

Sidekick 91

Chapter 91: Found Someone to Perform the Surgery

Grandma Jian placed emphasis on the fact that Jian Yiling made the sweater by herself. Otherwise, Jian Yujie would have assumed that Jian Yiling had bought it online!

Despite being busy every day, Jian Yiling still thought about knitting a sweater for Jian Yujie. It was important for Jian Yujie to know her intentions.

To let him know that the affection between them wasn't one-sided. His cousin also thought about him.

"Grandma Jian is incredibly nice to Miss Yiling and Young Master Yujie," the chauffeur said.

"This isn't even being nice. Yujie's dream is to become a magician. I can't do much to help him. Honestly, I don't even know what path he will take in the future."

Grandma Jian was quite worried about Jian Yujie.

However, she didn't want to interfere with her grandson's life. If she did that, it could potentially cause discourse in the family.

If she did intervene and argue with her daughter-in-law, this would only put her second son Shuhong in an awkward spot.

After Grandma Jian finished writing the note, she hid it in the sweater. The chauffeur continued driving to He Yan's house. Once they arrived, Grandma Jian handed the paper bag along with a few other things she had brought out of the house in the morning.

Grandma Jian often sent things to her sons. Although the items weren't expensive or precious, they were a token of Grandma Jian's affection.

Tokens of affection couldn't be measured by monetary terms.

###

Later in the day, Hong Baizhang contacted Jian Yuncheng with great news.

"Young Master Yuncheng, I have good news! I have found someone who can perform the operation on your brother's hand!"

"What did you say?" Jian Yuncheng asked. He had been driving when he answered the call with Bluetooth earphones. Once he heard the news, he immediately stopped the car on the side of the road.

"Is the source reliable?"

"Around 90% reliable," Hong Baizhang replied. "The other party said that they were 90% sure that they could perform the operation. Otherwise, they wouldn't agree to deal with your brother's surgical operation."

“Do you have their contact information?” The speed of Jian Yuncheng’s questioning revealed how important the matter was to him.

God knows how important this news was to the Jian family.

The dark cloud that loomed over their family would finally be dispersed if Jian Yunnao’s hand got better.

Hong Baizhang quickly explained, “The other party is affiliated to an authoritative medical institution. I only have the information of the person in contact. I’m unable to directly contact the other party. Confidentiality is incredibly important in some medical institutions. Sometimes, even I may not be able to access them.”

Hong Baizhang was the director of a private hospital. He was already a highly regarded person in the industry. As such, he could get in contact with more individuals than an ordinary person could.

However, not even Hong Baizhang could promise Jian Yuncheng that he could get the other party to operate on his brother’s hand.

“Please continue contacting the other party. Tell them that any conditions can be met. The payment isn’t a problem either.”

“Rest assured, Young Master Yuncheng. I’ll definitely tell them that. However, you need to be mentally prepared. Most of these medical institutions have formidable backing. They may not be moved by money.”

Hong Baizhang had a bit of understanding about these institutions. He knew that they might not be easily moved by money.

To put it simply, if you were skilled enough, you wouldn’t lack the money.

Hong Baizhang continued to speak to Jian Yuncheng, “I already passed your brother’s medical records to the other party. They told me that they would take the matter seriously.”

So far, this was all the progress.

Chapter 92: Further Investigation

After he hung up the phone, Jian Yuncheng sat quietly in the car for a while.

After a moment, he called his father to tell him the good news.

Despite the fact that the operation wasn’t yet confirmed, there was still at least some hope.

For the Jian family, having some hope was better than having none.

Once Jian Shuxing heard this news, he was incredibly happy.

“If Hong Baizhang can’t get in touch with the other party, I’ll go to the Old Jian Residence and ask my father to contact the other party.”

Compared to the younger generation, Grandpa Jian had many more connections. He might find a way if they were unable to.

Either way, it was crucial for the other party to agree to the surgical operation.

“I understand. I still have something to deal with. I’ll talk to you later.”

Jian Yuncheng hadn’t mentioned what he had found out to Jian Shuxing and Wen Nuan yet.

He planned to tell them once he found definitive evidence.

After he finished speaking, he hung up the phone. Jian Yuncheng continued to drive all the way to Heyunshan Resort.

Once he got there, Jian Yuncheng found the manager of the hotel.

“Young Master Yuncheng, I don’t have what you’re looking for! It’s not that our hotel doesn’t want to help you, it’s that we can’t!”

The manager of the hotel began to get frustrated.

What the hell was the situation? Why were people constantly asking him for the surveillance video? In particular, for the surveillance to the stairs at the entrance?

Last time, Master Sheng had asked the CEO of the group behind the resort for the video. And the CEO had ordered him to deal with the matter.

He had already answered Young Master Yuncheng’s queries on the phone. However, he hadn’t expected him to turn up!

Wasn’t Young Master Yuncheng meant to be quite busy right now? The game that his company had developed was quite popular right now.

“If you can’t find the surveillance, arrange for the person who is in charge of the surveillance to come over.”

Jian Yuncheng sat down on the sofa in the reception room. He appeared dignified and cold.

All of a sudden, the manager of the hotel felt that he had become much shorter.

The manager felt as though he had lost on all fronts. In aura and in manner.

“This...” the manager stuttered.

“Is there something you can’t tell me?” Jian Yuncheng asked. His eyes were frightfully cold.

“No, that’s not it Young Master Yuncheng. You’re just making the situation incredibly difficult for us.”

“Do you think I came here today to have an idle chat with you?”

When the manager saw that Jian Yuncheng was unwilling to listen to him, he got angry all of a sudden.

“No, Young Master Yuncheng. I know that your family is powerful in Hengyuan City. However, I’ll have you know that our hotel is also quite well known. Our group has resorts all over the country. When it comes to strength and support, I don’t think we’re worse off.”

When Jian Yuncheng heard this, he glanced at the manager for a moment before he took out his phone to send a message.

Very quickly, the manager’s cell phone rang.

The manager’s expression changed the moment he saw the caller’s ID.

In his shock, he fumbled before answering the phone.

After he talked briefly with the person on the other end, the manager nodded several times in rapid succession.

“Yes, yes. I understand. I will manage the situation. I promise.”

The other party hung up the phone. Immediately, the manager turned around to apologize to Jian Yuncheng, “I’m so sorry, Young Master Yuncheng. I’ll find you the person you want right away!”

The manager finally recognized the situation. He couldn’t brush off the matter anymore! He had to actively deal with the situation.

He didn’t dare to make Jian Yuncheng wait for too long. Quickly, he brought over the person who was in charge of video surveillance.

At the same time, he also brought over the surveillance recordings of the intersections that were close to the incident.

After pausing for a moment, he immediately played the recordings to Jian Yuncheng.

Chapter 93: The Other Party Strongly Hopes You Accept

Whilst the surveillance video was missing at the location of the incident, the surveillance for nearby locations remained available.

As a result, Jian Yuncheng ended up skimming through those videos. It was incredibly important for him to figure out what had happened.

Sure enough, Jian Yuncheng saw Aunt Mo’s figure in the other surveillance videos.

Aunt Mo was the first person who had rushed to the scene at the time of the incident. However, this was no coincidence.

Jian Yuncheng could draw this conclusion as he saw that Aunt Mo was constantly peeking at the direction of the stairs. That direction was where Jian Yunnao and Jian Yiling’s argument had happened.

Jian Yuncheng’s brows furrowed together and the look in his eyes grew darker.

After Jian Yuncheng finished watching the videos, he asked, “Who is the person in charge of the surveillance videos?”

The surveillance of Heyunshan Resort was stored locally. It was physically managed and not connected to the Internet.

If you wanted to delete or destroy certain parts of the surveillance, you could only do it inside the hotel. It couldn't be done by remote hacking.

A young man in his twenties stepped forward. His appearance was quite ordinary and he seemed quite introverted. He looked quite nervous when he had gotten called out by Jian Yuncheng.

“Umm... That's me. However, I've only been in charge of the surveillance for a week...”

“What about the person who was in charge before you?” Jian Yuncheng asked. He was looking for the previous supervisor.

The manager replied to this question, “He resigned a week ago. His resignation was quite sudden. As a result, I had to quickly find a replacement.”

“Send me his contact information and address.”

“Yes, sir. I'll do so right away.”

After the phone call, the manager was incredibly cooperative. He quickly gathered the information that Jian Yuncheng wanted.

Once Jian Yuncheng received the information, he asked a friend to investigate relevant information regarding this person.

However, the reply he received surprised him a little. After the person had resigned, he had moved out of Hengyuan City. Furthermore, he had also changed his contact information.

As the person was no longer in Hengyuan City, it would be difficult to locate him in a short period of time.

However, with the information he had obtained so far, Jian Yuncheng could already tell that someone had orchestrated this ‘accident’.

###

After Jian Yiling finished her final exam, she opened her phone. Her phone had been flooded by messages from the assistant at the research institution.

There were individuals in the research institution that specialized in contacting clients and important members of society. Whilst everyone outside the institution called them the ‘person of contact’, researchers called them ‘assistants’.

The assistant had sent her a lot of messages. They appeared to be in a rush.

Jian Yiling replied, [What's the matter?]

In the next second, she received a reply. [Thank god you replied. I received a case. The other party strongly hopes for you to accept it.]

[I officially start next month.]

Therefore, she didn't plan to accept any work this month.

[I understand. I'm definitely not suggesting that you start on surgical operations this month. However, please take a look at the case information to see whether you want to take this job on. If there is an intention in accepting, we can make arrangements and then decide on the operation time. The other party gave us an incredibly good offer. Furthermore, we evaluated the operation. I think that this operation has a certain difficulty to it. It'll help you increase your reputation in the industry.]

The assistant or contact person of the institution screened all the applications that they received. They definitely did not accept every application.

Only those that had been evaluated to have a certain research value would be selected.

[Why?]

Jian Yiling had completed the surgical aspect of the assessment in the institution. Her ability was already recognized by the institution.

Descriptions and information regarded her ability to undertake such surgical procedures had already been uploaded to her file.

Chapter 94: Encounter at the Old Jian Residence (1)

However, this was exactly the reason why this case had been matched with her.

Yet there existed no archived records of her ability to perform a surgical operation in a real-life situation.

In general, most people started off with being an assistant. After numerous exposures to surgery, they would be promoted to become the chief surgeon.

It was quite strange for the research institution to request for her to be the chief surgeon for a case.

[This was the result of the discussion of various professors in the institution. They recognized that although the difficulty of this microscopic surgery is quite high, the risk of the operation is quite low. It's a great opportunity to showcase your skills. Of course, throughout the operation, other professors and researchers will accompany you. They will make sure that even if the operation is ultimately unsuccessful, no accidents will end up happening.]

To put it simply, the operation was an opportunity for Jian Yiling to showcase her skills. The other party was merely a test subject for them.

If the operation was successful, she would instantly become famous.

However, if the operation failed, no one would end up dying. The situation would not become worse and people would explain the situation to the other party.

Ordinary institutions were incapable of doing such things. However, their institution could do so.

This was due to the fact that their institution could afford the risk behind it.

However, this also reflected their trust in Jian Yiling's abilities.

[Send me their medical records.]

Jian Yiling agreed to look at the content of the case first.

[Okay, I'll send it to your email right away.]

Soon, an unread email appeared in her mailbox. The mailbox was a dedicated mailbox for the institution.

When Jian Yiling opened the file, she saw Jian Yunnao's medical records.

###

On Saturday morning, He Yan once again brought her son over to the Old Jian Residence.

Previously, Jian Yujie had always begrudgingly followed his mother. Whilst his mother wished for him to have a good impression in front of his grandparents, he didn't like her deliberate arrangement.

However, today, his mood was completely different.

He had even put on the sweater that Yiling had given him!

It was super soft and super warm!

Whenever he thought about the fact that Jian Yiling had knitted the sweater for him, his mood became elated. His smile shone like the sun on a bright and sunny day.

When He Yan and Jian Yujie arrived at the Old Jian Residence, Jian Shuxing's family had also just arrived.

Jian Shuxing, Wen Nuan, Jian Yuncheng and Jian Yunnao had all come over.

What surprised He Yan the most was the appearance of Jian Yunnao.

He was willing to leave the house? To come to the Old Jian Residence where Jian Yiling was?

He Yan paused for a moment before she guessed the purpose of the visit.

It had been a few days since Jian Yiling had been sent to the Old Jian Residence. It was still important for them to occasionally visit.

He Yan immediately greeted them enthusiastically, "Brother-in-law, sister-in-law, what a coincidence! You guys came over as well?"

"Yeah we did," Wen Nuan replied in a quiet voice. It appeared as though her former character had faded away completely.

Wen Nuan's face was thin and haggard. It formed a sharp contrast with He Yan's glowing face.

It was rare to see Wen Nuan like this. Usually, she would appear to be graceful and composed.

He Yan was secretly delighted. Ever since they had known each other, whenever she had gone to a banquet with Wen Nuan, Wen Nuan had always gotten the praise. Everyone complimented Wen Nuan and ignored her. It was as though she didn't even exist!

They praised Wen Nuan from head to toe. It was as though there was nothing bad about her.

If those people were to see her now, would they still be able to compliment her?

Jian Yunnao lowered his head for the entire time. He didn't look at nor greet He Yan and Jian Yujie.

The only reason why Jian Yunnao came over was that his parents had given him a long talk.

They hoped that by doing so, this would ease the relationship between Jian Yunnao and Jian Yiling.

Chapter 95: Encounter at the Old Jian Residence (2)

When Jian Yunnao raised his head, he saw Jian Yujie who was wearing a sweater.

The sweater seemed quite familiar. Because of this, he turned around to glance at Jian Yuncheng.

Jian Yunnao realized that the two of them were wearing almost the exact same sweater. The only thing that differentiated them was the colors.

It wasn't surprising for them to be wearing a similarly styled sweater. However, the sweater that Jian Yuncheng was wearing had been knitted by Shiyun. Logically speaking, Jian Yujie shouldn't have the same one.

Jian Yujie also looked at Jian Yunnao's face for a moment before his eyes lingered on his hands. He didn't take the initiative to greet his cousin.

This was because he had heard from Ji Ming that Jian Yunnao claimed that Yiling had pushed him down the stairs. He had blamed his injury on Yiling.

If Ji Ming wasn't lying, then this meant that Jian Yunnao had lied about the entire situation!

As a result, Jian Yujie wanted to keep his distance.

Jian Yujie had also noticed the sweater that Jian Yuncheng was wearing. He noticed that the sweater was the same style as his.

Without a doubt, the sweater was a gift from Yiling.

Ahhh, so he wasn't special... He was upset for a short while.

However, Jian Yujie quickly brushed off the feeling. He still couldn't conceal his joy of receiving a gift from Yiling!

The six of them entered the Old Jian Residence at the same time.

When Grandma Jian saw so many people come in at once, she laughed before saying:

"What special occasion is it today? What wind blew all of you over to me?"

He Yan was the first to step forward. Her face was full of smiles, "It seemed that I thought the same thing as my sister-in-law today. We both wanted to come over to accompany our parents for the day."

"It's good that you have such a thought," Grandma Jian replied politely.

Whilst she said that, Grandma Jian's gaze fell on Jian Shuxing and Wen Nuan.

It was apparent from the look on the couple's faces that they had planned to say something but had stopped at the last moment.

Wen Nuan kept scanning the lounge.

Although Grandma Jian knew what they wanted, she pretended not to understand. Instead, she asked the servants to help her visitors feel at home.

There wasn't much that Grandma Jian could greet them with. Other than drinking tea and discussing recent news, they didn't have much to do.

Grandma Jian intentionally didn't mention where Jian Yiling was. As such, Jian Shuxing and Wen Nuan didn't know what to say. They could only sit down and accompany their mother.

The seven of them sat down on the mahogany sofa. Each of them had a different expression on their face. They were all thinking about different things.

Jian Yunnao had completely lowered his head. He used his uninjured hand to scroll through his phone. He appeared to not want to talk to anyone.

Amongst them, He Yan had the strongest smile. However, the smile didn't reach her eyes. She wasn't stupid enough to expose her intentions.

"Grandma, where is Yiling?" Jian Yujie asked. He didn't think too much about the situation. He just wanted to see his dear cousin!

When Wen Nuan heard this, she abruptly raised her head.

Jian Yujie had asked the question that she wanted to ask.

When Jian Yunnao had heard the question, his body visibly stiffened.

However, he quickly tried to act like he didn't care about the situation.

Before he left home, he had promised Jian Yuncheng that he wouldn't act out. At least not in front of his grandparents.

"She's outside," Grandma Jian replied. She wasn't in a rush to answer his question.

She raised the cup of tea to her mouth and slowly sipped it.

Her relaxed appearance was a stark contrast with Jian Shuxing and Wen Nuan's demeanor.

"Where did she go?" Jian Yujie asked.

"She went to find her friends."

Grandma Jian didn't elaborate on her response. It was almost like trying to squeeze out toothpaste from a tube that had been mostly finished.

"What friends?" Jian Yujie asked in a hurry, "When did Yiling make friends? Are they male or female? What school are they from?"

Jian Yujie's vigilance had instantly risen.

When Jian Yuncheng had heard Grandma Jian's reply, he also furrowed his brows. A displeased look had flashed through his eyes. However, his feelings were not as obvious as Jian Yujie's.

Chapter 96: Encounter at the Old Jian Residence (3)

"Young fellow, why are you so focused on figuring out who your sister is friends with? Didn't you say that you came over to accompany me? Was that a lie?" Grandma Jian asked. She was deliberately teasing Jian Yujie.

Jian Yujie paused. For a moment, he looked like a deflated ball. He had to swallow down all of his questions and sit down.

He hadn't said that he came over to accompany his grandma... He just wanted to see Yiling...

Yiling had knitted a sweater for him. He hadn't yet gotten the opportunity to personally say thank you to her!

Finally, Jian Shuxing couldn't help but say something, "Mother, where is Yiling? She has been living here for quite some time already. Has she gotten used to it? We came here today to see her."

It was obvious that Jian Shuxing and the rest of them had put effort into talking to Jian Yunnao. As they talked about Jian Yiling, Jian Yunnao didn't become angry or disgusted.

'This should be considered an improvement right?' Grandma Jian wondered to herself.

However, in actual fact, whilst persuasion had accounted for a small part of this, the larger part was due to the progression in finding a doctor to operate on his hand.

Once again, Grandma Jian replied slowly, "She's gotten used to it. I know how to take care of children. If you're doubting me, why don't you look at you and your brothers?"

Grandma Jian wasn't intentionally scolding the couple. However, to a certain extent, she wanted the couple to stop worrying about both children so much. If they did that, they would be incapable of taking care of even one child.

From the look on Wen Nuan's face, Grandma Jian could tell that she hadn't slept well in the past few days. She had been married into the family for almost thirty years. However, this was the first time that Grandma Jian had seen her so stressed.

"Mother, I didn't mean that. I know that you can take good care of Yiling," Jian Shuxing replied.

“Okay, okay. She’ll be back soon. We planned to have a BBQ today. She went to buy ingredients.” Grandma Jian answered. She finally stopped going in circles with her responses.

Jian Yujie was quite curious, “Grandma, why did you think of having a BBQ?”

His grandparents didn’t seem like people who would like to have an outdoor BBQ.

“What’s the matter? Am I not allowed to try something new?” Grandma Jian replied. She enjoyed teasing her grandson.

Although there were three grandsons in front of her, only Jian Yujie was fun to tease.

“Grandma, I’m not saying that. Don’t falsely accuse me.”

Jian Yujie desperately shook his head.

“Okay okay. This suggestion was proposed by Yu Xi. The Old Jian Residence and Yu Residence are right next to each other. As we don’t have many people living with us, we thought that it’d be boring to just have a normal meal. Therefore, Yu Xi proposed to come over and have a barbecue together. It would be fun to have everyone together. Your grandfather and I found this suggestion quite interesting. That’s why we asked them to go and prepare for it.”

‘Ahhh, so that’s what Grandma Jian had meant when she said that Jian Yiling had gone out with friends. It turned out that her friend was Yu Xi. They had both gone out to purchase fresh ingredients for the barbecue.’

Speaking of the devil.

Whilst Grandma Jian was speaking, Jian Yiling arrived home. There were two men that trailed behind her.

One of them wore light-colored leisure clothes and the other wore a black shirt with dark gray pants.

One was Yu Xi and the other was Zhai Yunsheng.

Jian Yiling had come back empty-handed. However, the two men that had followed her were carrying several bags of food.

It wasn’t surprising to see Yu Xi. However, most people in the room were a little shocked to see Zhai Yunsheng.

Even Grandma Jian didn’t know that Zhai Yunsheng had gone to buy ingredients with Jian Yiling and Yu Xi.

However, the focus of the Jian Shuxing family was on their daughter Jian Yiling.

Against the backdrop of two men that were both about 1.8 meters tall, she looked particularly small.

They could see her young face and clear eyes.

They hadn’t changed from back then... Back when she went to visit Jian Yunnao at the hospital. Just like back then, she remained quiet.

Chapter 97: Encounter at the Old Jian Residence (4)

All of a sudden, the atmosphere felt strained.

When Jian Yunnao heard the sound of movement, he noticed that Jian Yiling had returned. His body moved an inch before the expression on his face visibly stiffened.

However, he didn't look up. He continued to play on his phone. He pretended that Jian Yiling didn't exist.

Wen Nuan gazed at her daughter longingly. She hadn't seen her for such a long time. When she saw her daughter's slim figure, all sorts of feelings welled up in her heart. Her eyes dampened.

Jian Shuxing and Jian Yuncheng's expressions were also quite solemn.

Grandma Jian couldn't help but sigh internally. It was difficult for her to see the family like this.

As an elder, she naturally hoped that the family got along together. She wanted everyone to be safe and happy.

But alas, things don't always turn out the way you hope. She couldn't do anything about it either.

Initially, He Yan wanted to watch the drama erupt. However, now that Master Sheng had arrived, her focus was entirely on him.

She had met Master Sheng again! And once again, it was at the Old Jian Residence.

For a moment, she felt that maybe it would be a good idea to send her son to stay with his grandparents for a while.

Even if Jian Yujie only managed to have a couple of meals together with Master Sheng on the weekends, they'd still be able to chat a few times. As a result, he could leave a good impression on Master Sheng. That would eventually be of great help to Yujie in the future.

Jian Yujie broke the silence that had settled. He quickly walked over to Jian Yiling. He stood deliberately in between Jian Yiling and Master Sheng.

Then he smiled at Jian Yiling and said, "Yiling, thank you for your gift. I really really like it!"

As he said it, he winked at Jian Yiling. It appeared as though there was a secret in between them that only the two of them knew.

"Yeah," Jian Yiling responded.

It was good that he liked the gift.

Jian Yujie leaned in and whispered into Jian Yiling's ear, "Are you carrying the self-defense equipment with you?"

"Yes." She brought the pepper spray with her.

“Remember that if anyone suddenly approaches you, use it on them!” As Jian Yujie spoke, he glanced at Zhai Yunsheng from the corner of his eye. It seemed as though his message was targeted.

“Yeah,” Jian Yiling replied.

The two of them whispered to each other.

It seemed as though Jian Yiling and Jian Yujie got along extremely well.

Compared to her brothers by blood, Jian Yiling seemed closer to her cousin.

He Yan turned around and snapped at the servants, “Hurry. Go and help Mr. Zhai and Mr. Yu with their bags. What are you standing around for? Everyone here is a guest. We shouldn’t ask the guests to be carrying things!”

When the servants heard He Yan’s words, they hurried forward to take the bags from Zhai Yunsheng and Yu Xi.

However, before they arrived, Zhai Yunsheng had already turned around and started heading towards the kitchen. He brought Jian Yiling away as well.

“Let’s go and prepare the ingredients.”

With a simple sentence, Jian Yiling was taken away to the kitchen.

Jian Yiling didn’t pause to think about the situation. The ingredients that they had bought were fresh. It was important to prepare the ingredients when fresh. She had to marinate, slice, and dice.

This was the first time that Jian Yiling had seen her parents ever since she left the Jian Residence.

She behaved quite calmly.

There were no complaints or objections.

When Jian Yujie saw what had just happened, he quickly followed his sister.

He couldn’t let Jian Yiling and Zhai Yunsheng be alone in the kitchen!

He Yan’s words had gotten utterly rejected by Zhai Yunsheng. There was no room for objection.

If someone else had rejected her like that, she’d probably hold a grudge against them. However, since it was Zhai Yunsheng, she felt that it was completely normal.

However, He Yan felt anxious that Zhai Yunsheng and Jian Yiling seemed quite close.

Chapter 98: Get Master Sheng to Find An Excuse

When Yu Xi saw Zhai Yunsheng and Jian Yiling both head to the kitchen, he thought that the situation was quite strange.

Yu Xi turned around and said to the other people, “I’m very sorry. I didn’t know you guys were going to turn up. We had only bought enough ingredients for five people...”

The original barbecue was meant for five people. And now, it had suddenly increased to eleven!

He Yan quickly replied, "As long as you don't mind that we join you, I'll go and arrange for the remainder of the ingredients."

It was such a rare opportunity to have a meal with Master Sheng. She definitely was not about to miss out on it!

Yu Xi smiled lightly, "You must be teasing me. This is the Old Jian Residence. Why would we mind? I'll leave the remainder of the ingredients to you then. I'll go help out in the kitchen."

With that, Yu Xi picked up the remaining bags and headed off to the kitchen.

As soon as he entered, Yu Xi saw Jian Yiling holding a kitchen knife in her hand.

She was cutting the meat that they had just bought into thin and even slices.

Other than the steak, the other meat was sliced incredibly thin.

Jian Yujie was opening the scallops. His actions seemed quite clumsy.

Whilst the other two were busy, Zhai Yunsheng stood there and watched them.

As Yu Xi approached, he saw Jian Yiling hold the kitchen knife.

The knife that she was holding looked bigger than her hand!

When Yu Xi saw what was happening, he had the instinct to grab the knife off her. He would have switched it to a smaller one.

However, when he thought about how he had gotten carried in the past few days, he realized that it probably wasn't needed for him to do so. It's better for him to just stay by the sideline and cheer her on.

He had a new nickname for Yiling. God Ling was what he had been calling her in the past few days.

Whilst he was incredibly confused when he had gotten carried by Jian Yiling the first time, by the second time, he had gotten used to it. By then, he even started to flatter Jian Yiling.

Throughout the game, Yu Xi kept yelling, "That's sick Master Sheng!," or "Holy, that's so cool God Ling!" He was incredibly good at flattering them.

If he was getting carried, the least he could do was flatter them.

When he saw Jian Yiling slice the meat, he realized that he didn't need to worry. Jian Yiling was incredibly stable and steady with her knife technique.

She was much better than Yu Xi. In fact, probably miles better than him.

To be honest, a dog would probably cut the meat up better than him... He would have cut up chunks of meat that looked like they had been gnawed through.

Besides that, Yu Xi began worrying about another thing. A matter that both Yu Xi and Master Sheng knew about. The situation between Jian Yiling and Jian Yunnao.

As of now, Jian Yunnao was outside. He didn't know how their God Ling was feeling. Yu Xi was worried that she felt bad.

When he thought about this, Yu Xi couldn't help but suggest, "God—, cough. Yiling, if you're unhappy, let's just go out and eat. If we need an excuse, we will just get Master Sheng to find one!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he received a sharp look from Zhai Yunsheng.

All of a sudden, Yu Xi felt bad. However, it wouldn't work out if he tried to look for an excuse. Only Master Sheng could find one.

After all, Master Sheng was famous for his willfulness...

He was known for being well-behaved. How could a good boy like him kidnap the girl next door?

After Jian Yujie heard Yu Xi's words, he paused as well.

Although he wasn't clear about the situation, he had heard about bits and pieces of it. The atmosphere just then was also quite strange.

This time, Jian Yujie agreed to Yu Xi's idea, "He's right. Let's go out and eat."

"It's fine," Jian Yiling replied. She shook her head.

Jian Yiling knew that her parents had brought Jian Yunnao over today in hopes that they'd get along together.

If she had any conflict with Jian Yunnao today, everyone, including her grandparents, would feel bad.

After his suggestion had gotten rejected by Jian Yiling, Yu Xi turned around to look at Zhai Yunsheng. He wanted to seek Master Sheng's opinion on the matter. At the same time, he also wanted Master Sheng to persuade Jian Yiling.

Previously, Master Sheng had seemed quite concerned about God Ling's matters.

"Don't look at me. I'm only here to eat." Zhai Yunsheng replied. He leaned against the sink and looked idle.

Chapter 99: Conversation between Grandpa Jian and Jian Shuxing

Whilst everyone was busy preparing for the barbeque, Jian Shuxing went to the orchid greenhouse to see Grandpa Jian.

"What's the matter?"

As soon as Grandpa Jian saw his son furrowing his brows, he knew that something was up.

"Dad, I want to ask you a favor."

"We're family. Don't say it's a favor. If something is up, just tell me. Although I'm retired, I still care about family affairs."

"It's like this... We found someone to do Yunnao's operation. However, the other party wants us to wait. We're worried that it's just an excuse..."

The day before yesterday, they had received a reply from the other party.

The other party didn't refuse nor agree to do the operation. They just requested that they'd wait.

Wait until when?

The sooner Yunnao got the surgery done, the greater the likelihood his hand would recover.

Grandpa Jian nodded, "I understand. I'll ask my friend for help."

Grandpa Jian was also quite concerned with this matter.

This matter affected the family.

"Thank you so much, Dad!"

"You don't need to thank me for these things. Also, I heard that you recently sent someone to investigate some matters in the neighboring provinces? What are you investigating?"

Although Grandpa Jian had retired, not many things could hide from his eyes.

"Um, some certain things."

"Is it serious?"

Jian Shuxing ended up telling Grandpa Jian the matters that his son had told him a few days ago.

"Are you saying that Yuncheng suspects that a servant in your house caused the incident between Yiling and Yunnao?"

"Yeah. It's only a suspicion. As of now, we haven't found any definitive evidence."

The surveillance only showed that Aunt Mo had been peeking at the direction of the stairs when the incident had happened.

However, Aunt Mo could easily make up a reason for why she was there. She could say that she had to talk to Jian Yiling or Jian Yunnao about something. As she had seen them quarrel, she didn't dare to stop them.

In fact, they couldn't get many conclusions out of the surveillance.

Grandpa Jian replied with a serious expression on his face, "Shuxing, you must remember that Yunnao said that Yiling had pushed him."

The key to the problem was with Jian Yunnao. Jian Yunnao had claimed that Jian Yiling had pushed him. The focus wasn't on Aunt Mo.

"I know," Jian Shuxing replied. His brows were still furrowed. "Neither of us know whether investigating this matter will be of use. However, as there is a possibility, we don't want to ignore it. Even if it's the smallest of possibilities."

“That’s good. Investigate the matter thoroughly. Even if it doesn’t help out with the incident between Jian Yiling and Jian Yunnao, it is important to know the background of people who are close to you. If someone harbors ill intentions, you should get rid of them. Don’t be soft on people who can hurt your family.”

Although Grandpa Jian watered flowers and fed birds for most of his time, when it came down to the wire, he knew how to make someone wish that they were dead.

Jian Shuxing suddenly asked, “By the way, why is Zhai Yunsheng with Yiling?”

Everyone knew that Yu Xi was a good child. There was no problem in Yiling hanging out with him.

However, Zhai Yunsheng was a different case. Jian Shuxing couldn’t help but worry.

He was afraid that Yiling would learn bad things from him. At the same time, he was worried that Master Sheng had ulterior motives.

“I’ve talked to him before. Although his personality is a bit strange, he is not as bad as the rumors say. Yiling hangs out with Yu Xi quite a bit. As a result, she’s in touch with Master Sheng as well. It’s fine. Yu Xi is a good child.”

If anything happened to Jian Yiling, Yu Xi would have quite a bit of explaining to do.

Chapter 100: Courtyard Barbecue (1)

If Grandpa Jian said that, Jian Shuxing couldn’t say much.

As of now, Yiling lived at the Old Jian Residence. Grandpa and Grandma Jian were looking after her. If they said that it wasn’t a problem, he shouldn’t interfere anymore.

However, in his heart, he still felt that it was inappropriate.

Regardless of how reliable Yu Xi was, he was still a boy.

And Yiling was their darling girl.

Although it was possible for their two families to get married in the future, that was not something for him to consider as of now. Yiling was still young. She had to grow older before they talked about these things.

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Around ten o’clock, Yu Xi started to bring out the ingredients that Jian Yiling had prepared.

There were a few sun umbrellas that had been propped up on the lawn. Alongside them, there were several barbecue grills as well.

Next to that, there were some cooked dishes and drinks stacked on a table.

These had been prepared by He Yan.

After she finished talking to Yu Xi, she had been incredibly busy.

She made sure that all the drinks and ingredients were top-notch quality. She had carefully prepared each item.

Whilst this was meant to be a simple courtyard barbecue, He Yan saw it otherwise. It was a rare opportunity for her to see Master Sheng.

There were so many people who wanted to see Master Sheng. They had tried various methods but none had succeeded.

When Yu Xi looked at the table that had been piled with food and drinks, he asked a servant to move another table out.

The ingredients that they had prepared must be placed separately.

The ingredients that He Yan had bought must not be mixed up with the one's that Yiling had prepared personally. They had gone out to buy the ingredients together!

Even if Yiling's cooking was terrible, it was still special! It would stand out from the masses.

As long as it didn't taste too bad, he would do his best to eat Yiling's food.

It was important to consider God Ling's feelings. He needed to protect her ego.

Yu Xi hadn't tasted anything that Jian Yiling made. As such, he didn't have many hopes for the seasoning and flavoring.

However, Jian Yiling had been quite decisive with her seasoning and flavoring. Based on that, he was willing to try her food out.

After everything was moved, Jian Yiling and the others had also come out.

Jian Yiling was wearing an apron that had cartoon images printed on it.

It was light pink in color. There was a little white rabbit that had been embroidered on it. The eyes of the rabbit were round and cute.

Zhai Yunsheng had bought it for her when they had gone shopping in the morning.

As it was needed when she prepared the ingredients in the kitchen, Jian Yiling had worn it.

That was the only apron that had fitted her. She had no other choice.

Jian Yujie followed Jian Yiling. He had a radiant smile on his face and appeared to be speaking to Jian Yiling.

Zhai Yunsheng was also walking with them. However, he trailed slightly behind the other two.

He Yan was delighted to see Zhai Yunsheng appear with Jian Yujie. This was definitely good news for her!

Jian Shuxing and Wen Nuan longingly gazed at their daughter. Their hearts were swayed. However, after a moment, they looked back at Jian Yunnao. He focused his negative emotions on his phone and ignored everyone around him.

Jian Yuncheng's brows were knotted again. His gaze fell on Zhai Yunsheng. The man was less than two meters away from Jian Yiling.

And that man was dangerous.

His sister shouldn't be close to such a person.

After the barbecue today, he was ready to have a word with Yu Xi.

Grandpa Jian and Grandma Jian had already sat down. The two elders seemed like two children who were quietly waiting for food.

As soon as Jian Yiling arrived, Grandma Jian smiled at her and said, "Our darling cooked for us today! Granny will wait for your food. Is that okay?"