

Regaining 381

Chapter 381: One North, One South

It wasn't until they boarded the train that Xu Nian'an finally realized Pei Yicheng and Ling Dong had been with them the entire time.

"You guys..." Xu Nian'an came to this realization belatedly, he thought to himself that on the train, how come Brother Cheng didn't say any words of farewell, could it be they were also returning to Beining?

"I'm going home."

Pei Yicheng's gaze fell on Xu Nianhua in a seemingly nonchalant way as he said, "I haven't been back since my leg healed, and now I have company."

Xu Nian'an looked at him, as if asking: Wasn't your leg already healed? It's been two months, why are you only going back now?

However, Xu Nian'an didn't dwell on it and simply asked, "Brother Cheng, do you know where Beining University is? Where is Ningbei Medical University? Are the two universities close to each other?"

Being busy with learning medicine all this time, Xu Nian'an had forgotten to ask about this previously.

He thought, since they are both in Beining, even if they are far apart, it won't be too outrageous.

"One in the south and one in the north," Pei Yicheng answered.

Seeing Xu Nian'an's confused look, he further elaborated, "When we arrive at Beining Station, we won't be far from Beining University, but it's still a two-hour drive to Ningbei Medical University."

"Two hours?" Xu Nian'an was somewhat surprised, saying, "That's four hours for a round trip, half the day is gone!"

If you add in the waiting time for the train, that's five hours gone.

"Big brother, it's okay. During vacation, I'll come to visit you just the same," Xu Nianhua said, and Xu Nian'an immediately shook his head, "Little sister, you just stay in school peacefully. I'll come to see you. Riding such a long distance, you can't even make sense of directions. What if you get lost? Where would I even start looking for you?"

Xu Nianhua: "..."

She may not know the way, but she certainly can read signs.

"You must listen to me on this, I've promised Mom that I'll visit you whenever I get the chance. Otherwise, she definitely won't be at ease back home," Xu Nian'an was particularly insistent on this point.

Xu Nianhua pursed her lips and said, "Big brother, did you forget? Yining is also at the same university as I am. We can go visit you together."

"I might not know the way, but Yining surely does," Xu Nianhua added.

Xu Nian'an only belatedly realized that Xu Nianhua wasn't like him, all alone.

"I'm here too."

Pei Yicheng suddenly spoke up.

The siblings Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an looked at each other and for a long moment did not comprehend what Pei Yicheng meant by his words.

"I'm also a student at Beining University," Pei Yicheng added.

His words were like throwing a huge stone into a calm lake, stirring up a massive splash.

Clack, clack.

The train kept moving forward.

"Thank you, big brother."

Xu Nianhua was holding a cup of instant noodles, and even though she hadn't started eating yet, just the smell was enough to whet her appetite.

"It smells so good."

Xu Nianhua gazed out at the rapidly retreating scenery through the window, and even though the smell in the carriage was a bit unpleasant, it was still a uniquely interesting journey for her.

"It would be nice if we were at home, I'd cook a poached egg too."

Thinking of the times he made instant noodles at home, Xu Nian'an remembered how an additional poached egg always made it taste amazing.

"I wish we could, but when you're out and about, don't think too much about it," Xu Nianhua said, feeling a strong longing for sausages. Instant noodles with sausages were simply the best partners.

Unfortunately, it would still be many years before she could have sausages again, right?

She had thought about making them herself, but she didn't know how to make them, so she dismissed the idea.

Chapter 382: The Wisteria Flowers on the Half Wall

Along the way, Pei Yicheng talked quite a bit about the beautiful places in Ningbei and gave a brief introduction to Beining University as well.

Xu Nianhua longed to go there—living two lifetimes, she was finally about to step through the gates of a university.

Safely exiting Ningbei Train Station, Xu Nian'an was carrying items, his other hand tightly holding Xu Nianhua, shielding her in front of him, fearing that she might get lost or something might happen to her.

Pei Yicheng led the way and Ling Dong followed at the back, the three men surrounding Xu Nianhua in the center, ensuring she wasn't squeezed even amidst the crowded throng.

"Where are we going?"

Only after Xu Nian'an got on the vehicle did he feel relieved. When boarding the train in South City, he found it crowded, but upon alighting in Ningbei, he realized it wasn't just crowded—it was packed!

Looking around, it was a sea of people, only dark heads in sight. He had never seen so many people before; he dared not let go of Xu Nianhua's hand for a moment, fearful of losing his little sister and having to explain it to their parents.

Xu Nianhua handed Xu Nian'an a handkerchief, gesturing for him to wipe his hands. Though it was almost September, it was still oppressively hot and humid, especially since Xu Nian'an had been holding her hand, his palms were all sweaty.

Xu Nian'an wiped his hands and then took a big gulp of water from Xu Nianhua, which made him feel much better.

"It's getting late today, I'll take you to rest for the day, and we'll go to the school tomorrow."

The arrangement by Pei Yicheng was well received by both Xu Nian'an and Xu Nianhua. It didn't make sense to go to the school and register late at night and, even if they had registered, they couldn't possibly tidy up and settle into the dorm at that hour.

So, whether they went to the school now or tomorrow, there was nowhere to stay today.

Considering that, they decided not to push themselves further, having been on the vehicle from early yesterday morning until this evening.

Though Xu Nianhua managed to sleep at night, Xu Nian'an, Pei Yicheng, and Ling Dong didn't sleep at all. Firstly, they had to look after their belongings, and secondly, they were wary of pickpockets and other potential problems.

"This is a house my mother used to live in; however, she only stayed here occasionally. Over the past decade or so, Aunt Jin has been looking after it. It's not far from Beining School," explained Pei Yicheng, asking, "If you mind... there's a hotel nearby."

"Cheng, what is there to mind? We should be the ones who are imposing," Xu Nian'an wasn't bothered at all—every family has its share of departed loved ones, after all.

"Xiaoning should be waiting for us there."

As soon as Pei Yicheng finished speaking and the car hadn't even stopped, he spotted Pei Yining stretching her neck in anticipation by the roadside.

Seeing the car arrive, Pei Yining was extremely pleased and excited.

"Nianhua!"

Pei Yining sprinted forward, heading straight to the back seat and hugged Xu Nianhua happily upon seeing her.

"Yining has gotten prettier."

Xu Nianhua felt Pei Yining's warmth and smiled slightly. Having such a friend was indeed wonderful.

"Really?"

Pei Yining grinned broadly and then greeted Pei Yicheng and others as they got out of the car: "Brother, Ling, Xu Second Brother."

"I guessed you guys would be arriving about now. Aunt Jin has already prepared dinner, hurry and take a shower, and then you can have dinner," chirped Pei Yining, her cheerful voice alleviating their fatigue.

As they entered the courtyard, everyone saw the half wall of wisteria blossoms, which were stunningly beautiful.

Chapter 383: Hometown Flavor

"What beautiful flowers," Xu Nianhua remarked with emotion. The half-wall of wisteria flowers looked just like a floral barrier.

Pei Yining said with a proud face, "These are the wisteria flowers my mother planted, beautiful, aren't they?"

"Yes."

Xu Nianhua nodded affirmatively. It was evening now, the sky not fully dark yet, and the glow of the sunset sprinkled light upon the wisteria, seemingly gilding them with a layer of luminescence.

"Yining, aren't wisteria supposed to bloom in April and May?" Xu Nianhua, amazed, found it somewhat strange after her initial impression.

"Yeah, but, you see, our flowers are well taken care of, so they bloom twice a year."

Pei Yining knew only that these flowers were well-cultivated, but not the specifics. She said, "If you're curious, you can ask Aunt Jin later. She's here every day and probably knows better than I do."

"Let's go, I'll take you upstairs to take a bath. You must be tired after a day on the train, right?"

Pei Yining had taken the train several times herself and naturally knew the discomfort of train travel, especially in the summer—no need to mention that.

Not to mention girls who love cleanliness, even Xu Nian'an, a rugged guy, felt sticky all over.

"Nian'an, your room is on the second floor." Pei Yicheng led Xu Nian'an upstairs, then to the communal bathroom on the second floor, saying, "You can shower here, shoes and soap are already prepared."

"Thanks, Brother Cheng."

Xu Nian'an put down his things, grabbed his clothes, and dashed into the washroom to shower.

The washroom, tiled, looked especially clean. It's called a washroom, but with incense lit, there was just a faint scent upon entering and no other odors noticeable.

Indeed, it's different in a big city.

Xu Nian'an thought to himself, never having felt this way before while in South City. It wasn't until he had arrived at the Pei Family's place that he realized Pei Yicheng seemed to be even wealthier than he had imagined.

Rich, yet without the airs of the wealthy, and with much care for them commoners, Brother Cheng was really kind.

Xu Nian'an enjoyed the cold shower, feeling as if it washed away all his weariness.

On the third floor.

Pei Yining handed her a dress, saying, "These are all new, the lingerie has never been worn by me before, don't bother going through your stuff, it's troublesome."

"No need, my mom prepared all my clothes,"

Xu Nianhua smiled and declined. When she had come up earlier, she carried a bag containing not only food but also her entire outfit.

It was Ji Ying who had specially prepared them, saying that since she was new at the school, she would surely feel uncomfortable all around, and things would be hard to find. She packed a set of clothes in the bag so that even if she needed to shower outside, there was no need to rummage through the well-packed bag.

The clothes Xu Nian'an wore after his shower were also from the set.

"By the way, Yining, I brought quite a few tasty treats this time." Xu Nianhua passed the food to Pei Yining, then went into the bathroom to shower herself, feeling really uncomfortable with the stickiness on her body.

"Wow, green peas."

When Pei Yining saw the green peas, her eyes instantly curved into smiles. She really liked eating them, and it seemed that the green peas Ji Aunt dried were particularly delicious.

"Nianhua, Ji Aunt is so kind, bringing so much good food."

Pei Yining praised her, not having missed out on Ji Aunt's delicious food when she used to stay at the Xu Family's place.

Whether it was Ji Aunt's dishes or snacks, they were all exceptionally tasty.

"I knew you liked them, so I brought some crispy pork too," Xu Nianhua's voice came from the washroom.

Chapter 384: Saving Time

Pei Yining's eyes instantly lit up.

Crispy meat!

She loved it, whether as a snack or steamed soft and sprinkled with green onions, it always tasted great.

"Aunt Ji is really nice."

Pei Yining was so happy she didn't know what to say.

"We're going to school tomorrow. I'm studying music, and you're studying foreign languages. We probably can't be in the same dorm," Pei Yining said, feeling a bit sad, "Nianhua, how about you move here too? It's only a twenty-minute walk to Beining University, and even faster by bike."

"It's better for me to stay in the dorm."

The sound of rushing water mixed with Xu Nianhua's voice drifted over.

"Why? Living here with me is quite convenient," Pei Yining coaxed, as she bit into the crispy meat and got up to ask outside the bathroom, "Wouldn't it be nicer to have each other's company going to and from classes?"

"Yining, although it's convenient to stay here, living in the dorm saves time."

Pei Yining: "..."

Save time?

Ah, Nianhua didn't want to live here with her. If it were someone else, they would probably be eager to stay, right?

But then, if Nianhua were like everyone else, would he still be Nianhua?

After showering, Xu Nianhua felt refreshed. As she dried her hair, she said, "College holidays should be more frequent than high school, so we can still meet often."

"Of course, and I can still come and keep you company occasionally."

Xu Nianhua wasn't the type to bother others. This time it just happened that she came with Pei Yicheng; otherwise, she and Xu Nian'an would have just found a hotel to stay in. But today was an exception; if she didn't stay in the dorm, living at Pei Yining's house every day would definitely feel inconvenient for her.

"Okay then."

Seeing her insistence, Pei Yining didn't insist on her staying. After all, she would be with her brother in the future.

"Just in time for dinner."

Pei Yicheng was sitting on the sofa chatting with Xu Nian'an. When he saw the two of them come down, he immediately got up and introduced them to Aunt Jin, "This is Nian'an's sister, Xu Nianhua, and also Yining's friend."

"Miss Xu, nice to meet you." Aunt Jin smiled warmly as she sized up Xu Nianhua, clad in a red shirt and white skirt. The clothes weren't luxurious, but they didn't look cheap on her. Her pretty face, smiling warmly, had bright and curved eyes.

They say the eyes are the windows to the soul, and looking at this pair of eyes, Aunt Jin felt this girl was really nice.

"Aunt Jin, nice to meet you."

Xu Nianhua's voice was soft but not coy, giving a gentle and approachable impression.

"Very nice," Aunt Jin said warmly, inviting them to start eating, and she specifically explained, "Knowing you're people from South City, I specially prepared some dishes with South City flavors for you to try."

"I haven't been back to South City for a long time, so I'm not sure how well I did."

Aunt Jin said, appearing a bit embarrassed.

"A table full of dishes, it looks very sumptuous, so it must be delicious," Xu Nianhua praised. She asked, "Are you from South City, Aunt Jin?"

"No, but I used to visit South City a lot in the past, so I learned to cook its cuisine," Aunt Jin replied simply, encouraging them to eat while she turned to head back to the kitchen.

"Yining, isn't Aunt Jin joining us?" Xu Nianhua whispered to Pei Yining.

The table was laden with a lavish spread, and it seemed a bit wasteful for just the four of them to eat.

"She's joining us," Pei Yining said, and quickly called out to the kitchen, "Aunt Jin, come have dinner, we're waiting for you."

Chapter 385: Mutual Compliments

Aunt Jin brought the last bowl of soup from the kitchen, refusing to join them at the table.

Pei Yining didn't call her again, whispering to Xu Nianhua, "Aunt Jin must be going to feed her mute daughter."

"Her mute daughter is Aunt Jin's eldest, who, because of a fever during childhood and taking the wrong medicine, nearly died. She survived, but she can't speak and her brain was damaged."

Pei Yining sighed; Aunt Jin really had it tough, raising several children all by herself. Because mom had helped Aunt Jin, she had always looked after this house, making sure it was exceptionally clean whenever they came over.

"The medical conditions back then were indeed not very good," Xu Nianhua remarked.

"Let's not talk about that anymore. Let's hurry up and try Aunt Jin's dishes; my grandfather and my mom used to love her cooking," Pei Yining enthusiastically invited Xu Nianhua to start eating.

After a hearty dinner, the four of them worked together to quickly wash up the dishes. In the courtyard, under the wisteria, there was a marble table set up.

Pei Yining cut some fruit and laid it on the table, joyfully saying, "Try this, the mango tastes really good."

"And there are grapes too."

Pei Yining brought the fruits one by one, warmly calling everyone to try them.

"Yining, I've just eaten my fill," Xu Nianhua touched her stomach; she was already full from the meal.

"Fruits won't fill you up that much."

Pei Yining handed her a mango, saying, "It's especially sweet."

"I've never tried it before," Xu Nian'an looked at the golden mango and said very straightforwardly, not hiding the fact that he had never tried it before.

"It's really tasty."

Pei Yining loved mangoes. As she peeled the skin for them, she silently showed them how to eat it. Biting into it was delicious, although it made the hands a bit messy.

Xu Nian'an followed suit, peeled the skin, and after tasting it said, "It really is good, pretty sweet."

"Try this one too," Pei Yining handed a small bunch of grapes to Xu Nian'an, saying, "These grapes are especially sweet."

"Yicheng, are you in your second or first year of university now?"

Xu Nianhua, indeed full, couldn't eat anymore. She set the mango down on the table and asked Pei Yicheng.

"Junior year,"

Pei Yicheng leaned back in his chair, his posture very relaxed, his dark eyes upon her surprised face as he explained, "I studied on my own and passed the exams, so naturally, I moved up a grade."

"Impressive!"

Xu Nianhua gave him a thumbs up. It wasn't easy for Pei Yicheng to settle down to self-study amidst such misfortune.

"What's impressive is you. The last manuscript you translated, my friend said it was exceptionally well done," Pei Yicheng praised, his deep eyes holding not only admiration but perhaps a hint of indulgence?

Xu Nianhua thought it must be because the moonlight was dim, causing her to see things blur.

"It's not as good as you say. There were some phrases that I mulled over for a long time, afraid I might not translate accurately," Xu Nianhua modestly responded, even though deep down she knew her translation was very good. But being praised by Pei Yicheng like this made her heart inexplicably sweet, like a primary school student receiving praise from a teacher, exceptionally happy.

"You both should stop praising each other; you are both incredible, and I'm the worst." Xu Nian'an ate grapes one by one, looking listless, "All three of you are in the same school, while I'm the only one at Medical University. Ah, I should have applied for Beijing University from the start."

Chapter 386: Second Sister Xu

"Second Brother, you're a boy!" Xu Nianhua reminded him.

Xu Nian'an immediately corrected, "A man, I'm twenty-one this year!"

Xu Nianhua: "..."

"Hahaha~"

Pei Yining, sitting on the side, bent over laughing and said, "Xu Second Brother, aren't you a boy?"

"Of course not." I'm all man, I'm a man.

He hadn't finished speaking.

Pei Yining laughed even harder, holding her stomach she said, "I can't take it anymore, Xu Second Brother, from now on I won't call you Xu Second Brother, I'll call you Xu Second Sister."

"Second Sister."

Xu Nianhua was also struggling to hold back, but in the end, she burst into laughter with a 'snort'.

Aren't you a boy?

Of course not.

Hahaha, this joke about Second Brother, she could laugh for a year, okay.

If Dad, Mom, and Big Brother knew about this, they'd definitely laugh till their stomachs hurt.

"You've misunderstood me." Xu Nian'an's face turned steely, looking at the two of them gasping for air from laughing, he corrected, "I am a man, I am a man!"

"Second Sister."

As soon as Xu Nianhua spoke, she couldn't help but continue laughing.

"Xu Second Sister, you're a man, you're a man!"

Pei Yining laughed till tears were nearly spilling out.

In the courtyard, amidst joyous laughter, Xu Nian'an stood there, wishing he could punch himself!

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"Nianhua, your Second Brother won't be angry, will he?"

Pei Yining and Xu Nianhua lay side by side in bed when Pei Yining, finally realizing it, said.

"It's fine, my Second Brother, well, he's got a broad heart," Xu Nianhua said with a laugh, comforting her, "Don't overthink it, my Second Brother isn't the petty type."

After sitting in the car for two days and a night, she didn't feel it while sitting in the courtyard, but now that she was lying in bed, she felt overwhelmingly sleepy.

"That's good."

Only then did Pei Yining feel relieved. She murmured, "Nianhua, your Second Brother is actually quite cute."

"Yeah."

"Also, your Big Brother really dotes on your sister-in-law, Uncle Xu also really dotes on Aunt Ji, I feel like your family, it's just so warm, so happy." Pei Yining liked visiting the Xu Family, not just because of her brother Pei Yicheng, but also because the Xu Family's atmosphere was so warm, which she especially liked.

"Yeah."

"And, and, the look on your Second Brother's face when he was talking about going to Medical University by himself, it was like that of a little puppy that had been abandoned."

Pei Yining spoke excitedly, today she had been sitting right across from Xu Nian'an, so the bright light had clearly illuminated his expression.

"Yeah."

"Nianhua?"

Pei Yining, only then realizing, found that Xu Nianhua seemed to have fallen asleep. After calling her a few times, besides a 'yeah', there was no other sound from her.

"She fell asleep so quickly!"

Pei Yining turned over gently, afraid of waking Xu Nianhua, indeed, riding in the car was too exhausting.

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The sun was bright, and the birds were cheerfully chirping in the trees.

Under the wisteria tree, a white figure stood there, bending over and carefully watering the tree.

"Good morning."

Xu Nianhua, with a bright smile, greeted, "These flowers are really beautiful, grown into a wall like this, they must have been here for many years, right?"

Pei Yicheng turned and said, "About a dozen years now."

Looking at the wisteria blossoms, his eyes filled with memories, at first, it was their mother who had taken care of them. Later, after their mother had an accident, it was Aunt Jin who took meticulous care of them.

He would also come over every year to check on them, and if there were any problems with the flowers, he would specifically hire someone to give care instructions to Aunt Jin on how to maintain them.

Chapter 387: The Lower Bunk

Xu Nianhua silently observed the beautifully cultivated wisteria flowers, thinking that without the meticulous care of their owner, could the wisteria be as beautiful as it was today?

These wisteria flowers couldn't do without Aunt Jin's careful attention, but even more so, they couldn't do without Pei Yicheng and his sister pouring their deep longing for their mother into them.

Whether it was Pei Yicheng or Pei Yining, whenever they saw this patch of wisteria flowers, joy was unmistakably reflected in their eyes, a joy that was truly impossible to conceal.

"Yicheng, I believe that if Auntie's spirit is looking down from heaven, she would definitely feel consoled," Xu Nianhua said while looking at the vast stretch of wisteria flowers, imagining Pei Yicheng's mother to be a woman tender as water and full of sentiment.

"Mmm, my mom was very gentle. I remember that she spoke softly and had a gentle voice. No matter when it was, her face always had a faint smile," Pei Yicheng recalled his mother Du Ya when she was alive, singing nursery rhymes that sounded like whispers by his ear, which were his favorite songs to listen to.

Unfortunately, as he was often not at home later on, his mother gradually changed. Although she never showed any discomfort in front of him, in his childhood, he had seen his mother wiping away tears in secret.

"Auntie was so kind; she will surely have a lifetime of happiness in her next life," Xu Nianhua said, not knowing how else to comfort him.

She had also experienced the pain of losing a family member.

People say the dead cannot come back to life and one must accept and move on, but who can truly understand without having gone through it themselves?

In this world, there's no such thing as true compassion.

Pei Yicheng stopped what he was doing and smiled slightly at the corners of his mouth when he heard her words. He nodded and said, "She will."

His mother was kind and gentle; the heavens would surely treat her well.

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At seven o'clock sharp, Xu Nianhua and her party of four arrived at Beining University.

The main entrance of Beining University was exceptionally tall and imposing, standing in front of it made one feel so insignificant.

"Is this the university?" Xu Nian'an gazed at Beining University, eyes trailing inward. Compared to County No. 1 High School, this place was at least more than ten times bigger.

Having Pei Yicheng, an alumnus, acting as their guide, he mixed school introductions with leading them to the registration office.

Xu Nianhua had arrived early and had already registered and been assigned to a dormitory.

Room 302.

"Your school is really big," Xu Nian'an, carrying his belongings, couldn't help but express as he went up to the third floor.

"Don't worry, your school will definitely not be small either."

Xu Nianhua said with a smiling expression. With Pei Yicheng and Xu Nian'an, two men there, she didn't need to lift a finger to move the heavier items.

Xu Nianhua carried a bucket, a thermos, and a washbasin, while Pei Yining also helped carry some snacks.

At the school gate, they had specially bought two large suitcases with locks so they could secure their belongings inside.

One suitcase was for winter clothing, and the other was for the clothes she was currently wearing.

In the dormitory, there was no one else yet; Xu Nianhua was the first to arrive.

"Nianhua, this lower bunk looks good," Pei Yining pointed out a lower bunk in the middle while looking at the dormitory and invited again, "Why don't you come and live with me? It's the place we stayed at yesterday, really close to the school."

"Thank you for the offer, but it's more convenient for me to stay in the dormitory," Xu Nianhua declined once more, choosing an upper bunk instead of a lower one.

Despite the upper bunk being a bit harder to climb onto, the lighting was better, and she didn't like the lower bunk, where opening her eyes first thing meant staring at the base of the upper bunk.

Chapter 388: Why Hasn't the Call Come Yet?

Upon arriving at the dormitory and selecting her bed, Xu Nianhua quickly put her belongings in order and then urged to leave.

"No way, make the bed first, clean up a bit." Xu Nian'an couldn't leave without settling his sister well.

"Don't hurry, we have a whole day for registration."

Xu Nian'an was not in a rush at all. He said, "I saw there were quilts in the shop just now, I'll buy one for you to pad the bed later."

"Just focus on cleaning up the dormitory," Xu Nian'an said, and he put down his things and headed downstairs.

Pei Yicheng also felt awkward staying in the girls' dormitory the whole time, so he followed him downstairs with the intention of buying some fruit.

"Nianhua, it's still early, there's really no need to rush," Pei Yining also started to help tidy up. Although she usually didn't do this kind of work, at least she knew how to arrange and place things.

Xu Nianhua filled a basin with water and took an old towel from her luggage to start cleaning her bed. It wasn't really dirty, just some dust. The walls were covered in colorful stickers, and she thought about getting a painting or a piece of cloth to cover them, so it wouldn't look as unsightly as it did now.

With Pei Yining's help, she quickly got most of her things organized and even took the initiative to sweep up all the trash she saw.

"Little sister, what do you think of this quilt?" Xu Nian'an came up with the quilt. It wasn't too thick nor too thin. It was slightly warm to use right now, but when the weather cooled down a bit, it would still be suitable.

When winter came, they would simply buy another quilt to lay on top, and then it wouldn't be cold.

"Fine," Xu Nianhua arranged the padding quilt and then spread the peony bedsheet brought from home. After folding the quilt neatly, her things were mostly sorted out.

The large suitcase with winter clothes fit perfectly into the space at the head of the bed.

"Second brother, if we hurry now, we could complete the registration by noon," Xu Nianhua, anxious about Xu Nian'an's registration, urged him to go to Beining's Medical University as it was already past nine o'clock.

Pei Yicheng drove them directly to the Medical University in Beining. Without having to wait for public transport, it took just an hour and a half to arrive at the Medical University.

During the registration and moving into the dormitory, Xu Nianhua, who had just been cleaning her own dormitory, was now efficiently helping Xu Nian'an. She even gave away the snacks they had brought to his roommates in a very polite manner.

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In Gaoliang County, at the Good Mom Food Factory.

Ji Ying didn't dare to leave for a moment, fearing she might miss a call from Beining.

They had agreed that once Xu Nian'an and his sister were settled in, they would call home to report that everything was okay. Now it was the afternoon, so why hadn't the call come yet?

Could something have happened?

Ji Ying, having not received any calls, couldn't focus on anything else. During these two days, she was constantly worried whether they had a smooth trip, whether they had safely arrived in Beining, and whether they had found the school okay.

"Mom, don't worry, Nian'an and Nianhua are both sensible. They'll definitely have a safe and smooth journey," Zhou He, touching her belly, chatted with Ji Ying as they waited for the call. She said, "Isn't Yining also at Beining University? I believe, with Yining, a local, they'll have even more convenience than others."

"That's true," Ji Ying felt somewhat relieved by Zhou He's words. Pei Yining, the girl who had visited their home several times, was gradually becoming familiar, and she had a very pleasant personality and didn't put on any airs. With her around, Xu Nian'an and Xu Nianhua, the siblings, would certainly be much more at ease.

Chapter 389: I Must Not Be Biological

'Ring, ring'

The phone rang.

Ji Ying and Zhou He, who were chatting, looked at each other. Zhou He smiled and said, "It must be Nianhua calling back."

"Hello, Nianhua?" Ji Ying excitedly grabbed the phone and asked worriedly, "How are you all, have you arrived in Ningbei? Have you registered yet?"

"Mom, have you been waiting for the call?"

Xu Nianhua guessed that Ji Ying must have been waiting, but as soon as the phone rang, she picked it up; Xu Nianhua guessed she must have been sitting right by the phone.

"If you all didn't call back, how could I be at ease?" Hearing her daughter's voice, Ji Ying instantly felt much more relieved and asked, "You are in Ningbei now, right? At your university or your brother's university? How is the school? Is the money you brought enough?"

Ji Ying bombarded Xu Nianhua with a series of questions.

"Mom, don't worry, we are all fine." Xu Nianhua carefully described their journey; Pei Yicheng and Ling Dong had come to Ningbei with them, and both she and Xu Nian'an had finished registering. After the call, she was going to head back to school.

"Mom, don't worry, we have enough money." Xu Nianhua chose to share some joyful news and also briefly mentioned Xu Nian'an's roommates, who all seemed to be easy-going people.

"That's good."

Listening to her, Ji Ying's anxious heart finally settled down.

Now on the phone was Xu Nian'an, Ji Ying's worries all turned into words of caution, "Nian'an, when you're out, you must take good care of your sister."

Xu Nian'an: "..."

While talking to Xu Nianhua just now, everything was about caring for Xu Nianhua, but when it came to him, it turned into taking good care of his sister.

He had almost developed calluses from hearing these words, he couldn't help but dig his ear and said, "Mom, don't worry, I'm the brother, I will definitely take good care of my little sister, but you all at home, take care of your health."

"Got it, the two of you going so far away for the first time, if there's anything, both of you discuss it, do you hear?" Ji Ying instructed, Xu Nian'an she could rely on, he had been sensible since he was young, but she was worried about her daughter Xu Nianhua, so grown up and still not knowing which worthless boy might benefit in the future.

"Sigh, I must not be your biological child, Mom only cares about you, not about me." Xu Nian'an pursed his lips, sighing and clearly making a joke.

"Cough, maybe I'm not the real one." Xu Nianhua cleared her throat, her words not just a joke but serious.

"How could that be."

Xu Nian'an stared wide-eyed at her, saying, "In our parents' eyes, my brother and I stand aside, only you are the most important. If you're not the biological one, then my brother and I must have been picked up even more so?"

"Mom and Dad are indeed very good to me." Thinking of Xu Qinghe and Ji Ying, Xu Nianhua felt truly happy from the bottom of her heart.

"Little sister, if there's anything, remember to find me, I'll come to see you whenever I'm free, don't wander around on your own, okay?"

Although Xu Nian'an had just said that Ji Ying doesn't care about him, he knew that in their parents' hearts, they cared equally about him; his sister was a girl, and as her brother, he of course had to look after her more.

"I turned twenty today." Xu Nianhua reminded him, she wasn't a child anymore.

"Aren't you still a young girl at twenty?" Xu Nianhua rolled her eyes at her, saying, "Don't foolishly believe everything people say, be careful or you might be sold without even knowing it."

Chapter 390: Roommates with Different Personalities

Xu Nianhua: "..."

Why does she seem so silly in her second brother's eyes?

After Xu Nian'an had nagged and warned her numerous times, Xu Nianhua felt a sense of peace in her ears only after getting into the car and leaving.

She looked back, watching the figure standing at the school gate grow smaller and smaller until it disappeared, and her heart felt reluctant to part.

"It's okay, I'll accompany you to visit Xu Second Brother in the future," Pei Yining comforted her. "It's just a two-hour bus ride. It's actually quite close."

"Yeah, Yining, thank you for today, for keeping me company all day," Xu Nianhua expressed her gratitude, then added, "And Cheng Ge, thank you all."

"Nianhua, aren't we good friends? Saying that makes it seem so formal!"

Pei Yining pouted, not happy.

"Alright, I won't say it."

Xu Nianhua replied with a smile, etching her gratitude to them deep in her heart.

"Do you want to have dinner together tonight?" Pei Yining offered spontaneously, eager to bring her brother and Xu Nianhua together as soon as possible.

"No need, I'll head back to the dorms and meet my roommates."

Xu Nianhua felt a special anticipation for university life; she had moved all her belongings to the school, and staying at Pei Yining's place would now be inconvenient.

...

At four-thirty, when Xu Nianhua stepped into the dormitory again, the beds that had been empty were now filled with all sorts of items.

"Are you the first arriving student?" Ding Guo was the first to notice Xu Nianhua. She was also in the upper bunk next to Xu Nianhua and seemed to have just finished making her bed.

"Yes," Xu Nianhua nodded, before she had time to introduce herself, Ding Guo smiled and said, "My name is Ding Guo. I'm from Yishui County in Ningbei. What's your name?"

"Hello everyone, I'm Xu Nianhua." Xu Nianhua looked over her new roommates and introduced herself confidently, "I'm from South City."

"Wow, you must have scored high? To get into Beining University from another province is quite difficult," Ding Guo gave a thumbs-up to Xu Nianhua.

"Everyone is amazing," Xu Nianhua sidestepped the question of her scores.

"My name is Chang Hui. My family is in Gui City."

Chang Hui's roommate beneath the bunk, a girl with two braids, looked very shy.

"Zhou Wanwan."

The girl living underneath her introduced herself this way. She was holding a book, reading; not only did she seem gentle, but an intellectual aura emanated from her.

"My name is Liao Jinling. My family lives right here in Ningbei, but my mother told me to get to know classmates better, so she had me stay on campus," said Liao Jinling on the bunk across from Chang Hui.

"Cut it out, just stay in the dorm if you want. Why make up all those excuses? Are you trying to show off how rich your family is?" interjected Fei Jiayi from the bunk above Liao Jinling.

"Hello, my name is Fei Jiayi." Fei Jiayi lived in the bunk above Liao Jinling, and it was clear that her family's circumstances were quite good.

"Fei Jiayi, I'm chatting with the new student, what does it have to do with you?" Liao Jinling suddenly stood up and looked up at Fei Jiayi on the upper bunk, "I'm really unlucky to be in the same dorm as you."

"Hehe." Fei Jiayi grinned and replied, "I feel unlucky too, but at least I am not like some people who are pretentious and love to show off."

"Hmph."

Liao Jinling glared at her fiercely and then returned to her bed.

After a brief period of interaction, Xu Nianhua realized that the dormitory residents could be roughly divided into three groups. One group consisted of Fei Jiayi and Liao Jinling who seemed to know each other from before. In less than half an hour since Xu Nianhua had entered the dormitory, the two had already started arguing.