This place was basically gambling.

However, Cai Qinyue was unwilling to listen to Wen Nuan's words. Right now, she was still quite upset.

"Why don't we go down there to take a look then? If you notice a problem with the fan, then I will not bid for it."

Although Cai Qinyue said these words, in her heart, she was determined to buy the folding fan already.

As Wen Nuan did not want Cai Qinyue to be scammed, she decided to follow them down to the first floor to carefully observe the fan.

Chapter 603: Cai Ningxuan (4)

After returning to the second floor, Cai Qinyue asked Wen Nuan again.

Wen Nuan could only shake her head: "I'm not sure still. However, my intuition tells me that there might be something wrong with this folding fan."

"Your intuition?" Cai Qinyue repeated. She was unable to accept this reason from Wen Nuan.

Then, Cai Qinyue added: "My daughter has spent so many years studying calligraphy and paintings. She has seen countless works from famous artists. Therefore, if she thinks that the folding fan is authentic, I choose to believe her."

After saying this, Cai Qinyue asked Wen Cheng: "What do you think?"

Wen Cheng shook his head: "The possibility that it's authentic should be higher than it being a counterfeit. However, my sister's intuition has always been very accurate..."

This was not something that Cai Qinyue wanted to hear: "Do you not believe in your daughter?"

Wen Cheng turned his head to look at his daughter. When he saw the hurt and hope in her eyes, he decided to not speak again.

He didn't want to hurt his daughter's self-esteem.

Furthermore, he really could not pinpoint why this folding fan was a counterfeit.

"Ahh, okay then. You can bid for it. If the price is okay, we can buy it," Wen Cheng replied. He decided to compromise.

Upon hearing this, Cai Qinyue was incredibly happy.

When the bid began, Cai Qinyue quickly held up her buyer's number.

The price in her heart was thirty million. However, the price quickly exceeded that number.

Originally, she planned to stop bidding. However, when she saw Wen Nuan and Jian Yiling, she suddenly felt determined to buy the folding fan.

The Wen family did not lack money. Therefore, she continued to raise the price.

She raised the price to fifty million dollars.

At fifty million dollars, the folding fan was auctioned off.

The folding fan was brought over to their private room.

Cai Qinyue turned the fan around in her hands.

The more she looked at the fan, the happier she was.

"Wen Ruo, come and look at this fan! We can sell this fan for eighty million dollars in the future!" Cai Qinyue said as she handed the folding fan over to her daughter. She wanted her daughter to appreciate the antique.

If this item was authentic, it would definitely be worth eighty million dollars.

However, there was a slim chance that it was a counterfeit.

At this moment, someone from the next private room came over to Wen Cheng. This person was Wen Cheng's business friend.

As Wen Cheng had gone down several times to examine antiques, that person knew that Wen Cheng was seated in this room.

However, his business friend told him that he had made an error in his judgment. The folding fan was a counterfeit. He knew how the fan was constructed. Furthermore, he even knew the person who made this fan.

As he was Wen Cheng's business friend, he came over to tell him the truth.

However, he couldn't tell Wen Cheng before the end of the auction. This was a rule at Cai Ningxuan. He couldn't break the rules.

His words made Cai Qinyue's face turn from red to white instantly.

Wen Ruo's face turned white as well. She had sworn that the folding fan was authentic.

The fan that she was looking at admiringly had turned into a big problem.

At this moment, Cai Ningxuan's staff came over. They asked Wen Cheng to pay the bill.

Fifty million dollars...

Fifty million dollars for a counterfeit.

Cai Qinyue did not want to pay up.

Paying out this money would be essentially mocking her and her daughter.

"How can you do this here? If you know the item is fake, why would you still sell it? You're basically scamming your customers."

Cai Qinyue was furious. She didn't use her brain to think through her words.

However, Wen Cheng had told her in advance that buying things here was essentially a gamble.

"You don't plan to pay up?"

"You shouldn't be selling counterfeits!"

Upon hearing his wife's words, Wen Cheng was terrified: "Don't be ridiculous!"

They could afford to pay fifty million dollars. However, they could not afford to offend Cai Ningxuan.

Chapter 604: Pendant's Use (1)

Then, the staff took out an intercom to contact his superior.

Very soon, a man in his fifties appeared in the private room. White hair could be seen on the man's head.

"Mr. Wen Cheng, you're one of our long-time customers. However, why are you not respecting the rules today?"

"Manager Zhu, I apologize for this. It's my fault. I did not clearly explain the rules to my wife," Wen Cheng said hurriedly.

However, Manager Zhu's expression did not change. He replied sternly:

"This is not a matter of apologizing. Instead, it's a matter of disrespecting the rules that we have in place. If you disrespect our rules, you will be blacklisted from Cai Ningxuan. From now on, you will not be allowed in here."

Wen Cheng panicked when he heard this. Being on the blacklist for Cai Ningxuan meant that he could not enter buildings like this in the future.

To make matters worse, he dealt with antiques for work! This meant that the consequences were very serious for him.

It was much more serious than losing fifty million dollars!

Wen Cheng hurriedly said: "Manager Zhu, we're willing to buy this folding fan. We will definitely pay fifty million dollars! My wife just said the wrong thing! Please forgive her. Can you pretend that it didn't happen?"

"Sorry. I don't plan to break the rules. I won't change my decision. It doesn't matter if you're unhappy with Cai Ningxuan."

Manager Zhu was impartial and incorruptible. He was unwilling to accommodate Wen Cheng.

Upon hearing this, Cai Qinyue's face turned incredibly pale.

When she saw her husband's anxious expression, she realized how serious the matter was.

It seemed as though she did a very stupid thing.

She hurriedly apologized to her husband: "I'm sorry... I just... I just acted impulsively... I didn't mean to do this... I..."

She regretted her decisions.

Although fifty million dollars was a large sum of money, it didn't mean as much as her husband's career. Her husband's career depended on antiques.

However, Manager Zhu was not moved by Cai Qinyue's words. His expression was serious as he said: "Ms. Wen, you're an adult. You should be responsible for your words and actions."

Then, Manager Zhu turned to speak to his men: "Please ask Mr. Wen Cheng and his family to leave."

The auction had only reached the midpoint.

However, as the rules had been broken, they were no longer considered guests of Cai Ningxuan.

"Manager Zhu, please accommodate us," Wen Cheng pleaded. His face was filled with sorrow.

However, Manager Zhu was expressionless. It was as though he had not heard Wen Cheng's words.

Then, his men walked towards the people seated in the private room to 'invite' them out.

Manager Zhu's actions destroyed the Wen family's last slither of hope.

Today, they were doomed to enter the blacklist of Cai Ningxuan.

Furthermore, Wen Cheng was very likely to be blacklisted by other antique businesses.

Wen Cheng had never imagined for this to happen.

However, things had escalated. He could no longer do anything about it.

Cai Qinyue was so remorseful that her intestines began to turn blue.

Wen Ruo hung her head down. She did not dare to say a word.

However, her body was trembling. She was incredibly scared.

Wen Nuan, on the other hand, was also frowning. She was deep in thought.

She knew that today's events would adversely affect her brother.

However, she could do nothing about it. If her brother's words had no impact on the situation, then she definitely could not get Cai Ningxuan to change their minds.

Jian Yiling did not say a single word. After she confirmed that they were being 'invited' out, she got up to leave with everyone else.

Jian Yiling walked past Manager Zhu.

Suddenly, the pendant on Jian Yiling's neck caught Manager Zhu's attention.

It was an ordinary-looking pendant.

As it was quite warm inside the building, Jian Yiling had taken off her jacket. When she got up to leave, the pendant was hanging outside of her clothes.

"Wait!" Manager Zhu suddenly called out.

Chapter 605: Pendant's Use (2)

Everyone stopped walking and turned around to look at Manager Zhu.

However, Manager Zhu was not looking at anyone from the Wen family. Instead, his attention was on Jian Yiling.

Initially, this girl had not even caught his attention.

However, when she walked past him, he noticed the pendant on her neck.

Upon noticing this, he stared at Jian Yiling for a while. Then, his attitude towards the situation completely changed: "I'm very sorry! I apologize for my actions!"

Then, Manager Zhu bowed in front of Jian Yiling to express his apologies.

"Yiling, do you know him?" Wen Nuan asked her daughter.

Jian Yiling shook her head.

She did not know Manager Zhu. It was her first time coming to Cai Ningxuan.

She also did not know why Manager Zhu reacted like this when he saw her.

"Did you make a mistake?" Jian Yiling asked Manager Zhu.

Manager Zhu smiled and shook his head: "No, no. Definitely not. How should I address you?"

Although Manager Zhu said that he did not make a mistake, he still asked Jian Yiling for her name.

It was obvious that he did not know Jian Yiling. However, he was still treating her with a lot of respect.

"Jian Yiling."

"Miss Yiling, you do not have to leave. If Mr. Wen Cheng is your friend, he can stay as well. I will consider the matter just now as a misunderstanding."

This...

Manager Zhu's sudden change in attitude made the Wen family incredibly confused.

Why did Manager Zhu suddenly change his attitude after he saw Jian Yiling?

What did Jian Yiling do?

"Yiling, what's going on here?" Wen Cheng asked. His face was filled with questions.

Jian Yiling shook her head. She did not know what was happening either.

Then, Manager Zhu added: "If I had known your identity early, I definitely would not have treated you that way."

Identity?

What identity?

What identity could Jian Yiling possibly have?

Cai Qinyue and Wen Ruo looked at Jian Yiling with amazement.

However, even Jian Yiling did not know the 'identity' that Manager Zhu was talking about.

Jian Yiling's eyes were filled with confusion.

Then, Manager Zhu smiled as he said: "Miss Yiling, I hope you forgive me for what just happened. Please forgive me for my rudeness."

Just now, Wen Cheng was begging Manager Zhu for forgiveness. However, suddenly, Manager Zhu was begging Jian Yiling for forgiveness.

"Are you sure that you didn't make a mistake?" Jian Yiling asked.

"Definitely not," Manager Zhu replied smilingly.

Then, Manager Zhu asked his men to invite them back to their seats.

After that, he had someone bring tea and food over to them.

His actions were thoughtful and considerate.

The Wen family was incredibly relieved. They did not get driven out by Cai Ningxuan. Furthermore, they also received unprecedented VIP treatment.

In a short span of minutes, Wen Cheng had experienced a lot of ups and downs.

After Manager Zhu and his men left the private room, Wen Cheng was still struggling to regain his senses.

Wen Nuan was the first to speak up: "Brother, is Manager Zhu usually like this?"

Wen Cheng's mind was pulled back to reality by his sister's question.

He shook his head: "This is the first time I've seen Manager Zhu treat someone with so much respect..."

Then, Wen Cheng's gaze fell on Jian Yiling.

What was going on here?

What exactly was his niece's 'identity'?

Cai Qinyue and Wen Ruo also looked at Jian Yiling.

They were also very puzzled.

Jian Yiling arrived in Beijing less than a month ago.

How could she be involved with this place?

And why did Manager Zhu treat her with so much respect?

Chapter 606: Pendant's Use (3)

She knew Elder Yun because she was a medical student that studied at Beijing University.

She knew Master Liang because the Jian family had connections with him.

However, why was she related to Cai Ningxuan? This was not an ordinary place!

Cai Qinyue immediately asked Jian Yiling: "Yiling, are you hiding something from us?"

Cai Qinyue suspected that there was some relationship between Jian Yiling and Cai Ningxuan. She felt that Jian Yiling was hiding something from them.

"No," Jian Yiling replied.

"You don't need to hide the truth from us. Why would you need to hide such things from your aunt and uncle?"

"I'm not hiding anything," Jian Yiling repeated.

However, Cai Qinyue continued to speak to Jian Yiling: "Yiling, you shouldn't hide stuff from us. If you know people from Cai Ningxuan, that's a good thing. There's no need to hide that from us. You don't need to be worried about your uncle attempting to gain connections through you. He's not that kind of person."

Upon hearing this, Wen Nuan began to feel quite frustrated: "Sister-in-law, Yiling already said that she does not know anyone from Cai Ningxuan. If you don't believe her words, why are you asking her in the first place?"

When faced with Wen Nuan'squestioning, Cai Qinyue attempted to explain herself: "I'm just worried that Yiling is afraid to explain the situation to us. Furthermore, you also saw the situation today. Do you really think that your daughter has no connections with Cai Ningxuan?"

"Well, even if she does, she might not know what's going on," Wen Nuan replied. "Furthermore, Yiling already told you that she does not know what's happening."

In the past, she did not trust her daughter. Back then, she had paid the price of losing her daughter's trust.

Wen Nuan was unwilling to make such a mistake again.

By this time, Wen Cheng had regained his senses. He immediately reprimanded his wife: "Are you still going on about this? You caused all of this! And now, you still have the nerve to question Yiling? If it weren't for Yiling, we would have gotten kicked out of Cai Ningxuan by now!"

Wen Cheng's voice was filled with anger and dissatisfaction.

When Cai Qinyue heard her husband's words, she was incredibly upset: "Am I not blaming myself for my actions? Do you think that I wanted things to become like this? Did I not apologize to Manager Zhu? I know I made a mistake however, it was unintentional! I said the wrong thing, however, I would have never imagined such consequences to happen!"

Wen Ruo attempted to help her mother as well: "Father, I'm also at fault. I thought the fan was authentic. If you want to scold someone, please scold me. Don't scold my mother. My mother already blames herself."

Wen Ruo's eyes were red and tears were spinning in them.

When Wen Cheng looked at his daughter's tearful face, his anger subsided a lot.

In reality, his wife did not make a big mistake. She was just a bit narrow-minded and petty. That was why she was upset with spending fifty million dollars on a counterfeit item.

Furthermore, she did not clearly understand the rules of Cai Ningxuan.

Back when the bid started, he allowed his wife to bid for the fan. Therefore, he should not shift all of the blame onto his wife. It was unreasonable for him to do that.

Wen Cheng sighed: "It's okay. I don't blame your mother. However, both of you need to thank Yiling. Although she doesn't know what's happening, she still helped us out."

Cai Qinyue glanced at Jian Yiling and Wen Nuan. For some reason, she felt a lot of resentment.

However, she had to go along with her husband's wishes. She was the one who did the wrong thing.

"Yiling, thank you for helping us. We will remember your favor."

Wen Ruo added: "Yeah, thank you so much. You helped us a lot today."

However, Jian Yiling did not respond to their words. She wasn't sure whether this matter was actually related to her.

Chapter 607: One Month Has Come to An End

"Master Sheng, Miss Yiling showed up at Cai Ningxuan. The manager recognized her. Now, the matter regarding the Zhai family's matriarch has been spread all over Beijing."

Zhai Yunsheng was currently in his office. His men told him about Jian Yiling's appearance at Cai Ningxuan.

Cai Ningxuan's owner was not Zhai Yunsheng. However, the place had inextricable ties with the Zhai family.

In a sense, the Zhai family was the Master of the owner of Cai Ningxuan.

The Zhai family was connected with many businesses in China.

This circle of connections was led by the Zhai family. It was much more complex than anyone could imagine.

Cai Ningxuan vowed their loyalty and devotion to the Zhai family. It had been like this for generations.

Therefore, people from Cai Ningxuan recognized the pendant that symbolized the Zhai family's matriarch.

This was the case even though no one had worn this pendant for many years.

"Was she interested in anything from Cai Ningxuan?" Zhai Yunsheng asked.

"Nope. She only drank some tea and ate some refreshments. She barely spoke."

Zhai Yunsheng's subordinate reported what happened to Jian Yiling at Cai Ningxuan in detail.

###

A month's time passed by quickly.

Zhai Yunsheng heard from his grandpa that Jian Yiling would only stay in Beijing for a month.

Therefore, their time was almost about to come to an end.

Zhai Yunsheng did not know how to ask Jian Yiling to stay with him.

Therefore, he asked Yu Xi to post on Weibo on that day. Yu Xi's Weibo said that [Domination] was going to participate in the Zerg Invasion tournament.

This could make up for the regret they had back then. In addition, this was also a reason to make her stay.

However, from observing her in the past few days, it appeared as though Jian Yiling had no intention of staying in Beijing.

In the past two days, Jian Yiling did the same as before.

She took care of him and took care of Jian Yichen who was living in the apartment opposite to them.

However, she did not mention her plans for the future. She did not mention what she planned to do when the month ended.

There were only two days left before the month was up.

Of course, Zhai Yunsheng could have used a more forceful approach to keep her with him. However, he did not want to do that.

At night, the two of them stayed in the study as usual. Both of them were busy with their own work.

"Yiling," Zhai Yunsheng called out during Jian Yiling's break.

"Hmm?"

"My sweater. Have you knitted it yet?"

"I'm still knitting it. It's almost done."

"Then, will you give it to me with your own hands?" Zhai Yunsheng asked as he gazed into Jian Yiling's eyes.

He emphasized the words "with your own hands."

"I will give it to you tomorrow."

"You've basically finished knitting it already?"

"Mhmm," Jian Yiling replied. Then, she paused for a moment before she asked: "Do you not want it?"
"I..."

He wanted the sweater... However, he also wanted...

Then, Zhai Yunsheng said: "You can give it to me later. It's okay if it's a few days late. There's no rush as long as you give it to me personally."

"It will be finished soon," Jian Yiling replied. There was no need for her to spend a few more days on it.

Upon hearing Jian Yiling's words, Zhai Yunsheng realized that this path would not work. He quickly gave up on it.

After a while, the two of them finished their day's work. Then, they went to play games.

As they played Zerg Invasion, Zhai Yunsheng mentioned the tournament to Jian Yiling: "We've applied to the Zerg Invasion tournament."

"Mhmm," Jian Yiling replied. She knew about this. She had seen Yu Xi's regular posts on social media.

Yu Xi said that he wanted to make up for his regrets back then.

In addition, Jian Yujie had also adjusted his work schedule for this tournament.

"Then, will you be participating in this tournament with us until the end?" Zhai Yunsheng asked. He tried to mention it carelessly.

"Mhmm."

"Okay," Zhai Yunsheng replied. A smile formed on the corners of his lips. Then, he opened Zerg Invasion's official website.

The official website had the schedules for their games.

Before he saw their schedule, he saw the details of the tournament venue...

This year's tournament venue was set in another country.

Jian, Yuncheng!

Chapter 608: Confession (1)

Today was the last day of the one-month timeline.

Zhai Yunsheng asked Beijing University about Jian Yiling's plans. He confirmed that Jian Yiling's exchange program only lasted for a month.

Furthermore, Zhai Yunsheng confirmed with Jian Yiling's university abroad that they had already started to schedule new work for her.

This had all been approved by Jian Yiling.

All this information led Zhai Yunsheng to believe that Jian Yiling was going to leave after the month was up.

When Zhai Yunsheng arrived home, he realized that there was no one at home.

The entire apartment was dark and empty.

The one-month primary care physician contract that was signed by Jian Yiling and his grandpa was on the dining desk.

What did this mean?

Was she telling him that her one-month contract had come to an end? Did this mean that she was going to leave?

Zhai Yunsheng closed his eyes.

He had said that if she left, he wouldn't force her to stay.

It was her choice.

Then, Zhai Yunsheng walked over to sit on the sofa.

His entire world felt quiet and desolate.

His world had returned to what it was a month ago.

A scene from his childhood appeared in his mind.

In that scene, he was standing in a pool of blood. In front of him was his father. His father was dead.

Back then, he started to cry and howl.

However, after a while, he didn't have the strength to cry anymore. Gradually, he became quiet and numb.

Then, he stayed in that silence for an unknown period of time. He felt that only himself and death existed in his world.

He constantly thought to himself, why did my father have to die?

He should be the one dead. His father should be alive.

His father could have lived on without him.

However, instead, fate made him live on.

His father, on the other hand, had left this world forever.

Zhai Yunsheng hated the fact that everyone around him treated him carefully.

He saw his grandpa's pain and sorrow.

He saw his uncle's guilt and remorse.

However, he could not see the meaning of his own life. Why was he alive?

His heart began to hurt. The pain was very real.

He knew that he was not qualified to throw a tantrum. He didn't have the right to love someone.

Loneliness was the only thing that he deserved.

"Click——" the light switch turned on.

The entire room was lit up.

Jian Yiling walked out of her room. She looked at Zhai Yunsheng who was seated on the sofa.

When Zhai Yunsheng entered the apartment, he only turned on the light at the entrance. As a result, the entire living room was dark.

Zhai Yunsheng raised his head to look at Jian Yiling.

It was a figure that he thought had left him.

However, she was standing in front of him. She was truly there.

Jian Yiling walked over to Zhai Yunsheng and asked: "What are you doing?"

Zhai Yunsheng looked at the person in front of him.

After quite some time, he spoke with great difficulty: "Didn't you. Didn't you leave already?"

"No," Jian Yiling replied.

What did she mean by no?

Was she going to leave in a while? Or was she not planning to leave?

"Your one-month contract has ended," Zhai Yunsheng said.

"I've changed my plans. I'm not leaving for the time being," Jian Yiling replied.

Not leaving for the time being...

Not leaving.

"Then why did you take out your contract?"

"The contract expired. It needs to be extended," Jian Yiling explained.

Extended...

Ahh, that was something that she would do.

"Then, are you really not leaving?" Zhai Yunsheng asked. He had to confirm the situation.

"I'm not leaving. I promised Master Zhai to take care of you."

Zhai Yuncheng looked into Jian Yiling's eyes. He knew that she was telling the truth.

What made her stay was not him, rather, it was what his grandpa had said to her.

"Is it only because of my grandpa?"

That day, Jian Yiling had grabbed his arm in front of Qin Chuan and Qin Yufan. He remembered that scene very clearly.

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"Well, I'd like to take care of you as well," Jian Yiling replied honestly.

If it was only due to Master Zhai's request, Jian Yiling would not necessarily agree to change her plans.

However, in her own heart, she had a strange feeling. It was as though she did not want to leave.

Therefore, she chose to follow her own heart.

Zhai Yunsheng stared at Jian Yiling for quite some time. He didn't say a single word.

After a while, Zhai Yunsheng reached out with his hand and gently touched Jian Yiling's cheeks.

"Yiling, I won't let go," Zhai Yunsheng said.

"Why won't you let go?" Jian Yiling asked.

"Do you know?" Zhai Yunsheng started, "That I like you?"

Upon hearing these words, Jian Yiling stared at Zhai Yunsheng. She was attempting to interpret his words in another way.

"Like in a romantic way," Zhai Yunsheng added. "I want to touch you, hug you, and hold onto you. Do you understand now?"

Was he clear enough with his words?

She wouldn't misunderstand again, right?

Jian Yiling blankly stared at Zhai Yunsheng for two minutes.

Then, she got up and ran back into her room.

Zhai Yunsheng heard the door slam shut as Jian Yiling disappeared in front of his eyes.

Inside her room, Jian Yiling burrowed herself in blankets. She sent a message to Luo Xiuen:

[I want to ask you a question.]

[Oh my goodness! You actually have a question for me?]

Luo Xiuen was surprised by Jian Yiling's message.

After interacting with Jian Yiling for three years, she was always the one asking Jian Yiling questions. Jian Yiling rarely asked her any questions.

[Mhmm.]

[Tell me quickly! What's your question?]

Luo Xiuen was incredibly curious about Jian Yiling's question.

What sort of question would be difficult for their Institution's prodigy?

[What happens when a man likes a woman?]

[???]

Luo Xiuen replied to Jian Yiling's question with three question marks.

However, Jian Yiling was still waiting for Luo Xiuen's explanation.

After a moment, Luo Xiuen decided to call Jian Yiling.

Jian Yiling immediately accepted the call.

As soon as she answered, Luo Xiuen's shocking roar could be heard from the phone:

"Who is it? Which bastard confessed to you? How dare he?"

"How do you know that he confessed to me?" Jian Yiling asked quietly.

"You don't say! If someone else was confessed to, would you be asking me that question?"

Hmm... It seemed as though Luo Xiuen was right.

Luo Xiuen continued to snarl: "Darling, do you like that man?"

"Well, I don't want him to die."

Jian Yiling wanted to protect him. However, she did not really know how she felt about Zhai Yunsheng.

"Uh..."

Don't want him to die? What kind of answer is that?

Suddenly, Luo Xiuen realized that her question might be too confusing for Jian Yiling.

Then, Luo Xiuen asked another question: "Is he good-looking?"

"Yeah, he is."

"Does he have money?"

"Yeah, he does."

"Does he like going out to play?"

"Yeah."

"Scumbag!" Luo Xiuen concluded. "Yiling, don't trust that man! Don't trust any of his words!"

Luo Xiuen had gone completely off-topic.

Jian Yiling had asked her about a man liking a woman, however, Luo Xiuen had become fixated on whether the man was a scumbag.

"Then, what would he do?" Jian Yiling asked.

"Well, he will treat you well. He will say nice things to you, send you gifts such as jewelry and flowers and do nice things for you! However, he will then eventually abandon you!" Luo Xiuen analyzed for Jian Yiling.

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"He won't abandon me," Jian Yiling replied.

For some reason, Jian Yiling thought this way. However, she didn't understand why she felt this way.

In her mind, Zhai Yunsheng was not a bad person.

"Huh?" Luo Xiuen exclaimed with surprise.

After knowing each other for more than three years, Luo Xiuen knew how hard it was to get such a statement out of Jian Yiling's mouth.

At first, Luo Xiuen assumed that what Jian Yiling had encountered was a random confession.

However, upon hearing Jian Yiling's words of approval, she knew that this man was special to Jian Yiling.

Luo Xiuen knew that Jian Yiling was not someone who would easily trust others.

Therefore, Luo Xiuen paused for a moment before she asked: "Are you sure? If you're sure, then you should choose to stay with him."

"That's not my question..." Jian Yiling muttered quietly.

"Ah... I'm not too sure either... I'm not dating anyone right now..."

Luo Xiuen could help Jian Yiling identify scumbags. However, when it came to relationships, Luo Xiuen could not help Jian Yiling either. Luo Xiuen herself had been single for nearly thirty years.

And thus, Jian Yiling talked to Luo Xiuen for a bit longer. Then, she hung up the phone.

After that, she went to ask Long Yuetian:

She asked the exact same question: [What happens when a man likes a woman?]

Long Yuetian replied incredibly quickly. In fact, she sent numerous messages as a response:

[What else can happen? Of course, they do things that they would both enjoy. Cutie, you're very good at biology, wouldn't you know this? Shouldn't you know things about animal reproduction?]

[In this case, it's the beginning of human reproduction. Of course, you need to exclude the scumbags. Scumbags aren't even considered humans honestly.]

[Oh right, why are you asking me this question? Did someone confess to you? If so, that's completely normal. You're amazing! Of course, they'd confess to you!]

[However, if you're interested, I can introduce a few more guys to you. You can decide who you like more. In fact, if you like females, I can volunteer as tribute. You saved my life so I'm willing to give my heart to you.]

In Long Yuetian's mind, men were merely her harem concubines.

Hmm... It seemed as though asking Long Yuetian this question was not very appropriate.

Then, Jian Yiling sent the same message to Hu Jiaojiao.

Hu Jiaojiao also replied very quickly:

[Yiling, I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to hide my relationship with An Yang from you!]

[?]

[Yiling, don't be upset. We should have told you... However, I wanted to confirm my relationship with him... That's why I didn't tell you immediately...]

[You and An Yang?]

[Yeah... Please listen to my explanation... I know that you're surprised about this. I was surprised as well. I never imagined that... Ahh, I admit that I had a bit of interest in him before this... I just...]

[I'm not asking about this.]

[Huh?]

[I'm just asking about what happens when a man likes a woman.]

[...]

Suddenly, Hu Jiaojiao realized that she confessed without duress. She wanted to dig a hole to bury her embarrassment.

After a moment, Hu Jiaojiao regained her composure and replied to Jian Yiling:

[They will kiss and be together.]

That was what happened between Hu Jiaojiao and An Yang.

Will kiss...

Jian Yiling suddenly recalled what happened on her birthday... She and Zhai Yunsheng...

Her cheeks began to feel warm...

Jian Yiling tossed and turned in her bed as she thought about what had happened.