

## Regaining 321

### Chapter 321: Let Go

Cheng Hao's heart was in turmoil, so he brought some wine, thinking that being with Yicheng and the others would make him feel better.

That day, Cheng Hao got as drunk as he had hoped.

"In my opinion, he's in too deep," Pei Yining and Xu Nianhua were lying together, chatting about everything under the sun.

"It's inevitable for couples to fight and argue, right?"

Xu Nianhua replied, her gaze deep as she looked at Pei Yining, as if she could see right through her soul.

Pei Yining blushed and said, "Nianhua, stop looking at me."

She pulled the blanket over her face and said, "I've already come to terms with it, I've let go. From now on, I won't have any other thoughts. He's just a friend of my brother and also Cheng Hao's brother."

"It's good to let go. You're still young, you'll definitely meet someone who loves you as much as you like them," Xu Nianhua pulled down her blanket, looking into her beautiful eyes, thinking, with her pure and flawless nature, she was sure to find perfect love.

"Nianhua, you're only a year older than me."

Pei Yining couldn't help reminding her, feeling like Xu Nianhua's words were something an elder would say to a younger.

Clearly, clearly only a year older, how could she seem so much more experienced?

"A year older is still older," Xu Nianhua answered smilingly, lying flat on the bed, thinking about how she was only twenty this year, which made her feel inexplicably good.

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"You want me and Yining to decorate your new house?" Xu Nianhua looked at Cheng Hao with a peculiar expression, knowing that he used to flirt around, he should be quite sensitive to these matters, but how could he be so oblivious regarding Yining?

Was he truly oblivious, or was he pretending not to know?

Xu Nianhua immediately dismissed the second possibility.

Given Cheng Hao's relationship with Pei Yicheng, if Cheng Hao really knew Yining's feelings, he would likely avoid her as much as possible, not wanting to hurt her. How could he, foolishly, still invite Yining to decorate the love nest he was preparing for Zou Yaru?

"Exactly, I want to surprise Yaru. The women I know are just you two. Who else would I ask?" Cheng Hao answered without hesitation, adding, "You are women; you definitely know what women like, right?"

Xu Nianhua smiled and did not immediately agree but turned to look at Pei Yining.

Even though Pei Yining had said yesterday that she wanted to let go, feelings aren't something you can just let go of on a whim.

"Okay, since you're asking us to do it, if it doesn't turn out nice, Cheng Hao, don't regret it," Pei Yining stared at Cheng Hao. Since she had decided to let go, she truly regarded him just as a friend of her brother.

"I won't regret it."

Cheng Hao led the way happily, saying, "I trust your taste," as he walked.

The two-story bungalow on Bado Road was newly built and looked brand new.

"Cheng Hao, you bought a great house," Xu Nianhua looked around seriously, impressed by the fresh building and its nice layout. Standing on the balcony upstairs, the view was a pleasing expanse of greenery.

There was even a yard, under the corner wall, where a few plants and flowers were thriving with vitality.

"Of course, I almost broke my legs picking this house. I went through countless properties to meticulously choose this one, so naturally, every part of it is pleasing to the eye," Cheng Hao said with pride, his face radiant.

Chapter 322: Wish You Happiness

The house had been renovated, leaving only the furniture and some things like curtains.

Xu Nianhua and Pei Yining offered quite a few suggestions, and Cheng Hao was jotting them down in his notebook.

As Pei Yining's gaze swept across each room, her heart was filled with bitterness. She thought it was good that she had let go in time.

"Cheng Hao, I wish you happiness," Pei Yining said sincerely.

Cheng Hao grinned and said, "Little Yining, you really have a way with words. I also feel that I will definitely be happy."

Pei Yining suppressed the urge to roll her eyes, and she shifted her gaze away, heading to the yard to look at the flowers and plants.

"Nianhua, what do you think about all pink curtains? Can they look good?" Cheng Hao imagined it in his mind but felt that all pink seemed a bit childish.

"They look nice." Xu Nianhua earnestly explained to Cheng Hao and specifically mentioned how to make the curtains, one layer of pink and one of white tulle. Together, these layers would definitely please Zou Yaru. Judging by the clothes Zou Yaru usually wore, they were of this type.

"Oh." Cheng Hao nodded seriously, watching her incessant chatter. Suddenly, he asked, "Nianhua, if you were to look for a partner in the future, date a boyfriend, would you care about his family background?"

Just as Xu Nianhua had taken a sip of water, she immediately had an answer in her mind.

The family background of Zou Yaru seemed exceptionally good. In the county, it was definitely one of the best. Otherwise, when her father was renovating the Zou Family's house, he wouldn't be focusing only on quality regardless of the price.

And what about Cheng Hao?

Aside from Ningbei's identity, in the eyes of the Zou Family, Cheng Hao was nothing but a poor boy.

Yet...

Xu Nianhua lowered her eyes and did not think deeper. She said, "If you truly love someone, naturally you won't care about their family background. What matters is whether your souls resonate. If it's only about family background, then what's the difference from an arranged marriage of the olden days?"

"Right."

Cheng Hao nodded in strong agreement. He felt that Xu Nianhua's words were really good. So what if he is a poor boy now? With his current earning rate, he would definitely make more money in the future. Was there any need to worry about not being able to live a wealthy life?

And even if he depended on the Cheng Family's wealth, who knew if one day the Cheng Family would not fall into decline?

Cheng Hao thought if in the future he had a daughter and was looking for a son-in-law, he would definitely look for someone with a good character and potential. Rich or not didn't matter; as long as he truly loved his daughter, it would be enough.

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Cheng Hao spent another ten days or so getting the furniture and curtains all set up. The house looked completely renewed, exuding the atmosphere of a new home.

Yaru, please believe in me, I will definitely make you happy.

Cheng Hao took a deep breath. He had said this many times in front of Zou Yaru, hoping she would take it to heart.

In August, the scorching heat was unbearable.

Xu Nianhua had made some necessary improvements to the Chili Sauce Factory, then returned to Qingsong Furniture Factory.

Although she wasn't a furniture designer before, she had seen many kinds of furniture in her later lives. Having seen so much, she naturally knew a lot. Xu Nianhua wanted to take the opportunity while she was still at home to help her father more.

"Nianhua, you really are our family's good fortune," Xu Qinghe said with pride and admiration in his eyes. His daughter was really amazing; how did her mind come up with all these great ideas?

How could she think of so many good ideas?

Chapter 323: Are You Sick in the Head?

"Dad, that's because I'm smart."

Xu Nianhua's playful smile brimmed with laughter; her family's life was getting better day by day, which made her feel exceptionally happy.

"Right, my daughter is the smartest," Xu Qinghe praised generously, feeling extremely comforted by her confident smile.

"Dad, let's talk about the dressing table again."

Xu Nianhua threw herself back into work, moving from the bed to the wardrobe, then to the desk, and now to the dressing table. She believed that once she shared all she knew, the factory would receive even more orders in the future.

She trusted that, inspired by her, her father would surely make more and prettier furniture.

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"Zhong Juan, are you out of your mind?" Gao Jianshe looked around at the messy room. He had been so exhausted from work that moving was a struggle, but the sight of the disarray, coupled with Zhong Juan's frightful face, filled him with irritation.

Ever since her miscarriage, Zhong Juan had become increasingly irritable.

"You're the one who's crazy!"

Zhong Juan, not even lifting her head, retorted, "Xu Nianji makes a good profit selling bean sprouts, and the Xu family's life is thriving. Xu Nian'an is about the same age as you, look at him, he's about to become a university student, but what about you?"

"You toil from dawn to dusk every month and barely make a few bucks, nowhere near as much as what slips through the fingers of others!" The more Zhong Juan thought about it, the angrier she became. Initially, she had married Gao Jianshe thinking his family was wealthy.

However, after marrying in, she realized things were not as they seemed.

Indeed, the Gao Family was wealthy, but that had nothing to do with Gao Jianshe; his mother was stingy and kept a tight grip on the family's funds, leaving nothing for Zhong Juan.

During her pregnancy, her mother-in-law had treated her fairly well, but since the miscarriage, she treated her with utter contempt.

Zhong Juan felt she could hardly stand another day in the Gao Family home; with no word from Auntie Zhao, she decided she had to find a job before she went insane.

It seemed she needed to visit Auntie Zhao once more.

Intent on finding work, Zhong Juan completely overlooked Gao Jianshe's twisted face, distorted with anger.

"Smack."

Gao Jianshe stepped forward and, raising his hand, slapped Zhong Juan while cursing, "You shameless woman, I provide for you, and you still disdain me; I must teach you a lesson today."

Gao Jianshe, while cursing, grabbed Zhong Juan, seeking to vent his pent-up rage.

Zhong Juan, slapped across the face, looked at Gao Jianshe in shock and said, "You hit me? You actually hit me?"

"So what if I did? Who told you to pine after other men?" The more Gao Jianshe thought about Zhong Juan claiming he wasn't as capable as the men from the Xu family, the angrier he became, and the couple immediately came to blows.

As a woman, Zhong Juan naturally could not overpower Gao Jianshe. She started to flee, running outside in panic and bumped into a man.

"Ouch."

Zhong Juan fell to the ground, her face twisted in pain. Furious, she looked up, about to hurl insults, but fell silent when she saw a refined face.

"Don't run," Gao Jianshe shouted as he chased after her.

Gao Jianshe looked at the stranger with suspicion, reaching out to drag Zhong Juan back.

Zhong Juan, fearing another beating, hurriedly hid behind the man.

"Who are you?" Gao Jianshe sized up the man, a face he didn't recognize, likely not from their village.

Chapter 324: Mind Your Own Business

"Who I am is not important, but it seems you were hitting someone?" The man looked at the palm print on Zhong Juan's face, which clearly showed she had been slapped.

Gao Jianshe glared at the man with dissatisfaction and said, "What does our couples' matter have to do with you?"

"I can't intervene, but as a man, how can you hit your wife?"

The man's voice was resolute and forceful. He turned to Zhong Juan and said, "Even if he's your husband, he can't just hit you whenever he wants. You can go to the women's federation to sue him, and if it's serious, you can even call the police."

"Who are you anyway? I'm her husband, what's wrong with disciplining her a little?" Gao Jianshe, upon hearing the man's suggestion to Zhong Juan about suing him, immediately grew unhappy. Pointing at the man, he said, "Let me tell you, stay out of our business or I won't be polite to you."

"You're not from the village. What are you doing in our village?" Gao Jianshe changed the subject; he didn't know what the man in front of him did for a living, but when he spoke of Zhong Juan suing him, he felt inexplicably anxious and fearful.

"That's none of your business."

The man glanced at Zhong Juan, saw that she had no intention to speak up, and turned to leave.

Gao Jianshe followed the man all the way until he saw him walk up to Xu Qinghe's house. He asked, "Are you a relative of Xu Qinghe's family? How come I've never seen you before?"

Without a word, the man just gazed at the house not far away. It seemed like just last year, during Xu Nianji's wedding, that place was still an empty plot. Could it be that they built a new house so quickly?

However, it did not look like a private residence.

"That's the furniture factory of Xu Qinghe's family. Don't you know?" As Gao Jianshe spoke, he scrutinized the man, guessing in his mind that he must be a relative from Xu Nianji's grandmother's side.

"I don't care what relation you are to Xu Qinghe's family; just keep out of my and my woman's business."

Gao Jianshe warned fiercely before turning to leave.

Xu Nianhua had been planning to go home to get some things. From a distance, she saw Gao Jianshe warning someone and standing at her house's doorstep. She hurried forward, and upon seeing the man, she was a bit surprised, asking, "Shuyuan bro, when did you arrive?"

During the New Year's festivities, her grandfather wasn't feeling too well in South City, so the two families didn't visit each other. They could only exchange New Year's greetings over the phone. Seeing Ji Shuyuan now was somewhat unexpected for her.

"Just arrived." Ji Shuyuan looked at Xu Nianhua. Compared to last year, the young girl seemed to have grown even prettier. Wearing a light blue dress, her skin appeared exceptionally fair, and her eyes were lively and spirited, as if they could speak.

"You've become more and more beautiful." Ji Shuyuan complimented.

"Thank you for the compliment, Shuyuan bro," Xu Nianhua responded with grace, saying, "Shuyuan bro, please come in. It's very hot outside."

"Alright."

As Ji Shuyuan entered the yard and sat down in the living room, he noticed that there was actually an electric fan in the house?

Ji Shuyuan's eyes flickered. Their family had an electric fan as well, but the price of an electric fan was truly not cheap.

In the past, when his aunt hadn't separated from the family, they often relied on his father and uncles for support. How is it that his aunt's family seemed to be living better and better now?

"How's grandpa doing? Is his health okay? During the New Year's, because Nian'an and I had to take the college entrance exams, we couldn't go to visit grandpa." Xu Nianhua spoke somewhat guiltily. With all the busy events at home, after the exams, she was either at the Chili Sauce Factory or at the furniture factory, working like a spinning top every day.

Chapter 325: Truly Promising

"It's alright, I know it's not easy for you to make a trip to South City," Ji Shuyuan replied, "Your grandpa's health is still okay, though he can only lie at home, move around a bit inside. Knowing that you've finished your exams for college entrance, he's been urging us to come over. How about you, did you get into university?"

Ji Shuyuan asked with concern. He should have visited earlier, but he was busy. Since both his parents were working at the factory, the visit was put off until August.

"That's good to hear."

Xu Nianhua breathed a sigh of relief when she heard that her grandfather was doing much better. She smiled and said, "Both my second brother and I got accepted into universities in Beining. I was admitted to Beining University, and my second brother to Ningbei Medical University."

"Impressive, you and your brother are truly amazing!"

Upon hearing this, Ji Shuyuan smiled and praised, "You've really made something of yourselves and brought glory to our Ji Family."

"Shuhong probably didn't do as well as you, he got into South City Normal University," Ji Shuyuan thought of Ji Shuhong. If it weren't for some last-minute cramming, he might not have made it into any university, let alone a good one.

"Brother Shuyuan, getting into any university is a good thing," Xu Nianhua remembered, Ji Shuhong must be a year younger than her, who later seemed to become an elementary school teacher.

"It's great that you applied to universities in Beining, you can go see your eldest uncle and his family. It's like having people you know who can look after you a bit."

Ji Shuyuan's words made Xu Nianhua smile awkwardly, not continuing the conversation. She wanted to attend Beining University in Beining because the foreign language major there was among the top in the country. If he hadn't mentioned it, she might have forgotten that her eldest uncle's family was all in Beining.

Her aunt was from Beining, working in a paper factory. Xu Nianhua didn't know whether her aunt's life was good or not, but the few times she did see her, she was always well-dressed, clearly a city dweller.

"By the way, Brother Shuyuan, what was Gao Jianshe just telling you? He seemed rather unfriendly," Xu Nianhua changed the subject.

Ji Shuyuan gave a brief explanation of what had just happened.

Xu Nianhua sighed and said, "That? You should just ignore it, Brother Shuyuan. He and his wife often fight. Be careful with Gao Jianshe, though; he's petty. But since my second brother taught him a lesson, he's been much more behaved."

"Has he ever bullied you?" Ji Shuyuan's eyes narrowed instantly.

Xu Nianhua was taken aback, feeling his concern, and she felt a warmth in her heart. She said, "Brother Shuyuan, no, and even if there was anything in the past, after my second brother's lesson, he couldn't even walk properly. With my eldest brother and second brother looking out for me, I don't have any worries."

"That's as it should be, you're a girl and the younger sister; of course, they should protect you," Ji Shuyuan said, then asked, "Did Gao Jianshe say that furniture factory is managed by your uncle?"

"Yes."

Xu Nianhua, realizing belatedly, introduced, "My dad and his apprentice, Xu Song, started it together. Do you want to take a look?"

"Sure." Ji Yuan handed over the snacks and fruit he had brought and said, "Here's something for you to eat, give it a try."

"No rush."

Xu Nianhua smiled as she spoke, leading Ji Shuyuan toward the furniture factory.

Ji Shuyuan didn't say much, silently following behind Xu Nianhua. When he saw the spacious furniture factory, he thought that her uncle's family really had changed from the past. For starters, just the furniture factory itself must be worth at least several thousand, right?

"Dad, Brother Shuyuan is here," Xu Nianhua found Xu Qinghe in the workshop amidst the shrill sound of machinery and wood shavings floating in the air.

#### Chapter 326: The First Doctor of the Ji Family

"Shuyuan, we didn't buy much for the house today, so tomorrow, tomorrow I'll go and buy some more groceries," Ji Ying explained. She hadn't known that Ji Shuyuan was going to come over today and had only bought a bit of pork; the rest was all vegetables, which made her feel somewhat embarrassed as an aunt.

"It's okay, Aunt, this is great already."

Ji Shuyuan said politely.

"Nian'an, in the future, you'll be the first doctor in our family," Ji Shuyuan thought to himself, feeling particularly good about Xu Nian'an becoming a doctor one day.

"How can I compare to Brother Shuyuan? You'll be a lawyer in the future."

Xu Nian'an said with a smile, "I heard that becoming a lawyer is really tough."

"Getting into Medical University isn't easy either," Ji Shuyuan replied. The couple of them were of the same age and only a few years apart, so they had plenty to talk about. He knew that his aunt was working at the county's Chili Sauce Factory that's been selling really tasty chili sauce; it turned out that the sauce was made by his aunt.

He remembered how much his mother liked it, especially the fish chili sauce, but thought it was a bit pricey. It was only during the New Year's that she reluctantly bought a jar.

Ji Shuyuan was very sensible and polite, so the Xu family also had a good impression of him.

The next day, Ji Shuyuan followed Xu Nianhua to the county, visited the Chili Sauce Factory, checked out the medical clinic, and also stopped by the house the Xu family rented. Ji Shuyuan felt relieved that his

grandfather finally didn't have to worry about his aunt's family affairs anymore—their life was getting more and more prosperous.

At noon, Xu Nianhua specially went to the market to buy several dishes to entertain Ji Shuyuan.

As it happened, Pei Yining came to look for her, and Xu Nianhua asked Pei Yining to stay for lunch at their home.

"Yining, this is my uncle's son, Ji Shuyuan," Xu Nianhua introduced, "Brother Shuyuan, this is my friend, Pei Yining, she's from Ningbei."

"Hello," Ji Shuyuan pursed his lips in a greeting; he thought that his little sister's friend was as lovely as she was, with the girl sporting a doll-like face and looking even younger than his sister.

"Hi there."

Pei Yining was lively, introducing herself by saying, "I will be a student at Beining University just like Nianhua in the future. And you? Why haven't I ever seen you before?"

Pei Yining had been to the Xu family's home twice and had never seen Ji Shuyuan, who looked refined but, like a brother, seemed to be cold and not talkative.

"I live with my parents in South City, and I attend university there," Ji Shuyuan answered succinctly.

Pei Yining nodded and said, "Nianhua, your relatives are all impressive, one by one they're university students."

"Oh, right, Nianhua, how about I have my brother accompany your cousin? How does that sound?" Pei Yining eagerly tried to orchestrate opportunities for them to get along.

"Sure, go ahead and call your brother over, along with Grandpa Du, and also let my second brother know," Xu Nianhua added, as she had bought a lot of groceries that day. Even if Pei Yicheng and Xu Nian'an were to come over, there would be enough food. She would just need to cook a little extra rice.

In the kitchen, Xu Nianhua was busy preparing a large table full of dishes.

"Hey, Ling Dong and Cheng Hao didn't come? And Grandpa Du?" Xu Nianhua noticed that Pei Yicheng and Xu Nian'an had arrived but several others were missing, and couldn't help but ask.

"Grandpa has something to do, he has to go out later. Ling Dong is also busy with something, and I haven't seen Cheng Hao," Pei Yining said as she sniffed the tempting aroma of the food and made her way into the kitchen, drooling over the dishes.

Chapter 327: Should We Go to South City?

"Shuyuan, how is your school? I heard that studying law is especially difficult," Xu Nian'an said as he poured the tea water, handing it to Ji Shuyuan, and added, "This is well water, icy and very refreshing to drink."

"Sweet."

Ji Shuyuan took a sip and indeed, just as he had said, it was deliciously cool as if it dissipated all the inner heat. He casually replied, "Studying is never easy."

"Congratulations on getting into Medical University, soon you'll be a doctor," Ji Shuyuan's eyes gleamed with admiration, he felt pride swell in his heart for the achievements of Xu Nian'an and his family.

"I will study hard, wanting to become a good doctor in the future."

Xu Nian'an had long resolved that he wanted to be a good doctor.

"All of you are very talented," Pei Yicheng praised, though he usually kept to himself, when he truly wanted to impress someone, he would engage them fully. The three men sat there, chatting enjoyably.

As for the impression Xu Nian'an made on Pei Yicheng and the Xu family, it was very favorable.

Even Ji Shuyuan, meeting him for the first time, found him polite and humble, with a notable family background yet without any airs.

Whether discussing law, medicine, or current affairs, Pei Yicheng always managed to keep the conversation flowing. Talking with him felt very comfortable and enjoyable.

"Dinner's ready."

Pei Yining carried a pot of crucian carp tofu soup to the table while calling over the three men at the side chatting, she happily said, "Look, Nianhua prepared a lot of delicious dishes."

"Little sister's culinary skills are truly impressive," Ji Shuyuan remarked as he surveyed the table full of dishes, complete in color, scent, and taste, which gave him the illusion of dining in a restaurant.

"Nianhua, aren't Mom and the eldest brother and sister-in-law coming to eat?" Xu Nianhua asked as he had not yet seen any sign of them.

Xu Nian'an immediately walked outside saying, "I'll go call them now."

"No need to call, we are here."

Xu Nianji, supporting the visibly pregnant Zhou He, entered followed by Ji Ying, who urged Zhou He to be careful while she hurried into the kitchen: "Nianhua, let me help you."

They had been delayed because the delivery truck had only arrived that afternoon, and Ji Ying had no time to leave.

"Mom, I've already finished cooking the dishes," Xu Nianhua said with a cheerful grin, "Mom, you must be tired, go wash your hands and get ready to eat."

"Ah, my daughter has really grown up, able to cook a whole table of delicious dishes," Ji Ying mused. Despite their poverty, she had always ensured the best for her daughter growing up.

Now her daughter not only had made it to university but was also sensible and filial. Ji Ying felt her life was truly worthwhile.

"Mom, I'll cook for you every day," Xu Nianhua said as she scooped the vegetables from the pot to a plate, "Mom, go wash your hands quick, or the dishes will get cold."

"Sure,"

Ji Ying washed the dishes one more time, picked them up, and headed to the living room outside.

The living room was lively, and though Ji Shuyuan was a guest from afar, he did not feel out of place at all.

"Nianhua, thank you for the meal, it was especially delicious," Ji Shuyuan commended, then turned to Ji Ying, "Auntie, I'm here in Gaoliang County for a short visit. Do you want to come with me to South City?"

Ji Shuyuan had thought long before saying this.

"To South City?" Ji Ying was surprised, and then seemed somewhat excited. Previously, their family was so poor that even affording a round-trip ticket was hard. Even if they went, exposing their poverty to her father was worse than not seeing him at all.

Thus, knowing her father was well, Ji Ying had lost the desire to visit South City.

Chapter 328: That's Not What Was Said at the Time

At that time, being suddenly reminded by Ji Shuyuan, Ji Ying felt the timidity of approaching her hometown.

Ji Ying had grown up in the county since she was a child, and by a chance encounter, she met the honest and reliable Xu Qinghe, and impulsively decided to marry him. Her parents had advised against it, but they couldn't persuade her. Over the years, no matter how tough or tiring it got, she never complained or expressed her fatigue.

Her three older brothers doted on her, occasionally offering her support, which made her days bearable.

After her father and eldest brother moved to South City, their meetings had become less frequent, only about once a year.

"Grandfather is getting old and really misses Aunt." Ji Shuyuan spoke slowly, "Before the New Year, we originally planned to visit Aunt to celebrate, but, because Grandfather fell ill, we couldn't make it."

"What?"

Ji Ying abruptly stood up and said, "Shuyuan, that's not what you told me back then!"

Before the New Year, Ji Ying had spoken on the phone with her brother Ji Shan, and at that time, they said they were too busy to visit. Whenever she asked about her father's health, whether it was her second brother Ji Feng or her third brother Ji Lin, they both consistently said that the old man was in very good health, and her calls always seemed ill-timed, either Father had stepped out for a walk or had gone to someone's house to play chess.

Her father indeed enjoyed these activities, and Ji Ying had never doubted it; now, hearing Ji Shuyuan's words, Ji Ying felt extremely shocked.

"Dad is okay, right? How is he now? Shuyuan, your grandfather is my own father; you mustn't hide anything from me." Ji Ying looked towards Ji Shuyuan in a panic.

"Mom, don't worry." Xu Nianhua held Ji Ying's arm and comforted her, "Grandpa should be fine, otherwise, Shuyuan wouldn't be sitting here so calmly."

"Right, Aunt, don't worry. I just wanted to ask if you have time to visit Grandfather in South City." Ji Shuyuan spoke calmly, his composed words slightly reassured Ji Ying.

"Go, I want to go see him." Ji Ying answered without hesitation, holding Xu Nianhua's hand, feeling the warmth and strength of her hand, she gradually calmed down and said with self-blame, "It's all my fault, if I hadn't been so long without visiting Dad, I wouldn't have been unaware of his illness."

Ji Ying felt extremely guilty and remorseful.

"Nianhua, since you've just finished your exams, let's go to South City together." Holding Xu Nianhua's hand, Ji Ying said, and then turned to Xu Nian'an, asking, "Nian'an, how about you? Do you want to join us?"

"Xiaohe is pregnant; it's not suitable for her to travel, Nianji will stay home and take care of Xiaohe."

Ji Ying added.

"Okay." Xu Nianji didn't reject such an arrangement; he also wanted to see his grandfather, but with Xiaohe only a few months away from giving birth, he dared not travel too far. He said, "Mom, once Xiaohe has the baby, then we can all go to see Grandpa together."

"Hmm." Ji Ying nodded, her gaze landing on Xu Nian'an nearby.

Xu Nian'an nodded without hesitation and said, "Go, of course we should go."

South City wasn't far, and he could still come back earlier as long as Grandpa was safe.

"Mom, I'll go wash the dishes." Xu Nianhua lowered her eyes and started clearing the tableware.

Bang.

The bowl in Xu Nianhua's hand accidentally dropped.

"May it bring peace." Ji Ying immediately responded, stopping Xu Nianhua from picking up the shards, saying, "I'll sweep it up; you mustn't pick it up, be careful not to cut your hand."

Chapter 329: Maple Leaf Scar

Xu Nian'an took it upon himself to grab a broom and willingly took on the task of sweeping.

Ji Ying was helping Xu Nianhua clean up the dishes.

Because it involved their family matters, Pei Yicheng and Pei Yining, the siblings, also sat aside in silence without speaking.

Pei Yicheng's gaze faintly followed Xu Nianhua. He wasn't sure if it was his imagination, but ever since Ji Shuyuan talked about going to South City, Xu Nianhua seemed not quite right.

However, as far as he knew, Xu Nianhua had never been to South City.

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"Nianhua, you should go to sleep early too. We'll set off for South City tomorrow. Mom has already gone to inform Dad," Xu Nian'an said, seeing Xu Nianhua sitting in the yard looking at the moon, assuming she was anxious about her grandfather's situation and couldn't sleep.

"Mm."

Xu Nianhua responded, looking at the radiant moon in the sky, feeling really troubled about going to South City tomorrow.

"You should sleep now."

Xu Nian'an urged, yawning, his eyes barely staying open, having woken up early these recent mornings, and now he was also sleepy.

"Elder brother, you go to sleep first; I'm not sleepy yet. I'll sit for a while longer," Xu Nianhua said, urging him as she saw his eyes struggling to stay open, to go back to the room and rest.

After Xu Nian'an left, the yard quieted down, so quiet that the chirping of cicadas could be heard clearly.

South City.

Xu Nianhua closed her eyes and it seemed like a blaze erupted before her, the intense fire as though it was about to dry someone out.

In that fire, her appearance had been destroyed, her body severely burned. If not for her good luck having secretly saved a lot of blood and just then the hospital happened to have Panda Blood available, otherwise, she feared she might have already died.

In her last life, she had spent a lifetime looking for her lifesaver but had still not found him. When he rescued her from the fire, she vaguely saw a maple leaf-like scar to the left of his navel.

Knowing whether someone has a scar on their belly is extremely difficult; it's not as if you could just lift someone's shirt every time you meet a possible lifesaver to check their belly, right?

Therefore, even when Xu Nianhua eventually became wealthy and hired many people to inquire about this matter, it still ended with absolutely no clues.

The only thing South City left her besides the memory of her lifesaver was an endless agony and regret.

"The moon is quite bright tonight," suddenly a man's voice sounded.

Xu Nianhua was startled and looked toward the sound, whereupon the towering figure standing on the garden wall was none other than Pei Yicheng.

"How, how are you there?"

Xu Nianhua looked at Pei Yicheng in shock, glanced at the nearby door, and then at Pei Yicheng climbing the garden wall. There was a door; why would he need to climb the wall?

"Ahem."

Pei Yicheng leapt, grabbed a branch in the yard, agilely climbed up the trunk, and then slid down in front of Xu Nianhua, so quickly that Xu Nianhua couldn't react in time.

His tall figure stood before her, blocking a great deal of the moonlight.

"I just so happen to be going to the city tomorrow. Cheng Hao is going to drive a delivery truck, and I'll drive another car, so you won't have to squeeze into a bus," Pei Yicheng said just as.

Xu Nianhua immediately interrupted, "No, that would be too much trouble for you."

"What trouble? We're also headed to the city. Yining even wants to go with you to the city for a tour. But don't worry, I will arrange another place for Yining to stay. You wouldn't mind taking Yining with you to the city, would you?" Pei Yicheng deliberately said so, not deceiving her, as Yining indeed wanted to go.

### Chapter 330: I Will Help You

"You really have something to go to the city for? Why didn't I hear Yining mention it before?" Xu Nianhua looked at Pei Yicheng with suspicion, feeling that it was a bit too coincidental. Just yesterday, he hadn't heard Yining say anything about going to South City, nor had he heard that Pei Yicheng was going to South City either.

Why are they going to South City, and Pei Yicheng is going too?

"A batch of machines will arrive in South City tomorrow night, and I want to inspect them personally. Since it was confirmed that they would arrive tomorrow night, I only decided today to go tomorrow," Pei Yicheng explained, his gaze sincere. In his pitch-dark eyes, there was not a hint of deceit.

The machinery's arrival in South City was genuine; however, someone had already inspected them. He only needed to prepare to receive the machinery in Gaoliang County.

"Oh oh, that really is a coincidence. Thank you, then," Xu Nianhua said, knowing that he hadn't planned the trip just to give them a ride, which eased her mind a bit. Carpooling was a good thing, and she asked hesitantly, "By the way, two cars should be able to fit us, right? We have quite a few people."

Not to mention her father, there was her mother Ji Ying, her second brother, and Shuyuan. That made four people already.

"It shouldn't be a problem. Xiaohao's truck can fit six people, and my car can also fit four people," Pei Yicheng said, his eyes resting on her palm-sized face. His eyes sparkled, almost as if they could speak.

Suddenly, he looked up at the hair on her forehead.

"Hmm?" Xu Nianhua looked at Pei Yicheng, perplexed.

Her big eyes were clear and luminous.

Thump, thump, thump.

One thought crossed Xu Nianhua's mind—was she sick? Why was her heartbeat so fast?

"There's a leaf," Pei Yicheng said as he grazed her hair, and the silky ends slipped through his fingers, leaving a tingling sensation. His fingertips held a leaf in front of her.

Xu Nianhua stared at the leaf, and then she looked up, watching the wind carry away the leaves. She smiled and said, "Maybe autumn is just around the corner."

Her pure and bright smile was like a beam of light shining into his heart.

Pei Yicheng sat down on a nearby chair, showing no signs of leaving. He said, "Today, when Ji Shuyuan mentioned going to South City, your expression seemed off. Are you afraid of going to South City?"

Xu Nianhua was about to lie back on the lounge chair when she heard his words. Startled, she staggered, straightening herself up like a cat with puffed fur, and said, "Who's afraid of South City? You must have seen wrong. I was just..."

She paused, then said, "I've never been there before."

When her grandparents moved to South City, she was already a middle school student. Travel required buying tickets, and since her family was poor and wanted to save money, only her mother would go.

Pei Yicheng's dark eyes seemed to see right through her, leaving Xu Nianhua with a fluttering heart.

It was no good; she was regressing the more she lived, getting panicked by a man in his twenties.

Calm down.

Xu Nianhua took a deep breath and, under the guise of sitting down, masked the turmoil inside her. She said, "Yicheng, I've grown up so much and I've never been to South City. I haven't seen my grandfather for many years, so I guess I was thinking too much."

Pei Yicheng's lips curved slightly. He gave her a deep look and, without exposing her, merely said, "I will help you."

Pei Yicheng's words were forceful and resonating.