

Super Soldier in the City

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Chapter 45: Chapter 44 Life

"Hello, so you've run out of things to say? Let me tell you, next time you brag to me, make it a little more believable, especially when you talk about President Xu. Such a pure and noble woman, and a company president at that. Do you really think that someone like you could be with her?" He Fangqing delighted in taking jabs at Li Yifei.

Li Yifei responded casually, "Why not? After all, you, Director He, also call me in the dead of night, don't you?"

He Fangqing was so choked up by Li Yifei's remark that she immediately retorted bitterly, "You jerk, how dare you bring that up, what was going on with you today?"

"What happened to me today?" Li Yifei asked, truly puzzled.

Still acting dumb? What did you do to me in the elevator today? You scoundrel, pervert, you're shameless, utterly despicable."

Li Yifei chuckled and said, "Director He, I really can't be blamed for that. The elevator was as packed as sticky rice dumplings, it was impossible not to be pressed against you."

"But you... shouldn't have done that."

Her words were incredibly suggestive, stirring something in Li Yifei's heart. He smiled and said, "With a beauty like Director He in my arms, if I didn't react, then I definitely wouldn't be a man. It's simply that your charm is too great, you can't blame me for that."

"Oh, cut it out with your smooth talk."

"Heh heh."

"Ah, you despicable rogue, don't you dare say another word, or I'll really get angry." What she meant was that she wasn't actually angry right now.

Li Yifei didn't continue to tease her. After all, he was at Xu Yingying's house, and he could hear Xu Yingying's footsteps coming this way. Even if she didn't enter his room, she might be going to take a shower or something. If she heard him talking about He Fangqing, it wouldn't be good.

"Alright, alright, I'll stop. So, Director He, can you finally tell me why you called?"

He Fangqing snorted and said, "I called to warn you. You need to show me some respect at the company, and you can't have any inappropriate behavior, let alone make casual remarks. Especially in the elevator, you are not allowed to... take advantage of me, or else I won't let you off the hook."

"Alright, alright, I'll regard you as my superior in my heart and definitely treat you like a subordinate facing their director on the outside. Are you satisfied now?"

"That's more like it, I'm not going to talk to you anymore. I'm going to sleep." With that, He Fangqing hung up the phone promptly. Although it seemed she spent most of her time today chatting with Li Yifei, even if they discussed serious matters, it ended up being inconsequential.

Now, Li Yifei truly couldn't fathom He Fangqing's thoughts. Why did it feel like she was flirting with him? If she really fell for him and clung to him, that would be troublesome. He decided it was better to keep his distance from her to avoid further complications.

For a beauty like He Fangqing, probably more than ninety percent of men wouldn't refuse a flirtation, but Li Yifei belonged to the other ten percent. It wasn't that he disliked beauties like He Fangqing, it was that he genuinely didn't want to tie himself down to one woman at the moment.

After hanging up the phone, Li Yifei shook out the blanket and crawled into bed. But before he could lie down for two minutes, the house phone in the living room started ringing.

Nowadays, very few households still use landline phones as almost everyone has a mobile phone. However, Xu Yingying still kept one, and Li Yifei heard Xu Fangying's footsteps as she went to answer the phone.

"Shanshan, I'm really at a loss with you, checking in on me in the middle of the night..."

Upon hearing that, Li Yifei immediately got up, knowing that he too would have to take the call shortly.

"Are you being annoying? Fine, I'll get him for you. Yifei, Shanshan is looking for you."

"Coming." Li Yifei replied and got out of his room to the living room, took the phone from Xu Yingying's hands, and cheerfully said, "Shanshan, your timing is perfect, I just got home. If you had called even a little later, I wouldn't have been home, and you would have said I was faking it with your sister again."

"Wow, brother-in-law, you're really at my sister's place?" Xu Shanshan's exaggerated voice came from the other end of the line.

"With your sister, the rich lady, around, I don't really see a reason not to come home every day."

"How boring, how can you two be together like this? Even if you're at home, I don't believe it."

"Well, there's nothing I can do about it. Your sister and I are like a tortoise looking at a green bean—we are smitten with each other." After saying this, Li Yifei felt Xu Yingying's glaring at him, and he immediately realized that his words had insulted not only Xu Yingying but also himself.

"Fine then, I'll just keep suffering. Oh my, why did you have to take a liking to my sister? Just keep letting her be single so I can worry to death."

The landline's receiver was quite loud, so Xu Yingying also heard Xu Shanshan's words and immediately snatched the receiver, annoyed, and said, "You little brat, what are you talking about?"

"Hmph, it's all because you got a boyfriend so early, making mom nag at me all the time. If I don't blame you, who else would I blame? Ah, I'm not talking to you anymore, I'm going back to being miserable."

Xu Yingying hung up the phone and let out a long sigh of relief. Meanwhile, Li Yifei said with a chuckle, "Does this mean I can consider the mission accomplished?"

Xu Yingying shook her head, "No, you still need to stay here for the next two days. I know this girl too well. She definitely won't give up that easily. She's bound to call again within these two days. Only when she learns that you're here again will she probably lose hope."

"That really is troublesome. Alright then, I'll stay for another two days." After speaking, Li Yifei returned to his own room with a gloomy expression on his face.

At this moment, Xu Yingying really wanted to call Li Yifei back and ask him what that expression meant, but she swallowed her words. Even though she was good-looking and a company president, it didn't mean that every man would revolve around her. However, Li Yifei's attitude was indeed quite a blow to her.

When she went to the bathroom to take a shower, she was surprised to find Li Yifei's underwear on the washing machine. They were bought by her and were clearly dry, meaning they hadn't been washed. This left Xu Yingying somewhat speechless. The guy changed his underwear but didn't wash them right away—did he actually expect her to do it while at her parents' house?

She really wanted to ignore it, but the thought of unwashed underwear in her bathroom made Xu Yingying extremely uncomfortable.

"Forget it, I have washed them for him before. Besides, I need his help for something these next two days, so I might as well wash them." Xu Yingying consoled herself and washed Li Yifei's underwear, but inside, she felt exceptionally aggrieved.

The night passed without incident. The next morning, the two bumped into each other in the bathroom—Li Yifei had just gone in as Xu Yingying was brushing her teeth.

"Didn't you see I was brushing my teeth? What are you doing in here?" Xu Yingying glared at Li Yifei, her mouth full of foam.

Li Yifei stepped out, saying, "Then hurry up, I'm waiting to use the toilet."

Xu Yingying frowned. Reminded of having to share a toilet with Li Yifei, she felt extremely awkward. The thought of her bare bottom having been where Li Yifei would sit made her extremely uncomfortable, not to mention sitting on the toilet seat after Li Yifei had sat there bare-bottomed as well.

But it was an inevitability she couldn't avoid. Xu Yingying braced herself and just endured it; she couldn't stop Li Yifei from using the toilet in her house.

After she had finished brushing her teeth and washing her face, Xu Yingying finally left the bathroom. Li Yifei muttered, "I was about to burst," and hurriedly entered the bathroom, slamming the door shut behind him.

Seeing Li Yifei like this, Xu Yingying felt inexplicably happy. If she had known he was so desperate, she should have dawdled a bit longer.

As soon as Li Yifei came out, she crossed her arms and said discontentedly, "Could you please sit down when you go next time?"

"Sit down? I'm not a woman. Don't you know men stand up to pee?" It seemed to him that this woman wanted to control everything, even his bodily functions.

"I don't care what you do elsewhere, but this is my house. When you stand... it splashes everywhere, and it's not easy to clean up. Could you please be considerate and sit down in the future?"

"Ugh, such a hassle. Fine, fine, I'll sit from now on. For a real man like me to stoop to sitting while peeing, it's a tragedy."

Xu Yingying didn't expect Li Yifei to give in so easily, and a smile appeared on her face, "Thank you. At least it will be easier on me."

"Whatever, you have too many rules. It's better to get Shanshan's issue sorted out soon. Then I can be free. No wonder you don't have a boyfriend—with all these annoying habits, which man could stand it?"

Li Yifei's comment immediately made Xu Yingying's eyes widen, but she was too lazy to argue with him and went in to clean the toilet. The thought of a president like her, washing a toilet for an employee, did make her feel quite aggrieved.

At that moment, Li Yifei was standing by the door, watching Xu Yingying scrubbing with her bottom wiggling, which was quite the sight.

Just as he was enjoying the view, Xu Yingying suddenly turned around. To cover up his admiration, Li Yifei quickly said with a grin, "Heh, if the employees at our company saw you cleaning like this while I stand by watching, can you imagine their eyes popping out?"

Xu Yingying glared at Li Yifei unamusedly, "A president is also a person and has their own personal life. Can't I do everything at home myself?"

Li Yifei laughed heartily, "Anyway, I feel quite accomplished right now. To have a president wait on me for several days... just thinking about it makes me happy."

"Hurry up and get ready for work. If you're late, I'll definitely deduct your salary."

"You haven't left yet, what's the rush?" Li Yifei remained leisurely.

"Just a reminder, although I have a car, I won't be taking you with me. You'll have to find your own way, either by bus or taxi."

Li Yifei's eyes widened, "Come on, President Xu, isn't that a bit too underhanded?"

"I can't help it. I don't want to provoke any gossip. You'll just have to endure it. At most, I can reimburse you for the travel expenses these few days."

Li Yifei huffed and turned back to his room to change. With buses crowded at this hour, he certainly didn't want to be late.

Chapter 46: Chapter 45 The Little Girl

Li Yifei used to live quite close to his company, so he could just walk to work, but now that he was staying at Xu Yingying's place, which was much farther away, he had to take the bus.

This was Li Yifei's first time squeezing onto the bus in Mile City, and it was only upon reaching the bus stop that he realized just how many people were there, all scrambling to get on—the workers and the students alike—at this hour.

After letting two buses pass because he had tried to queue up civilly, while everyone else clambered on recklessly, he realized that time was running out. Afraid of being late for work, Li Yifei decided to join the scramble when the third bus arrived.

Using his strength to his advantage made boarding the bus feel like child's play, and he managed to muscle his way inside smoothly.

Once he was on the bus, however, he found the situation not unlike the cramped elevator he had experienced before, only worse. People pressed against each other, compressed together, turning the bus into something resembling a sardine can.

Surrounded by people on all sides, Li Yifei felt far from dejected. After all, wasn't this ordinary life what he was seeking when he left the military?

As the bus started and jerked into motion, people swayed in unison, and Li Yifei quickly reached out to steady himself on a handrail while someone pressed tightly against his back. Despite the layered clothing worn due to the winter cold, he could still feel the softness against him, clearly indicating a woman behind him.

Turning around, he saw a girl in a down jacket. She looked about sixteen or seventeen, not too short, standing around 165 centimeters. Girls at that age have typically reached full maturity, including their height reaching its peak.

She was carrying a backpack and had her hair tied up in a ponytail, with a oval-shaped face, a slightly pointed chin, and two big, round eyes that were now fixed on Li Yifei with an embarrassed smile, obviously aware that her chest had bumped into him.

Li Yifei responded with a smile before turning back around. She was certainly a pretty girl, who would likely grow up to be on par with the likes of Xu Yingying, but Li Yifei had no interest in kids, especially not one who was still a student.

A couple of minutes into the ride, the girl behind him began to fidget and kept pushing closer to Li Yifei, which puzzled him. What's this girl up to? He didn't entertain the thought that she might be flirting with him on purpose. After all, it was said that girls nowadays liked to chase after older men.

Just as he was about to turn around, he heard the girl shout from behind him, "You filthy pervert, get away from me! Do you think I'm an easy target?"

Her voice was sharp, clear, and loud, instantly drawing the attention of everyone on the bus, including Li Yifei.

The girl was now glaring at a young man in his twenties standing beside her. Anger blazed in her large eyes, making her look quite fierce.

The young man, wearing a leather jacket and sporting a green-styled haircut, looked neither apologetic nor ashamed but glared back and said, "What are you shouting for? In such a crowded bus, a little bump is normal, isn't it?"

The girl snapped back, "Normal? Get the hell away from me right now."

"Well, find me a spot then. I don't want to stand either. Little brat, don't cheek me. Keep it up, and I'll slap you," the guy retorted, staring her down.

It was clear to everyone what was happening. The man had been trying to take advantage of the crowd to harass the girl, but she was feisty and wouldn't just suffer in silence like many women might.

Li Yifei gently tugged at the girl's arm and said, "Let's swap places."

The girl turned to look at Li Yifei, nodded, and thanked him, "Thanks, Uncle."

Li Yifei chuckled at being called 'Uncle' and shifted the girl with one hand on her shoulder to swap places with her amidst the crowded bus.

Now, Li Yifei found himself between the girl and the green-haired young man, effectively preventing the latter from bothering the girl any further.

The bus was still packed, and Li Yifei was still in close contact with the girl, but his shoulder was touching her back, so she didn't think he was taking advantage of her. She even turned around and gave him a pretty smile.

After riding for four stops, Li Yifei prepared to get off, and the girl started to squeeze her way to the rear. It seemed they were getting off at the same stop. Li Yifei guessed that she was probably a student at the high school near his company.

Li Yifei also made a point of helping the girl off the bus.

"Thanks, Uncle! So, you're getting off here too?" The girl didn't immediately leave but instead spoke to Li Yifei with a smile.

Li Yifei pointed at the company building ahead and said, "I work there."

"I attend the Fourth High School just behind here. Nice to meet you, I'm Chu Xiaoyao," she said, offering her hand to Li Yifei with a friendly gesture.

Li Yifei found it amusing how formal kids were these days and shook her hand, introducing himself, "My name's Li Yifei."

With a giggle, she said, "Well then, we're acquainted now, Uncle. What time do you finish work?"

"Why?"

"We can walk together after work. I'd rather travel with you, Uncle. I don't want others taking advantage. You can be my protector."

Li Yifei couldn't help but smile, "Okay, I get off work at five-thirty, and I usually leave the company around five-ten."

"Then we're about the same, I finish school at four-fifty. I'll wait for you, Uncle, for a bit. We've made a deal now, you better not stand me up."

Li Yifei laughed, "I won't. I don't usually have anything to do after work, I just go straight home."

Chu Xiaoyao giggled, waved to Li Yifei, and ran ahead. After a few steps, though, she ran back, clattering in her hurry, and said, "Uncle, can I borrow your phone for a sec?"

Li Yifei knew Chu Xiaoyao was asking for his phone number, so he handed over his mobile. Chu Xiaoyao dialed a number on it, and soon, her phone rang with music, after which she handed his mobile back to Li Yifei, smiling, "Uncle, save my number, okay? I don't want to call you and have you not know who I am."

"Sure." Li Yifei smiled and agreed, waved back to Chu Xiaoyao who bounced happily on her way back to school.

Youth is wonderful. Li Yifei once had such carefree days, but those days were gone forever. Watching Chu Xiaoyao did stir up memories for Li Yifei, and it seemed to lighten his mood quite a bit.

While the logistics department didn't seem to have big issues to deal with, there were endless small ones. Li Yifei was busy all day, he didn't even know what he was busy with. But for Li Yifei, this fulfilling life was pretty good.

Meanwhile, Michelle was constantly worried that Zhao QingSheng might cause trouble for Li Yifei, but Zhao QingSheng didn't appear at the company that day.

Today was Friday, but due to the Lunar New Year's shifting holidays, they still had to work the next day. Working two weeks in a row made everyone feel quite tired, but Li Yifei felt pretty good. Going to work was at least fulfilling, as he didn't have anything to do by himself on the weekends.

After work, Li Yifei leisurely left the company and saw Chu Xiaoyao pacing back and forth at the company's entrance, constantly looking inside. The security guards at the door were occasionally glancing at her. For these bachelors, such a beautiful girl had a certain allure, and they were curious who she was waiting for.

"Uncle!" When Chu Xiaoyao saw Li Yifei, she immediately stopped walking, waving and calling out to him.

Li Yifei had forgotten about Chu Xiaoyao waiting for him and greeted her with a smile, but he was stopped at the door by a familiar security guard, who pulled at Li Yifei's arm and whispered, "Yifei, what's your relationship with this little girl?"

"Nothing, just met her." Li Yifei replied casually.

The security guard's eyes widened in surprise, "Wow, Yifei, you're getting more amazing, bagging a little Lolita."

Li Yifei suddenly felt embarrassed, "What nonsense are you talking about, am I that kind of beast?"

"You are." The security guard vigorously nodded his head, then turned to look at Chu Xiaoyao with envy.

Li Yifei, lost for words, shook off the security guard and headed straight for Chu Xiaoyao, "You really waited for me, huh?"

"Of course, why wouldn't I rely on an uncle like you as a bodyguard?" she said and then chuckled.

Li Yifei shook his head, "I really didn't expect to end up as a bodyguard for a little girl." He reflected on how he had protected many people in his life, and though he had protected girls her age too, none of them were as forward as her.

The two walked shoulder to shoulder to the bus stop. Chu Xiaoyao tilted her head and asked, "Uncle, you just started working at this company, right?"

"Pretty much."

"No wonder I didn't see you before. That means you're not a senior executive yet, just a small employee."

"Yeah, you see senior executives don't take the bus; they have their own cars."

"Hehe, but senior executives all start from being small employees, right? I believe one day, Uncle, you'll definitely become a senior executive."

Li Yifei couldn't help but laugh, "I don't even have confidence in myself, where do you get so much confidence in me from?"

"It's simple, Uncle likes to help people, and that's sure to get you noticed by the leaders."

"Forget it, our leaders don't appreciate me that much."

"That's because they lack vision," Chu Xiaoyao huffed, "Hey, when I have my own company in the future, I will definitely make you my CEO."

Li Yifei laughed heartily, "Well, I'll be waiting for that day then, just hope it won't make me wait until my hair turns white."

"Hehe..." Chu Xiaoyao cheekily stuck out her tongue, "That's true, I don't even know what sort of job I'll be able to find for myself in the future."

Chapter 47: Chapter 46: Living a Simple Life

It was the peak of the rush hour, and the public buses were extremely crowded, but with Li Yifei's protection, Chu Xiaoyao easily squeezed onto the bus. The two of them managed to get to a slightly less crowded spot towards the back, and here, Chu Xiaoyao faced Li Yifei as she spoke to him.

"Uncle, I've realized that taking the bus with you is much more relaxed for me, nobody else can squeeze in close, and those creepy uncles can't take advantage of me," she said.

With that remark, several men around them broke out in a sweat; they were all uncle-aged, and it was normal to take the chance to cop a feel while jostling on the bus — as if Chu Xiaoyao was talking about them.

Li Yifei smiled and said, "Maybe in a couple of days, I won't be taking the bus anymore."

"Why? Are you switching jobs again?"

"No, I'm moving."

"No way, Uncle, you're really disappointing me. What's so bad about where you live now that you have to move?"

"Hehe, I'm currently just staying at a friend's place, I need a place of my own eventually."

Chu Xiaoyao pursed her pretty lips and said, "Then why not rent something nearby? It's still renting no matter where you go, right?"

Li Yifei shook his head and said, "I've already found a place and paid the deposit."

"Stinky Uncle, you're really not being nice," Chu Xiaoyao kicked Li Yifei, looking quite miffed.

Li Yifei found it quite amusing and said, "But you can still come visit me. It's just that taking the same bus won't be very likely."

"Hmph! I'm not talking to you anymore." Chu Xiaoyao pouted and turned her head away, truly ignoring Li Yifei.

Li Yifei didn't coax Chu Xiaoyao. This little girl was just passing through his life, and besides, they didn't have much of a friendship. Helping her twice was just a fluke.

The bus soon reached the stop, and both Li Yifei and Chu Xiaoyao got off. Chu Xiaoyao, who had been feeling cross, then asked Li Yifei, "Uncle, where do you live?"

Li Yifei pointed to the British Mansion district and said, "I'm currently staying here."

Chu Xiaoyao immediately exclaimed loudly, "Wow, that's where the rich people live!"

Li Yifei chuckled and said, "That's my friend's place, not mine."

Chu Xiaoyao said enviously, "I wish I could live in a fancy district like that, but my family can't afford it, so I have to live over there." She pointed to another district across the street.

The district she pointed to looked rather old. Compared to the upscale British Mansion, it certainly was several levels lower. And a girl who rode the bus every day obviously did not come from a very wealthy family background.

"You'll get a chance eventually. You're young. In the future, with your own hard work, you'll be able to make enough money to buy a villa and live in an even nicer district than this one."

Chu Xiaoyao twitched her mouth and said, "Uncle makes it sound so easy. You're so old now, and you still need to rent, sigh, it seems like I'll just have to marry someone wealthy, so I can make a lot of money without working hard."

Li Yifei was speechless. What on earth were young girls thinking these days? Chu Xiaoyao was so young yet so materialistic; it was somewhat hard for him to accept.

"Hehe, I'm still young. Anyway, I can't keep up. Bye Uncle, see you tomorrow morning." Chu Xiaoyao waved at Li Yifei and then cheerfully ran into the district opposite.

Li Yifei shook his head and also walked towards the entrance of the district. Last night, Xu Yingying had given him a card to enter the district and a key to her home, so now he could freely come and go as he pleased without Xu Yingying.

When he got back to Xu Yingying's home, Xu Yingying had not yet returned. Li Yifei changed his clothes, went into the kitchen and saw that there was basically nothing substantial to cook. He shook his head. It seemed Xu Yingying really wasn't the type to manage a household, as he wondered what she even ate at home.

Fortunately, there was rice. Li Yifei started cooking the rice and was about to go out to buy some vegetables when his phone rang. It was Xu Shanshan's number. This girl clearly hadn't given up yet.

"Brother-in-law, what are you doing?"

In Xu Yingying's home, Li Yifei was able to deal with Xu Shanshan easily, "I've just made rice and am about to go out to buy some veggies."

"Ah, I want to eat the dishes you cook, Mom's cooking is too hard to swallow."

"You better not let Auntie hear that or else you can kiss your home-cooked meals goodbye. Oh, looks like your sister's back, and she's got the groceries, so no need for me to head out," Li Yifei said as Xu Yingying returned with some groceries. Then, to Xu Shanshan, he added, "You chat with your sister, I'll get started on the cooking."

After taking the groceries from Xu Yingying and handing her the phone, Li Yifei headed straight into the kitchen, only to hear Xu Yingying mutter impatiently for a moment before hanging up.

"That pesky girl, she's such a headache," Xu Yingying said, changing her clothes and heading to the kitchen doorway.

Li Yifei, busy chopping vegetables, replied, "I reckon one more time and she'll give up for good."

Xu Yingying nodded and said, "I think so too." She watched Li Yifei skillfully cutting vegetables and couldn't help but admire his knife skills. It's no wonder Xu Shanshan always enjoyed watching Li Yifei cook at their parents' house.

Having Xu Yingying watch him wasn't as comfortable as having Xu Shanshan around, and it also brought an inexplicable pressure. Li Yifei stopped and said, "All right, Xu President, I'm not at ease with you here; you should go do whatever you need to. I'll call you when the food's ready."

Xu Yingying nodded and said, "Thanks, then," before turning to go back to her bedroom.

Today, Xu Yingying had purchased some fine ingredients, including vegetables, meat, a live fish, and a pound of shrimp—much better than what Li Yifei usually bought. With the intention of improving their meal, Li Yifei cooked up everything she bought and then loudly called out, "President Xu, dinner's ready!"

From her bedroom, Xu Yingying already smelled the delicious aroma wafting from the living room. Her stomach embarrassingly growled nonstop, but unlike her sister, Xu Shanshan, she definitely wouldn't run out to sneak a bite—she even resisted coming

out just to take a peek. When she heard Li Yifei's call, she couldn't hold back any longer and headed straight for the kitchen.

Before she could even sit down, Li Yifei said to her with a grin, "You must be starving, hurrying out like this to eat."

"Who says I'm in a hurry?" Xu Yingying naturally wouldn't admit it.

Li Yifei blinked and teased, "Heh heh, with President Xu's personality, if it weren't urgent, why would you sit down to eat without even washing your hands?"

Xu Yingying's face instantly flushed red. She quickly got up to wash her hands, and after dawdling for a bit, she returned to the dining table, where a bowl of rice was already served for her.

"President Xu, I don't mind if you flaunt your bossy side, but I'm going to start eating," Li Yifei said, having already stuffed a big bite of fish into his mouth.

"The groceries are mine, why wouldn't I eat?" Xu Yingying found an excuse and promptly began to eat with her chopsticks.

Although Xu Yingying was diligent and successful in her work at Mile City, she wasn't as good at taking care of herself in everyday life. She often skipped breakfast, had lunch at the company cafeteria with its simple fare—and it was anything but gourmet—and if she didn't have social engagements in the evening, she'd just make do with something at home.

Having such a variety of dishes at home in the evening was a first for her, and the food Li Yifei made was genuinely tasty, which had her immediately unable to put down her chopsticks.

Li Yifei really liked it when others enjoyed the meals he cooked, especially if they ate uninhibitedly—it meant he cooked well and gave him a sense of achievement. Cooking was one of his few hobbies and one he was rather adept at.

"Phew, I'm full," Xu Yingying said after devouring two small bowls of rice, pausing to lick a bit of sauce from her lips in a manner that was both sexy and charming.

Li Yifei's gaze lingered on her, caught by her beauty. If it weren't for the fact that Xu Yingying was still single, he would certainly have considered pursuing her.

"What are you staring at?" Xu Yingying, feeling somewhat dazed by Li Yifei's look, knew she'd lost her composure that evening. She stood up and slowly made her way towards the living room. She had eaten so much that she felt bloated; it seemed that if she walked too fast, the food in her stomach might just force its way out.

Li Yifei chuckled but didn't tease her; instead, he started cleaning up the table.

Sitting on the sofa, Xu Yingying casually turned on the TV. It felt like years since she had watched TV leisurely after a meal.

As she watched, her gaze kept sneaking back toward the kitchen, where Li Yifei, with an apron tied around his chest, was efficiently tidying up the dining table until it was spotless. He then moved to the sink to wash the dishes. The busy figure bustling around in the kitchen somehow mesmerized Xu Yingying.

Although she was successful in her career and had met many successful men—with countless outstanding men pursuing her—Xu Yingying felt nothing for them. The more successful they were, the more she could see through the façade of these men—their inner selves were just too nasty, especially their attitudes towards women. They mostly seemed to only be after a fling, a concept Xu Yingying could never accept.

The current Li Yifei seemed to have struck a chord in her heart. All she really wanted was to have someone care for her after a hard day's work, to come home to a hot meal, instead of having to cater to someone else's whims.

"Here, have some tea to help you digest. You don't usually eat much, so suddenly eating this much might be too much for your stomach," Li Yifei said, placing a cup of tea in front of her in the living room.

When he sat down, he noticed Xu Yingying looking at him with an odd expression and quickly said with a grin, "What? Think I take good care of you and that I wouldn't be a bad boyfriend?"

Xu Yingying immediately gave him a scornful look and retorted, "Don't flatter yourself." But she felt awkward, as though Li Yifei had seen right through her thoughts.

Chapter 48: Chapter 47 Xu Yingying's Test

Last night, when she was washing Li Yifei's underwear, Xu Yingying kept criticizing him continuously, but tonight, after Li Yifei finished his shower first and left his underwear on the washing machine, her heart didn't harbor the same disgust when she washed them again.

"I'm only helping him wash because he helped me out, and he even cooked me a meal," Xu Yingying found an excuse for herself, but her reason told her very clearly that she was somewhat attracted to Li Yifei.

However, Xu Yingying still shook her head. Although Li Yifei was indeed in some respects a suitable partner, the kind of husband a career-driven woman like her needed, her standards for a boyfriend were high. Li Yifei obviously had many aspects that she

couldn't stand, so that kind of thought was just a fleeting one, which Xu Yingying immediately dismissed.

The next morning, Li Yifei used some leftovers from yesterday to make two bowls of seafood noodles, and Xu Yingying had the rare pleasure of having breakfast at home.

Li Yifei left home first. Xu Yingying went out a bit later, then went straight to the underground garage to get her car, drove out of the neighborhood, and subconsciously glanced toward the bus station. She caught sight of Li Yifei talking with a girl carrying a backpack, who was giggling nonstop and smiling intermittently, looking rather intimate with Li Yifei.

This made Xu Yingying frown immediately. She had a certain understanding of Li Yifei's situation and knew that this guy had no relatives in Mile City and should know not many friends. Yet here he was, laughing and chatting with a girl who looked like a student, which really made one suspect their relationship.

As a modern person, Xu Yingying wouldn't mind how many girlfriends a man had before marriage, but Li Yifei courting even young girls, that was despicable to her. Any good feelings she had for Li Yifei vanished in an instant.

Nevertheless, Xu Yingying remained calm. She hadn't verified this incident herself. Perhaps the girl was the child of one of Li Yifei's friends, which would make sense.

At that moment, the bus arrived. Li Yifei stretched out his hands, guarding the little girl as she boarded the bus. The girl kept talking to Li Yifei, looking back while chattering away; they seemed to have been acquainted for a long time and had a very close relationship.

"Beep beep." A car horn sounded from behind, and Xu Yingying realized that her car had been idling all this time, simply coasting slowly forward. She quickly stepped on the accelerator, and her Buick gradually picked up speed, merging into the flow of traffic on the main road.

There was some traffic today, and Xu Yingying arrived at the office later than usual. After parking her car, she saw Li Yifei again at the entrance of the company. He had just got off the bus with that girl, exchanged a few words, and then the girl skipped into the nearby high school.

Xu Yingying frowned but didn't wait for Li Yifei. Instead, she went straight into the company and stood waiting for the elevator.

The elevator hadn't come down yet when Li Yifei arrived behind her and greeted, "Good morning, President Xu."

"Hmph!" Xu Yingying huffed at Li Yifei for no reason.

Li Yifei was taken aback, not understanding what was wrong with Xu Yingying this early morning. Everything seemed fine at home, and since work hadn't even started at the office, he didn't think he had done anything wrong.

"Good morning, President Xu." Accompanied by the sound of high heels, Director He Fangqing arrived at the elevator.

Xu Yingying greeted Director He and then suddenly remembered that Li Yifei had called Director He that evening. She subconsciously paid attention to the two, but noticed that besides greeting Li Yifei, Director He no longer talked to him, seemingly as if they were quite strangers to each other.

This made Xu Yingying feel that something was off. If they could call each other in the evening, that indicated a good relationship, but in the company, Director He acted as if she barely knew Li Yifei. It seemed there was only one reason for that, which was to conceal their acquaintance.

Because she had to hide her fake relationship with Li Yifei, Xu Yingying was particularly sensitive to such things. Additionally, with news from the head office that Director He's marriage was not going well and she was in the process of getting a divorce, it would not be surprising if Director He was seeing someone else.

It was just that Director He being interested in Li Yifei was somewhat unbelievable to Xu Yingying. What was it about Li Yifei that made a senior executive like Director He take an interest in him? After all, Director He had been quite a figurehead at the head office and was transferred to their company as the financial director for some special reasons.

Then the elevator arrived. Everyone squeezed in, but not as tightly packed as that other day. There was a distance between each person, with Director He chatting quietly with Xu Yingying and not glancing at Li Yifei at all.

The day before yesterday, Director He had called Li Yifei out of the blue and later deeply regretted it. Even if her marriage had reached its end, she didn't want to indulge herself recklessly. Having experienced one failed marriage, her understanding of men had become much clearer. Those who sweet-talked her every day were not necessarily the ones who could accompany her for life. At this time, she needed to be even more restrained, especially if her not-yet-divorced husband found out, it would only create a heap of trouble, and that guy was just waiting to find fault with her.

So He Fangqing made up her mind, no matter what, she had to completely sever her relationship with Li Yifei and could no longer have any entanglements with him.

Xu Yingying and He Fangqing were both very serious about their work. They had met in the morning to discuss work matters. He Fangqing had tidied up her things and was about to leave when Xu Yingying seemingly casually said, "Director He, what do you think about the current personnel arrangements within the company?"

"Personnel arrangements, President Xu? I'm in charge of finance, isn't personnel out of my jurisdiction?" He Fangqing was somewhat mystified by the question Xu Yingying posed.

"I'm not asking you to arrange it, but the staffing in our company is still too bloated. Some people related to the head office, or other departments, not only don't work properly in our company but also affect the work enthusiasm of other employees. This really gives me a headache. I'm wondering if Director He has any good solutions?"

It wasn't a specific study, just a chat, or a discussion, so He Fangqing also thought about it and said, "This matter is indeed troublesome, not just in the branch office but also within the head office. Those people are not easy to offend; if you touch them, you'll offend people from all sides. However, if you don't manage them properly, the impact on other employees is huge, especially on those who work diligently. It's absolutely unfair for them to earn the same salary as those who do nothing, but if you want to increase their salary, the idlers will surely not agree. This is also a real dilemma for the company's financial system."

Xu Yingying sighed and said, "Yeah, in the first half of last year, the company did not encounter such a situation. In the second half of the year, more and more people came to our company, and they were all people who took money without doing any work, just like the day I arranged for Li Yifei to join the company, I knew that people inside the company would think he was another one just taking money without working."

Upon hearing Li Yifei's name, He Fangqing's heart rate increased, and she probed, "Li Yifei was actually arranged by President Xu to come in? Could it be that he really has connections upstairs?"

Xu Yingying noticed the subtle change in He Fangqing's facial expression and became more interested. She shook her head and said, "No, he was originally a security guard in our building. I saw that he was very conscientious in his work and had some abilities. Although our company has many idlers, there are not many talents, so I was moved by the desire to recruit talent and brought him into the company."

"Oh, I see, President Xu really is desperate for talent."

"He can't really be considered a talent," she said, "he's just usable. Why, Director He, are you familiar with him as well?"

"No... not familiar. How could I be familiar with him? I only found out about him after coming to the branch office. The first day, when he helped me with office supplies, that's when I met him."

Xu Yingying suddenly asked this question and disrupted He Fangqing's composure. Although her explanation was clear, there was a sense of trying to hide something more. With Xu Yingying's keen observational skills as a senior executive, she could tell

that He Fangqing wasn't telling the truth, but of course, she wouldn't point it out at that moment. She smiled slightly and said, "I'm just voicing a few complaints, Director He doesn't need to worry too much. In this company, the only one I can really talk to is probably you, Director He."

"Thank you for the trust, President Xu. If there's nothing else, I'll go back to work then."

"Sure, go ahead." Xu Yingying nodded.

After He Fangqing left, Xu Yingying tapped her fingers lightly on the desk, really unable to understand the relationship between Li Yifei and He Fangqing. If He Fangqing hadn't been so defensive, she might really have failed to see any connection between them. At most, she believed He Fangqing might have occasionally asked Li Yifei for help with something minor. But He Fangqing's defensiveness hinted that their relationship was out of the ordinary, and it was incredible for Xu Yingying to think a senior executive like He Fangqing could have an unusual relationship with a former security guard like Li Yifei.

But soon she laughed at herself mockingly. It was one thing to find He Fangqing's situation incredible, but her own was even more so. She was still living under the same roof as Li Yifei, experiencing a semblance of domestic life. If He Fangqing knew, who knew what she would think?

Back in her office, He Fangqing was feeling uneasy and reflected carefully on the words Xu Yingying had uttered to her. She suddenly felt that Xu Yingying might have been testing her. Could Xu Yingying have noticed her relationship with Li Yifei?

That was unlikely, wasn't it? Apart from a one-night stand, her contact with Li Yifei at the company, after the first day, was limited to just two encounters in the elevator. Moreover, she had deliberately kept a distance from Li Yifei, so how could Xu Yingying have possibly noticed any relationship between them?

Could it be that day in the elevator when she and Li Yifei were squeezed together, and that guy played a trick that let Xu Yingying see?

"Oh my..." Thinking about this, He Fangqing really wished she could find a crack in the ground to crawl into. If Xu Yingying had really discovered what had happened between them that day, she would have lost all face.

"Damn Li Yifei, you've really killed me." He Fangqing now really wanted to summon Li Yifei to her office and bite him, but she didn't have the courage to let Li Yifei come to her office now. She could only keep cursing Li Yifei in her room.

Chapter 49: Chapter 48: Zhao Qingshan Looking for Faults

Li Yifei sneezed twice in the office, and Shen Yajuan immediately laughed and said, "Little Li, someone must be thinking of you early in the morning."

Li Yifei rubbed his nose and said, "Yeah, too handsome, nothing I can do about it."

Michelle let out a laugh and said, "Brother Li, you're really funny."

Li Yifei seriously said, "What do you mean funny, you don't know, no matter how low-key I am, I can't hide my dazzling brilliance. The moment I stand here, countless beauties throw themselves into my arms."

Having worked in the logistics department for a week, Li Yifei had already grown familiar with everyone. None of these people liked to put on airs, and as they were all ordinary employees, they got along well. Li Yifei also enjoyed joking with them. While some more outrageous jokes couldn't be made because Michelle was there, the general banter was harmless.

Now everyone in the office burst out laughing. Li Zhisheng pointed at Li Yifei, barely holding back his chuckles, and said, "I tell you, Little Li, then you should bring one of these beauties to show us, to give us an eye-opener."

Shen Yajuan glanced at Michelle and laughed, "If you manage to woo our little Michelle, then I'll be impressed. Forget about the other beauties, be careful not to ruin your image in front of Michelle."

Michelle's face turned red all of a sudden as she stuttered, "Sister Shen... don't tease me, please."

Li Yifei squinted at Michelle, shook his head, and said, "Michelle, although you're beautiful, you're not my type. I like them wild, and you're too gentle. Such a character is good for a domestic life but not for a wild-hearted man like me."

Shen Yajuan pursed her lips and said, "All you men are wild before you get married. The most important thing is to tie your hearts down, not let you have the chance to go out enjoying life. A wild monkey like you, if you were in my hands, I'd make sure you behave."

Li Yifei chuckled and said, "Looks like brother-in-law must be well-trained by you."

Shen Yajuan smiled proudly and said, "Certainly, your brother-in-law was much wilder than you, but he's been staying at home honestly ever since we married. He never comes home later than nine at night. Speaking of which, take a look at Brother Li; he used to be quite the charmer, and now he's as tame as a cat. Even for company gatherings, he has to ask his wife half the day if he can go."

Li Zhisheng immediately rolled his eyes and said, "Why are you dragging me into this? That's called being responsible, okay? It's because my wife cares for me, alright?"

Chen Fei laughed heartily and said, "Brother Li, stop bragging. Just a few months ago, those scratches on your face, you said you got them from a bump, but they were obviously made by your wife. How fierce she is, we all know."

Li Zhisheng immediately turned red and was at a loss for words, while the rest of the office burst into laughter. Shen Yajuan went over, resting an arm on Li Zhisheng's shoulder, and said, "Brother Li, this is nothing to be ashamed of. Love is fear. If you weren't good to your wife, she would've slapped you away, not just scratched you."

Li Zhisheng nodded repeatedly and said, "Yes, yes, that's a sign of our good relationship, a little fight now and then spices it up, right?"

Everyone laughed again, but a loud shout suddenly stopped all the laughter.

"This is work time, what are you idling around and chatting for?"

The person who came in was Zhao QingSheng, with a sullen face and a fierce look that scanned over everyone's faces. Everyone immediately returned to their positions. Although nobody respected Zhao QingSheng, he was a vice-president after all. If he really came looking for trouble, they would not be able to handle it, and by now everyone understood that Zhao QingSheng was most likely looking for trouble with Li Yifei, wondering if he would take this opportunity to act.

After Zhao QingSheng flaunted his authority, he also deliberately gave Li Yifei a glance. His look carried a sort of mockery and ridicule before he actually turned and left.

As soon as Zhao QingSheng left, Shen Yajuan immediately pushed her chair and glided over to Li Yifei, whispering, "Little Li, you need to be careful. This guy likes to play dirty. You never know when he'll make his move."

Li Yifei smiled broadly and said gratefully, "Thanks, Sister Shen, I'll meet the soldier and cover the earth with water. I'm not afraid of him."

Shen Yajuan rolled her eyes at Li Yifei and said, "Just be careful with everything. Don't give him any leverage. Then, he'll have no way to deal with you, after all, it's President Xu who has the final say here, and he can't stir up too much trouble."

Just then, Michelle stood up and leaned over, saying, "Brother Li, it's my fault. I got you into trouble with him."

Li Yifei turned and smiled at Michelle, "That's how I am. Even without you, I would've offended him. I can't stand people like him."

Li Zhisheng also joined in, saying, "You don't have to blame yourselves. What we need now is to think about how Zhao QingSheng might come after Yifei. Let's figure out a plan first."

Shen Yajuan nodded repeatedly and said, "Right, that's what's important. As long as we're prepared and don't fall for his traps, he won't be able to touch Little Li."

"That guy always uses our cars. I'll see if I can pry something out of his mouth later on," He Dong added.

Chen Fei joined in and said, "Yeah, he's just a Vice-president, always acting all high and mighty. It annoys me just to look at him, plus he's pretty fond of bragging. Maybe if we butter him up with a few nice words, he'll let something slip. Later, He Dong and I will tip off Little Li."

In the past, Li Yifei had always heard that these office workers loved to engage in constant intrigues, especially those in the same office, often appearing cordial but harboring ill will. But now it seemed that at least these colleagues were actually quite nice. He laughed and said, "You guys are helping me out so much. Regardless of what happens, I'll remember your kindness. Once we get paid, I'll treat everyone to drinks."

With Li Yifei's promise, everyone was even more enthusiastic. In fact, it wasn't Li Yifei's treat that they were after; they simply couldn't stand Zhao QingSheng. Michelle was the darling of the office, and even if they couldn't get close to her, still, out of a man's instinct, no one wanted to see her fall into the hands of a jerk like Zhao QingSheng. So, at this point, it was nothing short of a united front against Zhao QingSheng.

That morning, Li Yifei and Michelle went out to purchase two laptop computers needed by the accounting department. By the time they finished setting them up, it was past lunchtime. The two grabbed a quick bite and then returned to the company.

As soon as they arrived at the company, a young man from the finance department came to the logistics department to collect the computers.

The distribution of office supplies had always been Michelle's responsibility, and many people took this opportunity to strike up a conversation with her. After the young man came in, he didn't leave immediately, instead, he chatted with Michelle idly.

Michelle responded with a smile, being a good-natured girl. As long as no one touched her inappropriately or made indecent jokes, she got along well with her colleagues.

While they were talking, Zhao QingSheng walked in and came straight up to Li Yifei, saying, "I heard that the company just got two new computers?"

The office suddenly fell quiet. Zhao QingSheng's visit was clearly aimed at Li Yifei, and no one knew what he had in mind concerning the computers.

Li Yifei smiled faintly and replied, "Yes, it was an order from the finance department, and we've already got them."

Zhao QingSheng immediately put on a stern face and said, "Then you keep them here. I've already promised one to Old Li from the sales department."

Michelle promptly exclaimed in astonishment, "General Zhao, the finance department placed the order directly, and President Xu has signed off on it. We have no reason to withhold them."

Zhao QingSheng glared and said, "I'm your superior, does what I say not count?"

Michelle was at a loss for words, but Li Yifei maintained his composure and responded, "General Zhao, you're right about that, but the order has President's approval, and if we withhold the computers, who would be accountable for that?"

Zhao QingSheng snorted and said, "I'll take care of the paperwork later. They can only have one computer."

Shen Yajuan hurried to make eye gestures at Li Yifei, urging him to agree, but Li Yifei shook his head and said, "I'm sorry, General Zhao, but I'm just following the company procedures. Although you're our leader, this matter has gone through General Zheng. If we don't deliver the computers to the finance department, we can't bear the responsibility if they ask about it later."

Zhao QingSheng slammed his hand on the desk, barking, "You really think you're above it all, huh? I'm an executive, and even a junior employee like you won't listen to me now. Haven't you learned to follow the orders of your superiors since joining this company? You are accountable to me, your direct superior. Are you trying to get fired right now by not following orders?"

"You are my superior, but I have to follow the company's rules even more. The company policy is clear—whomever brings an order, we supply them accordingly. As the vice-director of our logistics department, don't you know our department's regulations?"

Li Yifei's words remained calm, but he was directly confronting Zhao QingSheng, not giving him any face.

"Fine, I'll take a computer today and see who dares stop me." With that, Zhao QingSheng circled to the other side and picked up one of the two laptops on Michelle's desk.

But as he turned around, Li Yifei blocked his way. With a livid face, Zhao QingSheng said, "Move aside."

"Put down the computer, and you can leave."

"Little Li, move out of the way!" Shen Yajuan and Li Zhisheng called out anxiously at this point, while Michelle was so worried she didn't know what to do. She had never encountered such a predicament since joining the company and had no idea how to handle it.

Li Yifei smiled faintly and said, "General Zhao, without the order, I won't let you take the computer."

"Move it!" Zhao QingSheng was completely furious by now. He had come today to take Li Yifei down a peg and couldn't believe that Li Yifei was not taking him, an executive, seriously. Unable to hold back any longer, he roared and pushed toward Li Yifei's chest.

However, Li Yifei somehow stepped aside, and Zhao QingSheng ended up pushing at nothing. His force was so great that he continued to lunge forward, and then somehow tripped, losing his balance and going face-first to the ground.

With a "thump," the office went dead silent...

Chapter 50: Chapter 49: The Gossiping President Xu

Zhao QingSheng took a heavy fall, sprawling across the hallway like a painting, huffing and puffing several times before struggling to his feet. To everyone's surprise, his nose was actually bleeding. No one knew why he hadn't protected himself with his hands when he fell.

"Ugh..." Tears nearly spilled from Zhao QingSheng's eyes as he caught his breath, then exploded in anger, bellowing, "You little scoundrel, you dared to trip me?"

Li Yifei's eyes widened innocently as he said, "General Zhao, you must be mistaken. When did I ever trip you? Everyone saw it clearly. You ordered me to get out of the way; with a voice that could shatter rocks, you were bursting with such an imposing presence that it bore down on me. How could a small employee like me withstand such a formidable air? I quickly made way for you. I am still in awe of your overwhelming aura; my legs are still trembling. How could I dare trip you?"

Zhao QingSheng, pointing at Li Yifei, was so furious he nearly spat blood, nodding vehemently as he gritted his teeth and said, "You just wait, you little brat." Then he stormed off in a rage.

"Pfft..." Shen Yajuan was the first to let out a laugh, then everyone in the office followed suit. Although no one dared to laugh out loud, their muffled giggles were full of glee. Seeing Zhao QingSheng make such a fool of himself was a great relief to all of them.

The computer Zhao QingSheng had seized was now in Li Yifei's hands. He passed it to the young man from the finance department and said, "You better take this quickly before some big shot decides to snatch it away again. I don't know if I'll be able to secure it for the finance department next time."

The young man also sensed this place was fraught with trouble and quickly took the two computers, making a swift exit.

"Brother Li, you've offended General Zhao even more now. What are we going to do?" Michelle looked worriedly at Li Yifei.

Shen Yajuan weighed in as well, "Yes, you've really done it this time. Not only did you refuse to give him face, but you also caused him to fall. Little Li, you should've just let him take the computer. If anything happened, we could've just pinned it on him."

Li Zhisheng shook his head and said, "I don't see it that way. If we had let him take the computer, finance definitely wouldn't have stood for it. When things got traced back, Little Li and Michelle, who let the computers go without seeing a voucher, would be at fault. Michelle might have gotten away with it, but Little Li would certainly have been made to take the blame as an excuse."

Michelle quickly said, "But now he's taken a fall, and he's sure to hate Brother Li even more."

Li Yifei chuckled, "Well, he already hated me. A little more or a little less hate doesn't make much difference."

"It's all my fault," Michelle began to blame herself again.

"Look, if you bring it up again, I really can't be friends with you," Li Yifei retorted.

Sister Shen interjected at this point, "What? Little Li, you and Michelle are friends now?"

Li Yifei felt a wave of exasperation, responding, "Sister Shen, the friendship I meant is like the one you and I have. Don't get the wrong idea, okay?"

Sister Shen chuckled mischievously, "I think you two being friends is a good thing. Want me to play matchmaker for you?"

Michelle's face flushed crimson like a big apple, while Li Yifei just laughed it off, "Sister Shen, please don't start matchmaking out of nowhere."

Shen Yajuan giggled, "What do you mean 'out of nowhere'? I think you two are quite suitable. You take good care of Michelle. In the past, she would have had to marry you to pay off the debt."

Michelle became more embarrassed, stuttering, "Sister Shen, you're making fun of me again."

Li Yifei quickly said, "Sister Shen, don't tease anymore. If you keep it up, you'll drive Michelle away, and she won't be my apprentice anymore."

The group continued to joke and laugh, yet deep down they were all worried for Li Yifei, knowing well that Zhao QingSheng was infamous in the company for his vengeful nature. Crossing him would mean he wouldn't let things go easily.

However, Zhao QingSheng did not make another appearance for the rest of the day, and he wasn't seen when passing by the vice-president's office either.

When it was time to leave work, Li Yifei and Michelle walked out of the company building together, only to see Chu Xiaoyao, the young girl, waiting at the entrance.

"Uncle!" The girl shouted as soon as she saw Li Yifei emerge, completely indifferent to the stares of others.

Li Yifei waved to his colleagues with a smile, "I'll be leaving first."

"Who's that little girl?" Shen Yajuan asked, watching Li Yifei walk toward the bus stop with Chu Xiaoyao, curious.

No one answered, as no one else knew Chu Xiaoyao. It wasn't until a bit later that Li Zhisheng replied, "She must be a child from one of his friends' families. Didn't you see her calling Little Li 'uncle'?"

Shen Yajuan nodded, "Nevertheless, that girl is really pretty. When she grows up, she's sure to be no worse than Michelle."

Li Yifei, unaware that his colleagues were discussing Chu Xiaoyao, continued walking with her toward the bus station, asking, "Xiaoyao, I thought students didn't start school until March first, so why are you already starting now?"

Chu Xiaoyao rolled her eyes at Li Yifei, "Uncle, you've been walking with me for three days now, and only just thought of this?"

Li Yifei chuckled, "I just assumed it was normal for me to work while you go to school, but then it suddenly occurred to me that your school schedule is different from my work schedule."

"Uncle, are you an alien or something? I'm in my senior year now; do you really think we have any holidays in senior year?"

"So, you guys really have it tough."

Chu Xiaoyao immediately complained, "Exactly, it's so annoying. It's all just for getting into a college. What's the point? All day long it's College Entrance Exam this, College Entrance Exam that. Aside from studying, there's nothing else. Is it like if you don't get into college, you can't live?"

Li Yifei smiled and said, "Isn't that what studying is like nowadays? You've already reached senior year; just hang in there a little longer, and you'll be in college. Things will be easier then."

"Pfft, that's dull. I'm totally fed up with studying now. If it weren't for my family pushing me, I would have quit a long time ago."

Li Yifei broke out in a cold sweat, realizing that Chu Xiaoyao was also the type who disliked studying, just like him during his school days. He chuckled and said, "Then what can you do? Just bear with it."

"Huh, uncle, you're not going to lecture me?" Chu Xiaoyao looked at Li Yifei as if he were an alien.

"Why would I give you a lecture?"

"All the older people I've met before always go on like, 'You have to study hard, you know. Only by getting into a good college can you find a good job.' I'm so sick of hearing that."

Li Yifei laughed heartily and said, "Do you know how much schooling your uncle here has had?"

"How much?"

"I didn't even finish high school. I dropped out in the eleventh grade."

"Haha, at last, I've found a kindred spirit."

Li Yifei tapped Chu Xiaoyao on the head and said, "But don't get cocky. I had no choice. Only after getting out did I realize that life was easiest when I was in school. Anyway, you're not young anymore, and I don't have much of a say in this. Just figure it out for yourself."

"Hehe, uncle, I love the way you talk. Come on, let's get in the car and go home."

The two squeezed onto the bus, and Chu Xiaoyao chattered away to Li Yifei about amusing incidents at school. Li Yifei enjoyed listening, and the people around them were all drawn to Chu Xiaoyao, a pretty girl with a pleasant voice. Listening to her speak was a pleasure and helped ease some of the fatigue from work.

After getting off the bus, Li Yifei returned to Xu Yingying's house, only to find Xu Yingying sitting in the living room, still in her work clothes.

"Xu president, you came back so early today?" Li Yifei casually hung his clothes on the coat rack by the door and asked with a smile.

However, Xu Yingying's face was stern as she said, "There's something I need to ask you."

"What is it?" Li Yifei sat down on the sofa to the side.

"Who is that little girl?"

"Little girl? Are you talking about the one I rode the bus with?" Li Yifei looked at Xu Yingying in surprise.

"Exactly." Xu Yingying nodded.

Li Yifei, seeing the expression on Xu Yingying's face, then chuckled and said, "You know, Xu president, are you thinking about this with a rather dirty mind?"

Xu Yingying's expression remained unchanged as she spoke calmly, "While I have no right to interfere with your private life, you're an employee of my company. That little girl has been waiting for you at the company's door these past few days, and it has started some speculation. I need to get to the bottom of this to avoid any issues. If something happens later, and her relatives make a scene at the company, it could affect the company too."

Li Yifei stood up and said, "Then you've got nothing to worry about. I may not be a great person, but I'm not interested in little girls. Plus, I have no plans to settle down just yet. I know my limits when it's just for fun."

Xu Yingying, initially somewhat satisfied with the first part of Li Yifei's response, found his last remark quite displeasing. What did he mean by 'just for fun'? This guy was obviously still not trustworthy. She snorted coldly and said, "So, are you just 'having fun' with Director He, too?"

Li Yifei paused mid-step and said, "What about Director He? You must be mistaken. With someone like Director He, do I even have the standing to 'have fun' with her?"

Xu Yingying had thought that her sudden interrogation might catch Li Yifei off guard and make him reveal something, but he had responded in such a way. Could it mean that her suspicions were wrong, and there was no special relationship between He Fangqing and Li Yifei?

"I do have some personal dealings with Director He, but they're nothing worth mentioning. Manager Xu, please don't be so nosy, all right? Prying into others' privacy is a bad habit."

Finding herself directly called out by Li Yifei, Xu Yingying felt a bit embarrassed and could only retort stubbornly, "Who's prying into your privacy? I'm just worried about Director He being taken in by you."

Li Yifei laughed out loud and said, "I didn't expect our own Manager Xu to have such a gossipy side. If this got out to everyone at the company, they would absolutely be shocked." He then walked straight into the kitchen, determined to work hard on preparing tonight's dinner.

