

## **Chapter 1181: This is Compensation**

A few days before New Year's Day, Xia Xibei made a trip back to school.

She was now in her senior year of high school, but so far this semester, she had rarely gone back to school.

She didn't have a lot of work, but she had a lot of other things to do besides work.

Although she seldom came back to school, she would come back every time when the monthly exams were held, if there was nothing else going on.

So, the seniors had mixed feelings.

She obviously had so many things to do, so how come she could still maintain such good grades?!

After a few exams, she and Tang Luo both occupied the top two places on the list, sometimes tied for first place.

This was the kind of achievement that no one could catch up with.

It was because she had always maintained such good grades that she did not need to go back to school.

Moreover, every time she came back to school, she always caused crowding and congestion, which had a great impact on the students' learning spirit; she distracted the students!

Even the principal and director felt that it was better for her to work outside, and her leave of absence was easily granted.

This time, Xia Xibei still came back for the exams, and the next time she came back, it would be the final exams.

Song Jiaren was happy she came, but sad to see her so rarely.

As Xia Xibei's best friend, they hadn't seen each other for a while.

She was the leader of Xia Xibei's fan support group, and every time Xia Xibei was going to participate in any event, she would bring a group of people to support her, so she got to see her sometimes, but it always felt like something was missing.

"Come on, here's a treat for you!"

Looking at Song Jiaren's sorrowful eyes, Xia Xibei smiled, took her by the shoulders, and gave her a pill.

"What is this?" Song Jiaren looked at the pill suspiciously. "What's it for?"

"After you eat it, you will stay beautiful!"

Xia Xibei seemed to be a charlatan selling snake oil, with a mysterious expression.

“To keep me beautiful?” Song Jiaren looked at her suspiciously. “It’s not poisonous, right?”

While she said so, she still decided to take the pill without hesitation.

Song Jiaren had now slimmed down and become a beauty.

Although she was not as beautiful as Xia Xibei, she attracted a lot of attention when she walked around.

All of this was brought about by Xia Xibei!

So, she had confidence in Xia Xibei.

Seeing that she took it, Xia Xibei smiled, “After taking it, you will be able to maintain your youthful beauty all the time!”

The pill she gave to Song Jiaren was different from the one she gave to Liu Manhong and the others.

Song Jiaren was still young, so she needed different effects.

What was certain, however, was that after taking this medicine, she would definitely be able to maintain a very youthful and beautiful state, at least for ten years.

Xia Xibei felt a little guilty about Song Jiaren. She had been so busy with work and had less interactions with Song Jiaren.

When she was not busy with work, her time was spent on other things and she had neglected her friend.

So, this was a kind of compensation.

“Hmph, you are loyal at least!” Song Jiaren glanced at her with a pout.

“Beibei is very conscientious, but someone doesn’t seem to be quite right!”

Tang Luo, who was nearby, suddenly squeezed her eyes at Song Jiaren.

“It seems that someone is in love and didn’t tell everyone about it!”

Song Jiaren’s face reddened at this comment and she pouted, “What are you talking about? Who’s in love?!”

“Oh?” Xia Xibei raised her eyebrows and looked Song Jiaren up and down, “Who are you in love with? Hurry up and tell us the truth!”

“Don’t talk nonsense!” Song Jiaren’s face turned even redder. “I’m not in love! I’m trying to get into college!”

### **Chapter 1182: Came to Look For Them**

Tang Luo chuckled. “Aren’t you with Little Qi?”

“Who said that?!” Song Jiaren immediately denied it and blushed a little. “We’re not together!”

“Is that so?”

Tang Luo looked at her skeptically. “But you guys seem to eat together a lot, and you seem to be very close!”

“Come on, he’s younger than me!” Song Jiaren complained. “Besides, it’s because you guys are not free. If you were free, would I need to eat with him?”

Song Jiaren continued, “You’re all so busy, you don’t have time for me!”

“Oops!” Xia Xibei hurriedly clutched her hand. “Actually, we all care about you! You’re our best friend!”

Tang Luo also coaxed her, “We do look for you when we have time, right?”

After being appeased by the two of them for a while, Song Jiaren showed her smile again.

They were laughing and joking, and the people next to them looked envious.

How nice it was to be friends with Xia Xibei!

Ever since Xia Xibei became a star, her status in school had been different.

She was so good that she was an idol to many people.

Although they were embarrassed to come over and bother her, they couldn't help but sneak around and look at her with envy.

If only they had made friends with her before, how nice it would be!

After class, Yu Ziqi also came over and asked everyone to eat together.

"Are you asking us to join you, or just Jiajia?" Xia Xibei joked.

"Of course, I'm asking everyone to join me!" Yu Ziqi looked innocent. "You are hardly free, how can I miss seeing you?"

Xia Xibei and Tang Luo looked at each other, and then looked at Yu Ziqi and Song Jiaren, and they were all a little curious.

Were they together or not?

They thought the two had something going on, but looking at their reactions, it seemed that there was nothing going on...

However, Song Jiaren and Xia Xibei were in a different situation than Tang Luo. Her grades were not too good and she did not cheat, so she could only rely on her own efforts.

If something distracted her in the middle of test prep, she might get discouraged later.

So, she should focus on the exams first!

Xia Xibei and Tang Luo looked at each other and didn't continue talking, but walked out together.

Just before they reached the entrance of the school, Tang Luo stopped in her tracks.

Xia Xibei followed her line of sight and couldn't help but raise her eyebrows as well.

"What's wrong?" Song Jiaren also looked over, then her face stiffened. "Why is she here?"

Not far in front of them were a man and woman.

The woman was Zhang Yiqi, and she was accompanied by a young man. He was handsome and tall, wearing a well-fitting and expensive suit, and looked exceptional.

Looking at the intimacy of the two people, it was clear that they were in a relationship.

All around them were students who had just finished school. They had also noticed the couple and couldn't help but look over.

At the sight of them, Zhang Yiqi's eyes lit up, revealing a bright and proud smile.

"What a coincidence!"

Zhang Yiqi walked over with the man, her smile incomparably bright, as if it was such a happy thing to see them.

"Coincidence?" Tang Luo's face was expressionless. "This is our school."

They were now in front of the school, and all the people coming and going were students, with the occasional parent out and about.

Zhang Yiqi was not a student of this school. She suddenly appeared here, and she said it was a coincidence?



She came to look for them, right?

Zhang Yiqi seemed to be unable to hear her mockery and smiled, "Let me introduce you. This is my boyfriend, Han Qin."

### **Chapter 1183: The Han Family**

Han Qin, surnamed Han?

Tang Luo and Xia Xibei looked at each other and immediately noticed the problem.

The surname Han was not that uncommon, but the problem was that the Han family had just popped up before, and now this Han Qin suddenly appeared in front of them. It would be strange if there wasn't a little connection.

Tang Luo looked at Han Qin in front of her warily, and then looked at Zhang Yiqi.

"Oh."

Tang Luo's cold response made Zhang Yiqi freeze for a moment, a little annoyed.

However, she quickly remembered what she came for and said to Tang Luo with a smile, "Han Qin is from the Han family. You guys have heard of it, right? It's the energy company--"

"We have heard of it," Tang Luo interrupted her. "Then what? What can I do for you?"

Now they were sure that Han Qin was indeed from that Han family.

However, it was surprising that Zhang Yiqi and Han Qin were together.

Moreover, what did she intend by coming here?

“We have known each other for a long time, and I have a boyfriend now, so of course I had to introduce you to him.” Zhang Yiqi smiled proudly and looked at Han Qin with a sweet smile. “Right, darling?”

Han Qin smiled and touched her face, nodding.

“Of course. We are all friends, we can have a meal together. My treat.”

Tang Luo and Xia Xibei’s mouths twitched, finally understanding the purpose of their visit.

She was here to show off!

Tang Luo also realized that Han Qin had intervened in the matter with Zhang Kaiwei!

Earlier, she handed out the evidence and made a big deal out of it.

However, a day ago, the effect of this matter was immediately smaller.

She looked for people to inquire about it, only to find that someone from above had taken action to suppress the matter.

So, Zhang Kaiwei continued to live and breathe again.

It was all because of this Han Qin!

“No need, we already have an appointment,” Xia Xibei spoke up and refused. “We’ll leave you alone.”

Song Jiaren and Yu Ziqi sensed the weird atmosphere and didn’t say anything, standing aside obediently.

As soon as Xia Xibei opened her mouth, Han Qin’s eyes lit up and he looked at her with a glow in his eyes.

She was stunning! She was more beautiful than Zhang Yiqi.

He looked at Song Jiaren on the other side.

Sure enough, they were all beauties!

"It's okay, we're all friends. It's okay to have a meal together." He smiled brightly, "I've already made a reservation at Champs Restaurant."

Champs Restaurant was the best and most exclusive restaurant in their area, and it cost several thousand per person!

"No need. We've made reservations too," Tang Luo refused.

"Don't mention it!" Zhang Yiqi smiled again, her whole body about to stick to Han Qin with a strong air of showing-off. "Why don't I ask darling to introduce you to some men? Surely they'd be better than Mo Bonan!"

Looking at Tang Luo's darkened face, she covered her mouth and laughed, "Oh, sorry, I said the wrong thing, I shouldn't have said this out loud. It's okay! Even if you're both men, you can still be together!"

This statement stunned both Song Jiaren and Yu Ziqi.

The two of them drew in a breath and looked at Tang Luo incredulously.

Did they hear it right? Tang Luo and Mo Bonan were together?

Xia Xibei shook her head slightly at them, indicating that she would explain to them later.

"Yes, we are fine together. So there's no need to bother you." Tang Luo smiled. "Well, we're leaving, make yourselves comfortable."

She turned around and was about to leave, so Zhang Yiqi immediately became anxious and tried to pull her back.

Tang Luo dodged her tug and warned in a cold voice, "Don't do anything, or I'll call the police!"

#### **Chapter 1184: No Need to Hide It**

Tang Luo's cold eyes made Zhang Yiqi's heart skip a beat as she froze in place.

Han Qin hurriedly pulled her back and said, "Don't be in a hurry. Otherwise, people will think you want to do something!"

He smiled at Tang Luo again, "I'm sorry, she's just in a hurry."

"Oh," Tang Luo gave him a withering look. "Sorry, we still have things to do. We're leaving."

After saying that, she led her friends away.

When Xia Xibei left, she could still feel someone's hot eyes lingering on her.

She frowned and looked back, right at Han Qin's face.

Noticing her turn, Han Qin gave her a gentle and bright smile.

Xia Xibei's face became even colder.

Only after she was far away from them did Song Jiaren grab Tang Luo and demanded, "Is what they just said true?"

She stared at Tang Luo closely, hoping to get a real answer.

"Let's go over there first."

Tang Luo looked around. There were people everywhere, and it was not good to talk here.

Although Song Jiaren was anxious, she had to be patient.

After arriving at the exclusive room of the Yuhai Pavilion, Song Jiaren could no longer hold back.

"You are with Brother Mo?"

When Zhang Yiqi said this just now, she was stunned.

Mo Bonan was a man, and Tang Luo was also a man!

When did the two of them get together?

Yu Ziqi reacted the same way, with the same shocked expression.

Tang Luo and Xia Xibei looked at each other and made eye contact for a while.

Song Jiaren became dissatisfied, “What are you guys doing? What can’t you tell us?”

She knew that Xia Xibei and Tang Luo were closer, but having little secrets right in her face was too much!

“Jiajia, I’m going to tell you a secret later. Can you guys help me keep it a secret?”

Tang Luo and Xia Xibei finished their eye contact and then looked at Song Jiaren and Yu Ziqi with very serious expressions.

“Keep it a secret? Of course I can! My lips are sealed!”

Song Jiaren and Yu Ziqi both nodded their heads.

It was just keeping a secret, what was so hard about it?!

However, when Tang Luo really revealed the secret, they were stunned!

“You’re a woman?” the two of them drew in a breath and exclaimed in unison.

“Yes,” Tang Luo nodded her head.

Since she had come to this point, she could not continue to hide it.

Now that her family knew her true gender, there was no point in continuing to hide it.

Maybe the Han family was still unsure of her gender, but there was no point in keeping it a secret.

Tang Luo’s openness stunned both of them.

It was amazing! She was actually a girl?!

“I don’t believe it!” Song Jiaren shook her head frantically. “You’re obviously a guy!”

She had a serious face, “Don’t worry, even if you were a guy and were with another guy, I wouldn’t look down on you! You don’t have to tell such lies.”



Tang Luo didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She pulled her to a place where Yu Ziqi could not see and put Song Jiaren's hand on her own chest.

Feeling a different touch, Song Jiaren's eyes grew wide, stunned!

Tang Luo was really a girl!

By the time the two of them came back, Song Jiaren was in a trance.

"What's wrong? What's going on?" Yu Ziqi got anxious. "What did you do?"

Song Jiaren slapped him on the arm, "Don't worry so much! Just know that Ah-Luo is a girl!"

Being slapped, Yu Ziqi was a little aggravated, but more shocked than ever.

Tang Luo was really a girl?! This was simply incredible!

### **Chapter 1185: Why So Skinny?**

Although they were shocked and surprised, they quickly accepted the explanation.

They also asked about the reason behind the disguise, but Tang Luo did not tell them.

They didn't pursue it further either.

They were all friends, so what was the point of asking so much? One just had to know that the other wouldn't do them any harm.

The squad quickly resumed their previous mode of getting along, except for Yu Ziqi, who felt a bit awkward.

He used to think that Tang Luo was a boy, but who knew she would turn out to be a girl?!

It was incredible!

However, his awkward attitude was despised by Song Jiaren. No matter if Tang Luo was a boy or a girl, it wouldn't affect how they got along!

It wasn't like he had to get into a relationship with Tang Luo!

Watching Yu Ziqi being despised by Song Jiaren so much that he couldn't say a word, Xia Xibei and Tang Luo exchanged a glance, and did not tease them.

After the meal, Yu Ziqi sent Song Jiaren home, while Xia Xibei and Tang Luo stayed around.

"What do you want to talk to me about?" Tang Luo had long noticed that Xia Xibei had something to say.

“Haven’t you noticed that something isn’t right with Zhang Yiqi?”

This surprised Tang Luo.

“Something’s not right? What’s wrong?”

She thought about it, and finally it dawned on her, “She seems to have lost a lot of weight!”

Apart from the surprising glimpse before, the last time she saw Zhang Yiqi was a few months ago, but she wasn’t that skinny then.

This time around, Zhang Yiqi was beaming with the sweetness of being in love, but she had indeed lost a lot of weight.

“Right,” Xia Xibei nodded, her eyes somewhat cold.

Tang Luo was puzzled for a moment, then she drew in a sharp breath.

“No way?!”

She finally understood what Xia Xibei meant.

It was someone from the Han family they were talking about!

Getting involved with someone from the Han family and getting thinner could only mean one thing...

She could pledge with her life that there was something extremely wrong with that!

"Are you sure?" Tang Luo was stunned.

"I'm not." Xia Xibei shook her head. "I didn't check her physical condition, so it's not clear if she really has a problem, but... I bet she does."

She was standing next to them while they were having a conversation, so she clearly saw how Zhang Yiqi and Han Qin were getting along.

Zhang Yiqi did treat Han Qin as her boyfriend and came over to show off very proudly.

Han Qin was also quite protective of her, but the look in his eyes kind of startled Xia Xibei.

Xia Xibei had a boyfriend of her own, so she certainly knew the sort of look a boyfriend should have.

However, Han Qin didn't have much emotion in his eyes when he looked at Zhang Yiqi. Even when he was smiling at Zhang Yiqi, there wasn't much warmth in his smile, as if she wasn't his girlfriend, but someone who had no importance.

He did not seem to have much affection for Zhang Yiqi.

Despite having no feelings, his attitude toward her meant that he was trying to gain benefits.

The Zhang and the Han families were too far apart, so what benefit could Han Qin get from Zhang Yiqi?

Other than picking a Yin to make up for the Yang, Xia Xibei couldn't come up with a better guess.

Tang Luo was even more surprised, "Then she..."

"She doesn't seem to be aware," Xia Xibei shook her head. "But don't tell her what we talked about. She won't believe it."

If they ran to Zhang Yiqi and told that her boyfriend wasn't harboring good intentions... They would end up getting kicked out by Zhang Yiqi!

"You think I'm stupid?" Tang Luo pointed at herself. "I'm not, why would I tell her?"

Tang Luo gloated a little, "But honestly, what's gonna happen if she really is being used?"

Xia Xibei smiled, "She'll be miserable, perhaps even more so than what you've encountered before."

**Chapter 1186: Purely a Hearth**

Her words made Tang Luo's eyes widen, "More miserable?"

"Right," Xia Xibei nodded. "I asked Lu Xiaohang before, and he told me about the Han family's situation. The girls of the Han family are great Hearths. If they cultivate, they can be more useful afterwards."

The girls of the Han family were used as Hearths. Although not everyone had such a physique, it would bring more benefits.

If they were Hearths, the Han family would make them cultivate. By improving their abilities, they would be of greater use later.

That way, they could last quite a long time even if they were Hearths.

However, their life span would be significantly impacted if they were used as Hearths.

The Han family had had several generations of Hearths, but their longest life span was only around 50 to 60 years.

That wasn't very short in fact. The problem was that they could have lived up to 70 to 80 years if there had been no accidents.

Moreover, if they cultivated normally, living for a hundred years wouldn't be a dream.

After being used as a Hearth however, their life expectancy would be discounted!

How scary was that?

“If she was forcefully used despite not being a Hearth of the Han family...” Xia Xibei’s lips curled into a small smile, “I think her life expectancy will just keep getting shorter, he may have less than ten years to live.”

“Ten years?!” Tang Luo drew a sharp breathe. That figure was too terrifying!

“Right,” Xia Xibei nodded. “Of course, this is only my preliminary judgment, it can’t be taken as the final say. But what’s certain is that her health will just keep declining.”

Tang Luo frowned, “Hmm... Perhaps Han Qin will compensate her a little!”

They would probably give a little compensation to the Hearths.

After all, the better the Hearth’s physique, the longer they could be used.

Xia Xibei, however, shook her head, “I think you may have guessed it wrong.”

“Hmm?”

“I don’t think Han Qin will give Zhang Yiqi any compensation,” Xia Xibei sneered. “Didn’t you pay attention to Han Qin’s expression?”

“What?”

“His eyes were always on other people. He didn’t treat Zhang Yiqi as his girlfriend, but purely a Hearth. Besides, he has what it takes to get any girl he wants, so why would he only get attached to one girl?”

Once again, Tang Luo drew a sharp breath. However, she had to admit that Xia Xibei did have a point!

Anyone could tell at a glance that Han Qin was a playboy, and he certainly would not be devoted to a woman.

Sure enough, it was even less possible for him to be loyal to a Hearth.

After all, in his opinion, she was an object rather than a living person.

After they became useless, Hearths could be replaced whenever he liked!

Tang Luo had an inexplicable expression on her face, “Hmm...”

Although it was true that she hated Zhang Yiqi and didn’t want her to live a good life, she had mixed feelings when Zhang Yiqi had to be used, and would live a short life...

“Okay, you don’t have to think about that,” Xia Xibei shook her head and comforted her. “You know, even if you tell her, she’ll think you’re just jealous of her!”



Tang Luo shook her head, helpless, "That's indeed the case. She came over to me today, supposedly to show off."

Hadn't Zhang Yiqi come all the way here today just to show off?

If Tang Luo went to tell her that she was being used as a Hearth... It wasn't difficult to predict how she would react.

"It's just that Han Qin is too despicable. If he hurts other girls..."

Tang Luo couldn't help but frown.

### **Chapter 1187: Powerless**

Xia Xibei's expression was a bit strained.

This was indeed a problem.

It was true that Han Qin's actions toward Zhang Yiqi had nothing to do with them, but what if he had done it to other girls?

However, after a while, she could only shake her head, "We can't control this kind of thing."

Tang Luo sighed in resignation.

They really couldn't control this kind of thing, it was not as if they could run to the police.

Even if the police were called, it was futile, unless they got rid of Han Qin.

However, even if Han Qin was gone, there were still others in the Han family.

Only by bringing down the whole Han family could the problem be solved, but this was not something they could do.

This problem made Xia Xibei's heart heavy, but there was no immediate solution.

When she returned home, Qiao Yanjue noticed that something was wrong with her and couldn't help but be concerned.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

Xia Xibei told him what happened today and finally said, "I didn't expect the Han family to be even more heartless than I thought!"

If it simply involved the offspring in their family, things could still be kept under control.

However, they also extended their clutches to the innocent girls outside the family, which was too much.

Qiao Yanjue's face was not too pleasant either, but his thoughts were clear.

"The only way to solve this problem is from the top down. The Han family is rotten at the roots now, so even if we dealt with Han Qin, there will be others. To really solve it, we have to get rid of the root cause."

Xia Xibei also nodded and sighed, "I agree with everything you said."

As long as the Han family was still around, this kind of thing wouldn't go away.

"Don't overthink it. With our current strength, there's no way to interfere with such things. We could only practice self-preservation."

When saying this, Qiao Yanjue was also helpless.

This was the first time they felt so powerless, but they really couldn't do anything about this kind of matter.

Compared to them, the Han family was a behemoth and had extremely deep roots, so if they acted rashly, they would only be crushed.

They were not impulsive children, nor were they martyrs who sacrificed their lives for others. With their current strength, they could only protect themselves first.

Xia Xibei nodded, "I know. As long as they don't start trouble, I won't provoke them either."

"Hmm..." Qiao Yanjue nodded and stroked her head. "You'll have to go to the imperial capital tomorrow. When you finish performing, I'll take you home."

This matter caused Xia Xibei's face to change slightly.

All the previous entanglements with the Han family disappeared and were replaced by nervousness.

She was going to meet his parents!

"Don't worry, my parents won't give you a hard time," Qiao Yanjue laughed.

"Good."

Xia Xibei took a few deep breaths, pushed down the nervousness in her heart, and revealed a subdued smile.

The next day, Xia Xibei flew to the imperial capital.

The New Year's Eve concert was one day away, and she had to rehearse first.

When she arrived at the venue, she met several acquaintances.

A few of her friends had chosen Imperial Capital TV because they knew that Xia Xibei had chosen the same network.

When Cui Tong saw Xia Xibei, she ran straight over and hugged her, overjoyed.

"Beibei, I get to see you again!"

Cui Tong was so happy, as she hadn't seen Xia Xibei in a while.

"It's been so long, but you're still so beautiful!"

Xia Xibei was amused, "It's been so long, and you're even sweeter than before!"

The two of them had a good laugh.

When they turned their heads, Xia Xibei's smile slightly narrowed as she saw Cheng Yingni.

**Chapter 1188: I'm Not Afraid of the Cold**

When she saw Xia Xibei, Cheng Yingni's expression also stiffened a bit.

She had gone to the previous show recording in order to put pressure on Xia Xibei.

To her surprise, the development afterward completely overturned her plan.

Xia Xibei's performance was too good, while she appeared to be disgraced.

On top of that, she was discovered by everyone to be lying in the same bed as her assistant!

Even though Hu Yuling came out and resolved it afterward, she was still in a bad mood.

After that, the show aired and the audience's reaction made her more bitter.

The audience only saw Xia Xibei, while she was ignored by everyone.

On the day the show aired, a big part of the hot search was Xia Xibei.

There were also people who compared her with Xia Xibei, and the final result was even more heartbreaking.

Therefore, when she met Xia Xibei, Cheng Yingni had very mixed feelings.

However, they were in public, so she could not reveal herself.

So, she walked up with Hu Yuling and her assistant and greeted Xia Xibei warmly.

Both sides were laughing and smiling, and there was no sign of any problem.

After a while, Cheng Yingni took Hu Yuling away again.

After they left, Cui Tong whispered, "What's your grudge?"

"There's no grudge," Xia Xibei shrugged. "What kind of grudge do you think we can have?"

"Don't lie to me," Cui Tong rolled her eyes. "Didn't you see the look in her eyes?! It was as if she wanted to eat you up!"

Cui Tong was also a member of the entertainment industry, so she naturally knew when someone was acting and when someone was really friendly.

Cheng Yingni's expression didn't look like she was at peace with Xia Xibei.

Moreover, Cui Tong also read a lot of news on the Internet.

Two months ago, Xia Xibei and Cheng Yingni did not have a lot of interactions.

However, after Cheng Yingni came back, things started to go wrong.

Anyone with a discerning eye could see that Cheng Yingni was targeting Xia Xibei.

“Who knows?” Xia Xibei shrugged, looking unconcerned. “Okay, let’s go get ready, we’re going to start rehearsals later.”

“Okay.”

Cui Tong did not continue. This was the kind of topic that should be discussed in secret.

The two of them went to get ready, and Shi Shuhang and Nie Zehai also came over.

Xia Xibei knew all of them, so the group had a pretty good relationship.

Even the staff could see that their relationship was really good.

Of course, whether it was fake friendship or real affection would be proven in the future.



The weather in the capital was very cold, and the performance was held outdoors, so it was even colder.

Everyone wore down jackets for rehearsals and had cold hands and feet.

Under such circumstances, only Xia Xibei was very calm.

She wore only a skirt and a light down jacket over it, and her perfect figure was on display.

Other people couldn't help but shiver after the rehearsal.

She was fine, however, and her expression was as usual.

Cui Tong, wearing thick clothes, waited for Xia Xibei to come off stage. She grabbed her hand, and was then stunned.

"Aren't you cold?!"

Xia Xibei's hand was surprisingly warm!

"It's not cold," Xia Xibei smiled. "I'm not afraid of the cold."

Cui Tong's eyes were going red. How enviable was this?!

“C’mon, let’s take a picture!”

Cui Tong pulled out her phone and took a group photo.

After editing and sending the post, there were comments.

[Is Sister Tong going to the North Pole or the South Pole? She is wrapped up like a giant ball! LOL]

[Sister Bei is amazing, she is not afraid of the cold! I’m envious!]

[The contrast is too obvious, hahaha! Sister Tong is twice as big as Bei Bei!]

### **Chapter 1189: Almost Frozen**

The photo could be seen clearly, Xia Xibei just wore a thin skirt and a down jacket, looking very light.

Then there was Cui Tong, who had practically wrapped herself into a bear.

They were in the freezing outdoors, and if one checked the current temperature in the capital, everyone would be cold.

The weather was several degrees below zero, so how was Xia Xibei not cold wearing so little?

Was there a thermal warmer attached to her back?

Some people found other celebrities' photos and made a comparison, and finally found that Xia Xibei was wearing the least.

Some people thought that Xia Xibei was suffering for fashion, but there was no need for this!

She was already popular enough, so there was no need to play like this.

Some people were even coaxing Xia Xibei to put on short sleeves so that the contrast was even bigger.

As they watched the commotion on the internet, neither Xia Xibei nor Cui Tong cared.

However, while they didn't care, someone else did.

Looking at the netizens pitting her and Xia Xibei together for comparison, Cheng Yingni's face became very grim.

Although the comparison was unimportant, Cheng Yingni's mood got even worse when she looked at the photo of herself, which seemed so ugly, while Xia Xibei looked so good.

So, when it was her turn to rehearse, she didn't even wear a down jacket and went straight up.

Without the down jacket, it was indeed refreshing and beautiful.

However, when she was up there in the cold wind, she realized how damn cold it was!

By the time she came down, she felt her head hurt.

After a while, her head was even heavier and dizzier.

By the time Hu Yuling came over, her nose was a little stuffy.

Looking at her pitiful appearance, Hu Yuling's face darkened and she asked Cheng Yingni's assistant, "What's going on?"

Cheng Yingni's assistant was a young woman who should have just reached adulthood. She had a clean-cut look and was rather short and thin.

Being asked this question by Hu Yuling, she immediately got nervous, "Just now... Sister Yingni went up without a jacket. I..."

"She did not wear a jacket?!" Hu Yuling was stunned. "What is she smoking?! And why didn't you pull her back?!"

The young assistant cowered for a moment and said nervously, "I- I tried to tell her, but I couldn't pull..."

"If you couldn't pull her back, why didn't you find me?"

Hu Yuling's face became even more gloomy, scaring the young assistant so much that she could not breathe.

However, she did not continue to scold the assistant. After all, scolding her now would not help.

"Hurry up, make some ginger tea! Make it hot!"

"Yes!" the assistant immediately nodded and rushed out.

Hu Yuling walked over to Cheng Yingni's side and sulked, "What are you doing? Are you still a three-year-old child? Don't you know you should wear the right clothes?"

It was so cold outside, and she didn't even put on a jacket. Was she out of her mind?

Cheng Yingni's head felt heavy, and she was very confused and embarrassed.

She didn't know why, but when she saw the comparison between herself and Xia Xibei, her mind went crazy and she went straight up there without proper clothes.

Of course, she already regretted it, but this regret could not be shown.

"I didn't want to wear it, okay?" She flattened her mouth and complained. "Am I not qualified to not wear clothes?"

This made Hu Yuling's face change, "Are you complaining about me?"

Cheng Yingni's heart jumped and she was so intimidated by Hu Yuling's temper that she almost wanted to admit her mistake.

However, she held back.

If not for Hu Yuling's stupid ideas, she wouldn't have gotten involved with that male assistant.

Just now, Shi Shuhang and the others had a meaningful look on their faces when they saw the female assistant beside her, which made her even more annoyed.

#### **Chapter 1190: Indirect Accusation**

It was because all of that piled up at once that Cheng Yingni got confused for a moment and went straight up like that, and almost got herself frozen.

However, with Hu Yuling around, she couldn't show a hint of regret.

Hu Yuling was the culprit, in fact. If it weren't for her, she wouldn't have had to take her assistant with her, and what happened after that wouldn't have happened.

Although the matter didn't get exposed, it was nevertheless a nightmare for Cheng Yingni, whose life had always been smooth-sailing.

Most importantly, a lot of people knew about it by now! It was an open secret to everyone!

She felt suffocated as she listened to the gossip all around her!

"Are you blaming me for that?" Seeing the expression that Cheng Yingni was wearing, Hu Yuling's face also fell. "You think I'm getting you into trouble?"

Cheng Yingni's lips moved, but she didn't say anything.

She did have some resentment within, but didn't dare to refute Hu Yuling.

Hu Yuling was a respectable figure as far as she was concerned, and getting into conflicts with her wasn't a good idea.

However, she did have complaints.

She hadn't shown it before, but she couldn't control herself upon meeting Xia Xibei and the others today.

With the emotions roiling within her and the drowsiness in her head, she desperately wanted to scream and let out her anger.

Seeing her reddened, flustered face, Hu Yuling took a deep breath and decided not to argue with her.

“Alright now, that’s the end of it. The performance tomorrow is the most important thing at the moment.”

Other matters could be discussed after the performance tomorrow.

Cheng Yingni bit her lip, but did not speak a word.

The room fell into a moment of awkward silence.

“Yingni, the ginger tea is here.”

The assistant came in with a bowl of steaming ginger tea and almost got a shock from the ambience in the room.

Seeing their dark faces, she desperately wanted to dig a hole and hide herself, so she wouldn’t disturb the quarrel.

“Bring it here,” Hu Yuling said.



“Okay.”

The assistant hurried over and carefully handed the bowl to Cheng Yingni.

“Yingni, it’s a little...”

Before the word “hot” was uttered, Cheng Yingni had taken the bowl. With a hiss, she loosened her grip, and the bowl fell out of her hand.

With a bang, the bowl fell to the ground and the hot ginger tea spilled out from the inside, splashing onto their feet.

“Ah!” Cheng Yingni shrieked and hit the roof instantly, flinging her hand, “What’s the problem with you?!”

The assistant was dumbfounded after getting a slap out of nowhere. Stunned, she clasped a hand over her cheek and recoiled, apologising profusely, “Sorry! I’m sorry! It’s all my fault!”

“What an idiot! If you can’t do anything right, what’s the use of keeping you here?!”

There was no one else in the room, so Cheng Yingni had no concern for her image at all as she cursed furiously.

The little assistant could do nothing but squat down and pick up the broken pieces from the floor.

“I’ll clean it up right now!”

Cheng Yingni seemed to have found a vent for her anger, raging on with her verbal abuse, “You’re quite clever usually, so why would you make a fool of yourself this time? I’ve brought you up for nothing...”

“Enough!”

Hu Yuling’s voice was cold as she interrupted her angry scolding.

Cheng Yingni’s heart skipped a beat when she met Hu Yuling’s icy gaze, and she couldn’t help but shut her mouth.

Hu Yuling sneered. She certainly knew that Cheng Yingni was indirectly pointing her finger at her, because this assistant was one that she had found.

“Get outside once you’re done cleaning.”

Having received the green light from Hu Yuling, the assistant quickly nodded. She sped up the cleaning process and hurriedly left the room.

However, she was taken aback when she got to the door.