

Regaining 401

Chapter 401: The Difference Between Humans and Pigs

The matter of Zou Yaru was an absolute taboo in Cheng Hao's mind.

Since returning to Ningbei, the Cheng family and Pei Yicheng had also tried their best not to mention Zou Yaru.

But Wa Lei not only mentioned her, he repeatedly poked at Cheng Hao's heart.

Pei Yicheng suddenly stood up, grabbing Cheng Hao, fearing that he would start a fight.

"It looks better standing up." Wa Lei stood up, his height almost the same as Pei Yicheng's, and in this small store, the atmosphere suddenly became tense.

"Apologize," Pei Yicheng demanded, staring at Wa Lei.

Wa Lei still smiled nonchalantly, shrugged his shoulders, and said, "Why should I apologize? Did I say something wrong?"

He looked very innocent.

"Wa Lei, do you know why Su Xi doesn't like you?" Pei Yicheng suddenly changed the subject.

Wa Lei's smile froze.

"Even if you send a hundred servings of beef balls, it's useless."

Pei Yicheng sat down again, persuading Cheng Hao by saying, "Haozi, do you know the difference between a person and a pig?"

"Ah?" Cheng Hao, who had just felt a sting in his heart, was suffering inwardly. Suddenly hearing Pei Yicheng's words, he was momentarily baffled, however, the urge to punch someone had disappeared.

"Because a pig is always a pig, but sometimes people are not like people," Pei Yicheng concluded.

Xu Nianhua couldn't hold back and burst into laughter, covering her mouth and quickly grabbed a tissue from the side to pretend to wipe her mouth.

She bowed her head, struggling to contain herself, as Pei Yicheng's words were clearly an insult to Wa Lei, suggesting he was even less than a pig.

"Pei Yicheng." Wa Lei wasn't dumb, he knew the implication behind Pei Yicheng's words, and his face was full of anger.

Pei Yicheng responded in kind, "What did I say wrong? Or do you think the words I and Haozi said were about you?"

Wa Lei: "..."

"Your beef balls are ready," the shop owner said, instantly rescuing Wa Lei from the situation.

Wa Lei took the beef balls and quickly left.

"Hahaha~!"

Cheng Hao, who had been distressed earlier, was now very pleased, remarking, "Cheng Ge, you are amazing. Didn't you see how awful Wa Lei's face looked just now!"

"Adults don't start fights lightly," Pei Yicheng reminded. Cheng Hao had been holding back all along, almost wanting to hit someone.

"Cheng Ge, he was so asking for it, how can you not itch to punch him?" Cheng Hao joked in response and did not bring up the matter of Zou Yaru again, only asking, "By the way, why do you think Su Xi doesn't like him?"

"What do you think?" Pei Yicheng countered with a question of his own.

Cheng Hao shook his head. If he knew, would he need to ask Pei Yicheng?

"Nianhua, do you know?" Pei Yicheng turned and asked Xu Nianhua.

Xu Nianhua hesitated, then said, "I haven't met her."

"Guess," Pei Yicheng urged, looking at her as if he believed she could give a reason.

Cheng Hao thought it was ridiculous. Xu Nianhua hadn't even seen Su Xi, only having met Wa Lei once, and she would know why Su Xi didn't like Wa Lei?

After pondering for a while, Xu Nianhua said, "Too fake."

"Right."

Pei Yicheng praised, "His smile is too fake. Do you know what others call him? 'Smiling tiger'—all smiles to your face, but turn your back and he might stab you."

"Uh..." Xu Nianhua's eyes revealed a trace of surprise, yet it also felt right, as Wa Lei's impression on her wasn't good. Hearing Pei Yicheng's words, it all seemed to make sense.

Chapter 402: Blue-Faced Disaster

"Really?" Cheng Hao pondered and realized that what Pei Yicheng said might not be so far-fetched after all. He had always felt an urge to punch someone whenever he saw Wa Lei smile.

"Of course, it's true," Pei Yicheng asserted, "Here, the food has arrived, try it quickly. We need to go see the evening performance soon."

"Yeah, big bro, try it, it's really delicious."

Xu Nianhua particularly loved these tasty treats, so she always ended up with a round, bloated belly every time.

"Okay."

Xu Nian'an hadn't known who Wa Lei was, so he had been quiet all this time. Now that he started eating, he regained his earlier liveliness.

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At five ten, Xu Nianhua and their group arrived at the auditorium, which was already crowded with people. Cheng Hao and Xu Nian'an squeezed into the crowd, followed by Xu Nianhua, with Pei Yicheng bringing up the rear, protecting Xu Nianhua in front of him. They found seats at the very back row, and although they were a bit far from the stage, the view was clear and unobstructed.

Pei Yicheng fiddled with his camera, which was usually treasured by Pei Yining, and he only ever operated it. He tested out the angles; despite their distance, the camera's quality meant he could still capture some photos.

"Why didn't you participate?"

While the evening performance had yet to start, Pei Yicheng asked.

"I don't really have any talents," Xu Nianhua wasn't interested in the stage.

"How can that be? I heard from Yining that you sing pretty well."

Since it was noisy nearby, Pei Yicheng and Xu Nianhua had to speak closely together.

Xu Nianhua could even feel Pei Yicheng's breath lingering around her ear, his voice close, making her feel... uneasy.

"That, I'm tone-deaf, or I can only sing nursery rhymes," Xu Nianhua quietly moved away, saying, "What about you, why didn't you participate? Everyone in our dorm knows about you."

"Really?" A bright light suddenly flashed in Pei Yicheng's eyes.

Xu Nianhua was startled; those bright, shining eyes of his were like whirlpools, seemingly about to suck away her soul along with her being.

"You're a well-known figure in school; who doesn't know you?" Xu Nianhua tried to speak nonchalantly, ignoring her heart thumping out of her chest, "Everyone knows you had an accident while trying to save someone, took more than a year off school, but still caught up with the school's progress through self-study. That's really impressive!"

"All the people in our dorm admire you a lot," Xu Nianhua added.

The fleeting look of disappointment in Pei Yicheng's eyes was quickly masked. He had hoped Nianhua would have talked about him to her dorm mates. Then he asked, "What about you?"

"Of course, I admire you too. You're my role model, the direction I strive for," Xu Nianhua said earnestly, both in studies and career.

Xu Nianhua always admired Pei Yicheng greatly.

"I'm honored," Pei Yicheng's gaze locked onto her intently.

Xu Nianhua thought, it's all over now; his attentive gaze made her feel like she was the female protagonist in a TV drama.

Her heartbeat sped up even more.

They say a beauty brings disaster, but to Xu Nianhua, this handsome man was just as dangerous!

Pei Yicheng, already handsome, with such an intense gaze, was simply too... alluring!

Let alone a young girl, even with the heart of an old lady, she couldn't stop her heart from racing.

"Pei Yicheng," Xu Nianhua suddenly said, "in the future, please don't look at others with such focus."

Chapter 403: A Glance Overthrows the City

"Why?"

Pei Yicheng's gaze remained unwavering, even more focused than before as he looked at her. It was as if all the noise, all the people had vanished from before his eyes, creating the illusion that the world had fallen silent and only Xu Nianhua remained.

Oh dear God, why did he have to look at someone else so intently, why was he even more focused than before!

Xu Nianhua diverted her gaze in a fluster, afraid that if she kept looking, her heart might rebel.

"Because..."

Xu Nianhua stammered, her eyes darting away, unsure of how to respond.

She couldn't possibly say it was because he was too tempting, could she?

And she certainly couldn't say he was too handsome, that such focused attention on someone else made him even more charismatic, right?

Why was it so hot, was it because there were too many people?

Xu Nianhua felt her cheeks burn, making her mind spin slower.

On stage, the announcer suddenly mentioned a familiar name. She asked, "Su Xi, is that the person the man just now fancies?"

"Yes."

Pei Yicheng didn't press on with the question he had just asked, allowing Xu Nianhua to heave a huge sigh of relief.

On stage, the screams intensified as Su Xi made her appearance, with many standing up just to get a clearer view of her performance.

Cheng Hao and Xu Nian'an, sitting nearby, also stood up, watching the performance with great earnestness.

Xu Nianhua stood on tiptoe, as the distance made it difficult to see clearly.

Pei Yicheng sat alone in his seat, uninterested in the performance on stage. His mind was preoccupied with the memory of Xu Nianhua's blushing face. Even though she might not have noticed it, it was vividly etched in his eyes. Her already fair complexion was now flushed with crimson, radiant and stunning, almost beyond description.

Even her anxious, bewildered manner seemed exceptionally adorable to him.

"So beautiful!"

Xu Nianhua couldn't help but exclaim. As soon as Su Xi took to the stage, the continuous screams began; she wore a white dress that reached her ankles, and her waterfall-like black hair, simply tied up, left the rest cascading down her back. She sat there, head bowed, playing the guzheng, resembling a fine young lady from ancient times.

"Indeed, quite beautiful."

Cheng Hao had seen Su Xi before and knew she was pretty; she looked even more beautiful now that she was all dressed up.

"Second Brother, do you think she looks like a beauty who stepped out of a painting?" Xu Nianhua was so thrilled she wanted to share her thoughts with the person next to her.

"Yes."

Xu Nianhua's Second Brother's gaze fell on Su Xi at the center of the stage, reminding him of a line of poetry: "In the north there is a beauty, surpassing the world and standing alone. One glance could topple a city, another glance a nation."

"This tune she's playing is also lovely." Xu Nianhua clicked her tongue in admiration, thoroughly enjoying the melody Su Xi was producing, a music flowing sweetly and melodically from her fingertips.

Apparently, Fei Jiayi had always praised her cousin, wishing to sing her praises to the skies.

Now it seemed, Fei Jiayi had not been overstating things.

"Click."

Xu Nianhua, completely absorbed in watching, suddenly heard a sound. As she turned her head, she saw Pei Yicheng with a camera, taking her picture.

She quickly covered the camera, saying, "Yicheng, film costs money, too. We need to take more photos of Yining later, so why are you photographing me?"

"I only photograph beautiful scenes."

Pei Yicheng looked appreciatively at the image in the camera, having just captured a profile shot. It gave him a sense of being a photographer, with the lighting and angle creating a particularly pleasing visual experience.

"Look."

Pei Yicheng pulled her down to sit and handed the camera over to her.

Chapter 404: Beloved

"Is this really me?"

Xu Nianhua looked several times before daring to confirm it was herself.

"Of course, it's you." Pei Yicheng said proudly, "Don't you think my photography is pretty good?"

"Impressive."

Xu Nianhua gave Pei Yicheng a thumbs up, her eyes fixed on the photo, always feeling that Pei Yicheng made her look too beautiful.

Xu Nianhua couldn't help but touch her face—her delicate skin filled with collagen—no longer the Xu Nianhua who used to fear mirrors.

Since returning last summer, Xu Nianhua seldom looked in the mirror, and her clothes were chosen by Ji Ying. She liked colors of black, white, and gray, but Ji Ying avoided buying these three colors, insisting that a twenty-year-old girl should wear brighter and prettier colors.

"Very beautiful," Pei Yicheng remarked, and it was unclear whether he was referring to the photo or the person.

After watching Su Xi's performance, Xu Nian'an turned around only to see Pei Yicheng with a camera in front of Xu Nianhua, who was intently looking at it, and they occasionally exchanged a few words. This made him feel as if he was watching a couple deeply in love.

Especially the way Pei Yicheng looked at his young sister.

He hadn't noticed before, but now, looking closely, it seemed that Pei Yicheng's gaze towards his young sister was too...

How should I put it, like a man looking at the woman he loves.

The woman he loves?

Xu Nian'an sat down, feeling that this thought was unlikely, yet, upon another look, he felt he wasn't mistaken.

He too was a man, though he had never dated, but whenever his older brother looked at his sister-in-law, it was with that kind of gaze—intense, affectionate, almost wishing to glue his eyes to her.

But, Pei Yicheng, how could it be?

Xu Nianhua was just astonished by Su Xi's performance and now this scene left her even more astounded.

But on further reflection, it didn't seem impossible that Pei Yicheng might like his younger sister.

Not to mention her looks, beautiful and elegant, naturally the most beautiful in his heart.

Even Su Xi, who just now enraptured many with her beauty, seemed no more impressive than his little sister, considering how popular Su Xi was in school, his sister must be no less.

In terms of character, his little sister was both gentle and kind, always ready to help others; everything about her was praiseworthy, so it made sense that Pei Yicheng, a man of taste, had his eyes on her.

However, from when did he start harboring these feelings?

Xu Nian'an deeply felt he was falling short as a brother.

During the ensuing performances, Xu Nian'an was so disturbed that he found it hard to enjoy any of them, until Pei Yining's performance began. Only when Xu Nianhua's chattering voice rose did Xu Nian'an snap back to reality.

"Second brother, look, Yining sings so beautifully, standing there on stage, she shines like a star," said Xu Nianhua. She had seen the rehearsal yesterday, but today's official performance was completely different.

The Pei Yining of yesterday was dressed in simple clothes, but today, she had specifically put on a playful and cute daffodil-yellow dress that, coupled with the lively and joyous song, provided a wonderful experience both visually and audibly.

"Go Yining!"

Cheng Hao shaped his hands like a megaphone and shouted loudly.

Cheng Hao's booming voice startled everyone around due to its volume.

On the stage, Pei Yining, while singing, was also looking for her brother and Xu Nianhua in the crowd, but unfortunately, from the stage looking down, she could only see a sea of faces from the front to the back. It was too difficult to spot someone she knew.

Chapter 405: Do You Still Consider Me a Friend?

Cheng Hao's booming voice and the commotion he caused nearby allowed Pei Yining to spot them, and the smile on her face deepened.

When Xu Nianhua saw that Pei Yining had noticed them, she didn't care about Cheng Hao's previous shouting; she stood up, waved her hands, and thought that even if she shouted words of encouragement, Yining wouldn't be able to hear them. So, instead of shouting, Xu Nianhua turned her waving hand into a thumbs-up.

Come on!

Xu Nianhua tried hard to stand on tiptoe, repeating the words "Come on" over and over. They were far away, but she believed that Pei Yining should be able to understand her meaning.

Xu Nian'an also mimicked Xu Nianhua to cheer for Pei Yining.

Pei Yicheng took off his shoes and stood on the seat, striving to find the best position to take more photos of Pei Yining. The little girl was particularly vain and would surely pester him incessantly if she knew he hadn't captured her graceful presence on stage.

"Penghu Bay, Penghu Bay, Grandma's Penghu Bay~"

"Contains many of my childhood fantasies..."

Seeing them cheer for her, Pei Yining sang even harder, especially when she noticed Pei Yicheng taking photos with his camera. She naturally turned towards Yicheng's direction from time to time, revealing a sweet smile.

The audience members below gradually started enjoying themselves more; looking back, they saw Pei Yicheng standing and taking photos, realizing that he was encouraging his sister.

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"How was it, I sang well, didn't I?" Pei Yining asked, still wearing the pale yellow dress from her performance. Her stage makeup made her features look even better, and she wore a happy expression. Pei Yicheng, standing beside her, knocked her lightly and said, "Be modest."

"Ow."

Pei Yining covered the spot where she was knocked; even though it didn't hurt, that didn't stop her from acting coquettishly. She immediately hugged Xu Nianhua and said, "Nianhua, don't you think my brother is being too excessive? Can't I even happily say a few words?"

In such a scene, usually Xu Nian'an would think nothing of a young girl being coquettish, but with other thoughts on her mind, she now felt that Pei Yining's behavior was a bit inappropriate. Her brother was picking on her, so why involve Nianhua?

Xu Nian'an watched Pei Yining's close behavior with Xu Nianhua and couldn't shake the feeling that Yining had ulterior motives, seemingly trying to coax away their little sister on her brother's behalf.

"Nianhua, about the photos you mentioned last time, have you developed them? Let's send them to our parents early so they can see; they've been thinking about this ever since we last spoke on the phone."

Just as Xu Nian'an started speaking, Pei Yining cut in, "Xu Second Brother, I've been a bit busy recently and haven't had the chance to develop them. By next week, I promise I'll have those photos developed."

"Okay, then, the money for developing the photos..."

Before Xu Nian'an could finish, Pei Yining glared at him unhappily and said, "Xu Second Brother, if you talk like this, do you still consider us friends?"

Pei Yining pursed her lips and said righteously, "I develop the photos myself and don't need to trouble anyone. If you talk about money, I won't be pleased."

To say nothing of seeing Nianhua as her future sister-in-law—even if that weren't the case, what's a few developed photos in light of her relationship with Nianhua?

Although she had given Xu Nianhua a wristwatch before, Xu Nianhua later reciprocated with a gift of equal value.

Pei Yining knew full well the Xu family's situation; despite that, the Xu family had responded with a substantial gift, and Pei Yining cherished her friendship with Nianhua immensely.

Moreover, every time she visited the Xu family, she was warmly received. Auntie Ji's cooking was especially delicious; she had eaten so much already. Should she charge for helping to develop some photos? Was she, Pei Yining, really that hard up for money?

Chapter 406: It's Not You

Perhaps Pei Yining's expression was too serious, Xu Nian'an also realized that his recent behavior had been somewhat inappropriate.

"Yining, don't be mad, my older brother just meant to say, don't you need that what do you call it, developer or something to develop pictures? He was thinking, maybe my brother and I should cover those material costs."

Xu Nianhua earnestly explained to Xu Nian'an, "Film itself is not cheap, and if we also have to cover the cost of developing materials, my brother and I wouldn't feel right about it, would we?"

"The materials don't cost much," Pei Yining responded with a smile after hearing Xu Nianhua's explanation.

Xu Nianhua blinked, his eyes seemingly saying, "I'm not a three-year-old kid, don't try to fool me."

In those days, cameras were extremely precious items, costing at least four to five hundred each, with the expensive ones going over a thousand. For ordinary families, just the thought of buying one was unimaginable.

Not to mention that taking photos required film and developing pictures cost money, something that ordinary families truly couldn't afford.

"Then..." knowing Xu Nianhua's personality, Pei Yining said, "Alright, I'll take you guys to buy the materials, but I also have pictures that need developing, so we should split the material costs equally."

"No way," Xu Nianhua immediately refused, "If we do it that way, we still need to pay for the film. Why don't we calculate the cost of the film as well? Even blood brothers should settle accounts clearly."

"Yining, we are friends, and we shouldn't let a little money hurt our friendship, right?"

Xu Nianhua threw Pei Yining's own words right back at her.

Pei Yining could only agree.

Xu Nianhua was beaming with joy, saying, "Older brother, let's take more photos, and show them to mom and dad too."

"Alright."

Xu Nian'an, knowing they would cover the costs of developing materials, happily agreed as well.

Pei Yining took several pictures of them with the camera, and then had Pei Yicheng take a photo of her and Xu Nianhua together.

Cheng Hao, watching everyone taking pictures here and there, felt his gloomy mood lightening up as well.

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"Nianhua, did you see my cousin?"

Back at the dormitory, Fei Jiayi started praising her cousin, "The one who plays the guzheng, dressed in a white dress."

"I did, really beautiful, and the guzheng she played sounded especially good." Xu Nianhua genuinely meant it, Su Xi was truly beautiful, and her guzheng playing was indeed delightful.

"Exactly, my cousin is really amazing, and she's also very kind. Unfortunately, this time I wasn't able to introduce you formally," Fei Jiayi said, considering Xu Nianhua her favorite person in the dorm.

"No worries, there will be other opportunities," Xu Nianhua casually replied.

"Oh, just a great cousin, right? It's not like you're the great one, what's so special about that?" Liao Jinling couldn't help but argue with Fei Jiayi when she spoke.

A cousin like Su Xi, beautiful and talented... was indeed quite rare.

"You'd be lucky to have a cousin who's so incredible and beautiful," Fei Jiayi looked Liao Jinling up and down, who wasn't ugly, but by comparison to the rest of the dorm save Chang Hui, she was the least impressive.

Zhou Wanwan had an air of scholarship about her, a hidden depth of knowledge and culture.

Fei Jiayi's features were also attractive, and coupled with her always top-notch dress sense, she certainly wasn't lacking.

As for Xu Nianhua, there was no need to say more; her appearance was the most beautiful one in the dormitory, and even plain clothes couldn't hide Xu Nianhua's beauty.

Chapter 407: Second Brother's Advice

"Little sister, you are a grown woman now."

"Although Yicheng and Cheng Hao are almost like your elder brother, they are not blood-related after all."

"Little sister, you are attractive, and there are certainly those bad men with ulterior motives out there; don't be deceived by someone's sweet words,"

Xu Nianhua lay in bed, staring into the dark dormitory, thinking about the advice her second brother had quietly given her as he was leaving, which left her both amused and frustrated. She wasn't a three-year-old child; how could she be deceived by some sweet words?

She pondered for a long time, not understanding why her second brother suddenly said that.

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"Yicheng, thank you for going out of your way to take me back," Xu Nian'an had repeatedly said there was no need to escort him, he could wait for the shuttle bus, but Pei Yicheng had insisted on driving him, stopping the car right next to him, making it impossible for Xu Nian'an to refuse.

"We're brothers, there's no need to be so formal."

Pei Yicheng patted his shoulder and said, "Nian'an, if you encounter any troubles, just speak up."

"Thank you, Yicheng."

Xu Nian'an always felt that Pei Yicheng had an ulterior motive, as if he intended to elope with his younger sister. He thought about bringing up his sister's matter for a long time, but then felt it inappropriate; after all, Yicheng hadn't mentioned it himself. Wouldn't it be exactly like stirring things up if he brought it up?

After all, he had already advised his younger sister to keep some distance from men, and not to get too close to Yicheng.

His sister had become increasingly attractive, and he wondered what kind of man would deserve her?

Unexpectedly, Pei Yicheng's face flashed before Xu Nian'an's eyes.

"Nian'an, hurry back to school, and remember to call me next time you go to Beining University," Pei Yicheng urged repeatedly.

"Okay."

Xu Nian'an verbally agreed, but he was thinking that he must not trouble others in the future; he wanted to visit his sister and didn't need to depend on Pei Yicheng. He could take the shuttle bus by himself.

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"Nianhua, this stuff should be enough to develop hundreds of photos," Pei Yining watched as Xu Nianhua bought a pile of photo developing supplies. It was as if she wanted to buy all the developer liquid in the store.

"This stuff doesn't expire, better to buy more."

Xu Nianhua had previously made quite a bit of money translating documents, plus Ji Ying was worried about Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an, her brother and sister duo being outside, they might need some emergency cash. When coming to Beining, Ji Ying had stuffed them with quite a bit of money, so Xu Nianhua was not short on cash.

Having used so many of Pei Yining's films before, buying extra developer was her way of contributing.

"Yining, you promised to let me help when developing the photos; I've never seen how it's done," Xu Nianhua subtly changed the subject while having the shop owner prepare all the supplies needed for photo development, unless the owner had taken out all their inventory.

"Sure, as long as you don't mind it being boring," Pei Yining loved photography, and even more the sense of achievement that came from turning each film into photos.

"How could I?"

Xu Nianhua was too curious; when she followed Pei Yining into the pitch-dark darkroom, ready to develop the photos, it was indeed devoid of any light.

Pei Yining explained some technical terms, which Xu Nianhua didn't understand but followed Pei Yining's procedures.

When she saw each photo appearing from her hands, Pei Yining excitedly exclaimed, "Yining, you're really amazing! Looking at these photos, I feel like I've become a master!"

"Hahaha~"

Pei Yining immediately burst into laughter, saying, "That's one of the reasons why I love photography!"

Chapter 408: Where Did the Photograph Go?

"Huh."

Xu Nianhua followed Pei Yining in developing photos, a variety of images dazzling her eyes; it turned out that, without realizing it, they had taken so many photos already.

Thankfully, she had disregarded Pei Yining's advice at the store earlier and bought a lot of developer fluid, otherwise, it would have been quite costly to develop so many photos.

Xu Nianhua did less of the work, and the few photos she developed were slow in coming; most were developed by Pei Yining, while Xu Nianhua washed the prints and admired the beautiful photos at the same time.

"What's the matter?"

As Pei Yining developed the final photo, she beamed with pride. Most of these beautiful photos had come from her hands; although Pei Yicheng had taken the performance photos from a distance, they still turned out quite nicely.

It had indeed been the right decision to spend more on the camera.

"Why do I feel like there is a photo missing?" Xu Nianhua started to carefully check each of the neatly arranged photos.

"With so many photos, you can still remember that one is missing?" Pei Yining took the last photo out, hesitating in her movements, feeling inexplicably guilty. Pei Yicheng had taken quite some negatives with him when he got his hands on them, saying he wanted to develop the photos himself.

How could Nianhua possibly remember how many photos were taken?

Pei Yining's heart sank; she always felt a bit anxious.

"There's one missing."

Xu Nianhua confirmed after another review, "I clearly saw Yicheng brother take a profile picture of me. Why is it gone now?"

That particular photo, she had seen it and thought it was indeed beautiful. At that time, she had thought about keeping it as a keepsake once it was developed.

"Really?" Pei Yining's voice carried a tinge of guilt, wondering why her brother took away the photo that Nianhua knew about.

"Maybe he did; my brother took quite a few negatives with him," explained Pei Yining, who couldn't say at that moment that the negative was lost.

"Maybe it got mixed up," Xu Nianhua didn't think much of it.

Pei Yining smiled and agreed, "Probably so, I'll ask my brother next time."

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After finishing the development of the photos, Xu Nianhua selectively kept a few for Xu An and sent the rest back to her mother's home.

Xu Nianhua was thinking that Zhou He's due date was in a few days, so she made a special call to the factory.

It just so happened that Ji Ying, who had returned to pass instructions to Xiong Xihua, answered the call. Hearing Xu Nianhua's voice, she happily said, "Nianhua, how is everything at school? Are you used to the food? Are you getting along with your classmates? Has your second brother visited you yet? Do you still have money to use?"

"Mom, everything is fine here, and I have money, so don't worry," Xu Nianhua elaborated, telling Ji Ying about Xu Nian'an visiting her the previous week to set her mind at ease.

"By the way, is Zhou He's due date here? Has she given birth?" Xu Nianhua asked with concern.

Hearing this, Ji Ying's mouth broke into a wide smile, "She has, she has! She gave birth to a seven-pound boy, who is fair-skinned and chubby, looking quite sturdy."

"That's great; is Zhou He okay?" Xu Nianhua asked again.

"She's doing well. The delivery was particularly easy for her; the baby was born in a little over an hour. The doctors said it was because Zhou He exercised regularly, which made the delivery especially quick." Ji Ying, thinking of her daughter-in-law's smooth childbirth and of her fair and plump grandson, felt exceptionally at ease.

Chapter 409: Zhuangzhuang

"When Sister-in-law was pregnant, she ate so much fruit and often helped out at the factory. It always has its benefits," Xu Nianhua thought of her chubby little nephew and wished she could fly back immediately.

Unfortunately, flying isn't something she could afford now.

"Mom, is the baby really cute? Sigh, as an aunt, I have to wait until the New Year to see my little nephew."

"Just focus on your studies. It's only a few months away from the New Year," Ji Ying also missed her daughter but knew she was off to university—a dream not everyone could realize. Changing the subject, she asked, "By the way, you said you were going to send photos last time, where are they?"

"I've sent them, I was just about to discuss this with you."

As Xu Nianhua replied, she figured her big sister just had a boy, so her mom must be at the hospital taking care of her. She spoke a few words with Ji Ying before hanging up the phone.

She then wrote another letter to her second brother. Calling over there wasn't very convenient, and sending letters was relatively fast.

She shared the good news and sent off the photos to her second brother as well.

Just out of the post office, she saw Pei Yicheng and proactively greeted him, "Yicheng, are you here to send a letter too?"

Upon seeing her, Pei Yicheng let out a sigh of relief. Her roommates had told him that she went to the post office alone, so he had hurried over.

Xu Nianhua was notoriously bad with directions.

"No, I was looking for you," Pei Yicheng answered while handing her the folder in his hand, "There's more work. Translate these documents for fifty. It's not much, but if you do a good job this time, there'll be even more work in the future."

This was a company that needed translation talents for international business. He happened to come across the opportunity and recommended Xu Nianhua for the job, securing it for her. If she did well, there would be a steady stream of work for her in the future.

"Thank you, Yicheng."

Xu Nianhua smiled with narrowed eyes, happy about having more translation work, which meant more money to earn. He even mentioned that doing well could bring even more work in the future. She had to do her best.

"You're welcome." Seeing her empty-handed, Pei Yicheng asked, "Did you send off all the photos?"

"Yes, they're all sent."

When Xu Nianhua started to discuss the photos, she quickly said, "Yicheng, what happened to that side-profile photo you took of me the other day? It's missing."

Pei Yicheng paused for a moment before replying, "It might have gotten mixed up with my photos. I'll give it to you next time."

"Okay."

Xu Nianhua was eager to get back to her dorm to work on the translation. She quickened her pace and, seeing Pei Yicheng still following her, she said, "Yicheng, you don't need to walk me back, I know the way."

One month was enough for Xu Nianhua to learn her way around the campus.

"Just to be safe."

Pei Yicheng, disregarding Xu Nianhua, simply stood by her side. A handsome man and a beautiful woman always drew attention, and as Pei Yicheng and Xu Nianhua talked about work, they seemed to enjoy the conversation immensely. Many students were shocked to witness this scene.

The same Pei Yicheng who was talked about so much by everyone was now rumored to be as high as the sky. But now, were they dating?

"I'm here, goodbye." Seeing the dormitory a stone's throw away, Xu Nianhua smiled and bid farewell to Pei Yicheng.

"If you need any help, just ask. This manuscript must not be seen by others," Pei Yicheng reminded her.

Clutching the document folder, Xu Nianhua assured him confidently, "Yicheng, you can relax. I understand the need for confidentiality."

As Xu Nianhua climbed the stairs, she wondered when Yicheng had become like her mother, fussing over her?

Chapter 410: What Name Did It Get?

"Nianhua, just now Pei Yicheng was looking for you, and I told him you had gone to mail a letter," Chang Hui whispered beside her ear. She had run into Pei Yicheng when she went downstairs to get hot water just before.

"Hmm, I ran into him."

Xu Nianhua climbed onto her bed with a file in her arms. It was just her and Chang Hui in the dormitory at the moment. She asked, "Oh Chang Hui, that problem you mentioned last time, did you solve it?"

"Not yet," Chang Hui said somewhat embarrassingly as she pulled out her homework from the side, flipped to that page, and handed it to Xu Nianhua for help with the explanation.

Xu Nianhua's gentle voice filled the dormitory, occasionally mixed with Chang Hui's voice.

Thanks to Xu Nianhua's explanations, Chang Hui suddenly understood. She said, "Nianhua, thank you."

Chang Hui quickly returned to her bunk with her homework to continue working on it.

Xu Nianhua opened her materials and seriously reviewed these translation documents. These were about a bicycle that was not only very popular domestically but also sold overseas. Therefore, the sales contract needed to be written particularly clearly.

Xu Nianhua carefully looked over the contract. Since the contract could not be leaked, she had to carry it with her wherever she went.

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Gaoliang County.

After Ji Ying received the photos, she was especially happy. Looking at the photos of Xu Nianhua and her brother Xu Nian'an and the ones taken at the school gate, she laughed and said, "This school looks truly impressive."

"Isn't that the truth? Really makes our Xu family proud!"

Xu Qinghe, holding the photographs, was visibly proud. Whether it was his son or daughter, they both made their Xu family proud, and they brought honor to him.

Now, when he was in the village, the neighbors saw him and would give him a thumbs-up, praising him for raising good children.

"How is Zhuangzhuang? How is he?" Xu Qinghe wanted to see his grandson. He said, "Bring Zhuangzhuang to me."

"I'll go check if he has fallen asleep."

Ji Ying cheerfully went back to the room. Zhou He was sitting on the bed, playing with the child. Ji Ying said, "Xiaohe, you rest more. I'll take the baby to the living room for a while."

"Okay."

After giving birth, Zhou He had been well taken care of by Ji Ying. Her milk came in strong, and the baby was growing quickly, changing from the red-faced newborn to now being whitish and plump. Zhou He, looking at her son, felt a sweet joy in her heart, filled with energy, as if she wished she could give her child the best things in the world.

"Come, look at your great-grandson." Ji Ying sat in the living room, holding the baby. To avoid having the baby catch a draft, she even closed the door and wrapped the little blanket tightly around him. The plump baby had just fed and was blowing bubbles with his mouth, which was incredibly cute.

"Oh, he has grown even better looking." Xu Qinghe doted on his grandson and said, "His nickname is Zhuangzhuang. Have you picked a formal name?"

"Your son said he would choose one, but who knows if he has decided yet." Ji Ying, holding her grandson, spoke with a face full of happiness. "Zhuangzhuang, grandma's Zhuangzhuang, you need to grow up strong, and hopefully be even taller than your dad in the future."

Xu Qinghe and Ji Ying played with their grandson, and even though the grandson couldn't speak yet, Xu Qinghe and Ji Ying didn't stop talking.

"Dad, mom, I've figured out what to name my son!" Xu Nianji had just come back from testing his bike, when he suddenly had a flash of inspiration. The issue of what to name his son had been troubling him, but now, he had finally made up his mind.

"Oh, our Zhuangzhuang is about to have a formal name." Ji Ying holding her son, asked, "What name have you decided on for Zhuangzhuang?"