

## Regaining 421

### Chapter 421: Are You in a Relationship?

"You have the ability yourself, otherwise, even if you knew Lou Fan, you wouldn't have gotten this job because of me," Pei Yicheng thought about the serious way she and Lou Fan had just discussed work, which was particularly captivating.

"I'll treat you to a meal another day," Xu Nianhua playfully said, "Yicheng, you'll honor me with your presence, won't you?"

Pei Yicheng's eyes brightened, he pursed his lips, holding back a smile, and said, "It would be my honor."

"Great, once I set the time, I'll come find you." Xu Nianhua had been busy lately, busy with her studies, translating documents, and dealing with Liao Jinling's issues, which had caused her to fall behind in her homework.

"Okay."

Pei Yicheng watched her run all the way to the dormitory until she completely disappeared from his sight before he left.

This scene was accidentally witnessed by Fei Jiayi, who was hanging clothes out to dry; she looked meaningfully at Xu Nianhua, who had just run up.

"What's wrong, is there something dirty on my face?"

Xu Nianhua felt goosebumps under Fei Jiayi's gaze and touched her face subconsciously. Could it be that she got oil splashed on her face or clothes while eating hotpot?

"Did Pei Yicheng just bring you back?" Fei Jiayi's eyes sparkled.

Xu Nianhua inexplicably thought of a wolf wanting to eat a little white rabbit and nodded, "Yes."

What's improper?

"You stayed with Pei Yicheng for most of the day today, right?" Fei Jiayi asked again.

"Yes."

Xu Nianhua nodded again.

Fei Jiayi's eyes shone even brighter, she sized Xu Nianhua up and down. Most of her clothes were quite ordinary, but they looked no worse than those exorbitantly expensive ones when worn on her, in fact, they accentuated her simple and pure beauty, especially those clear, sparkling eyes, which seemed to speak. Even Fei Jiayi, another woman, was often stunned by her allure.

"You're impressive!"

Fei Jiayi gave her a thumbs-up.

Xu Nianhua was completely baffled. What was all this about? Why couldn't she understand what Fei Jiayi was saying? Was it because Fei Jiayi wasn't speaking Mandarin or were they on different wavelengths?

"I've heard people say that Pei Yicheng avoids women. Since his freshman year, I don't know how many female classmates have confessed to him, but he hasn't accepted any of them. Some tried to get close to him to win his favor, but he avoided them as if they were the plague!" Fei Jiayi said admiringly, looking at Xu Nianhua, "How did you manage to win him over?"

Fei Jiayi had always been skeptical about the rumors around school, but she was certain about this one because she had incidentally heard her cousin mention it, and after seeing Pei Yicheng once by chance, she felt intimidated by his cold gaze, the type that dared you not to look away.

"Win him over?" Xu Nianhua couldn't help but want to roll her eyes. She explained, "Jiayi, what are you imagining? We just... had some business together, and then we ate a meal together."

"Oh~~~"

Fei Jiayi elongated her tone knowingly, "Are you dating him? Yes, I'm sure I guessed it right. I know you want to keep it a secret, right?"

Saying this, Fei Jiayi even made a gesture of sealing her lips with her hand.

Xu Nianhua: "..."

So her explanation had been in vain.

"Nianhua, speaking confidentially, don't you find Pei Yicheng terrifying? His gaze is so cold, it could freeze people into ice!" Fei Jiayi looked at Xu Nianhua curiously, and if it weren't for having seen Pei Yicheng before, she would have thought her cousin had exaggerated!

Chapter 422: Where Did You Buy the Hand Cream?

"Jiayi, you misunderstood." Xu Nianhua explained, "Yicheng and I..." really aren't dating.

"Yicheng~"

Fei Jiayi deliberately made her voice tender and soft as she called out these two words, mysteriously making Xu Nianhua's skin crawl.

"Alright, alright, I know you're shy. I won't talk about it anymore." Fei Jiayi acted as if she knew a great secret, completely ignoring Xu Nianhua's explanation, and ran off happily into the dormitory.

Watching her busy dorm mates, she was dying to blurt out the secret she had just learned. But on second thought, she sealed her lips. The chief party hadn't spoken; better to keep her mouth shut. She didn't want to be labeled a gossip.

"Nianhua, you're back!"

Chang Hui had just applied hand cream. Normally, as the weather started to get colder, her hands would begin to dry and peel, and as it got colder, they would even freeze and turn red. But this year, after using the hand cream that Xu Nianhua had given her, her hands stayed as soft as they were in summer, without a sign of peeling.

"I brought you some delicious peanut butter rolls." Xu Nianhua lifted the bag in her hand; she had bought them especially for them, and each person got a share.

Since she couldn't stay, Xu Nianhua only bought five portions and didn't count Liao Jinling, who was currently in the hospital.

"Thank you, Nianhua." Ding Guo took the peanut butter roll and kept praising, "I feel like coming to Beining University was so worth it. I often get to eat delicious food that you guys bring."

"So you think it's worth coming to Beining University just for some good food? Are you even here to study?" Fei Jiayi teased, her eyes crinkling with mirth. She looked at the peanut butter rolls and wanted to ask if they were bought by Pei Yicheng, but seeing Xu Nianhua's calm demeanor, she swallowed her question.

"Thanks." Chang Hui felt a bit sheepish, as they always shared delicious food or items like hand cream. Chang Hui, who couldn't afford these luxuries, could only give away some home-dried tea leaves to everyone.

Fortunately, no one despised her gifts; in fact, they liked them, which gradually eased Chang Hui's mind.

"You're welcome, I've also tried the tea leaves your mother made. They're really good, and I like them a lot," Xu Nianhua said with a smile.

The top bunk was nice, but Xu Nianhua found climbing up there a bit troublesome.

"Nianhua, where did you buy this hand cream? How much for one? I want to buy some for my parents." Chang Hui explained awkwardly; in the winter, her family's hands tended to get frostbitten easily. If this hand cream was so good, it would protect her parents' hands if she sent it home.

"This is..." a gift from Yicheng.

Xu Nianhua didn't finish what she was going to say, as she caught sight of Fei Jiayi's overly curious face. She had just gone out for a meal and Fei Jiayi had already let her imagination run wild. If she mentioned that the cream was a gift from Yicheng, wouldn't that further confirm their rumored relationship?

"It was given by a friend, not expensive, just three yuan a stick, but very effective," Xu Nianhua did not mention Pei Yicheng, adding, "This hand cream has just been produced and should be available at the supply and marketing cooperative soon."

Three yuan a stick.

Chang Hui thought about it, and if she economized, she could afford two sticks. She suddenly regretted using the one she had; she could have just bought a new one to send home for her parents to use.

"I'll go buy some when I'm done using this," Ding Guo said immediately. She loved the hand cream; it smelled nice and made her hands soft.

Chapter 423: Deposit

Xu Nianhua had just sat down on the bed when she listened to everyone enthusiastically discussing the benefits of hand cream, and she inadvertently thought about Chang Hui's sudden silence.

When she had replied just a moment ago, she hadn't thought much of it. Three yuan, not only for Xu Nianhua, who was used to seeing large sums of money in her future life, but even her current family situation wasn't short of money. The pocket money that Ji Ying gave her started at ten yuan.

To her, a hand cream costing three yuan each really wasn't worth considering.

But, upon reflection, Xu Nianhua understood where Chang Hui's silence came from.

Normally, Chang Hui had only a couple of outfits to wear repeatedly, and aside from rice and buns, she didn't have snacks like Fei Jiayi constantly had lollipops or other treats, nor did she buy various pretty hair accessories like Ding Guo, or various kinds of books like Zhou Wanwan.

Yet, giving her two more tubes of hand cream wasn't really a big deal, but, as she had come to know over this time, Chang Hui was a person with very high self-esteem.

Ordinarily in the dorm, when they shared food or hair accessories, Chang Hui didn't have money, but she would distribute the tea leaves she brought from home to everyone.

Tea leaves!

Xu Nianhua's eyes suddenly brightened; she had tasted the tea made by Chang Hui's family, and it was rich and fragrant, not inferior to those famous teas at all.

After having this idea, she took the tea leaves to brew a cup of tea. The scent of the tea was delightful, which she enjoyed, and she asked, "Chang Hui, the tea leaves your mother sent are really fragrant. How do you make your tea leaves?"

"Our family has a large tea garden. The tea leaves I brought this time were the best tips selected by my mother," Chang Hui said, a bit embarrassed. Her family didn't have much money, so her parents prepared the best tea leaves to bring to school.

"Tips, they really taste good!" Xu Nianhua praised, pulling out ten yuan from her pocket, handing it over, and saying, "Chang Hui, I want to buy some tea leaves. My dad loves to drink tea, and he would definitely like this kind of tips. Here is the deposit. I'll buy two kilograms first, and after we finish it, I'll come to you again."

"Ah..." Chang Hui was quite startled by Xu Nianhua's move; they had just been talking about the tea tasting good, and suddenly it had turned to buying tea leaves.

Two kilograms of tea leaves!

That was no small amount; a family who drank a kilogram of tea leaves in a whole year was already very fond of tea.

"We have a lot of people in our family. Besides our own use, we also want to give it as gifts," Xu Nianhua explained with a smile, "I don't know if this ten yuan is enough, so let's consider it as a deposit for now. I'll pay the rest later."

"I want to buy some too."

Zhou Wanwan, who was usually quiet, suddenly spoke up, saying, "I'll buy two kilograms, too."

Zhou Wanwan handed her ten yuan to Chang Hui.

"And me." Fei Jiayi, not to be outdone, quickly handed her ten yuan to Chang Hui.

"I'll buy one kilogram," Ding Guo said a bit bashfully, handing over five yuan.

Her family just had her father who loved to drink tea. The last time Chang Hui gave them tea leaves, Ding Guo had sent them back home to her father, and he had said they tasted pretty good. Buying another kilogram would be enough for her father to drink until next year.

"You all..."

Chang Hui clutched the thirty-five yuan, feeling overwhelmed at first. But then, she fully understood that they wanted to help her.

"We're just buying tea leaves, don't overthink it," Xu Nianhua gently patted her shoulder, raised the tea in her hand, and said, "Such fragrant tea leaves, if it weren't for you, how could we have the chance to enjoy them!"

Chapter 424: Thank You Guys

"Exactly, Chang Hui, we're just buying tea leaves. There's no need to be picky about whose tea we buy," Fei Jiayi answered, biting on a lollipop with a chuckling smile, comforting Chang Hui not to overthink.

"Yeah, my dad really loves your tea. It's just that not many people drink tea at home."

Ding Guo explained.

Moved by their reassurances, Chang Hui didn't know what to say. In a soft voice, she explained how much her family's tea cost per pound and returned the money to them, "The tea isn't expensive; it shouldn't cost that much."

"How could that be possible? Tea prices on the market aren't low," Xu Nianhua said, savoring the tea. "A cup of tea and a book, it really is so comfortable."

In the end, Chang Hui held onto the thirty-five yuan, a considerable sum for her, until she sent the money back home, and even bought two bottles of hand cream. Only then, clutching the mailing receipt, did she feel it wasn't a dream.

After some thought, she spent twenty cents more to make a long-distance call home to explain the situation; otherwise, her parents would surely feel uneasy about receiving a large sum of money.

Once Chang Hui's parents learned about this, they couldn't stop praising her classmates.

Speaking of the hand cream, Chang Hui didn't dare mention the actual price. She simply said it was recommended by a classmate and assured them that it would prevent frostbite. She repeatedly urged them to use it.

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"Jinling, are you feeling better now?" Chang Hui had just returned to the dorm when she saw Liao Jinling standing at the door. She asked, "Why don't you come in?"

"Chang Hui."

Liao Jinling had been hesitating about how to enter when she suddenly saw Chang Hui. Her lips moved as she tried to say "thank you." But, remembering her past attitude towards her dormmates, she felt a bit embarrassed.

Especially towards Chang Hui, whom she had always looked down upon.

Yet, when she was taken to the hospital that day, besides Xu Nianhua, Chang Hui was the one who carried her to the car.

These events were engraved in her memory, and during her hospital stay, she kept thinking about expressing her thanks once she got back to the dorm.

But, now faced with Chang Hui, Liao Jinling felt too ashamed to speak.

"Why don't you come inside?" Chang Hui looked her over, seeing that she seemed to have recovered quite well, and finally felt relieved. She said, "The wind is rather strong outside; come in quickly. You just had surgery; you need to take extra care of yourself."

"Thank you."

While Chang Hui was pushing the door open, Liao Jinling quickly said her thanks.

Chang Hui paused for a moment, thinking she'd misheard.

Once Liao Jinling spoke up for the first time, the second time became easier. She said, "Thank you, Chang Hui."

"You don't need to." Chang Hui shook her head repeatedly, realizing she had indeed expressed her gratitude. She quickly replied, "We all live in the same dorm; it's the least I could do."

"Jinling, have you been discharged?" Xu Nianhua looked up to see Liao Jinling standing at the doorway.

Zhou Wanwan lifted her gaze from her book, glanced at her, paused for a moment, and then continued reading.

Ding Guo stepped forward, circling around Liao Jinling, saying, "It looks like you've completely recovered. Look, here are the study notes from this week."

Ding Guo handed the notes to Liao Jinling.

"One trip to the hospital and you can't understand words anymore?" Fei Jiayi purposely said this, noticing that she was well again, the old urge to tease resurfaced.

"I..."

As Liao Jinling started to retort, looking up, she remembered that Fei Jiayi was the first to discover her illness that day. She paused, looking at the familiar faces, and finally, bowed deeply to them and said, "Thank you, all of you."

Chapter 425: He Must Get a Raise

"Well, isn't this a surprise coming from the west?" Fei Jiayi took out a lollipop, her face full of astonishment as she looked at Liao Jinling; in the past, Liao Jinling was always so high and mighty that a few words were enough to almost blow the roof off, treating the other dorm mates with distaste and arrogance.

She simply didn't get along with the people in the dorm.

Fei Jiayi really hadn't expected that Liao Jinling would apologize?

"Thank you all for saving me. The doctor said if I had gone any later, I might not have made it," Liao Jinling recalled the pain from that night, a pain so severe she dared not even think back on it.

Liao Jinling took a deep breath, thinking of her mother's earnest advice by her ear on how to get along well with her classmates, she said, "Previously, I was wrong. This time, thank you all."

Liao Jinling's sincere attitude proved that she truly acknowledged her past mistakes.

Ding Guo said with a smile, "Jinling, we are all from the same dorm. We can't just stand by and watch someone in trouble. If it were us in distress, you, being from our dorm, would also help, right?"

"Right." Liao Jinling nodded affirmatively.

"Here, this is something my parents wanted me to bring over. It's not worth much, but it's also a token of our gratitude. My parents insisted that you must accept it."

From the big bag she brought back, Liao Jinling pulled out five bags, each containing a pack of snacks, a pack of candies, three beautiful hair clips, and a large red apple.

The contents of each bag weren't heavy, but they were all things that girls would like.

Especially the three hair clips, fifteen hair clips for five people, all different designs, prompted Ding Guo to say excitedly, "These hair clips are so beautiful! Where did you buy them?"

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"What's today's date?" Pangxin, unemployed and spending his days at home drinking and eating, woke up groggy and had even forgotten the date.

Pangxin's wife glanced at him and replied, "The tenth."

"Did anyone from the factory come over?" Pangxin asked again.

"No," Pangxin's wife shook her head, saying, "I mean, honey, are you sure they will come for you? What if they don't?"

Pangxin's wife had practically turned gray from worrying these past few days. Before, Pangxin had a reputable job as a translator in the factory, and not only was his position decent, but his salary was also higher than most. The family lived comfortably in Ningbei, not always eating meat every meal, but certainly more often than most.

Now, Pangxin had quit such a good job, and she had argued with him about it already, but Pangxin dismissed her concerns, saying she, a woman, simply didn't understand.

She was just so worried, what if, just what if, the factory didn't come looking for him, then what?

"How could they not come? Where would they find someone else in such short notice?" Pangxin glared at her, saying, "Can't you say something nice for a change?"

"But you are being overly confident, what if..."

Pangxin's wife still felt uneasy.

"Enough with the doom and gloom," Pangxin waved his hand in dismissal, annoyed, "Today, go buy some belly pork to make braised pork with potatoes."

"Didn't we just have pork stir-fried with chili pepper yesterday?" Pangxin's wife muttered, but seeing Pangxin glare at her, she didn't dare say another word and silently went off to buy groceries.

Pangxin sat at home, glanced at the calendar, thinking about the upcoming inspection team from the factory. Finding a general translator wasn't hard, but finding someone specialized in his area wasn't so simple. Otherwise, why would Lou Fan have been so tolerant with him?

This time, he was determined to ask for a raise!

## Chapter 426: Can't Afford You, the Great Buddha

Pangxin just waited and waited, treating it like a vacation for himself. Every day, he was either calling friends out for drinks and meals or sleeping in at home, or strolling down the streets.

But time flowed by day after day, and before he knew it, October was almost over. When early November arrived, the inspection teams would be coming.

Pangxin sensed something was amiss and no longer felt as calm and collected as he did at the beginning.

Something was off.

With the inspection teams visiting, and as a translator, he needed to possess a lot of knowledge to avoid ineffective communication with the members of the inspection teams.

Unable to stay put at home, Pangxin asked around for information. He had no idea until he inquired—and what a shock he got!

Lou Fan had actually found another translator?

How was this acceptable?

Pangxin immediately went to the factory to find Lou Fan.

Lou Fan had just delivered the materials to the school and handed them to Xu Nianhua. He was in a great mood, finally free from Pangxin's annoyance!

Lou Fan had great respect for knowledgeable and capable people, but he couldn't take to someone like Pangxin, who acted all high and mighty based on a bit of skill. Before accomplishing much, he was already bargaining, which Lou Fan simply couldn't appreciate.

In the year Lou Fan had been at the factory, Pangxin's salary was raised every month and his benefits kept increasing. Lou Fan didn't want to care about Pangxin's condescending attitude as long as he did his job as a translator well. But Pangxin?

Pangxin's demands had always been met as much as possible, but he remained insatiable. For this visit by the inspection team, Pangxin was demanding a hundred yuan a day.

A hundred yuan a day—that's a few months' salary for others.

They had just said they'd consider it, but Pangxin stopped working altogether, leaving the contract translation only half done.

The factory could afford the hundred yuan, but once this precedent was set, there would be more inspection teams in the future. Human desires are endless. If they couldn't meet Pangxin's demands each time, and he kept striking, the factory might as well serve Pangxin alone.

"Director Lou, Translator Pang is here."

These words abruptly spoiled Lou Fan's good mood. He said, "Speak with the accountant, settle Pangxin's salary, and add three months' pay."

"Director Lou." Pangxin had found out that Lou Fan had found another translator from who knows where. Seeing Lou Fan's polite face, Pangxin felt particularly displeased.

Deep down, Pangxin knew that his strike was not meant to lose his job but to bargain for a higher salary.

"Please, take a seat."

Lou Fan gestured toward the sofa beside him.

As soon as Pangxin sat down, he felt something wasn't right. Lou Fan used to look at him as if he was nothing, and now why was he smiling?

"Director Lou, my leave is over. The inspection team will be arriving soon, and I should be getting back to work." Pangxin had no shame; when he took off, he had declared that Lou Fan must personally beg him to return.

However, the tables had turned.

Lou Fan didn't ask, and it was Pangxin who had shown up of his own accord.

"No need." Lou Fan said with a stern face and indifferent tone, "Our factory cannot afford such an esteemed Buddha as yourself. I've already asked the accountant to calculate your salary and added three months' pay. From now on, you and our factory have no further relations, and we won't hold back Translator Pang from earning a high salary elsewhere."

#### Chapter 427: Mother's Exhortation

Every word from Lou Fan was like an invisible slap, smacking across his face.

Pangxin's complexion gradually drained of color, his mind racing through countless thoughts in those brief moments. Thanks to his overseas study experience, his foreign language skills surpassed others. Working as a translator in the factory, he earned a higher wage with an easy job and was living an increasingly comfortable life.

But Pangxin was acutely aware that he was useful only if there was a need for a foreign language translator. Without such demand, his expertise was utterly worthless.

Aside from this factory, Pangxin had nowhere else to turn. He knew several other factories that required translators, but they already had their own. Having fallen on hard times and lacking any other skills, how could he compete with the translators who had been at the factories all along?

"Director Lou, you've misunderstood," Pangxin said.

Unable to leave this factory, Pangxin adopted an extremely humble demeanor.

Unfortunately, once Lou Fan had made up his mind, not even nine oxen could pull him back. The accountant, who had long disliked Pangxin, knew Lou Fan was going to settle his wages. With impressive efficiency, the accountant quickly produced the calculated wages and the payment in full.

Half an hour later, Pangxin stood at the factory gate, holding his wage and resignation letter in his hands.

Had it not been for Pangxin's outbursts at the factory, this resignation letter would have been a termination notice instead.

Pangxin wouldn't return the three months' wages he now held in his hands.

Yet, after his quarrel with Lou Fan and standing at the factory gate, Pangxin looked at the stack of money and felt he might have gone too far.

He didn't want to lose this job.

Pangxin tucked the money into his pocket and clenched his clothes tightly. The frustration in his eyes gradually turned into resentment.

He refused to believe that without this factory, he, Pangxin, would starve to death.

Hmph.

Pangxin jerked his head up and strode away. He was going to contact some old bosses who had once tried to poach him for work.

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Xu Nianhua was naturally unaware of Pangxin's situation, as she was focused on her major courses and the materials Lou Fan had given her.

Although she was confident in her translation abilities, she still needed to familiarize herself with some specialized terms to be fully prepared to face the inspection team and justify the high salary Lou Fan had offered her.

Since Liao Jinling's illness, her character had also changed. She was no longer as nitpicky as before.

Even though Liao Jinling and Fei Jiayi still bickered, the hostility between them had lessened.

A tense atmosphere of study permeated room 302.

As November brought colder weather, more layers piled on. Taking advantage of the holiday, Xu Nianhua made a special call home to learn that everything was well and the factory business was booming, which made her especially happy.

Especially when she heard Ji Ying describe her great-nephew as growing up healthy and cute. Xu Nianhua couldn't help but sigh and say, "Mom, if only I could come home for the holidays now."

"Focus on your studies for now, and when the holidays come, you can see your great-nephew," Ji Ying, concerned she might be homesick, comforted her. "Nianhua, everything is fine at home. It's you and Nian'an who always share good news and keep the bad to yourselves. If there's anything troubling you, you must speak up. I've already sent this month's allowance to you and your older brother. Remember to pick it up at the post office."

"Mom, I have money," Xu Nianhua reminded her upon hearing about the money. "Didn't I tell you on the phone last time that I have money?"

"With money, buy some clothes; the weather is getting colder, don't catch a chill," Ji Ying advised tirelessly, always worried that her children studying away from home wouldn't mention if they lacked money, which is why she made sure to send them money every month when it was time.

Chapter 428: Trust You, Can't Be Wrong

"You received money from your mom and you're still not happy?"

Pei Yicheng was giving Xu Nianhua a ride to the factory, and on the way there, they passed the post office where Xu Nianhua conveniently withdrew the money Ji Ying had sent to her.

"Happy, of course. My mom is just worried about us not having enough money to spend out here." Xu Nianhua never had a child of her own, but she had fostered children, and it was not much different from having her own. She fully understood that kind of worry in Ji Ying's heart.

"A mother always worries about her children."

Pei Yicheng thought of his mother who had passed away prematurely. If his mother were still here, wouldn't she be just like Aunt Ji?

Realizing belatedly that this topic might be sensitive because Pei Yicheng no longer had his mother, Xu Nianhua quickly changed the subject, "Yicheng, congratulations. I heard the hand cream is selling really well."

"It's not that everyone at our school has one, but I've already heard a lot of classmates discussing this hand cream," Xu Nianhua added.

Her words were not an exaggeration—Liunian's hand cream was so popular that even someone like her, who was usually absorbed in her studies, had heard about it multiple times, proving the product's success.

Each time she applied the hand cream with that familiar pattern she had created, Xu Nianhua felt an extra boost of happiness.

"I should be thanking you," Pei Yicheng said while gripping the steering wheel, driving towards the factory. "Without you, we wouldn't have had the recipe."

"It's all thanks to your grandfather's brilliance!" Xu Nianhua praised, lifting her hand to smell the fragrance of the hand cream. She said, "If this hand cream could come with various scents and then be made in different colors, that would be even better."

"Scents?" Pei Yicheng perked up immediately, thinking the idea was very feasible. Relying on just one type of hand cream wasn't enough; a single style offered no variety.

As the old saying goes, it's hard to please everyone; there are definitely people who wouldn't like the faint medicinal herb fragrance.

But, just as Xu Nianhua suggested, adding a variety of scents could satisfy the preferences of most people.

"Your idea is good; I'll discuss it with Ling Dong when I get back," Pei Yicheng thought highly of the suggestion. Taking advantage of a straight road with no other cars around, he stole a glance at her and complimented, "Nianhua, you're really smart."

Xu Nianhua felt embarrassed to be praised. If she hadn't seen the prosperity of the future, where would she have gotten these ideas?

She discreetly looked out the window, shifting the topic again, "By the way, how's the perfume you mentioned last time coming along?"

"I've already found a master perfumer. I believe the perfume will be released very soon," Pei Yicheng thought that he would give the first bottle of the new perfume to Xu Nianhua once it launched.

Finding a master perfumer was particularly difficult; it's an old craft, but once Pei Yicheng made up his mind to do something, he wouldn't give up halfway through. Now that the master had been found, they were in the midst of developing the perfume.

"Then, I won't need to go elsewhere to buy it anymore." Xu Nianhua loved perfumes—a light perfume scent was always comforting to her.

"Aren't you afraid that the perfume I make won't be good?" Pei Yicheng asked, raising an eyebrow.

Without hesitation, Xu Nianhua replied, "How could that be? You did such a good job with the hand cream; the perfume can't be far off."

As soon as those words left her mouth, Xu Nianhua suddenly let out a snort of laughter and said, "Yicheng, I almost forgot you were a student of architecture."

An architecture student who previously sold medicinal herbs, now producing Liunian hand cream, and will likely start a company in the future—this didn't quite match his major.

Chapter 429: Attentive Amos

"So as a student from the foreign languages department, you can also make Mung Bean Jelly?" Pei Yicheng was not a picky eater, and he wasn't particularly fussy about food.

However, the Mung Bean Jelly, chili sauce, and the dishes that Xu Nianhua made were especially to Pei Yicheng's liking, and he couldn't forget them.

"Hehe."

Xu Nianhua smiled cheerfully at him and did not continue the conversation.

Soon, they arrived at the bicycle factory, and Xu Nianhua, holding her documents, rushed straight to Lou Fan's office. She didn't even have time for a sip of water and immediately began to ask Lou Fan about some professional terms she did not understand and had circled.

Lou Fan marveled at Xu Nianhua's earnestness and responsibility, and he appreciated Yicheng's good judgment even more.

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Xu Nianhua tugged at her clothes, feeling that she should probably change into a professional suit.

She wore a camel-colored wool coat, which made her skin appear as radiant as jade. Her feet were in a pair of small black leather boots with slight heels, making her legs look even more slender.

"Nice."

Pei Yicheng, sparing with his words, added, "No need to be nervous, your spoken language is very good. The members of the delegation just have different hair and eyes from us, but they are ordinary people with eyes and noses, just like us."

"Hmm."

Xu Nianhua took a deep breath. She was not nervous at all; it was just that, since it was her first time meeting the delegation as a translator, she naturally wanted to do a better job.

Upon reaching the airport and seeing the foreign delegation with blonde hair and blue eyes, Lou Fan introduced them using simple foreign language.

This situation was not new to Xu Nianhua; she devoted herself fully to her duties as a translator.

Once inside the factory, whatever questions the delegation asked, Xu Nianhua translated them accurately and swiftly, especially when it came to vital professional terms. Her previous work made the translations particularly smooth.

It was only in the evening, after the delegation had gone to the hotel to rest, that Lou Fan finally took a sip of water to moisten his dry throat. He said, "Yicheng, Nianhua is really impressive. Her translations are both quick and accurate. I think that Mr. Amos from the delegation is especially satisfied. We will definitely secure a big order this time."

Lou Fan regretted not having met Xu Nianhua earlier; then he wouldn't have had to endure Pangxin's attitude.

Pangxin's translations weren't as skilled as those of Xu Nianhua, who was just a student, not to mention that Pangxin had lost a deal earlier in the year.

Although it wasn't a major deal, Lou Fan felt that Pangxin hadn't really grasped his role.

"Then why don't you thank her properly?" Pei Yicheng had been with them all day. Initially, he had planned to leave after introducing the delegation to Xu Nianhua and once she had adjusted, but seeing Amos, who was particularly attentive to Xu Nianhua, he did not want to leave.

"Invite her for hotpot; she likes hotpot, doesn't she?" Lou Fan replied without thinking, aiming to please.

Although he couldn't raise her salary further, he was willing to dig into his own pocket to treat her to hotpot.

Pei Yicheng frowned and said, "You want her to ruin her throat? What if she can't talk tomorrow?"

She had already talked a lot today. If she ate a spicy hotpot meal, would she still be able to speak tomorrow?

"Uh..."

Lou Fan suddenly stopped, a big, tough guy like him hadn't noticed these details.

He scratched his nose and, full of curiosity, leaned in and asked, "Yicheng, are you serious about this young lady?"

After speaking, Lou Fan looked Pei Yicheng up and down. Yicheng was still the same Yicheng, but how had someone who seemed destined to remain single suddenly become interested in a young lady?

Chapter 430: Confession

Pei Yicheng glanced at him and said, "Don't set your sights on her."

Upon hearing this, Lou Fan quickly raised his hands and explained, "Yicheng, please don't misunderstand, I have absolutely no interest in her." Even though Xu Nianhua was beautiful, she wasn't his type at all.

"Yicheng, I was just thinking, maybe I could help, to win her heart sooner, right?" Lou Fan feared that Pei Yicheng had misunderstood.

Pei Yicheng said nothing but just stared at him steadily.

Lou Fan felt the air around him getting colder, and he corrected himself, "I misspoke, who is Yicheng, after all? Winning her heart is a sure thing, he doesn't need my help at all."

"Go to sleep early."

Pei Yicheng took his eyes off him, stood up, and left the room.

To facilitate the next day's inspection, Xu Nianhua and Pei Yicheng were both staying in the hotel.

Pei Yicheng glanced at the time, purposely went out to buy a box of dumplings, and just after he had bought them, he saw Xu Nianhua and Amos appearing one after the other in the restaurant.

Pei Yicheng silently followed them.

"Mr. Amos, is there a problem?" Xu Nianhua originally planned to do homework, but Amos knocked on her door, saying he had some questions about the factory he wanted to ask her.

Xu Nianhua then followed Amos down to the restaurant.

Once in the restaurant, Amos ordered a few appetizers and desserts, without any intention of discussing business.

"Xu, you can call me Amos." Amos's blue eyes gazed at her intently and said, "Xu, I really like you, would you be my girlfriend?"

The abrupt question thoroughly shocked Xu Nianhua.

He was too direct, wasn't he?

Aside from being approached by Chen Hu, Xu Nianhua was facing this question for the second time, and moreover, from a foreigner she had just met that day.

Amos spoke in not very fluent Mandarin, mixed with a foreign language, all expressing his affection for Xu Nianhua.

"Sorry."

Xu Nianhua straightforwardly refused, "Thank you for your feelings, but we are not suitable."

Xu Nianhua tactfully refused.

"Why?" Amos didn't understand subtlety; he genuinely had love at first sight for Xu Nianhua. He enjoyed watching her confident demeanor and liked her dark, starry eyes even more.

Xu Nianhua: "..."

Why must he delve so deep?

"Because, she has a boyfriend." Pei Yicheng, carrying dumplings, sat down next to Xu Nianhua, his voice low but forceful.

Xu Nianhua stared in shock at the unexpected appearance of Pei Yicheng.

"Nianhua, didn't you say you wanted to eat dumplings? I bought them especially for you, try them."

As he spoke, Pei Yicheng opened the dumpling box, laid it in front of her, and even handed her the chopsticks.

Xu Nianhua stared dazedly at his series of actions, initially stunned by the sudden confession from Amos, and now bewildered by Pei Yicheng's actions.

"Do you want to be with him instead?" Pei Yicheng leaned forward and whispered in her ear.

In the past, Xu Nianhua had only read about people having voices so pleasant that they could make your ears "pregnant."

She had never believed it, but now, she did.

Pei Yicheng's deep voice echoed next to her ear; although the words were simple, they sounded like heavenly music to her.

"Of course not." Xu Nianhua answered hastily, disregarding the fact that she wasn't planning on marrying or dating anyone, even if she were to date, she still preferred someone with black hair and eyes from China.