

His kiss 1281

Chapter 1281

Gabriela didn't feel much sympathy for Aunt Zhu, if she was honest with herself. Back then, she hadn't driven her out because, even while helping Phyllis torment her, Aunt Zhu had once quietly brought her disinfectant and bandages. That one small act had told Gabriela the woman wasn't entirely without a conscience.

Now, seeing the calm on Gabriela's face, panic flickered across Aunt Zhu's own.

"Miss Gabriela, I have no other options left. That's why I came to you. If I can't pay for Xiao Feng's medicine, the hospital's going to stop his treatment."

"His condition's getting worse. He could die. He's my only child..."

Her face, etched with desperation, looked like that of a frail, helpless old woman as she wiped at her tears and kept pleading.

Gabriela let out a soft sigh, then finally asked, "If you come work for me, who's going to look after your son?"

Aunt Zhu's eyes lit up at the question, and she answered quickly, "The nurses at the hospital can watch him."

But it was obvious the nurses, buried under their own workload, couldn't offer him the kind of attentive care he really needed. At best, they could fetch him water or bring him a meal now and then, a kindness, but not nearly enough.

"Which hospital is he at? Take me to see him," Gabriela said.

Wesley's brow furrowed. "Gabriela."

"We'll just take a look. It's fine," she said softly.

Back then, Aunt Zhu had only bullied her to keep her job secure. And that quiet act of kindness had shown she wasn't entirely without a conscience.

Now that she'd hit a dead end and was begging for help, Gabriela couldn't just turn her away. She worried that if something tragic happened, desperation might push Aunt Zhu toward something extreme.

Gabriela had learned that particular lesson the hard way, after Aubrey had been stabbed by that enraged motorbike owner.

It wasn't that she was afraid of trouble. But if lending a hand now could defuse a risk down the line, it was worth doing.

And besides...

Hearing Aunt Zhu talk about her son's illness brought Gabriela's thoughts straight back to her own mother, who had died of cancer. It made her wonder, uneasily, whether something like that might run in the family and one day threaten Truett too.

She wanted to do something good, if only for his sake.

"Fine, we'll do it your way," Wesley said, finally giving in to her.

He climbed back into the car and drove them to the hospital.

Aunt Zhu sat nervously in the back seat, apologizing and thanking Gabriela over and over.

Gabriela, sitting beside her, spoke gently to calm her down. "Don't worry so much. Things will turn around."

They arrived at the hospital soon after.

Weighed down by debt, Aunt Zhu had admitted her son to a small, poorly resourced hospital.

By the time they walked in, it was already past nine, nearly ten at night, and the place didn't even seem to have proper security.

Aunt Zhu led them to Xiao Feng's room.

It was a cramped single room, its windowpane visibly cracked. On rainy days water would seep in, and in winter the cold would cut straight through.

Gabriela studied the boy carefully.

Chapter 1282

He looked about fifteen or sixteen, lying in bed with a tube attached to him, his face pale, almost ashen.

After a moment's thought, Gabriela said, "Aunt Zhu, you should transfer him to a better hospital."

Aunt Zhu waved her hands quickly. "That's not necessary. The doctors and nurses here are very kind. They know about our situation and have been helping us however they can."

"Don't worry about the cost," Gabriela said. "I'll cover it for now. Once Xiao Feng's better, you can pay me back in your own time, however you're able."

Truthfully, Gabriela didn't hold out much hope for his recovery. His pale complexion and bloodless lips told her plainly enough how serious his condition really was.

But even so, she was willing to do whatever she could.

At her words, Aunt Zhu broke down again, sinking to her knees in gratitude, tears flowing freely.

"Miss Gabriela, thank you. I treated you so unfairly before, and you're not holding it against me. You're even helping me now."

She refused to be pulled back up, and launched into a stream of confessions, how she used to mess with Gabriela's hair, ruin her school uniform, all to please Phyllis.

Wesley's expression darkened as he listened. His hand found Gabriela's, gripping it tight, his anger barely held in check.

If the woman in front of him weren't already so frail and worn down, he might not have been able to stop himself from teaching her a lesson right then.

How could anyone have treated his Gabriela so cruelly? And worse, he hadn't even been there to protect her from it.

But Gabriela didn't seem shaken by any of it. She squeezed his hand reassuringly instead.

Those painful years were behind her now. What mattered was the present.

“Aunt Zhu, let’s not dwell on the past. Please get up, you’ll wake Xiao Feng.”

Aunt Zhu finally rose to her feet.

“It’s too late to arrange a transfer tonight. I’ll come back tomorrow to sort it out,” Gabriela said. “For now, stay here with him.”

Though Gabriela was willing to help, she had no intention of bringing Aunt Zhu back to the villa. Between her history and the risk it might pose around Truett, caution felt like the wiser choice.

After everything that had happened with Myah, her heart had grown considerably harder to soften.

Aunt Zhu thanked her over and over as Gabriela and Wesley made their way out of the hospital.

Watching their figures recede, Aunt Zhu felt a wave of gratitude mixed with regret.

She silently vowed that if she managed to save Xiao Feng, she’d repay Gabriela’s kindness no matter what it took.

After all, she still had the evidence, proof of what Marie had once done to Gabriela's mother.

The next day, Gabriela arranged for Xiao Feng to be transferred to the hospital where Dr. Su worked.

She reached out personally to the best doctors there, hoping to give him the best possible treatment, and the slimmest chance at recovery.

She covered the medical costs as well, leaving Aunt Zhu in tears of gratitude.

Chapter 1283

"Miss Gabriela, you're too kind. Good things are bound to come your way for this."

"Don't you worry, I'll pay you back, no matter what it takes, even if I have to work myself to the bone to do it."

Gabriela didn't expect anything in return from Aunt Zhu.

What she quietly hoped, though, was that lending a hand wouldn't accidentally create another Myah, someone just as destructive and dangerous. That alone would count as a blessing.

She told Aunt Zhu to stop thanking her over and over, and left her phone number behind.

“If you ever run into something you can’t handle, call me,” Gabriela said.

Aunt Zhu tucked the number carefully into her pocket. Her tired, aged eyes brimmed with unshed tears.

“Miss Gabriela, I’ll be indebted to you for the rest of my life for this.”

Worried that staying any longer would only set Aunt Zhu off crying harder, Gabriela offered a few comforting words and left the room quickly.

Only then did Xiaofeng, who’d been silent until now, finally speak, his voice frail and thin. “Mom, who was that lady? Why did she help us?”

Over the years, he’d watched people storm into hospital rooms chasing down debts, shouting and cursing. He’d watched his mother beg strangers for help, more often than not met with mockery or scorn. Most of the time she’d come back empty-handed, her pride bruised right along with her hopes.

But this woman had been different. Gentle. Genuinely kind. Not only had she lent them money, she’d gone out of her way to find a skilled doctor to treat him.

“Xiaofeng, listen to me,” Aunt Zhu said, sitting at his bedside and holding his hand tightly. “That woman, Gabriela, she’s the kindest person in this world. She’s our benefactor. If you pull through this illness, you make sure you remember what she did for us, for the rest of your life.”

Xiaofeng nodded solemnly. “I will, Mom.”

As Gabriela made her way out of the room and down to the lobby, she ran into Aubrey, who had just arrived at the hospital herself.

The moment Aubrey spotted her, she hurried over.

“Gabriela, I heard that Sun Gang went to beg my Su again today. Would you come with me to check on it?”

Gabriela wasn’t sure what she could actually do, but seeing the pleading look on Aubrey’s face, she couldn’t bring herself to say no. She nodded.

As they walked, Aubrey filled her in on everything that had happened.

After a hospital meeting, more than eighty percent of the doctors had agreed Sun Gang’s condition made him a poor candidate for surgery.

Though Su Zhuoming genuinely wanted to restore the man's eyesight, he understood exactly how risky it would be.

In the end, he'd had no choice but to defer to the majority opinion: conservative treatment, no surgery.

Chapter 1284

He'd sat down and patiently explained his reasoning to Sun Gang. "The odds of success with surgery are extremely low. If something went wrong, you could end up permanently blind. Without it, at least you'll still keep what blurry vision you have left."

If the surgery failed, there would be no undoing that damage.

He'd laid it all out thoroughly, and with as much patience as he could offer from a medical standpoint.

But Sun Gang refused to give up. He kept coming back day after day, bringing his elderly mother with him each time, her face streaked with tears as she begged alongside him.

By the time Aubrey had finished venting the whole story, they'd arrived near Su Zhuoming's office, where they could already hear Sun Gang's desperate pleading through the door.

The corridor outside was packed with onlookers, patients and their families, all eager to watch the scene unfold.

Aubrey pulled Gabriela into the crowd. Once they'd pushed their way through, they could see what was happening inside.

"Dr. Su, I've been nothing but a burden to my family since the day I was born. My life doesn't mean anything. Just give me one sliver of hope. I'm begging you, please, do the surgery."

As he spoke, Sun Gang dropped to his knees, prostrating himself before Su Zhuoming.

His mother, her hair completely white by now, knelt beside him, tears streaming down her face, her desperation stirring something in nearly everyone watching.

Some in the crowd even spoke up. "Dr. Su, why not just help them? You're known for your skill. We all believe you could cure him."

Faced with such a heartbreaking scene, Su Zhuoming couldn't help but feel a pang of sympathy stirring inside him.

As an ophthalmologist, restoring hope to the sightless had always been his deepest calling.

And now here was a patient publicly declaring he was willing to accept every risk involved. Could he really still refuse, purely out of fear of failure? What kind of doctor would that make him?

Something in the weight of his medical oath rose up inside him.

Su Zhuoming bent down to help them both to their feet, his voice gentle. "Go home for now. I'll take another, closer look at your case."

Sun Gang understood immediately that this meant he was reconsidering.

He thanked him profusely before finally leaving the hospital with his mother.

Aubrey, who'd been watching anxiously the whole time, was nearly at her wit's end.

She pulled Gabriela into Su Zhuoming's office and locked the door firmly behind them.

"Dr. Su, please, don't do the surgery on Sun Gang. Please."

She still hadn't forgotten Gabriela's warning about the possibility of another Myah, someone every bit as destructive and dangerous.

She knew all too well by now just how terrifying Myah had turned out to be.

Sanitizing his hands, Su Zhuoming asked calmly, "Why not?"

"What if it fails?" Aubrey pressed, worry sharpening her voice.

Su Zhuoming smiled gently. "The patient understands the risks fully and still wants to go through with it. I have to respect that choice."

Besides, all the risks would be laid out clearly on the surgical consent form, which both the patient and his family would need to sign.

Chapter 1285

Aubrey struggled to put her fears into words, finally blurting out, "But if it fails, it'll ruin your reputation."

So many people had witnessed today's scene already, and everyone had such high hopes riding on Dr. Su. If the surgery failed, the fallout in criticism and doubt would be relentless.

"What kind of reasoning is that?"

Su Zhuoming's brow furrowed, his tone unusually stern. "If I refuse to give a patient hope just to protect my own reputation, what kind of doctor does that make me?"

Aubrey's face fell. She didn't dare say another word.

Su Zhuoming rarely lost his temper, but even his calm, steady firmness was intimidating enough on its own.

Cornered, Aubrey turned to Gabriela for backup.

But what was there for Gabriela to say?

Her wariness of Sun Gang was purely a gut feeling, nothing she could turn into an actual argument. And besides, Su Zhuoming was really just Wesley's close friend, not someone she knew well enough to weigh in on his decisions.

She had no real standing to persuade him either way.

After a moment's thought, Gabriela finally offered, "Dr. Su, I respect your decision. But please, when it comes to Sun Gang, proceed with extra caution."

Su Zhuoming smiled gently. "I will. Thank you for your concern."

He glanced over at Aubrey, still pouting. "Upset with me?"

She shook her head.

Su Zhuoming reached out and patted her head, his voice softening. "I know you're only looking out for me. But trust me, I'll approach this with the utmost care. There's no need to worry."

"Okay," Aubrey said, though her tone stayed glum.

Since Su Zhuoming still had two more patients waiting to be seen, Aubrey didn't want to eat up any more of his time. She left the office with Gabriela.

As they walked, she grumbled, "That Sun Gang. Coming to the hospital every single day just to kneel and beg like that. By now the whole hospital knows his face, patients, families, staff, all of them."

The public spectacle he kept making of himself meant that if the surgery failed, it would fuel endless gossip afterward.

Aubrey didn't particularly care about the gossip itself.

What she couldn't stand was the thought of people talking about Su behind his back.

“Gabriela, do you understand how I feel? I’m so sick of hearing that man’s name lately. I just want Su to stay as far away from him as possible.”

Aubrey wasn’t the type to jump to conclusions carelessly. She hadn’t blindly accepted Gabriela’s earlier warning about Sun Gang either.

But lately, she’d had a nightmare that had genuinely terrified her.

In it, Su had been gravely injured. His hands, the same hands capable of performing the most delicate surgeries, had been irreparably damaged, his entire career shattered in an instant.

After hearing Aubrey out, Gabriela could only offer comfort. “You’ve been thinking about this too much, and now it’s showing up in your dreams. Try to relax, okay?”

But how could she possibly relax?

Chapter 1286

Judging by Dr. Su’s attitude that day, it seemed almost certain he’d go through with the surgery for Sun Gang.

Even as his wife, Aubrey couldn’t push too hard into his professional decisions. And besides, Sun Gang might not actually be a bad person at all. Gabriela couldn’t be entirely sure her instincts were right this time either.

Take Myah, for instance. That woman had carried such a vicious heart, and Gabriela had never once picked up on it. She'd always seen her as timid, gentle, harmless.

After comforting Aubrey, Gabriela headed back to work at the company.

Once there, she noticed Rebecca was nowhere in sight.

A junior assistant stopped by with some documents for her to sign and murmured, "Rebecca's taken a leave of absence."

Gabriela nodded, quickly signed the contracts, and handed them back.

The assistant took them and added quietly, "You're doing great, Gabriela."

Gabriela smiled knowingly. "Thank you."

Ever since that video had gone viral, Rebecca had become something of a household name across the whole of Everglow Group, though not in any way she'd want.

Even though she'd rejoined the Howard family two or three years back, she'd always been little more than a nonentity there. In board meetings, whenever real projects or major decisions came up, her opinions were routinely brushed aside.

If Jasper hadn't been shielding her all this time, she'd have been sidelined completely.

Who would have guessed her big moment in the spotlight would come by way of such humiliation? Not only had she drawn attention, she'd ended up trending online, drowning in waves of mockery and insult.

Even someone as thick-skinned as Rebecca hadn't been able to shrug that off entirely.

What stung the most, though, was what came after.

The moment Zeng Tong left Gourmet Treasures, Century Grand Hotel had seized the opening to demand compensation for the broken supply agreement.

On top of that, the scandal's fallout had left the restaurant nearly empty. The few customers who did show up came only to gawk at the "high-society lady who'd lost her mind in public."

Lauren had gritted her teeth and paid off Century Grand Hotel from her own pocket, settling the remaining accounts within about a week before shutting Gourmet Treasures down entirely.

By the time everything was finally resolved, two weeks had gone by.

Lauren delivered a resounding slap across Rebecca's face.

"Remember this slap. Don't you ever provoke Gabriela again."

Rebecca clutched her stinging cheek, tears streaming down her face.

"Mom, even you won't take my side anymore?"

In the past, everyone in the Howard family had treated her like a princess. Her mother especially had indulged her every whim. But ever since Gabriela had come back into the picture, her father only seemed to have eyes for his illegitimate daughter.

Even her own grandmother favored Gabriela now.

And now her mother, apparently swayed by whatever Gabriela had orchestrated, had stopped doting on her the way she used to.

Once Rebecca had cried herself out, Lauren sighed and took her hand.

“Rebecca, I’m going to make Gabriela disappear for good. Just be patient a little longer.”

Hearing that her mother finally intended to act, Rebecca lit up with excitement.

That night, she slept soundly for the first time in weeks, her nerves finally settled. The next day, she showed up to work at Everglow Group right on time.

There was a meeting scheduled on the sixty-third floor that day, one Gabriela was hosting.

Rebecca walked in as though nothing had happened, materials prepared and everything.

In just two weeks, the once-proud Miss Howard had somehow managed to shrug off the entire online storm as though it had never existed.

Gabriela couldn’t help but admire the sheer resilience of that.

Maybe the lower someone’s bottom line sank, the tougher their skin grew.

The meeting wrapped up.

As everyone filed out of the conference room, Rebecca suddenly approached Gabriela, staring at her with icy hostility. "Don't get too comfortable. One day, you'll regret ever crossing me."

Gabriela stayed perfectly calm, still seated at the head of the table.

"Sure. Can't wait to see how that plays out."

Rebecca's eyes burned with hatred, her face twisting slightly with fury.

"Your arrogance isn't going to last much longer, Gabriela."

She spat the words out and stormed off.

The moment she got back to her office, all her pent-up rage exploded at once. She swept everything off her desk onto the floor in a fit of anger.

If it weren't for her mother's promise to finish Gabriela off, she'd have torn into her right there in that conference room.

She'd already lost all her dignity anyway, might as well take Gabriela's down with her.

Gabriela heard about the tantrum in Rebecca's office but didn't give it much thought.

Instead, she kept her focus on tracking Lauren's movements. Following Wesley's advice, she made sure never to go anywhere alone, always keeping someone with her whenever she stepped out.

Her routine had settled into something simple: from the villa to Everglow Group for work, and occasionally over to SK Elite Boutique for overtime.

Another week passed without incident.

Gabriela eventually heard that Dr. Su had gone through with Sun Gang's surgery after all. Fortunately, the operation had been a success.

When Aubrey came to share the news, she looked noticeably more at ease.

"My husband is amazing! Everyone at the hospital thought Sun Gang's condition was untreatable, but he fixed it in just one surgery!"

Her voice brimmed with pride, and Gabriela felt genuinely happy for the two of them.

"Aubrey, do you know when Sun Gang gets his stitches out?"

Aubrey, who'd once gone through temporary blindness herself, paused to think it over. Her own condition had come from severe trauma, while his was congenital, a hereditary issue. The recovery timelines were different.

"Su mentioned it should be about a week before the bandages come off."

Gabriela nodded. "Good to hear."

This surgery had apparently been simpler than the one Aubrey herself had needed after her injury.

Chapter 1288

Like Gabriela, Aubrey had never warmed to Sun Gang. Now that the surgery was behind them, she had no real interest in following his recovery further, and quickly changed the subject, inviting Gabriela to go shopping instead. Gabriela shook her head.

"I need to stop by the hospital."

Ever since she'd arranged for Aunt Zhu and Xiaofeng's admission, she hadn't been back to check on them.

Today she finally had a free moment.

Aubrey wasn't interested in tagging along.

Su Zhuoming had been operating nonstop for days and was utterly worn out. He was resting at home that day.

"I'm off to buy groceries. I'm making a big meal to reward my husband!"

Whenever Aubrey talked about him, her eyes lit up with pure joy, glowing with happiness. She was a woman thoroughly wrapped up in love.

It seemed she'd truly moved past Kevin at last, and Gabriela couldn't help but feel glad for her.

"Go on, then."

"Gabriela, want to come eat with us?" Aubrey asked. "I know my cooking's nowhere near as good as yours, but Su says it's not bad."

"No thanks," Gabriela laughed. "I don't want to play third wheel."

Back when Aubrey was still with Kevin, she'd never liked other people tagging along either.

Now that she was deep in her honeymoon phase with Su, Gabriela was even more careful to give the two of them their space.

Aubrey didn't push it. "All right, then. I'll treat you to a meal some other time."

The two of them parted ways, one to the supermarket, the other to the hospital.

Aunt Zhu was feeding Xiaofeng water when Gabriela arrived, carrying fruit and nutritional supplements. Aunt Zhu looked almost pained by the gesture.

"Miss Gabriela, it's already so kind of you just to visit. Please, don't bring anything next time."

"It's nothing, really. I asked the doctor, and Xiaofeng can have a little milk now."

Gabriela studied the boy carefully. His color had improved, and the frightening pallor that had once colored his lips was gone.

It seemed the treatment here was working well.

Reassured, Gabriela didn't stay long and got ready to head out.

On her way downstairs, she paused a moment, then found herself walking toward the ophthalmology ward instead.

She wasn't entirely sure why, but something suddenly made her want to check in on Sun Gang.

The ophthalmology inpatient department was in the same building, just on a different floor.

Gabriela asked around for directions and found Sun Gang's room within minutes, a shared room housing two patients.

It was the second day after his surgery. He sat propped up in bed against a pillow, while his mother fed him something light.

Gabriela overheard her saying, "Thank goodness. Dr. Su said the surgery was a real success."

Sun Gang's face lit up with joy.

"Mom, just one more week and the bandages come off, and I'll be able to see again," he said, his voice brimming with excitement as he launched into describing the colors of the world, the blue of the sky, the white of the rivers, the green of the fields.

His mother was so moved her eyes glistened with tears, and she nodded along with everything he said.

Chapter 1289

Gabriela stood outside the door a while, listening, but didn't go in.

She felt genuinely glad for him.

From what she could tell, he seemed emotionally steady. Maybe she'd been too quick to judge him before.

It seemed like there was nothing to worry about after all.

Gabriela turned to go.

Just then, the other patient sharing the room spoke up. "It's wonderful the surgery went well, but there's always a chance things don't work out completely. Success doesn't guarantee full recovery."

This other patient had also had surgery, and had initially regained his sight. But after being discharged, he'd failed to care for his eyes properly, developed an infection, and lost his vision all over again.

Sun Gang didn't take that comment well.

"Dr. Su is one of the best surgeons in the country. What you're describing doesn't happen under his care!"

"How can you be so sure?" the patient sighed helplessly. "I'm not trying to knock Dr. Su. But probabilities are probabilities. No one can promise a hundred percent outcome. You should be prepared for that, mentally."

He'd meant it kindly, hoping to temper expectations so the fall wouldn't hit as hard later.

But Sun Gang couldn't see it that way. He shot back angrily, "You lost your sight again because of your own carelessness. Don't compare your situation to mine!"

Caught off guard by the sharp response, the well-meaning patient fell silent and lay quietly back on his bed.

Sun Gang, meanwhile, was already seething. He refused to eat the millet porridge his mother was feeding him and shoved the bowl away so hard the porridge spilled across the bedsheets.

His mother quickly grabbed some tissues to clean up the mess.

Overwhelmed by his own blindness, Sun Gang suddenly grew restless. He reached out and pressed the call button by his bed.

A nurse came in shortly after and asked what he needed.

“Where’s Dr. Su?” he demanded.

In that moment, he desperately needed the reassurance of Dr. Su’s presence to settle his anxious heart.

The nurse explained that Dr. Su was resting.

Sun Gang froze. “I just had surgery. How can my own surgeon not even be at the hospital right now?”

The nurse patiently explained that Dr. Su had performed several surgeries over the past few days and was physically exhausted.

“He checked on you himself last night and said your recovery looks good so far. As long as you keep the wound dry and avoid anything you shouldn’t be eating, there shouldn’t be any issues.”

“You said shouldn’t be. What if something goes wrong with the wound? Can Dr. Su rush back here?” Sun Gang’s expression darkened further.

“Nothing’s going to go wrong,” the nurse reassured him gently. “And besides, we have several doctors on duty here every single day. Your attending physician is watching your case closely.”

“They’re not as skilled as Dr. Su.”

Sun Gang wouldn’t let it go, insisting on seeing Dr. Su right away.

Chapter 1290

Growing exasperated but keeping her tone professional, the nurse said, “Mr. Sun, even the most skilled doctors are human. They need rest too. Even if I called him back right now, would you really expect him to stay here overnight just for you?”

Typically, a surgeon’s direct role ended once the procedure was done, with follow-up care handled by other doctors on staff.

Sun Gang exploded.

“He’s a doctor! Shouldn’t his patients’ wellbeing come first? If he’s tired, let him rest here at the hospital. Someone as important as Dr. Su, are you telling me this place doesn’t even have a spare bed for him?”

The nurse, at the end of her patience but knowing better than to argue with a patient, gave a tight nod. "Please wait a moment. I'll go check."

Not long after, she returned with his attending physician.

Well practiced at handling difficult patients, the attending physician settled Sun Gang down quickly.

He offered a gentle, reassuring smile. "Dr. Su already told you the surgery went well, which means the odds of you regaining your sight are quite good. There's no need to worry so much. I'll be here at the hospital during the day, and we have skilled ophthalmologists on call every night. You can reach us anytime something comes up."

"Staying calm will only help your recovery," he added.

The doctor's steady, reasonable tone finally settled Sun Gang, and he stopped pushing to see Dr. Su.

The whole incident didn't draw much attention.

After all, it wasn't unusual for patients to grow irritable after surgery, whether from pain or worry.

Another uneventful week passed.

Today was the day the bandages were supposed to come off.

But after examining him, Dr. Su explained, “Your wound hasn’t quite healed enough yet. We’ll need to wait another two or three days before removing the bandages.”

Sun Gang’s displeasure was obvious.

“Dr. Su, you told me a week and the bandages would come off. Why do I have to wait longer now?”

He’d spent the entire week counting down the days, aching for the moment he could finally see again.

Now that the date had been pushed back without warning, a creeping sense of paranoia began stirring inside him.

“Dr. Su, are you saying the surgery didn’t actually work?”

What if it had failed, and Dr. Su was just protecting his own reputation by calling it a success?

What if they kept delaying, over and over, only to eventually admit his eyes were beyond saving? What if he ended up not just blind, but losing his eyes altogether?

“Don’t let your mind run away with you,” Dr. Su said patiently. “This kind of delay is quite common among patients. Just give it a couple more days.”

His reassurance finally seemed to land. Sun Gang lowered his head and stopped pressing the issue.

“All right,” he murmured.

Dr. Su then turned his attention to the other patient, the one who’d tried, however clumsily, to offer some perspective earlier.

After reviewing the data, Dr. Su decided to schedule a second surgery for him in two days’ time.

“Given your condition, the success rate for a second surgery is lower than the first, only about fifty percent. Are you willing to proceed?”