

## Regaining 391

### Chapter 391: Be Careful of Gaining Weight

Another group consisted of her, the shy Chang Hui, and the cheerful Ding Guo. She and Chang Hui were no longer at Beining, while Ding Guo, although from Beining, came from a small county in Beining.

Zhou Wanwan formed a group of her own, sitting there quietly reading her book as if no one could disturb her.

Canteen.

The six people from the dormitory walked together, Liao Jinling and Fei Jiayi were bickering, but without any deep-seated hatred—probably just enjoyed bickering?

Ding Guo, true to her name, was like a pistachio, always having something to talk about with everyone, and with her around, the atmosphere could never turn awkward.

"This dish is really delicious."

Ding Guo said with a satisfied face, "Even better than the dishes at my home."

"Looks like we're in for a treat," Xu Nianhua smiled and chimed in. The dishes weren't as bad as imagined, but they certainly weren't delicious either.

However, Xu Nianhua thought that being picky about food when living away from home would only starve herself to death.

Liao Jinling looked at the food on her plate and muttered, "There's not even any meat, how is this delicious?"

"Don't you have lots of snacks? Why eat this when you can just snack on those?" Fei Jiayi swallowed a bite and instinctively picked a fight with Liao Jinling.

"Those are for after meals," Liao Jinling thought, looking at Fei Jiayi who was eating nonchalantly: It doesn't look tasty, how can she be so indifferent to it?

"Be careful, or you'll end up gaining more weight," Fei Jiayi warned with a smiling eyes.

In their dormitory of six, Liao Jinling wasn't actually fat; umm, it was more that Xu Nianhua and the others were too petite, which made Liao Jinling appear larger.

"Fei Jiayi, if you don't talk, nobody will think you're mute!"

Liao Jinling was infuriated. Where was she fat?

She was just a bit taller and more solid than the others, right?

"I didn't say you were fat, I just said to watch out for gaining weight," Fei Jiayi protested innocently, blink blink, her eyes reflecting such grievance as if she were deeply wronged.

"Jiayi, Jinling, stop bickering. We're all from the same dormitory. We need to be united and not be a laughing stock,"

The upbeat Ding Guo, seeing them about to start arguing again, immediately said, "Let me tell you a joke then."

With Ding Guo's accent tinged with a local dialect, combined with her naturally comical expression, she could always make everyone in the dormitory laugh out loud, even Zhou Wanwan laughed along.

Ding Guo, truly the dormitory's pistachio.

The beds in the dormitory were small; Xu Nianhua could only turn over half a body to each side after lying down, but she felt exceptionally happy.

Starting today, she was a student at Beining University.

She was no longer the person from her past life who missed out on college and could only be a primary school teacher. She no longer had to feel regret for not having a university education.

She was steadily striving towards her dreams.

Dad, Mom, big brother, second brother, we'll definitely live a very happy, very happy life.

With beautiful wishes and thoughts, Xu Nianhua drifted into sweet slumber.

...

"Shall we go shopping today?"

It was the first weekend after a week of classes, and Pei Yining was extremely looking forward to it. Back in Gaoliang County, she always hoped to drag Xu Nianhua around shopping once she arrived.

"Not today, my second brother will definitely come looking for me," Xu Nianhua shrugged helplessly and said, "Next time we have a holiday, I'll go with you."

"Alright then," Pei Yining's face fell, but thinking of how concerned Xu Nian'an was about Xu Nianhua, she knew he wouldn't rest easy without checking on her.

Chapter 392: Still Young

"Hey, have you noticed, everyone's looking at you?" Pei Yining and Xu Nianhua were strolling around the school when they sensed something amiss, as many classmates were stealthily observing them.

"Um..." Xu Nianhua touched her nose and said, "It might be because I scored full marks in foreign languages?"

Since the beginning of the school year, the news of Xu Nianhua's perfect score in the foreign language exam had spread throughout their foreign language department.

As a result, Xu Nianhua felt that every time she went out, she encountered quite a few people secretly watching her, which also instilled in her a reluctance to go out.

She didn't want to be stopped every time by people asking her how she studied foreign languages.

"True, you're quite a celebrity at our school," Pei Yining said teasingly. "Are you taking part in any act for the welcome party at the end of the month?"

"No."

Xu Nianhua shook her head. As an old hand, she could handle giving a speech on stage, but performing a talent show?

She'd rather not.

"Your figure would look great in a dance," Pei Yining encouraged, as Xu Nianhua had a good physique. Dressed in professional dance clothes and improvising a few moves would look stunning on her.

"I'm just an old hand, better not bother," she declined.

Xu Nianhua's comment earned her a significant eye roll from Pei Yining, who pouted and said, "Nianhua, we're the same age, how can you call yourself an old hand?"

Pei Yining flipped her long hair, saying, "I'm in my prime and still young."

"Are you really not participating? That would be wasting a good opportunity," Pei Yining steered the conversation back on track. After today, aside from focusing on her major courses, she would spend the remaining classes preparing for performances, which meant she might not have much time to hang out with Xu Nianhua.

"No."

Xu Nianhua's refusal was particularly firm as she countered, "What act are you in? I'll come cheer you on."

"I'm singing 'Grandma's Penghu Bay.' Make sure you come and watch," Pei Yining replied. Although she studied photography, she really loved singing and had opted for music as an elective, naturally participating in the welcome party.

"Your voice really suits it."

Xu Nianhua remembered how that song went; its lively and catchy melody suited Pei Yining's voice perfectly.

"I think so too."

Pei Yining grinned broadly, having chosen the song because it was the most comfortable and joyful one for her to perform.

"Nianhua, someone's looking for you outside."

Chang Hui, who just got back from fetching hot water, told Xu Nianhua.

"It must be my older brother," Xu Nianhua's eyes sparkled with delight as she quickly said, "Chang Hui, you're the only one left in the dorm now, want to join us? It's just my brother coming to see me."

Today was a holiday, and the other roommates had all left the dorm.

"No, thank you for inviting me, I'll just eat at school," Chang Hui shyly smiled.

"Alright, then we'll be going first, bye." Xu Nianhua bid goodbye to Chang Hui and pulled Pei Yining towards the exit.

She hadn't seen her brother for a week and really missed him, wondering how well he was adapting to school life?

"Your classmate is really shy, she seems so reserved. I'm not a tiger, nor do I eat people," Pei Yining remembered Chang Hui, who seemed very unobtrusive in their dorm.

"She's just like that by nature."

Xu Nianhua explained with a smile, mentioning that in the dorm, Zhou Wanwan and Chang Hui both enjoyed reading.

Chapter 393: Only a Fool Would Believe It's On the Way

"Second Brother."

When Xu Nianhua saw that familiar face, she trotted over, her eyes brimming with unhidden joy.

"Little sister."

Xu Nian'an looked down at her and after a long moment, said, "You've gotten thinner, is the food not good at school?"

"Where have I gotten thinner?" Xu Nianhua touched her face, unable to resist saying, "I feel like I've gotten fatter."

"Definitely thinner."

Xu Nian'an was holding a peanut butter roll he had bought, similar to a cake but different from ordinary cakes. This was something he had heard from a classmate, and in Ningbei, these kinds of cakes were especially popular with girls.

Because of this, Xu Nian'an had specifically asked around for the place and had gone early that day to buy the cake.

"Peanut butter roll, I heard from a classmate that it's really tasty," Xu Nian'an said with a smile, explaining as if encouraging Xu Nianhua to give it a try.

"Thank you, Second Brother."

The smile on Xu Nianhua's face deepened as she and Pei Yining shared it. The rich aroma and lingering taste were a pleasant surprise; they didn't have such delicious cake rolls back in her county.

"Delicious, Second Brother, why don't you have a taste?"

Xu Nianhua passed the cake to Xu Nian'an, who shook his head and said, "Just looking at it, it seems too sweet."

"That's what makes it tasty though," Xu Nianhua said, seeing his brows almost squeezing together, unable to resist urging, "Second Brother, just try it."

Xu Nianhua pinched off half a piece of cake and brought it to his lips.

"I don't want any."

Xu Nian'an had hardly opened his mouth when Xu Nianhua quickly stuffed the cake inside.

"..."

Xu Nian'an's eyes went wide as he looked at her. The cake was delicious but sickeningly sweet.

"It's really good," she insisted.

Xu Nianhua lifted the corners of her mouth into a wide smile, asking, "Isn't it tasty?"

Xu Nian'an swallowed with some difficulty. He never had a taste for sweets.

Seeing Xu Nianhua approaching with more cake, Xu Nian'an quickly stepped back, "Little sister, you eat more, I don't want any."

It was so sweet it was cloying; this was something that girls liked. He'd better not.

"Come on, Second Brother, try another piece," urged Pei Yining, her interest piqued upon seeing Xu Nian'an's distaste.

"Brother Cheng."

Xu Nian'an hurried outside, saying, "Brother Cheng invited us to look around Ningbei and then have dinner together. Hurry up and get in the car."

As he spoke, Xu Nian'an quickened his steps toward the school gate.

His manner was akin to a headlong flight.

"Hahaha~"

Pei Yining laughed heartily, saying, "Nianhua, your Second Brother is so funny."

"Seems like Second Brother really doesn't like sweets." Xu Nianhua couldn't help but remember their childhood when if there were any candies at home, both her eldest and Second Brother would save the tasty ones for her, telling her they didn't like sweets.

As she grew up, she realized it wasn't that they didn't like them; they just couldn't bear to eat them.

The peanut butter roll was delicious, and she wanted to share this delightful taste with her Second Brother, only...

Second Brother's reaction seemed a bit exaggerated.

"Boys probably don't like things that are too sweet. My brother doesn't like them either," Pei Yining commented while pinching off another piece of the cream roll to eat. The sweet rich flavor was something she particularly enjoyed.

At the school gate, Pei Yicheng's car was parked by the roadside, with Xu Nian'an seated in the passenger seat.

"Brother, how come you and Second Brother came together?" Pei Yining instinctively offered some of the cream roll.

Pei Yicheng refused outright, saying, "I just happened to be going that way, so I gave him a lift here."

A coincidence.

Pei Yining glanced at Xu Nianhua beside her, muttering to herself, only a fool would believe it was just a coincidence.

Chapter 394: More Tiring Than High School

Ningbei, even more bustling than Binan City, with wide boulevards.

As soon as Pei Yining arrived at the shopping mall, she was like a fish entering the sea, buying this and that, ending up with a large pile of purchases.

"Nianhua, aren't you going to buy anything?" Pei Yining tempted, as Xu Nianhua's everyday clothing was still too plain.

"No, I'm not."

Xu Nianhua firmly refused, saying, "My suitcase is already almost too full to fit anything else."

Her brightly colored clothes were all bought by Ji Ying; as long as she had enough to change into, anything more would just be wasteful.

"Who would complain about having too many clothes?" Pei Yining felt that clothes she had worn before were no longer appealing to wear.

"It's just more trouble if there's too many."

Xu Nianhua spoke earnestly.

Pei Yining looked at the few clothes she bought and consoled her, saying, "That's for the welcome party, just buying a few sets, it's not too much."

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"Nianhua, you don't know, I thought university would be a breeze, but who knew, it's even more exhausting than high school," Xu Nian'an spoke of his life at the university, up early and back late, which was no different from the intensity of high school.

"Second brother, to gain something, one must first put in the effort," Xu Nianhua said with a smile, "Our school is quite relaxed, the knowledge we learn is pretty simple, I'm thinking, should I learn something else?"

Xu Nian'an: "..."

In the first week of school, Xu Nian'an, having a foundation, also felt that it wasn't easy to study.

But what about Xu Nianhua?

Such an outstanding younger sister made him, as her brother, feel a tremendous pressure.

"Really? But I heard from your classmates that it's quite hard to learn?" Pei Yining, studying photography which was her favorite, found it especially interesting and not tiring, but she had heard that the foreign language department was particularly tough, with classes conducted entirely in foreign languages. If your foundation is a bit weak, you can't keep up at all.

"It's quite good."

Xu Nianhua suddenly remembered that this wasn't the future, and that the university-level foreign languages were completely different from the most basic language tested in exams.

It seemed like she had heard people in the dorm mention several times that the courses were a bit difficult.

Xu Nianhua changed the subject, "Second brother, we're just starting out, everyone's still adjusting. You don't need to worry about me; I'm doing well at school. My dorm mates are really great too. If there's ever any issue, I'll definitely come to you."

"Hmm, I definitely won't have any free time in the next two weeks," Xu Nian'an spoke about his study plan for the coming fortnight, with so much homework that there wasn't enough time.

"Then you focus on your classes, don't worry about me. Yining, Yicheng, and I are all at the same school. It's you, by yourself at university, that I worry about," Xu Nianhua prattled on, advising Xu Nian'an to watch out for his safety at school, and especially to take good care of his belongings and money.

"Alright, alright, Nianhua, stop nagging, you sound just like mom. Don't worry, what could happen to a man like me?" Xu Nian'an said dismissively. After the meal, Xu Nian'an said, "Next time, our siblings will treat you guys."

"Okay."

Pei Yicheng smiled and agreed, gesturing for him to get in the car to be driven back to university.

"No need, I can take the shuttle bus," Xu Nian'an refused, "You already gave me a ride last time, so don't bother this time. Gas is expensive, and I know the way. Yicheng, if you really want to help, just drive Nianhua back to school."

"Second brother, don't worry about me, I'm fine."

Xu Nianhua felt the brevity of time; they had been together for barely a few hours, and now Xu Nian'an was about to leave.

Chapter 395: Encouraging Chang Hui

"Nianhua, who did you just go see?" Ding Guo looked at her with a curious and gossipy expression.

Xu Nianhua paused and said, "My second brother, didn't I tell Chang Hui?"

Chang Hui looked innocent, indicating she knew nothing.

"Besides your second brother, who else?" Ding Guo asked again.

"A friend."

Xu Nianhua was a bit puzzled about what Ding Guo was trying to say.

"The person who just drove you back here," Ding Guo said, her face full of gossip.

"Pistachio, just stop beating around the bush," Xu Nianhua retorted.

Fei Jiayi, munching on cookies, answered, "I know who that guy is—the talented architecture student from junior year. In his freshman year, his grades were already very notable. Unfortunately, during a winter trip, he broke his leg while saving a classmate and then disappeared."

"Even the doctors said his leg was beyond repair, but surprisingly, now it's healed."

Fei Jiayi swallowed all the cookies in one gulp, her eyes filled with admiration, and said, "I didn't expect that after disappearing for a year and a half, he has now become a junior. That means, during his time off, he self-studied all the required knowledge and even passed the university's assessments successfully. He was already famous in the architecture department."

"Nianhua, aren't you from South City? I heard Pei Yicheng is from Ningbei," Fei Jiayi said, slightly puzzled as she looked at Xu Nianhua, having been quite shocked when she saw her coming with Pei Yicheng earlier.

She had also seen him once because of her older cousin.

"His grandfather is from South City," Xu Nianhua explained briefly, "I, and his sister, are friends—the one who came looking for me in the dorm today, whom Chang Hui has seen."

"She's very beautiful," Chang Hui nodded in agreement. She felt embarrassed to sit in the dorm when Pei Yining came to visit that day.

When Fei Jiayi and Ding Guo wanted to ask more, Xu Nianhua swiftly changed the topic, and everyone stopped gossiping about Xu Nianhua and Pei Yicheng.

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"Nianhua, I always feel like I speak foreign languages weirdly," Chang Hui said, garnering the courage to talk to Xu Nianhua while the dorm was quiet.

Chang Hui's issues were minor with writing and listening. Although they were challenging, with her diligence, she could keep up. However, when it came to speaking, Chang Hui struggled. Occasionally called on by the teacher, she would turn bright red and dare not speak, and even if she did, her voice was tiny like that of a mosquito.

But she really loved foreign languages.

"Why is that?" Xu Nianhua asked back in the foreign language directly.

Chang Hui hesitated for a long time, her lips moved, but she dared not speak.

"It's just the two of us here; you can speak out boldly," Xu Nianhua encouraged her in fluent foreign language, her gaze supportive as if she were a teacher.

Inspired by this encouraging gaze, Chang Hui stammered out a sentence. Once the first sentence came out, the second and third sentences naturally followed.

"Right, just like that."

Xu Nianhua continuously affirmed Chang Hui, her gaze encouraging and appreciative, saying, "No matter how you say it, at least you dare to speak. Once you dare to speak, you can slowly standardize your pronunciation. It's a process. So, Chang Hui, you see, you're also speaking quite well, right?"

"It seems, alright?"

Chang Hui answered in Mandarin, the simple conversation with Xu Nianhua appearing to greatly inspire her.

"Very good, your accent does have some issues, but these can be changed through persistent effort and correction," Xu Nianhua, who had once been a training teacher, had a special talent for coaching.

Chapter 396: Bottoming Out

"Nianhua, thank you." Chang Hui's initial uncertainty after the start of the term seemed to vanish at this very moment.

The problems that had troubled her before now seemed more manageable after Xu Nianhua's guidance, which had made her more confident in herself.

"Don't mention it, keep it up!"

Xu Nianhua encouraged, saying, "In the future, we can speak to each other in a foreign language on a daily basis. That way, we can also practice our spoken language."

"This..." Chang Hui felt a bit embarrassed, it would be okay if it were just the two of them, but with the whole dormitory, that would be so embarrassing.

"If everyone uses a foreign language, there's no need to feel embarrassed." Xu Nianhua thought more and more that this was a good idea. Most of her foreign language skills were self-taught and very targeted. Later on, they were even more focused on children's education—had she not translated a lot of material in the past, her command of a foreign language might not have reached the level it had.

Now that she was at university, Xu Nianhua naturally wanted to take her foreign language skills to the next level and also come up with a better and more suitable learning method for educating children, making it simpler and more effective for them to learn foreign languages.

She loved to see the joy on the innocent faces of the children as they made progress in their studies, and she wanted to continue doing this work.

In the evening, when all her dorm mates had returned, Xu Nianhua brought up the suggestion.

Compared to other dormitories that housed eight people, their dormitory only had six, which naturally made it quieter than others.

Furthermore, since they were all studying foreign languages, Xu Nianhua's proposal was immediately met with Ding Guo's wholehearted approval, who said, "Nianhua, with you leading us, our dormitory will definitely have the highest foreign language scores in the future."

"Brown-noser." Liao Jinling couldn't stand Ding Guo's ever-grinning face, which she found foolish and irritating.

She wondered how Ding Guo could always find so many reasons to be happy.

"If you don't want to join, then forget it." Ding Guo's eyes crinkled into a smile as she said, "But let me say this upfront—if our scores end up higher than yours later on, don't you be envious of us."

Ding Guo felt she had to keep up with Xu Nianhua's pace to improve her own grades.

Back in high school, Ding Guo considered herself diligent, but upon arriving at university, she realized her efforts were far from enough.

Xu Nianhua, who scored full marks in foreign languages, seldom went out to play. Apart from attending classes, she spent most of her time reading or doing homework in the dormitory.

Then there was Zhou Wanwan, whose name matched her scholarly aura—she was always buried in books, either her dorm room or in the library.

Under the influence of her dorm mates, Ding Guo also felt ashamed to laze around in bed.

"I'm in," Chang Hui raised her hand second.

The reserved Zhou Wanwan also raised her hand to indicate her participation.

"And me," Fei Jiayi chimed in, biting on a lollipop and smiling, "You can't forget about me. I have to keep pace with everyone. In the future, it'd be best if a certain someone ends up at the bottom of our dormitory's scores."

"Who's at the bottom? I think that'll be you."

Liao Jinling knew Fei Jiayi was talking about her and immediately retorted, "I didn't say I wouldn't participate, did I? Compared to some people who only know how to eat, I don't think being at the bottom will be my turn."

Speaking up, Liao Jinling looked at Xu Nianhua and said, "I'm in as well."

Chapter 397: Shining Stars

"It seems you're still quite self-aware, huh?" Fei Jiayi said, biting on her lollipop.

Liao Jinling didn't like the way Fei Jiayi acted, and she retorted, "The one with self-awareness is you."

Seeing that the two were about to start arguing, Ding Guo hurriedly interjected, "Don't fight, guys. We need to focus on studying hard and proving ourselves, not just through talk."

"That's right."

Xu Nianhua stood up, and the first thing she said was in a foreign language.

With Xu Nianhua leading the way, the everyday conversations in the dormitory gradually shifted from Mandarin to a foreign language. Although everyone felt a bit embarrassed at the beginning, as everybody spoke, except for Xu Nianhua's fluent pronunciation, the rest, more or less, stumbled over their words.

Since everyone was in the same boat, there was no laughing at each other.

Sometimes, when someone encountered a word they didn't know, they had to switch back to Mandarin.

The others were fine, but when Liao Jinling or Fei Jiayi didn't know a word, the other would decisively mock, "You don't even know this word?"

This spurred Liao Jinling and Fei Jiayi into a silent competition; neither wanted to be outdone by the other.

The atmosphere for learning in dorm 302 was built up in an instant. Aside from Liao Jinling and Fei Jiayi, Chang Hui and the others also didn't want to encounter unknown words and awkwardly have to explain in Mandarin.

At that time, none of them could have imagined that because of Xu Nianhua's suggestion, their foreign language scores would skyrocket, and dorm 302 would become a renowned dorm at Beijing University. Subsequent students took pride in getting into dorm 302!

After all, each student in dorm 302 was a top achiever in their field, the cream of the academic crop.

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Time went by swiftly amidst the intense study sessions.

The welcome party was drawing near.

Xu Nianhua specially went to see Pei Yining's dress rehearsal a day in advance.

Pei Yining on stage, even during a mere rehearsal, was a sight for sore eyes. Her singing was lively and cheerful, and coupled with her appearance, it was a treat to behold.

Tomorrow, Pei Yining would surely be the shining star on stage.

"Nianhua."

After finishing her song, Pei Yining came down from the stage to find Xu Nianhua. Her light makeup made her look a bit more mature than usual, but she still looked stunning.

"You sang very well," Xu Nianhua gave her a thumbs up and said, "You know, if you ever get tired of photography, you could go into singing. Who knows, you might even become a pop star one day."

"Hahaha~"

Pei Yining couldn't contain her joy. Fearing she might disturb others, she pulled Xu Nianhua to sit in the corner and said, "Nianhua, stop flattering me. Dreaming of becoming a pop star, are you kidding? Just singing in school is fine for me. If I really had to sing in front of a crowd, I probably wouldn't be able to even open my mouth."

"Besides, I still prefer going around with my camera. You have no idea; I've taken so many photos around the school recently, and I think they look particularly good," Pei Yining couldn't stop talking once she started on the topic of her camera.

Suddenly, Pei Yining added, "Right, the photos I took for you last time, I'll develop them next month and send them home for Uncle Xu and Aunt Ji to see."

During Xu Nian'an's previous visit, Pei Yining had taken many photos of the siblings together, and she had also taken many pictures of Xu Nianhua around the school. It's just that she hadn't had much time lately, what with her coursework and rehearsals.

Chapter 398: Seeing Cheng Hao Again

"No rush, you can come over whenever you have time," Xu Nianhua said, although she was anxious, she knew that Pei Yining had her own things to do. The number of photos taken last time was substantial and developing them would indeed take a lot of time.

"Okay."

It seemed that Pei Yining suddenly remembered something. She said, "Oh, remember to go to the school gate tomorrow and wait for Xu Nian'an. My brother said he'll pick up your brother."

With so many people around tomorrow, if she waited until outside the auditorium to look for someone, she feared he would be hard to find.

"Does he have a day off?"

Xu Nianhua's eyes immediately lit up. She hadn't seen Xu Nian'an since the first week of school started.

"Yeah, my brother mentioned it, so it's definitely true," Pei Yining looked at her happy face and thought to herself that her brother really understood Nianhua, having made a special trip to Medical University yesterday to find Xu Nian'an.

"Thank your brother for me."

Xu Nianhua felt elated.

"That won't do, if you want to thank him, you should do it yourself," Pei Yining cleared her throat, adding, "I'm busy myself."

She decided not to disturb the good deed of setting up a meeting for her brother and Xu Nianhua.

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"Nianhua, aren't you going to the auditorium with us?" Fei Jiayi noticed that Xu Nianhua wasn't joining them and asked, "Aren't you watching the evening performances today?"

"I am," Xu Nianhua explained, "My second brother is at Medical University and he's also coming over today, so I'm going to pick him up. We'll probably arrive very late, so you all go ahead."

"Okay then," Fei Jiayi replied. She said, "My cousin is also performing tonight. Her name is Su Xi, and she plays the guzheng. I wanted to introduce you to her."

"It's okay, there will be other opportunities," Xu Nianhua said. "I'll also be rooting for your cousin when the time comes."

"Great," Fei Jiayi didn't say anything more. She had heard from Xu Nianhua before that her second brother had also been admitted to a university in Ningbei, but she had never met him. Understandably, she couldn't insist on Xu Nianhua staying with them, wanting to introduce her to her cousin when they hadn't seen each other for half a month.

At four o'clock in the afternoon, at the school gate.

Xu Nianhua was looking around early at the school gate, wondering how her second brother was faring at his new school after not seeing him for three weeks.

As soon as Pei Yicheng's jeep appeared, Xu Nianhua's gaze immediately brightened.

"Second Brother!"

The moment Xu Nianhua saw Xu Nian'an, she felt an intense surge of excitement.

"Little sister, be careful," Xu Nian'an, seeing his little sister running over, quickly reminded her.

"Second Brother, how have you been recently? Are you eating well? Sleeping alright? How's your studying? Do you have enough money? And how come you can come out today? Don't you have classes?"

As soon as Xu Nianhua saw him, she bombarded him with a barrage of questions.

"Everything's fine, I'm doing well, and I have enough money," Xu Nian'an felt warm in his heart from his sister's concern, and he said, "Don't worry, I don't have classes today, I just need to head back to school tonight."

"That's going to trouble Yicheng."

Xu Nian'an felt that Pei Yicheng was really supportive. He had taken special care of the Xu family back in Gaoliang County, and now, in Ningbei, Pei Yicheng was still very good to them. If Yicheng needed his help in the future, he was determined to lend a hand.

"Little Xu, long time no see."

Apart from Pei Yicheng, Cheng Hao also stepped out from the back seat of the car.

With nearly two months gone by without seeing him, the changes in Cheng Hao were also quite significant.

Chapter 399: You Can Give It to a Classmate

Cheng Hao seemed like a different person altogether, no longer as lively as before, nor as irreverent.

His gaze had become more reserved and mature.

He was still that Cheng Hao, yet he was no longer that Cheng Hao.

Cheng Hao flicked his bangs and said, "What, don't recognize me?"

"Of course I recognize you, boss Cheng." Xu Nianhua observed him in a shirt and trousers, with shiny leather shoes that hardly looked like something a schoolmate would wear.

Cheng Hao grinned and said, "I love hearing that."

Pei Yicheng parked the car and overheard Cheng Hao. He slung his camera over his shoulder and said, "Haozi, when Liunian is a big hit, you'll truly be boss Cheng."

"I have confidence in Liunian."

Cheng Hao had exceptional confidence in Liunian's hand cream.

"This is for you and Xiaoning," Pei Yicheng handed over a bag, saying, "Hand cream."

"It's already produced?"

Xu Nianhua was somewhat surprised. From starting the factory to now, wasn't it just two months?

At most a little over two months.

Xu Nianhua took the hand cream out of the bag, feeling an immediate sense of familiarity as soon as she held it. The design on the packaging was one she had drawn herself. Although the casing wasn't as exquisite as those in the future, it was quite decent. She unscrewed the lid; a fresh scent wafted up, and a milky white cream settled on the back of her hand. She gently spread it out; the moisturizing hand cream was just like the ones she had used before.

"This is great!"

Xu Nianhua praised, finding the hand cream really good, especially as the weather was getting colder. Having this hand cream would protect their hands again.

"But, isn't this too much?" Xu Nianhua looked at the bag of hand cream. There was more than one tube each for her and Yining, right?

"You could give them to classmates."

Pei Yicheng reminded her.

Xu Nianhua: "..."

The hand cream didn't just fall from the sky, did it?

"And also, it'll help advertise Liunian!" Cheng Hao added, worried that Xu Nianhua might try to return the gift.

"Okay."

Xu Nianhua agreed, keeping the bag, and said, "Thank you, and my classmates thank you too."

"You're welcome."

Pei Yicheng's polite words made Cheng Hao beside him all the more anxious.

Boss Cheng was too wooden—shouldn't he be taking this opportunity to show off a bit?

"It's still early; how about we grab something to eat near the school?" Xu Nianhua suggested, noting that it was just past four, and the evening event didn't start until five-thirty.

"Sure."

Cheng Hao immediately agreed, pulling Xu Nian'an along as he said, "Nian'an, let's go check out your sister's school, I haven't really seen it yet."

"I haven't really seen it either."

Xu Nian'an wasn't familiar with the school either, having rushed over only a couple of times since school started.

"Boss Cheng, is that Yining's camera? Are you responsible for taking photos for Yining today?" Xu Nianhua walked behind with Pei Yicheng, not wanting the silence to become awkward.

"Yes."

Pei Yicheng nodded and said, "After the event, I'll take a photo for you all."

"Thank you, boss Cheng."

Xu Nianhua changed the topic and asked, "So, Liunian's products are about to start selling?"

"We're currently stocking up. Once that's nearly finished, we can start selling early next month." Pei Yicheng's strides were long, but to match Xu Nianhua's pace, he took smaller steps and said, "Actually, I should thank you for the inspiration."

Chapter 400: I remember your sister didn't look like this

"Huh?" Xu Nianhua looked at Pei Yicheng blankly and puzzled, not understanding what he meant at all.

"If it weren't for your hand inspiring me, how would grandfather have thought of that recipe?" Pei Yicheng's gaze fell on her hands, her slender fingers long and beautiful, with neatly trimmed nails, gleaming with a pearlescent luster.

"Umm..."

Xu Nianhua raised her hand, remembering the recipe Pei Yicheng had sent earlier, and her smile deepened as she said, "But it took your cleverness; otherwise, why would so many people freeze their hands, yet you had that idea?"

Pei Yicheng's lips curved slightly, and he said nothing, just quietly accompanied Xu Nianhua as they walked.

Cheng Hao, who was purposely creating opportunities for them by pulling Xu Nian'an along, wished he could push them from behind as he watched Pei Yicheng's behavior.

"Little sis, hurry up," Xu Nian'an called out when he noticed Cheng Hao looking back frequently.

"Hey, I'll be right there. Turn right ahead, and there'll be lots of tasty things," Xu Nianhua called back loudly.

On a street next to Beining University, there were all sorts of delicious foods. Xu Nianhua had been there several times and insisted on taking Xu Nian'an to have a taste this time.

The evening party hadn't started yet, and it wasn't mealtime, so the place wasn't crowded. Xu Nianhua picked a hot pot restaurant with spicy and flavorful dishes.

"Second brother, the hot pot dishes here are particularly tasty," Xu Nianhua recommended enthusiastically. She ordered some tasty dishes skillfully, and the four of them sat down together—all eyes were on them, as handsome men and beautiful women always attracted attention.

"Isn't that Pei Yicheng?"

A stranger's male voice chimed in.

Xu Nianhua looked toward the voice and saw a smiling face that seemed extremely friendly, but she felt the smile was insincere.

Even though his smile was affable, those evaluating eyes made her feel uncomfortable.

Especially that voice—why did it sound like he was provoking something?

Pei Yicheng just glanced at him.

Wa Lei took a seat nearby, ordered a serving of beef balls from the owner, and then said, "Congratulations, your leg's healed."

"I remember your sister doesn't look like this." Wa Lei's gaze fell on Xu Nianhua, who was dressed simply and wore no makeup, but her delicately featured face and those lively, striking eyes were undeniably captivating.

"A friend," Pei Yicheng stated, without any intention of making introductions.

Cheng Hao, not wanting to disrupt the pleasant atmosphere, said irritably, "Does Young Master Wa also fancy this kind of food?"

"Oh, I get it, Su Xi likes it, right?" Cheng Hao said with a teasing smile, "What's the matter, haven't caught up with Miss Su yet? From what I see, you might as well stop chasing—" he said mockingly.

Su Xi?

This was the second time today Xu Nianhua heard this name. Was this the cousin Jiayi mentioned, or someone with the same name?

"My affairs with her, how would you, an outsider, understand?" Wa Lei maintained a smiling expression and said indifferently, "I heard that a while ago, you asked your family for money over a woman, but in the end, she didn't even want you?"

This news, even if the Cheng Family tried to hide it, still reached the ears of those interested.

Wa Lei had grown up with them; he knew about Cheng Hao's previous trip to South City to find Pei Yicheng and his absence from Beining. So naturally, when Cheng Hao suddenly returned, seemingly a changed man, Wa Lei had purposely inquired about it.

'Slap'

Cheng Hao slapped the table and stood up, his face ashen.

"What, have I hit a nerve? I didn't name names. Are you taking this personally?" Wa Lei asked with feigned interest, "Cheng Hao, I'm truly curious, what kind of woman could make a playboy like you take things so seriously?"