

R Woman 341

Chapter 341: Old Friend

Capital City.

A certain office building.

Sitting in front of his desk, Qin Zhenglin's hands flew rapidly over the keyboard, a slight expression of fatigue flashing in his eyes.

The screen displayed a string of code that was incomprehensible to most.

It wasn't clear which key he pressed, but the screen switched to a news story.

Seeing the news, a spark of energy seemed to light up Qin Zhenglin's eyes.

He quickly picked up the mobile phone on his desk, opened the contact list, found a familiar number, and dialed it.

However, an icy automated female voice came through, "Sorry, the number you have dialed is switched off. Please try again later."

Switched off?

Qin Zhenglin frowned slightly, puzzlement flickering across his face as he stared at the dim screen.

Didn't the news say that Brother Jin had already returned?

Why was his phone still switched off?

Just then, there was a knock on the office door, and a woman dressed in professional attire walked in.

"President Qin," the woman said respectfully, "President Zhang from Advance Time Technology is here, waiting for you in the reception room."

Qin Zhenglin massaged his temples, feeling a headache coming on, but he dared not neglect President Zhang.

He immediately got to his feet, "Understood, I'll be right there."

President Zhang from Advance Time Technology had come to discuss a collaboration.

Advance Time Technology was a well-known publicly listed gaming company, and every game they developed became a global sensation.

In theory, Qin Zhenglin should be thrilled that President Zhang from a company as big as Advance Time Technology had personally come to discuss a partnership, especially since the gaming company had just been established; such a collaboration could make them an overnight success.

But the problem lay exactly there, because the game engine that had caught Advance Time's interest was one given to him by Chu Jin. He hadn't been involved in the early stages of its production and didn't understand the game from start to finish. His thinking was different, so he couldn't fix some of the engine's flaws to Advance Time Technology's satisfaction.

Luckily, Chu Jin had finally returned.

Qin Zhenglin quietly breathed a sigh of relief.

With Brother Jin here, what were these issues in comparison?

A formulaic smile spread across Qin Zhenglin's face as he strode towards the reception room.

Dressed in a sharp black suit, he radiated confidence, no trace of his past self was visible. He looked decidedly like a true business elite when serious about his work.

"President Qin," President Zhang, who was sitting on the sofa, immediately rose in a polite gesture as Qin Zhenglin entered.

There was a reason for Advance Time Technology's success, and it was not without basis. They valued and respected talent, and did not look down on someone just because their company was a fledgling startup, avoiding arrogance and complacency.

Qin Zhenglin approached and shook hands with him, unruffled, "President Zhang, I appreciate you making the trip. We will promptly address the engine's shortcomings and deliver a perfect product to your company."

President Zhang adjusted his glasses, "President Qin, our CEO is very impressed with this game and has great confidence that it will lead both our companies to a new pinnacle."

Qin Zhenglin gestured for President Zhang to sit down, then instructed his secretary to make tea.

Between the rising tendrils of steam, two titans of the business world fixed the universe's fate with their light-hearted banter.

Mid-conversation, President Zhang revealed the primary purpose of his visit, "Our CEO hopes to meet the creator of your company's game in person."

Qin Zhenglin's brow creased slightly, "Meet in person?" It seemed unexpected to him that Advance Time's CEO would have such a request.

When a company's boss wants to meet the game creator of another company, usually, they only have one objective, which is to scout talent or, as the saying goes, 'steal a march.' For a gaming company, it isn't just about headhunting; it's about acquiring inexhaustible resources and treasures, the future of a business.

Seeing the look on Qin Zhenglin's face, President Zhang quickly clarified, "President Qin, rest assured, our CEO has no other intentions. Your game simply reminded him of an old friend."

Actually, Qin Zhenglin wasn't worried about that. He hadn't even considered that possibility.

The true mastermind behind his company was Chu Jin; how could she possibly be lured away by another company?

What he truly feared was whether Chu Jin would agree to Advance Time Technology's request.

After all, she had always preferred to stay under the radar, unwilling even to attend the company's opening. The prospect of meeting Advance Time's CEO was even less likely.

From what President Zhang implied, if Chu Jin declined the meeting, they would terminate the partnership with the king.

Qin Zhenglin laughed, "President Zhang, you misunderstand, I know that's not what you meant."

Upon hearing this, President Zhang's eyes brightened, "Does that mean you agree to our CEO's request?"

He had thought that the CEO's request might be asking too much, but he hadn't expected Qin Zhenglin to be so agreeable.

Qin Zhenglin spoke carefully, "President Zhang, to be honest, I can't make this decision on my own. The creator of the game engine is friends with our boss. I need to consult with her and follow her opinion before I can give you an answer."

Because Chu Jin intended to be a person behind the scenes, Qin Zhenglin subconsciously concealed the fact that she was the owner of the king company.

President Zhang nodded to show his understanding, stood up to take his leave from Qin Zhenglin, "Then I'll leave this matter in your capable hands, Mr. Qin. I hope you can give me an answer as soon as possible."

Qin Zhenglin stood up to see him out, "Take care, President Zhang. By tomorrow at the latest, I will definitely give you an answer."

After sending President Zhang off, Qin Zhenglin dialed Chu Jin's number again.

But the line was still indicating that the phone was turned off.

Qin Zhenglin muttered, "This is really bizarre."

Could it be that she just came back and didn't charge her phone?

Fortunately, he knew where Chu Jin's school was. If nothing else, he could spare some time to visit her school later.

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South Bridge No.2 Middle School.

Class Ten.

Following Chu Jin's usual habit, Chu Jin was seriously bent over doing math practice problems at this moment.

"Eh, Jin, why has your handwriting changed?" Miao Xinran draped an arm around Chu Jin's shoulder in her usual careless manner, a puzzled look flashing in her eyes.

She remembered that Jin's handwriting used to flow effortlessly, graceful yet robust, containing the delicacy of a young lady and the boldness of a man, extremely beautiful.

But today...

It had changed to this?

It looked nice, but it lacked any distinguishing features, completely missing the shadow of its former self.

Handwriting reflects the person.

But today's writing didn't match Chu Jin's temperament at all.

Chu Jin's fingers stiffened as she wrote, then quickly returned to normal, and she responded without changing her expression, "Isn't this just to prevent you all from getting aesthetic fatigue? I've been planning to change to a different style."

"Oh," Miao Xinran nodded thoughtfully, "I see, but I feel your previous handwriting looked better. The current one is hideous, it seems petty, completely incongruent with your image and temperament. I suggest you don't change your style. The old one was quite nice, it had charm and was pleasant to look at. Even our grade director praised your writing last time. What you're writing now, what is it? It looks like dog's crawl... "

Miao Xinran, naturally blunt and straightforward, has always been the kind to speak her mind.

Chu Jin's complexion was gradually paling, her downcast eyes became sharp as if laced with poison. This insufferable wretch to say her handwriting was disgusting! She had practiced her penmanship for more than three years! How could it possibly be worse than some no-account's?

Could it be that she had discovered something?

Purposely coming to ridicule and sneer at her?

Chu Jin already despised Miao Xinran, and at this moment, that hatred in her heart was ignited to its peak. She looked up at Miao Xinran with an icy gaze, "It's none of your business!"

Miao Xinran was taken aback by her look.

She had never seen Jin like this before.

It was too strange.

That look, it was like a knife laced with poison.

As if it could devour someone.

It wasn't like she was looking at a friend but rather an enemy with deep-seated hatred.

At that moment, she even thought she was hallucinating.

How could Jin possibly show her such a look?

Miao Xinran's smile froze on her lips. Had the pure friendship between her and Jin soured?

Had she offended Jin in some way?

The more she thought about it, the more confused she became. Miao Xinran put on a slight smile again, "Jin, I'll go to the cafeteria early to get lunch. What would you like to eat?"

Chu Jin's lips curved slightly, not expecting that there would be a day when Miao Xinran would take the initiative to please her.

It seemed that she probably hadn't discovered anything.

Then, she would take her time to settle their old scores!

Chu Jin spoke slowly, "Then just the same as before."

Just then, the class representative Zhang Fangyi came to inform the homeroom teacher that Chu Jin was needed in the office.

Chu Jin nodded gently at Zhang Fangyi, "I understand. I'll go right away." With those words, she left her seat and walked in the direction of the office.

Chapter 342: Overjoyed

Chu Jin had just stepped outside when Miao Xinran wrapped an arm around Zhang Fangyi's shoulder, looking every bit the good brother and said, "Little Zhang, have you noticed that Jin seems a bit different from before?"

The sensitive teenager during the throes of puberty blushed immediately at such closeness, stammering a bit as he said, "No... no, I haven't..."

Miao Xinran released him, picked up Chu Jin's workbook from the table, and handed it to Zhang Fangyi, "Take a look at this handwriting, does it look any different from before?"

In truth, Miao Xinran already had a vague suspicion that something about this situation was off.

From Chu Jin's handwriting and their earlier interaction that morning, there was something inherently odd about this person, something eerily strange, but it was hard to pinpoint exactly what it was.

It was as if some truth was waiting for her to uncover it.

The flush on Zhang Fangyi's face gradually faded as he stared at the workbook in his hands for a while before saying seriously, "This isn't her handwriting."

He had seen Chu Jin's writing before.

It was nothing like this.

These two styles of handwriting were completely incomparable.

Miao Xinran stroked her chin, a mischievous smile on her face, "I wouldn't have guessed, you seem to know our Jin quite well."

Zhang Fangyi: "..."

Miao Xinran elbowed Zhang Fangyi and pressed on, "Come on, confess, do you have a crush on our Jin?"

"... Don't talk nonsense!" After blurting out those three words, Zhang Fangyi promptly beat a hasty retreat.

Miao Xinran watched Zhang Fangyi's retreating back, her gaze growing serious.

How could someone's handwriting change so easily, and moreover, into two completely different styles?

In these words, there was no trace of the past to be found anymore.

Was it really as simple as a change in style?

Besides, Jin had been acting so strangely today.

Could it be a split personality?

Could it be that the old Jin is coming back?

The old, meek and timid wretch?

But if that person wasn't Jin, how could there be two people so similar in the world?

Miao Xinran always felt that the divination session Chu Jin did for her was their true first encounter.

It was Chu Jin who had changed her fate.

To her, Chu Jin was more than just a classmate, a friend, a best friend; she was her benefactor.

And so, no matter what, she would always be good to Chu Jin.

That's why she had to investigate this matter further.

To find out what was really going on.

In the office.

The homeroom teacher, Ms. Wu, looked quite satisfied at the student standing in front of her.

Chu Jin took the initiative to speak first, "Teacher, did you call me here for something?"

Ms. Wu smiled as she said, "Chu Jin, your last speech has won a national first prize, and now many TV stations' reporters have asked to come and interview you at school. I wanted to ask if you would be willing to accept their interviews?"

Ms. Wu knew Chu Jin's character—she usually wouldn't like this kind of thing—which is why she hadn't agreed to the reporters' requests without Chu Jin's consent; she wanted to ask for her opinion first.

Brilliance to the extreme can be harmful.

She was in her crucial last year of high school, so Ms. Wu didn't want her to be distracted by other things.

For a young person in their growing years, premature fame isn't necessarily a good thing.

After all, there was the lesson of Shang Yang to consider.

Plus, those reporters were mostly attracted by the online sensationalism.

After all, "Chu the Beaut" was really popular on the internet now.

They were all looking to increase their ratings.

An interview by the TV stations?

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin's eyes lit up. An interview by the TV stations to create publicity for her? Of course, she was willing.

"Teacher, I am willing. When will they be coming for the interviews?"

Willing?

Ms. Wu was taken aback before she recovered, as she had thought Chu Jin would refuse.

To her surprise, she had agreed.

"Alright, since you agree, I will get back to them in a moment. And you don't need to feel pressured. Just answer whatever they ask you during the interview. Oh, and since it's like this, remember to wear your school uniform tomorrow."

The school uniform had the logo on it, which would also help to increase the visibility of South Bridge No.2 Middle School.

Chu Jin nodded, "Okay, teacher, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave now."

Ms. Wu watched Chu Jin's departing figure, her expression becoming slightly more thoughtful.

Had she misjudged someone's character?

Had this child started to become proud and impatient?

From Chu Jin's recent behavior, she now seemed to lack the earlier poise and composure that wasn't easily swayed by praise or criticism.

The way she walked even had a hint of arrogance now.

At this thought, a look of concern flashed through Ms. Wu's eyes.

Chapter 343: Send you six words

Ms. Wu watched Chu Jin walk away,

her eyes slightly deep with concern.

She was worried that this young girl had been blinded by fame and fortune, unable to see clearly the path she ought to take.

In her decade-plus years of teaching, she had seen too many students like her.

She hoped that Jin would follow her heart.

Not to be so eager for quick success and immediate benefits.

Because she hadn't chatted with Ms. Wu, Chu Jin quickly returned to the classroom.

"What did Ms. Wu want with you?" Miao Xinran leaned over and asked.

Chu Jin suppressed the excitement in her heart and tried to keep her tone as calm as possible, "Nothing much, just that a TV station wants to interview me, that's all."

But no matter how well she hid it, the hint of pride that showed on her face was evident.

She had lived for eighteen years.

Even though she had once been a wealthy young Miss, and her studies had always been excellent.

But she had never been this powerful.

To actually have a TV station come to interview her.

What an honor that was.

Thinking that her life would continue to be splendid from here on out, Chu Jin's heart was filled with a sense of superiority and joy.

This kind of life was truly a joy.

Someone like her was destined to live amidst the envy of others.

In the future, she was bound to have a brilliant life, a world of glory.

Miao Xinran had been smiling warmly at Chu Jin, but upon hearing her words and seeing the triumphant look on her face, the smile on her lips slowly faded.

Was the person before her really the Jin she knew?

This was too unreal.

Could she still see herself?

Had Jin genuinely changed?

"The TV station is coming to interview you? Why would they want to interview you?" Miao Xinran twirled her pen and continued to ask, "Did you agree to it?"

Chu Jin's mouth curved into a smile, "Yeah, the TV station wants to interview me because the speech I wrote on life won a national first prize, so they want to interview me. Ms. Wu said it's not just one TV station either. Since you're my deskmate, maybe you can bask in my glory and appear on TV with me."

In Chu Jin's eyes, being interviewed by several TV stations was a very big deal.

After all, she was only eighteen.

Many people go through their whole lives without ever appearing on TV.

And here she was, accomplishing it with such ease.

"So that means you accepted their interview?" Miao Xinran frowned slightly.

The Jin she knew was not so fixated on fame and fortune.

Accepting a TV interview, placing oneself on a pedestal, and even speaking to her in that tone.

"What's wrong?" Chu Jin glanced sideways at Miao Xinran, "Are you unhappy that I'm being interviewed by a TV station?"

Looking at Miao Xinran, she knew she must be jealous.

Jealous that she was being interviewed by a TV station.

Chu Jin had never imagined that there would come a day when Miao Xinran would be envious of her!

Her heart was filled with delight.

Miao Xinran rolled her eyes in exasperation, "I'm not unhappy. It's just that I feel it's not very good for you to accept a TV interview right now. You really should consider it some more, after all, we're about to take the college entrance exam. Wouldn't it distract you at this critical time? Plus, you're already popular enough on Weibo. Becoming a public figure too soon isn't beneficial for you."

Miao Xinran was speaking the truth. For Chu Jin to accept interviews at this time was indeed an unwise choice.

Gaining fame too early and being blinded by it was not a good thing,

especially at such a crucial time.

Chu Jin scoffed, "In the end, you're just jealous, Xinran. I really didn't expect you to be this kind of person."

"Jin!" Miao Xinran's voice rose slightly with anger, "Why have you become like this?"

The corners of Chu Jin's mouth rose in a curve, "Oh, are you feeling embarrassed and angry now?"

Miao Xinran took a deep breath, trying hard to calm herself down, "Jin, I want to give you six words."

Chu Jin lifted her chin, and spat out a word, "Speak."

Miao Xinran looked at her earnestly and said deliberately, "Arrogance invites ruin; humility receives benefits."

The current Chu Jin was truly too impetuous.

She had completely lost the essence of her past self.

Chu Jin laughed lightly, "If saying that makes you feel better, then fine, I accept."

"Forget it, let's pretend I didn't say anything." Miao Xinran sat upright, neatening up the books on the desk one by one.

The person before her was becoming less and less like the Jin she knew.

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Elsewhere, in the forest.

The sunlight bathed the earth, and the sky above the woods was tranquil, the golden sun casting a layer of gold on the leaves.

Nobody would have imagined that beneath the trees there was a bloody massacre unfolding.

The White Tiger had completely lost control. It roared! It bellowed! Its claws slashed through tree after tree, and the ground was riddled with claw marks, the surroundings in utter chaos.

Chu Jin's Spiritual Power within her had reached its limits. She hadn't expected that the White Tiger would suddenly break free in a violent fit. Continuing to struggle against it would only lead to mutual destruction; the formation would break, and she would perish!

Dodging the pouncing White Tiger, she clutched her chest, groaned softly, and felt a coppery sweetness surge up from the depth of her throat. A trace of bright red blood ran down the corner of her mouth, the crimson against her pale skin startlingly intense, yet not out of place, instead revealing another sort of ethereal beauty.

Chapter 344: Trifling skills of the insects

Blood?

Chu Jin's spiritual light flashed as she lifted her eyes to the White Tiger, a chilling curve forming on her lips, "Since that's the case, I have no choice but to resort to this method!"

She raised her hand swiftly, forming a seal, "With my blood, I seal your body, summon the five reincarnations, initiate the Blood Covenant..."

Her hair danced without wind, her clothes fluttered, and at this moment, her entire being was suspended in mid-air; within her originally pitch-black pupils, now shone a bewitching red light.

As if the Mystical Maiden of the Ninth Heaven had descended, reborn from flames.

That was Chu Jin, yet it was not Chu Jin.

Dai Yu's eyes were filled with disbelief as she looked at everything unfolding before her.

Shock and reluctance.

She never thought that someone who couldn't even pick the Phoenix fruit could actually...

It must be an illusion.

Dai Yu staggered a few steps back, her steps unsteady.

No, she couldn't let her succeed!

Dai Yu's fingertips moved slightly, and a wisp of white mist drifted out.

At this moment, a pair of blood-red eyes looked her way, filled with endless chill and sharpness, their gaze turning into a sharp ice blade, making Dai Yu's heart quake with fear.

Chu Jin reached out a hand and grasped the white mist at her fingertips, her lips curving into a wicked smile, "Trivial tricks!"

Her demeanor was brazen, bright, and seductive, radiating a daunting aura of a superior being.

She had seized the white mist of her own illusion!

Dai Yu's eyes widened, and she stood rooted to the spot.

Chu Jin, holding the white mist, flicked her fingertips lightly, "Return to where you came from!" The mist was carried away by the flowing air, returning entirely into Dai Yu's body.

The voice was ethereal, as if tinged with a layer of bloodlight—overpowering!

Every cause has its effect, and Dai Yu must taste the seeds she herself had sown!

Dai Yu watched with wide eyes as the white mist floated into her body, immediately feeling a searing pain in her head as if it were being torn apart, and then everything went black as she collapsed to the ground.

It was her secretly concocted poison smoke—there was no cure!

The White Tiger continued to struggle and roar; after all, it was one of the eight Divine Beasts, and subduing it was anything but simple.

Moreover, the White Tiger before her had fully awakened, brimming with spiritual power.

The bloodlight in Chu Jin's eyes intensified, the red turning so dense it seemed as though it could congeal and drip down. Her sanity began to scatter bit by bit.

The Qian Kun Formation was shaking violently as if it would rupture at any moment.

"With my blood, I offer a sacrifice to your soul, activate the curse..." A drop of fresh blood fell from her fingertip, and Chu Jin's vision began to blur, the blood in her eyes slowly fading away. Her eyelids felt as if they had been glued shut—extremely heavy and impossible to open.

Simultaneously, the color of the Blood Jade Bracelet on her wrist shifted from pure white to a deeper red, eye-catchingly returning to its previous state.

Her body, suspended in mid-air, suddenly seemed as if it had lost all weight and began to fall rapidly.

In the last moments before consciousness vanished, she seemed to have fallen into a somewhat cold but broad embrace, the familiar scent of tobacco wrapping around her nose, providing a sense of security.

She vaguely felt a cool hand wiping the blood from the corner of her mouth, and then, she knew no more, succumbing entirely to unconsciousness.

"Monster! To have injured her so gravely! In that case, you no longer deserve to cling to life!" A frigid voice arose in the air, filled with an imposing presence.

At the same time, the Qian Kun Formation shattered into two halves, and a noble figure appeared in front of the White Tiger. With a face as handsome as jade and eyes as deep as the ocean, he radiated a chilling brilliance that commanded respect and submission, making it difficult for onlookers to meet his gaze.

He looked coldly at the White Tiger, his profound eyes seeming to be coated with a layer of ice, which materialized and shot violently into the depths of the White Tiger's eyes!

Bang!

Roar!

Another tiger's roar echoed, but this time it was a shriek of pain!

Following the roar, the once-rampaging White Tiger suddenly knelt on its front paws, prostrating on the ground. Its body shrank to a fraction of its original size, losing its wildness and turning into a trembling, obedient cat-sized creature, speaking in human tongue, begging, "Please, I beg of you, spare my life. I am willing to establish a Blood Covenant with you, to become your Guardian Spirit, to serve you for all eternity! Upon my death, the covenant shall dissolve!"

Mo Zhixuan lowered his gaze to see a face of refined features. Her complexion, which had returned to normal, was now ghastly pale, her delicate lips stained with blood, her exquisite eyebrows deeply furrowed as if enduring unspeakable pain.

The man, enraged, flicked his fingers, sending icicles straight toward the prostrating White Tiger on the ground.

The White Tiger's eyes were filled with terror, but it could only watch helplessly as the icicles pierced its body.

The snowy white fur was instantly stained red with blood.

Ignoring the pain, the White Tiger immediately crawled to Mo Zhixuan's feet, "Master, I am willing to offer my blood as a sacrifice to this miss, to form a Blood Covenant with her, to protect her thoroughly for a lifetime!"

Upon hearing this, Elder Xu Kong's words echoed in Mo Zhixuan's ears—"the one who defies the world."

Since the White Tiger was one of the eight Divine Beasts, one of the four spirits of the heavens, perhaps forming a covenant with it could keep her hidden from God's Eye.

Chapter 345: Men in Black

The Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Vermilion Bird, and Black Tortoise each represent the east, west, south, and north directions, respectively.

Now that the White Tiger has appeared in the world, instability plagues the west, and turmoil will inevitably arise within the Three Realms.

What does the turmoil of the Three Realms have to do with him?

He only wanted her to live one lifetime in peace and happiness, content with just that.

Mo Zhixuan turned his gaze toward the White Tiger. His eyes, cold as frost and sharp as a sword, "If you cannot restore her to normal, I will flay your skin and rip out your sinews! Burn your bones to ashes!"

"My lord, please rest assured," enduring the pain, the White Tiger straightened up like a human, raised its front paw, and bowed, "I will definitely restore the young lady to her normal state."

As he spoke, the White Tiger extended a paw and slowly placed it on Chu Jin's wrist. The fluffy paw touching her fair wrist created a rather eye-pleasing image.

A red light spread along her wrist, and Chu Jin's complexion slowly regained its color, the trace of blood on her lips vanished in an instant, her tightly furrowed brows also gradually relaxed, and her breathing became more steady.

Meanwhile, the White Tiger's body shrank once again, becoming the size of a kitten, its life now fused with Chu Jin's.

"My lord, the young lady will wake up after one 'shichen,'" the White Tiger slowly withdrew its paw and licked the wound on it with its tongue.

On Chu Jin's originally smooth and fair wrist, a bright red plum blossom mark now stood out.

The red plum blossoms, blooming on her snow-white skin, made her complexion appear even whiter and the flowers even redder, creating an extremely beautiful scene—breathtakingly gorgeous!

Mo Zhixuan, holding Chu Jin in his arms, got up and walked past Dai Yu, who was lying on the ground, step by step towards the forest's edge.

A plump little white cat followed behind them.

Crossing the Iron Chain Bridge, Mo Zhixuan paused, his phoenix eyes slightly narrowed, a cold light flashing in their depths.

Bang!

White smoke rose from behind.

The chains linking the two mountains had just snapped.

The White Tiger's heart jumped with shock, secretly grateful for its decision, quickly hastening its pace to follow Mo Zhixuan.

Arriving at the courtyard, Elder Xu Kong noticed Mo Zhixuan carrying Chu Jin, his expression slightly changed, and hurried forward to greet them, "Nine Ye, what happened to you? Is Miss Chu all right?"

"Thanks to your disciple, she is temporarily unharmed," his deep voice carried no trace of emotion, yet inexplicably made it difficult for one to look directly into his eyes.

Was Dai Yu involved?

Elder Xu Kong's brows throbbed twice, "Nine Ye, although my disciple has been somewhat naughty, her nature is still very good. There must be some misunderstanding here..."

Mo Zhixuan's phoenix eyes narrowed, "In light of the fact that you once saved Jin, let's consider this matter settled. But if there is a next time, I will level Spirit Mist Mountain to the ground!"

Elder Xu Kong had known Mo Zhixuan for a long time.

He was also aware of his massacre.

So, at this moment, he knew Mo Zhixuan was not joking—this man was truly angered!

But Dai Yu was also of vital importance to him, Elder Xu Kong, composed himself and continued, "Nine Ye, you too are a man of your word. Do you mean to break your promise now?"

He had made a promise in the past, after all—a gentleman's word.

Mo Zhixuan's thin lips lifted in a hint of mockery, "When your precious disciple returns safe and sound, then we can speak of this matter. Rest assured, I am known for keeping my promises!"

The Iron Chain Bridge was destroyed, and Dai Yu was poisoned by her mist. A safe return would be difficult for her.

If it weren't for the fact that this master-disciple pair had saved Chu Jin before, he would have thrown Dai Yu off the cliff already!

"What did you do to my Yu'er?" Elder Xu Kong's eyes narrowed, looking at Mo Zhixuan.

After speaking, Elder Xu Kong realized his words were inappropriate. This lord was not someone to be trifled with!

If he truly leveled Spirit Mist Mountain to the ground, Elder Xu Kong would have nowhere to plead his case.

After all, this lord was already beyond the confines of the Three Realms.

He hastily averted his gaze and hurried towards the door.

Right now, finding Dai Yu was crucial.

Mo Zhixuan cradled Chu Jin as he walked toward the house, passing through layers of light gauze and placing her on the Cold Jade Bed. He slowly pressed his palm against her forehead and let out a light sigh.

The little white cat obediently crouched at his feet.

Nobody could have imagined that this docile and adorable little cat was in fact the ancient Divine Beast, White Tiger, in disguise!

Unbeknownst to him, right after Mo Zhixuan left, a person shrouded in a black robe slowly emerged from the mountain forest.

With an elongated figure, the person was draped in a black cloak, with a wide-brimmed hat resting on their head, casting a shadow that concealed most of their features, leaving only the lines of their lean jaw and firmly closed lips visible, wrapped in an aura of frost that was almost chilling to the bone.

Although their face was not clear, they still invoked fear in anyone who caught sight of them, like the Grim Reaper arriving at Dai Yu's side.

A scent of death emanated from the figure, mysterious and unfathomable.

No one knew what kind of eyes were hidden beneath the hat brim.

The figure in black slowly lifted their hand, and countless pale blue ghostly lights radiated from their palm, infusing into Dai Yu's body. The luminous glow penetrated her skin and bones, following the paths of her meridians and spreading to every corner of her body.

Dai Yu's brows furrowed, and then her eyes slowly opened. The first thing she saw was a pair of black boots, and as she looked upward...

Dai Yu jolted awake, retracted her gaze, and dared not continue looking. Enduring the tidal wave of pain in her body, she immediately scrambled up from the ground and knelt at the feet of the figure in black, "Thank you for saving me, Lord Ghost!"

"Who allowed you to touch her?" the figure in black half-knelt, reaching out to grasp Dai Yu's chin, their voice icy cold, as if coming from the depths of hell, brimming with murderous intent.

Crack!

The sound of bones breaking.

At the same time, Dai Yu's features twisted instantly, her face filled with a grimace of agony. In that moment, there was no trace of her usual innocent beauty, rather she resembled a dying ant struggling for life.

This man was too dangerous, too terrifying.

A dangerous sense of pressure enveloped the air around.

It silenced any desire to breathe too loudly.

He was like a Grim Reaper in charge of fate, able to take away lives at any moment.

"Ghost, L-Lord Ghost spare my life..." The feeling of approaching death was too terrifying, Dai Yu's complexion turned deathly pale as she forced out a few words through gritted teeth.

The man in black shifted his hand from Dai Yu's chin to her neck, Dai Yu had almost no strength to resist, terror filled her beautiful eyes.

Dai Yu's feet were slowly lifting off the ground.

The hand gripping her neck seemed to exert little effort, easily lifting her up from the ground, as the aura of death enveloped her entire being.

The man in black stood there, shrouded in frost; from Dai Yu's angle, she could only see his lean jaw, which held a certain cold and ruthless determination.

"Who gave you permission to touch her?" The man's grip tightened gradually.

They were an exceptionally clean pair of hands, well-proportioned with clear knuckles, perfect as if they belonged to an artist, and under the contrast of the black clothes, they seemed unusually pale yet strong, not at all delicate.

Dai Yu's complexion turned from white to red, her brows furrowed, she struggled to breathe and her feet kicked in the air, as if she might die at any moment.

"Lord Ghost... I won't dare again... Please, spare my life..." Dai Yu's face twisted in pain, her throat emitting raspy noises due to a severe lack of oxygen.

She was truly scared.

This feeling was more terrifying than death by tenfold.

"Today I shall spare your life!" A slight arc curled up at the corners of the lips exposed beneath the hat brim, he coldly loosened his grip, "If there is a next time, and you harm her even in the slightest, I will condemn you to eternal damnation!"

Thud!

Dai Yu was harshly thrown to the ground, coughing violently as she clutched her neck, greedily inhaling fresh air.

"Thank you for your mercy, Lord Ghost!" Dai Yu bowed low at the feet of the man in black, her posture as low as dust.

The man in black stood above her, "Don't attempt any tricks before me, stay by Mo Zhixuan's side and find a way to gain his trust. Don't make today's foolish mistake again. If anything happens to her, you alone will be held accountable!"

The ancient voice, filled with authority and as if coming from the depths of hell, made one's skin crawl with fear.

A shiver ran through Dai Yu, "Rest assured, Lord Ghost, I won't dare again. I will do everything in my power to safeguard Miss Chu Jin."

Though she said this, her heart was already twisted to the extreme.

Chapter 346: Only She Can't

Dai Yu bit her lip tightly, unable to understand what was so good about Chu Jin.

It was bad enough that Mr. Mo protected her.

Now, even Lord Ghost was protecting her!

What kind of background did she have!

The man in black spoke again, "Remember what I said today, the plan shall proceed as usual. At the critical moment, anyone can be sacrificed, except for her! Even if it means sacrificing yourself, you must protect her!"

She had been serving Lord Ghost for over ten years, yet in the end, she was still not as important as someone from the secular world!

For Chu Jin, Lord Ghost would even consider sacrificing himself!

Dai Yu bit her lip, with hatred churning in her eyes, unwilling to accept this.

"Did you hear that?" The man in black's figure turned into an afterimage, once again gripping Dai Yu's neck, his voice fierce, like a devil.

Dai Yu immediately snapped back to reality, fear evident in her eyes. The man's strength was enormous, as if he could snap her neck in the next second. At that moment, she couldn't speak and could only nod desperately.

"Get lost!" The man said coldly, flinging Dai Yu against a pine tree.

Bang!

The pine tree snapped in half.

Dai Yu clutched her chest, spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood.

One could imagine how much force the man in black had used.

The man in black snorted coldly and then his body turned into an afterimage, vanishing into the pine forest.

Dai Yu, clutching her chest, knelt on one knee, her voice weak, "Farewell, Lord Ghost!"

Only when she no longer felt the presence of the man in black did Dai Yu slowly let out a sigh of relief, raising her hand to wipe the blood from the corner of her mouth.

A purplish-red bruise marred her fair neck, the color stark against her pale skin, making it look somewhat grotesque.

Because of her severe injuries, Dai Yu had no choice but to sit under a pine tree, close her eyes, and heal herself through meditation.

Just then, a calling voice came from the forest.

"Yu'er/Junior Sister..."

"Where are you?"

Dai Yu abruptly opened her eyes, stood up with the support of the pine tree, and touched her neck to erase the hideous bruise.

"Master, Senior Brother, I'm here..." Dai Yu walked unsteadily toward the source of the voice.

"Junior Sister!" The young man saw Dai Yu and took three steps in two, rushing to her side and supporting her shoulders, "What happened to you, Junior Sister? Who hurt you like this?"

Sorrow filled the young man's eyes.

At that moment, Dai Yu was powerless, her steps unsteady, like a damaged doll.

Dai Yu mustered a faint smile toward him, her voice weak, "I'm alright, Senior Brother. You don't need to worry. Where's Master?"

"Master is ahead. I'll take you to him." The young man didn't hesitate to pick Dai Yu up and quickly moved forward.

Dai Yu's head tilted, and she fell unconscious in the arms of the young man.

Elder Xu Kong stood in the forest, holding a black compass in his hand. The compass's needle spun chaotically, and wisps of black smoke emitted from it, his expression serious, as if searching for something.

After a while, Elder Xu Kong stroked his beard and muttered to himself, "Could it be that he has been here?" A sharp glint flashed through his eyes, belying his advanced age.

When Elder Xu Kong saw Dai Yu, he too was taken aback and quickly checked her pulse, his voice heavy, "How did you get so seriously injured?"

After infusing some spiritual power into Dai Yu, Elder Xu Kong slowly said, "Changyi, take Yu'er back to heal first. Your master will follow shortly."

"As you command, Master." Changyi bowed respectfully and then left with Dai Yu.

Elder Xu Kong held the compass and walked deeper into the forest.

The Ghost Qi here was too intense.

And exceedingly brazen, without a hint of concealment.

With the emergence of Lord Ghost in the mortal world, the three realms may be thrown into chaos!

Elder Xu Kong sighed with concern.

He had to find a way to stop this catastrophe.

Otherwise, the human world would suffer, with plagues rampant!

**

South Bridge No.2 Middle School.

At noon, after school was dismissed, Chu Jin walked proudly towards the cafeteria.

Miao Xinran had already gone ahead to get her meal.

Along the way, many boys whistled and made faces at her, trying their best to attract Chu Jin's attention, while the girls looked on with envy.

Of course, this also included looks of disdain and contempt.

But Chu Jin filtered out all the malice, walking through the crowd with the pride of a peacock spreading its feathers.

For the first time in her life, she experienced what it felt like to be above others.

"Attention-seeking! Flirting shamelessly, truly disgraceful!"

"Wow, I never realized how pretty she was before, and she has such an elegant demeanor! She's ten times more beautiful than the school beauty!"

"Hmph, that face is obviously fake! Don't compare just anyone with our Xiaoyue! Is she even worthy?"

"As long as you have money, you can be that pretty too."

"Oh, why does this smell so sour? Some people just can't stand seeing others do well."

"I heard that there will be a TV station coming to interview her tomorrow..."

"Really?"

"Of course, it's true!"

"Yo, a TV station coming to interview? Is she aiming to become an actress?"

"..."

The mix of voices made Chu Jin lift her chin even higher.

Wang Kai watched the figure in front with an undisguised look of admiration in his eyes, truly a girl worth his attention!

She could remain calm and composed in the face of such talk!

She had presence!

In the crowd, a short-haired girl clenched her fists, a fierce glint flashing in her eyes, "Little bitch, needs to be put in her place!"

In the cafeteria, Miao Xinran had already gotten her food and was waiting at the table for her.

Seeing Chu Jin approach, her eyes lit up, and she immediately stood up from the table, "Jin, over here."

Even though today's Jin seemed a bit off, Miao Xinran still regarded her as a close friend from the bottom of her heart.

Chu Jin gave Miao Xinran a glance, leaned over to sit across from her, and when she saw the food on the tray, her eyebrows furrowed tightly, "Let's swap our meals, I want to eat what you have."

"Why?" Miao Xinran asked with some confusion.

Chu Jin didn't elaborate and simply switched the trays between them, then contently picked up a spoon and began to eat.

Miao Xinran watched Chu Jin with surprise.

Clang! A sound.

Miao Xinran's elbow accidentally knocked her tray onto the floor.

The crisp sound drew the gazing of many fellow students.

Chu Jin laughed softly, bent down to pick up the tray, and chided, "Xinran, how could you be so careless."

At that moment.

Miao Xinran was filled with confusion.

Because neither the previous Chu Jin nor the current Chu Jin liked carrots.

Yet the Chu Jin in front of her was eating them happily...

This was very unusual!

Can a person's handwriting change, their personality change, and even their tastes change?

Moreover, Chu Jin didn't just dislike carrots; she was allergic to them.

Miao Xinran steadied her emotions and continued, "Jin, do you remember our promise from year three?"

Chu Jin smiled faintly, "Of course I remember."

Miao Xinran smiled, her tone as calm as possible, "Then don't forget, okay? After our college entrance exams, the three of us will go to the island to play together."

Chu Jin nodded, "I won't forget, of course."

Miao Xinran narrowed her eyes, a keen light flashing through them as she stared intently at Chu Jin and spoke with certainty, "You're not Jin!"

Her voice was very calm.

Now Miao Xinran could almost confirm that the person in front of her was definitely not Chu Jin.

Because between the three of them, there was no such promise to go to an island after the college entrance exams.

Just now, she was merely testing Chu Jin.

"Xinran, what kind of joke are you playing at?" Chu Jin's expression remained normal.

No panic showed because of Miao Xinran's words.

What if Miao Xinran discovered the truth?

The real Chu Jin had vanished, and now, she was Chu Jin.

And now, she had the powerful backing of Madame Jiu.

Even if it got to a hospital, doctors wouldn't find any problems.

Who could prove that she wasn't Chu Jin?

That little bitch Chu Jin had been missing for so long, she was probably dead already.

Now, no one could threaten her!

She had been displeased with Miao Xinran for a long time, and it would be a good thing for them to finally clash openly.

It would save her the effort of pretending every day.

"Who the hell are you?" Miao Xinran stared straight at Chu Jin, her eyes sharp.

The corners of Chu Jin's mouth turned up in a faint smirk.

Leaning in close to Miao Xinran's ear, her low, provocative whisper, "What does it matter if I'm not Chu Jin? Do you think... here, who would believe your wild stories?"

Chapter 347: Return

The person in front of me was indeed not Chu Jin!

My own suspicion was indeed correct!

If she's not Chu Jin, then who is she?

What is her purpose in impersonating Chu Jin?

As Chu Jin's best friend, naturally, I could not allow a person of unknown origin to tarnish Chu Jin's reputation.

To let her walk around basking in the glory that rightfully belongs to Chu Jin.

I must reveal this person's true identity!

Chu Jin's eyes lifted ever so slightly at the corners, radiating a feeling of smug pride as she looked towards Miao Xinran with an air of fearlessness.

Now, it could be said that she had no worries at all.

Based solely on Miao Xinran's unilateral claims, it was impossible to prove that she was not Chu Jin.

Miao Xinran stared at Chu Jin, the rage in her eyes nearly materializing into something tangible.

She had never seen someone so shameless before, abandoning their own promising life to impersonate someone else!

Is there no limit?

Chu Jin scoffed lightly, "Are you angry? What's the use of being angry? That piece of trash might have died out there already..."

Slap!

Unable to contain herself any longer, Miao Xinran swung back her hand and delivered a slap to Chu Jin's face, causing her head to turn sideways as a trickle of blood emerged from the corner of her mouth. Chu Jin staggered several steps backward, finally bumping into a warm chest.

"Are you all right?" A concerned and pleasant voice came from above her head.

Accompanied by a touch of warmth.

A collective gasp swept through the crowd.

"Wow! The male god!"

"Wow! The school hunk..."

"The male god is so handsome."

The arrival of Wang Kai undoubtedly pushed the atmosphere at the scene to another climax.

With his perfect appearance and extraordinary long legs, his popularity at South Bridge No.2 Middle School could not be any higher.

With throngs of adoring fans, both boys and girls.

"The pairing of a male god and a female goddess, perfect!"

"I feel like the male god and Chu Beauty match perfectly."

Of course, this included some discordant voices.

"White Lotus! Always pretending to be pitiful!"

"Heh, a cliché hero saving a beauty."

"..."

Wang Kai, as if he had heard none of these comments, was solely concerned with whether the person in his arms was safe and sound.

"I'm fine..." Chu Jin lifted her hand to cover her cheek, her eyes misting over to present a pitiful, tear-streaked face, eliciting a man's desire to protect.

Wang Kai, while loosely embracing Chu Jin's shoulders, roared at Miao Xinran, "Miao Xinran! What's gotten into you! Apologize to Chu Jin at once!"

Miao Xinran was also very angry at that moment.

Though she had already slapped Chu Jin hard, she still felt unsatisfied.

She pointed at Chu Jin, "Wang Kai, have you lost your mind! Take a good look, is the person you're protecting really Jin? She's a fake! She's not Jin at all!"

Chu Jin remained composed, but the surrounding people had already started whispering amongst themselves.

Glancing at Miao Xinran, Wang Kai spoke with a mocking tone, "Miao Xinran, it looks like you're the crazy one, huh? If she's not Chu Jin, then are you Chu Jin?"

As soon as this was said, the onlooking students burst into laughter.

If the person in front of them wasn't Chu Jin, then who was?

Miao Xinran's claim really was too far-fetched.

"Wang Kai! She really isn't Jin, don't be fooled by her! She admitted herself that she isn't Jin!"

Chu Jin put on a heartbroken front, "Xinran, I have always considered you my best friend, how could you say such things about me!"

When it came to acting, Chu Jin was truly an expert, her performance was convincing and lifelike.

"Pretending! You're still pretending!" An outspoken person by nature, Miao Xinran was so incensed she felt like biting someone, "Can't you stop pretending? Impersonating our Jin, how shameless can you be!"

Miao Xinran raised her hand to give Chu Jin another slap but was stopped by Wang Kai who grabbed her wrist, "Miao Xinran! Try bullying her again, I dare you!"

Wang Kai was already a Taekwondo expert, so Miao Xinran was no match for him at the moment.

He didn't forget to lower his head to comfort Chu Jin, "Don't be afraid, I will protect you."

Wang Kai had long been eager to demonstrate his manliness in front of Chu Jin, and he certainly wasn't going to miss such a perfect opportunity.

Whether he could capture the beauty's heart depended on this moment.

Miao Xinran took a deep breath, her tone a bit anxious, "Wang Kai, believe me, she really isn't Jin, she's a shameless imposter! You're all being deceived by her!"

She didn't want everyone in the school to be fooled by Chu Jin.

What belonged to Jin could not be taken by anyone else.

She would protect everything that belonged to Jin until Jin returned safely.

"Xinran, I know that ever since the last English speech competition, you've had an issue with me. But some things are meant for you and others simply aren't, no matter how much you yearn for them. I hope you can be more at peace. Let's just let bygones be bygones today. I don't need your apology. I just hope we can still be good friends in the future..."

As soon as Chu Jin uttered these words, the onlooking students and Wang Kai showed a sudden understanding on their faces.

It turned out that Miao Xinran was just jealous of Chu Jin, that's why she slandered her.

"The goddess is so magnanimous..."

"Never thought that Miao Xinran could be this kind of person!"

Miao Xinran was a well-known top student at South Bridge No.2 Middle School, with her photograph plastered on the school's bulletin board. Therefore, many here were familiar with her.

"Beware of fire, theft, and best friends. Couldn't be more accurate!"

Chapter 348: Jealousy

"Jealousy is something everyone has, you know. Before Chu Jin became famous, Miao Xinran was the star of class ten, the absolute favorite. But since Chu Jin's rise to fame, she has taken over that spot. Can you blame Xinran for feeling upset?"

Miao Xinran trembled with anger upon hearing the surrounding whispers, her eyes red with emotion.

Being misunderstood like this was truly unbearable.

And it was by the entire school, at that.

Despite knowing the person in front was not Chu Jin, she felt utterly helpless.

Though she knew the truth, her inability to expose it was a frustration no one could understand.

In the end, Miao Xinran was just an 18-year-old kid facing such an ordeal. It was natural for her to lose her composure, especially with so many people accusing her. Clearly, Chu Jin had the upper hand at the moment, after all, they shared the same facial features.

Moreover, Chu Jin had caused quite a stir on both campus and social media; most of the people at the school supported and liked her.

So, hardly anyone believed Miao Xinran's words.

Claiming she wasn't Chu Jin, wasn't that just absurd?

How could there possibly be two people in the world who looked exactly the same?

Chu Jin's mouth curved into a barely visible smile as she stepped forward and extended her right hand towards Miao Xinran, "Xinran, don't be angry. Let's shake hands and make up. Let's be the best of friends, just like before."

She seemed the picture of empathy and presented herself humbly.

Her act was so convincing that nobody besides Miao Xinran could see through her façade.

Miao Xinran couldn't stand it any longer, and with one push, she knocked Chu Jin to the ground, "You disgusting fake! Who wants to shake your hand? Shameless!"

"Xinran... how could you treat me this way?" Chu Jin looked at Miao Xinran with an expression of innocent bewilderment.

"Miao Xinran!" Wang Kai couldn't stand it anymore and forcefully pushed Miao Xinran, "You're going too far! Don't think I won't lay a hand on you just because you're a girl!"

Miao Xinran stumbled several steps backward, her waist banging painfully against the edge of a table, causing her to grunt softly as her eyes welled up with tears.

Wang Kai helped Chu Jin up, "Are you okay? Why do you even bother being friends with her? Better to break it off sooner rather than later!"

Miao Xinran was angry and in a hurry, raising her voice, "She really isn't Chu Jin! Why won't any of you believe me? Wang Kai, I've known Jin for almost three years. I know what kind of person she is and the one next to you isn't Jin, don't be fooled by her."

"Miao Xinran!" Wang Kai's brows furrowed, "Don't go too far! Chu Jin doesn't want to argue with you out of respect for your past friendship, but I'm not as forgiving! If you keep spouting nonsense, watch out for how I'll treat you."

To Wang Kai, Chu Jin was a goddess, and he naturally wouldn't tolerate anyone insulting her.

"Forget it, let it go. Xinran didn't mean it, she's just speaking out of anger. I'm not taking it to heart," Chu Jin tugged at Wang Kai's sleeve.

The more she acted nonchalant, the more Miao Xinran seemed unreasonable and manipulative.

Apart from a few individuals, almost everyone was sympathizing with Chu Jin.

Feeling the pointing of a thousand fingers, Miao Xinran was close to tears, "She really isn't Chu Jin, why does nobody believe me?"

A pleasant female voice came from outside the cafeteria, "Fellow student, I believe you."

She walked in against the light, her presence commanding respect with every step.

She was a very young woman, dressed in a neat and professional outfit, exuding an air of authority.

A woman who looked like an assistant followed her.

The crowd quieted down, and almost all eyes turned towards her.

Wherever she went, people naturally cleared a path for her.

The woman was Li Mi.

Li Mi, like a beam of light, arrived beside Miao Xinran.

Miao Xinran's eyes lit up with a flicker of hope, "Sis, you believe me?"

Li Mi nodded and surveyed the bystanders, "Fellow students, she's not Chu Jin at all! She's nothing but an overdone, fake plastic surgery case!"

Plastic surgery?!

Seizing on this keyword, the crowd erupted into murmurs of discussion.

Chu Jin raised her smile slowly and looked up at Li Mi, her voice calm, "You say I've had plastic surgery, Miss Li, do you have any proof?"

Indeed, she was very composed.

There was nothing for Chu Jin to panic about. In her eyes, Li Mi was nothing but a grasshopper after autumn, too late to hop to it.

The more Li Mi came to trouble her, the less Song Shiqin would let her off the hook.

Chu Jin had been worrying about finding Li Mi, and here she was coming to her.

Li Mi's eyes sparkled with mirth as she approached Chu Jin, lifting her chin with a fingertip, "Nicely made up. Dare to remove your makeup and show your true face to everyone here?"

Even the best plastic surgery would leave some traces.

After all, plastic surgery isn't the same as cloning.

"You have no right to ask me to remove my makeup!" Chu Jin retreated a few steps subtly.

Maintaining a safe distance from Li Mi.

Panic was beginning to show on her face; she was starting to get scared.

Chapter 349: Lie Detector

After all, her face had gone under the knife.

Leaving behind some scars, deep or shallow.

Without knowing, in her bare-faced state, could the Rejuvenation Pill of Madame Chu help her conceal those marks?

Now, all she could do was take a gamble.

If she won, she would firmly establish herself in Capital City, and thereafter, no one would dare doubt her again, a future bright and promising.

If she lost, all her efforts would be wasted, and she would become an outcast, shunned and vilified by all.

The stakes of this bet were far too high.

She couldn't afford to lose, yet she had no choice but to gamble.

In life, there is no right or wrong, only choices.

Since she had chosen this point of no return, she would be sure to see it through to the end.

Seeing the full confidence in Li Mi, it was obvious she was well prepared.

Moreover, if she wasn't guessing wrong, Song Shiqin must also be hiding among the crowd.

Thinking of what Madame Chu had said to her.

Chu Jin's eyes darkened slightly.

Since that was the case, she would use this opportunity to ensure Li Mi would never have the chance to turn things around.

Li Mi looked at Chu Jin, her eyes narrowing slightly, "What's wrong? Afraid to remove your makeup?"

A doctor's gaze is the most analytical, seeming to penetrate skin and flesh, seeing directly into the depths of one's heart.

Chu Jin subconsciously avoided Li Mi's scrutinizing gaze.

"Miss, please do not talk nonsense!" Wang Kai stepped forward to shield Chu Jin behind him.

Wang Kai was naturally tall and leggy, and although he was young, he did not lose any presence in front of Li Mi.

There was a reason he was the heartthrob of South Bridge.

The corners of Li Mi's mouth revealed a slight curve, "Whether I'm talking nonsense or not will be clear once she removes her makeup."

Chu Jin stood up straight, looking at Li Mi with a cold voice, "You are insulting my integrity!"

Li Mi replied with some disdain, "Integrity? You lost that long ago."

Clap clap clap.

Li Mi clapped her hands.

Immediately after, two people carrying a wooden box came in from outside.

"Miss." The two respectfully placed the wooden box beside Li Mi.

Seeing this, a look of curiosity appeared in everyone's eyes.

Everyone was wondering what on earth was inside the wooden box.

Li Mi looked at Chu Jin, her mouth curving slightly, "What's in this box is a top international lie detector, do you dare to try it?"

Upon finishing her speech, professional personnel immediately opened the box and began assembling the lie detection device.

Sure enough, just as she had expected, Li Mi had come fully prepared.

Madame Chu had foreseen this day long ago, so she had learned about the principles of lie detectors from professionals back in the Goryeo Nation.

In truth, lie detectors are not as miraculous as people think.

They determine whether a person is lying based on changes in pulse, breathing, and skin resistance.

In front of someone with strong psychological resilience, a lie detector is nothing more than child's play.

It can only fool those inexperienced swindlers.

If it were truly that powerful, it would have been widely in use already.

The police wouldn't have to go to so much trouble when interrogating criminals.

Li Mi's action was nothing more than an attempt to cause her psychological stress.

Too bad.

This time, she was going to miscalculate.

How could she possibly be afraid of a mere machine?

Chu Jin flashed a confident smile, stood tall beside Li Mi, "Innocent people do not fear a knock on their door at midnight. Why wouldn't I dare? As for Miss Li, you are damaging my reputation without cause. If you cannot provide a sound reason today, prepare to receive a letter from my lawyer!"

This was the way Chu Jin should act.

To never let anyone who crosses her get away with it.

"So confident?" Li Mi's eyes narrowed as she pointed to a stool beside her, "Then please, take a seat."

Chu Jin stood opposite everyone, with only Wang Kai at her back, appearing somewhat isolated.

Even from a distance, she was still very much conspicuous among the crowd.

Song Shiqin, cloaked in plainclothes, blended into the crowd, his usually stern features now softening a bit.

His wild and unruly demeanor stood out amongst the group of students, attracting fervent glances from many of the female classmates.

"...Beep! Data read complete," the cold voice of the machine announced in a standard electronic tone.

Chu Jin sat in front of the machine, her expression unchanged.

The lie detector was similar to a sensor used for electrocardiographs in hospitals, connected to a laptop.

"Is the sky blue?"

"Yes."

(The answer was truthful.)

...

After asking a few irrelevant questions to ensure the machine was working properly, the real interrogation began.

"You are not Chu Jin! Tell me, what are you planning by surgically altering yourself to look like Chu Jin?" Li Mi's anger over the matter was evident, and every word she spoke was incisive and piercing, chilling people to the bone.

The cafeteria, previously somewhat bustling, was now dead silent.

Everyone held their breath, waiting for Chu Jin's answer.

Chu Jin looked composed and did not show any sign of panic in the face of Li Mi's scrutinizing gaze because she knew that her success hinged on this moment.

Looking at Li Mi, she answered one word at a time, "I am Chu Jin."

Chapter 350:

Unblushing, unflinching.

The epitome of a seasoned slicker.

(It's the truth.)

Song Shiqin, hidden in the crowd, quietly let out a sigh of relief.

The faces of the students also bore the expression of "I knew it."

"Sister, how could this happen?" Miao Xinran asked with some urgency, looking up at Li Mi.

She had thought this would expose Chu Jin's true face.

But unexpectedly...

"Don't panic," Li Mi glanced at Miao Xinran, signaling her to be calm.

Chu Jin took off the wiretap device from her wrist and stood up from the chair, "Miss Li, life isn't Journey to the West; it's not filled with demons and devils. I would advise you to stop playing tricks here. Wait for my lawyer's letter, I'm very busy and have no time to waste here with you." With that, she turned to leave.

"Stop right there!" Li Mi called out to stop her.

The corners of Chu Jin's mouth slowly curved into a smirk, and she turned around, "Miss Li, is there anything else you want?"

The tone was not without provocation.

These people couldn't possibly prove they weren't Chu Jin.

"Remove your makeup!" Li Mi slowly uttered the two words.

Chu Jin's complexion stiffened slightly, "Miss Li, I'm just a high school senior, why must you target me like this? I have never offended you, so... could it be because of Mr. Song?"

Chu Jin's words were quite accusatory.

Casting herself in the position of an underdog.

Li Mi, being in her twenties, bullying a teenage girl like this was indeed inappropriate.

With polygraphs and forced makeup removal, no one could stand it.

Anyone with slightly weaker mental resilience might have been reduced to tears.

"You're removing your makeup today whether you like it or not!" As soon as Li Mi finished speaking, two tall men appeared and restrained Chu Jin from both sides.

Wang Kai was just about to make a move but was stopped by Chu Jin's gaze.

"I'll do it myself!" Chu Jin broke free from the men's grip, "Miss Li, you're really going too far! Why go to such lengths to target me? I hope after today, you never appear in front of me again!"

Her words were meant for Song Shiqin to hear.

She hoped to rely on Song Shiqin to get rid of the nuisance that was Li Mi.

Chu Jin picked up the makeup remover wipes and liquid that had been prepared on the table and started to wipe her face.

In her heart, she was silently praying that the Rejuvenation Pill would help her get through this predicament.

If she could get through today's ordeal, she'd be transformed.

After that, no one would be able to threaten her.

All eyes were focused on Chu Jin's face.

Li Mi's palms were coated in a layer of cold sweat.

Song Shiqin also looked slightly nervous.

He feared that he would lose her again in a careless moment.

He owed her too much.

Chu Jin wiped her face with the cotton pad, bit by bit.

In a blink of an eye, five minutes had passed.

Her face was free of powder, and due to the concealment of the Rejuvenation Pill, she looked virtually the same as she did five minutes earlier.

The face that presented itself to the crowd was still exquisitely beautiful.

As if a lotus flower emerging from clear water, naturally unadorned.

From the amazed looks of the bystanders, Chu Jin knew she had gambled correctly today.

Song Shiqin quietly let out a sigh of relief.

It was still her, thankfully.

He would clear all obstacles from her path.

Li Mi staggered back a few steps, unsteady, 'How could this be?'

How could her face be left without a mark?

Her features were so mismatched...

Li Mi's heart fluttered with panic and chaos.

It seemed Song Shiqin would completely lose trust in her from now on...

What should she do now?

What happened to her face?

"Miss Li, I've removed the makeup, do you have anything else to say?" Chu Jin advanced step by step towards Li Mi, pressing in, her mouth curving with smug satisfaction.

Li Mi backed up to a corner and stopped, her eyes dimming. That day after she returned, she had searched for a long time but still failed to find Chu Jin's real background.

It was as if she truly was Chu Jin.

When Chu Jin disappeared, she appeared.

She just so easily took Chu Jin's place.

Today, after much effort to persuade Song Shiqin to come here, she didn't expect things to turn out this way.

Chu Jin had already undergone leg-lengthening surgery, so in terms of height, she didn't lose to Li Mi. At this moment, she leaned in close to Li Mi's ear and whispered, "Li Mi, you're not wrong. I'm not actually Chu Jin at all, and this face of mine is also fake, heh. But what can you do about it? How can you possibly harm me? Do you think, after today, that Song Shiqin will ever trust you again? Foolish woman, the real Chu Jin has long since died out there! She is already dead. I suggest you save your energy for retrieving her corpse, so it doesn't end up scattered and torn apart! Ah, it's such a pitiful thought..."

Chu Jin's taunting and malicious words echoed in Li Mi's ears.

Li Mi trembled with rage, "You little slut! What nonsense are you spouting! It must have been you who killed Jin! I'll make you pay with your life!"

Bang!

Li Mi gave a shove.

Chu Jin's head struck the corner of the table, and she immediately collapsed to the ground, unconscious.

Everything happened too quickly.