

Regaining 431

Chapter 431: The Disappointing Escape

"You two, are you boyfriend and girlfriend?" Amos was somewhat surprised, but also felt it was to be expected.

During the day, Pei Yicheng took extra care of Xu Nianhua.

With a look of regret, Amos said, "What a pity, Xu, if you ever leave him, please definitely consider me."

Amos stood up, speaking very earnestly. He glanced at Pei Yicheng and Xu Nianhua who were sitting side by side, the two of them looking like the perfect match, a couple made in heaven, as the people in China would say.

Amos could only leave with an apologetic 'sorry'.

It wasn't until after he had left that Xu Nianhua breathed a sigh of relief. She flashed a sweet smile and said, "Yicheng, thank you for getting me out of that predicament."

Pei Yicheng gazed deeply at her, her smile more radiant and beautiful than the peach blossoms blooming in March.

"Nianhua, if I..."

Pei Yicheng hadn't finished his sentence when Xu Nianhua interrupted, "Yicheng, the dumplings smell so good, I'm just hungry."

Xu Nianhua buried her head in eating dumplings, praising them as she ate.

Pei Yicheng's half-finished sentence naturally had no chance to continue.

"Delicious, I'm full now," Xu Nianhua made quick work of the dumplings.

"Thank you, Yicheng."

Xu Nianhua stood up, excusing herself to go back to her place to do her homework, and quickly slipped away.

"Take it slow," Pei Yicheng reminded her, watching her swiftly departing figure and couldn't help but find it extremely endearing. Could it be that he was a big tiger, capable of devouring someone?

Hmm, the smart little girl, was she finally catching on?

Pei Yicheng mulled over Xu Nianhua's deliberate interruption and her escape-like retreat to her room. His lips curved upward unconsciously. There was plenty of time ahead, he shouldn't rush the little girl into making a decision, letting her think it over slowly.

Back in her room, Xu Nianhua threw herself onto the bed, hugging her duvet, her mind still on the words Pei Yicheng hadn't finished saying.

"Because she has a boyfriend."

"Nianhua, didn't you say you wanted dumplings? I bought them specially for you, give them a try."

"Do you want to be with him?"

"Nianhua, if I..."

Connecting Pei Yicheng's unfinished words with the earlier conversation, Xu Nianhua felt certain she hadn't misunderstood.

But...

Xu Nianhua was almost suffocating under the duvet; she stealthily poked her head out, her pretty eyebrows almost knotted in confusion.

Yicheng was so outstanding, how could he be interested in her?

Xu Nianhua kept telling herself she had got it wrong, but every time she closed her eyes, Pei Yicheng's expression came to mind. With a start, she opened her eyes, her cheeks flushing. She always felt that the way Pei Yicheng had looked at her just now, was very affectionate.

"Why?"

Xu Nianhua propped her chin with one hand and held her face with the other, muttering to herself, "Yicheng wouldn't have been provoked by Amos, making a rash move in haste, would he?"

It must be, perhaps they had met too frequently recently, causing such a misperception.

Exactly.

Having reassured herself, Xu Nianhua climbed up contentedly to continue wrestling with her homework.

The next day, Xu Nianhua looked at Amos with a bit of embarrassment, especially since she had just rejected his confession yesterday. Fortunately, Amos didn't bring it up at all, much to Xu Nianhua's relief.

Amos's inspection went smoothly, and he placed an order on the spot. This order was a trial run; if the quality was good, Amos would go on to place orders in bulk.

When Lou Fan received the order, his hands were almost trembling. If this big order was successfully secured, it would be the largest order in the factory's history.

Chapter 432: I Won't Hold You Back

"Nianhua, thank you so much. I'm really grateful to you," Lou Fan felt that all the credit belonged to Xu Nianhua.

After switching translators, unexpectedly, they snagged a big order on the first try!

"Director Lou, it's because the factory has the capability; it has nothing to do with me."

Xu Nianhua said with a smile that, with the factory securing the order, the future looked brighter, and as a part-time translator, she could earn some extra money on the side, couldn't she?

"It's still good that you came, bringing good fortune." Lou Fan, in high spirits from the good news, pushed up his glasses on the bridge of his nose and enthusiastically said, "I'll host tonight; I'm inviting you all to dinner."

"No need, I have to go back to school, I have things to do there," Xu Nianhua declined with a smile.

"What a coincidence, I wanted to treat you all to a big meal to celebrate," Lou Fan said with a look of regret.

Pei Yicheng said, "I'll take you."

"Yicheng, are you also busy?" Lou Fan stared as Pei Yicheng went to get the car, watching him drive away until he disappeared from the factory.

Choosing romance over friendship!

Lou Fan took a deep breath, feeling a bit abandoned on such a special day when he wanted to celebrate with someone, but no one was available.

...

Xu Nianhua thought that perhaps it was because she had seen Pei Yicheng too often recently that he might have gotten the wrong impression.

For the following days, Xu Nianhua stuck to a simple routine: classroom, canteen, and dormitory.

Even when going to pick up contracts on the weekend, she deliberately asked Pei Yining to accompany her, so she didn't have to be alone with Pei Yicheng.

Pei Yicheng knew that Xu Nianhua was deliberately avoiding him, but he wasn't in a rush; after all, they were still students, and there was plenty of time ahead.

The weather got colder and colder, and the heavy cotton-padded jackets made everyone look bloated.

"Nianhua, I owe it all to you, otherwise, how could I have done so well in foreign languages!" Chang Hui looked at her language grades, grinning and revealing a set of neat and white teeth.

She liked foreign languages, but she hadn't studied them much before the college entrance examination. After school started, the teachers spoke too quickly, so it was particularly challenging for her.

Fortunately, Xu Nianhua suggested practicing oral English in the dormitory often, which improved everyone's speaking ability, and the group vocabulary memory sessions, added to Xu Nianhua's teaching methods, not only improved Chang Hui's grades but also Fei Jiayi's, who rarely nabbed such good marks!

"In our dorm room 302, apart from Nianhua, who always comes first, we've all improved!" Fei Jiayi glanced at Liao Jinling's grades. Her improvement wasn't as significant as theirs, but it was still progress.

Ding Guo opened her arms wide and gave Xu Nianhua a tight hug, "Nianhua, I won't drag our dorm down in the future."

"I don't want to drag the dorm down either," Fei Jiayi immediately raised her hand.

Liao Jinling, not wanting to be left behind, raised her hand and said, "I won't either."

"Me too," Chang Hui raised her hand high.

Zhou Wanwan, who seldom spoke, added, "I won't drag us down."

Although her grades weren't as top-notch as Xu Nianhua's, they were still above average.

"Shouldn't we celebrate a little?" Ding Guo suggested.

Food-loving Fei Jiayi immediately agreed.

"We've been eating in the canteen for so long, I'm sick of it. Let's go to the little stir-fry place behind the school, order a few dishes, and get a bottle of soda," Ding Guo proposed, already unable to repress the anticipation, swallowing hard.

The food in the canteen wasn't bad, but there was too little meat, and their stomachs were lacking any greasiness.

Chapter 433: What Does Your Family Do?

Stir Fry Shop.

Because most of the menu consists of fast food stir-fries, the restaurant is aptly named Stir Fry Shop. Thanks to its affordable prices, business is exceptionally booming.

Ding Guo had secured their spot early, claiming a table big enough for the six of them. She waved and called out, "Hurry over, we're in luck today with just the right spot."

Xu Nianhua and the others took their seats, filling up a small round table completely.

Chili pork stir fry, stir-fried loach, dry-fried small fish, stir-fried cabbage, Mapo Tofu, and a three-delight soup—three meat dishes, two vegetables, and one soup made enough food to stuff the five of them completely.

Ding Guo had wanted to order soft drinks, but after finishing all the food, she patted her round belly, burped satisfactorily, and said, "No way, I can't drink soft drinks now."

"You could buy it to drink like water later," Fei Jiayi suggested half-heartedly.

In this freezing weather, drinking was nice but getting up to visit the restroom was a hassle, especially with public restrooms being cold and unpleasant. If it weren't for thirst, she wouldn't want to drink water at all.

"Forget it, I don't want to get up in the middle of the night to use the bathroom," Ding Guo waved off the idea and after paying the bill, which turned out to be quite reasonable, everyone shared the cost.

The six of them walked side by side back to the dormitory, the perfect way to digest their meal, making a beautiful scene along the way.

"So, what do your families do? My parents run a sundry shop," she asked.

The evening breeze was a bit chilly, but the dim streetlight was leading the way nicely, and no one felt cold with all the lively chatter.

"I know, Chang Hui's family grows tea, right? You have a large tea plantation at home," Ding Guo took the initiative to ask.

Chang Hui shyly nodded.

"My dad makes furniture, and my mom works in a food factory," Xu Nianhua shared simply. Everyone was in the same dorm and got along well, so there was no need for secrets.

"My dad has a few trucks, mainly for transporting goods for others," Liao Jinling said, eager to fit in better in the dorm.

With several trucks at home making good money, Liao Jinling was indeed very generous with money.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk, a few trucks, huh? That's quite wealthy," Ding Guo teased with a laugh.

Rarely without a proud flick of her tail, Liao Jinling looked towards Fei Jiayi instead and said, "But Fei Jiayi's family is really rich."

"What does your family do, Jiayi?" Ding Guo asked with evident curiosity.

"My dad is in construction," Fei Jiayi said very modestly.

Liao Jinling glanced at her without saying much more, because indeed, Fei Jiayi's family was in construction, and a number of houses in Ningbei were built by the Fei Family.

Real estate indeed.

The future of real estate looked very promising.

Xu Nianhua glanced at Fei Jiayi, feeling that this was only to be expected as Fei Jiayi's lifestyle always seemed full of luxury.

"And what about Wanwan's family?" Ding Guo asked again.

As everyone in the dorm had shared, Zhou Wanwan naturally was not an exception. She said, "Both my parents are teachers."

"No wonder you have that scholarly vibe," Ding Guo immediately said, leaning forward to sniff playfully, causing Zhou Wanwan to step back repeatedly.

Taking a deep breath, Ding Guo exclaimed, "Wanwan, you look just like those talented people mentioned in the books, what's it called?"

"The spirit of poetry and literature!" Ding Guo thought for a moment and added, feeling that Zhou Wanwan seemed like a woman full of charm upon just one glance.

Chapter 434: My Sugar

"Ding Guo, are you born in the year of the dog?" Zhou Wanwan pursed her lips, the way Ding Guo had just leaned in to sniff her made her feel quite uncomfortable.

"No, I was born in the year of the rat, not the dog," Ding Guo explained earnestly.

Zhou Wanwan: "..."

"Hahaha~"

Fei Jiayi laughed so hard her stomach ached, her laughter ringing out far and wide. She said, "Pistachio, what Wanwan meant was that your action just now resembled a dog's behavior, she wasn't really asking what your zodiac sign was."

"When did I act like a dog just now!" Ding Guo frowned, pouting in displeasure, as she looked toward Fei Jiayi.

"You did." Fei Jiayi nodded affirmatively.

Ding Guo glared at her, then turned to Xu Nianhua and asked with puffed cheeks, "Nianhua, tell me, did I really act like... that thing just now?"

Xu Nianhua touched his nose, unable to lie and say it wasn't so.

Ding Guo: "You're bullying me."

Ding Guo exaggeratedly wiped her eyes.

"Ding Guo, I don't think it's like that, it's just very alike, it's not like we're really insulting you." Liao Jinling tried to comfort her, but it seemed the more she tried, the angrier Ding Guo became.

"Hmph."

Ding Guo turned and walked away in a huff.

Chang Hui hurried forward, grabbing her and saying, "Come on, our dorm's pistachio, here's a candy for you, and you'll be happy again."

Round lollipops, Fei Jiayi recognized them at a glance as the kind she usually ate.

"Eh, Chang Hui, did you keep all the candy I shared with you?" Fei Jiayi stared at the candy, remembering that every time Chang Hui took candy, she was too reluctant to eat it.

If Jiayi hadn't insisted, Chang Hui would have been unwilling to take any candy at all.

"Yeah." Chang Hui blushed a little, then took out five more candies from her pocket and said, "Here you go, offering Buddha something borrowed."

"Chang Hui, next time I'll give you more, that way, I'll always have candy to eat." Fei Jiayi took the candy and happily peeled off the wrapper before popping it into her mouth. As the sweet strawberry flavor melted in her mouth, she felt like all her troubles were gone.

"Isn't it the same if you keep them on you?" Chang Hui looked at her with puzzlement.

"Well..." Fei Jiayi said somewhat sheepishly.

Xu Nianhua cleared his throat and replied, "Because if she keeps them on herself, not a single one would remain; every time she wants some they're all gone."

"Nianhua!" Fei Jiayi, hit right in the soft spot, immediately felt embarrassed.

She just couldn't control herself, okay? She really loved candy, and it seemed that having one would make all her worries disappear.

That's why she could never keep candy on her for long.

Sometimes when she was out and wanted some, she'd find that not a single piece was left in her pocket.

"Eating so much candy, you should be careful with your teeth," Xu Nianhua warned as he handed a piece of candy to Fei Jiayi, "Here, my candy is yours now."

"Mine," Fei Jiayi accepted without demur, knowing Xu Nianhua wasn't particularly fond of sweets.

Their merry chatter evoked envy from the passersby.

...

"Nianhua, my brother asked you, when are you going to treat him to the meal you owe him?" Pei Yining had been especially busy lately. Apart from her photography class, she also had music lessons and was learning to sing. She had to practice singing every day, leaving her no time to seek out Xu Nianhua.

"Ah..." Xu Nianhua had just picked up the translated documents, when he was caught off guard by Pei Yining's question and took a moment to respond.

Seeing her reaction, Pei Yining knew she had forgotten and reminded her, "This."

Pei Yining pointed at the documents in her hand.

Xu Nianhua suddenly remembered. Previously, to thank Pei Yicheng for helping her find a job, it seemed she had promised to treat him to a meal, but later, she had forgotten.

Chapter 435: Second Brother's Love Affairs

"Well..." Xu Nianhua didn't know what to say as she awkwardly attempted to explain, "I've just been too busy and forgot, but I definitely will treat you."

She mumbled to herself, Cheng Ge isn't usually so petty, right? Wasn't he said to be interning recently?

The sales of the hand cream are also getting better and better, with several new scents being added. I heard they are even planning to increase their investment.

How could he still remember such a trivial matter?

"Heehee, Nianhua, you're not avoiding my brother, are you?" Pei Yining stared at Xu Nianhua as if she had discovered a new continent, always feeling that Nianhua had been avoiding her brother recently.

Otherwise, why would she always drag her along every time she went to deliver documents?

Could it be, during these busy times, something unknown to her happened between her brother and Nianhua?

"No."

Xu Nianhua responded quickly.

But she forgot that the quicker the response, the more guilty it seemed.

"Yining, if you don't want to accompany me, never mind. I was thinking about going alone since I have no company," Xu Nianhua changed the topic, and asked unhappily, "After school started, you've been so busy that no one can find you, yet you said you would often come to visit me."

"I'm wronged, it wasn't on purpose," Pei Yining immediately had her attention diverted as she said, "Nianhua, isn't it okay if I accompany you?"

"I can go alone," Xu Nianhua pursed her lips, deliberately saying so.

Pei Yining smiled pleasingly and said, "Nianhua, Sister Nianhua, please, accompany me. I'm bored alone too."

"Well, okay, I'll just be charitable," Xu Nianhua said, hardly able to stop herself from laughing. Why did their conversation sound so silly just now?

After leaving the factory, Xu Nianhua checked the time and saw it was still early. She said, "Yining, I'm going to visit my second brother at Medical University. What about you?"

"I'd gladly keep company with the young master!" Pei Yining linked arms with Xu Nianhua, their relationship as close as childhood friends and besties.

Ningbei Medical University.

Other than when school started, this was Xu Nianhua's second visit, as usually her second brother came to see her.

Taking advantage of the holiday break, Xu Nianhua brought a lot of snacks to give to him, and also planned to discuss her new job with her second brother.

Hmm, she wondered if her second brother would feel greatly pressured after knowing?

If not said now, he would definitely be upset later on.

Xu Nianhua, lost in her thoughts, bought a bunch of stuff with Pei Yining. By the time they arrived at the university, it was one o'clock. The two discussed meeting Xu's second brother and then having him take them out for a good meal.

However, just as they reached the dormitory, Xu Nianhua pulled Pei Yining to stand aside.

"Hey, who is that?" Xu Nianhua blinked her eyes, all curious.

"A love interest."

Pei Yining joined Xu Nianhua behind a large tree nearby, craning their necks to look.

"Tsk tsk tsk."

Pei Yining shook her head and sighed, watching the girl unhappily turn away and leave, she said, "That girl is pretty. She's so beautiful, he doesn't like her?"

"My second brother has high standards."

Xu Nianhua hadn't expected to witness such a scene upon coming here. Her second brother, usually only interested in his studies, had been liked by Zheng Jin back in high school, but he had no romantic interests at all. It seems that even in university, her second brother had no interest in dating.

Such a beautiful girl, Xu Nianhua felt it was a pity to reject her.

Chapter 436: Scared of Me Coming?

"Second Brother."

Xu Nianhua, carrying stuff, shouted loudly at him, startling Xu Nian'an.

"Nianhua?"

Xu Nian'an rubbed his eyes in surprise, thinking he was seeing things.

"Second Brother, what's wrong, scared of me coming?" Xu Nianhua winked playfully at him, glancing in the direction the girl had just left.

Xu Nian'an hadn't expected this scene to be fully observed by her; it would have been fine with just the younger sister there, but Pei Yining was there too.

"Ahem."

Xu Nian'an cleared his throat, explaining, "She came to me about some school matters."

"Oh~!"

Xu Nianhua drew out her tone, her eyes clearly showing disbelief, but she didn't expose him. Instead, she tossed the food she had bought onto him and said, "I'm exhausted, Second Brother, we haven't had lunch yet."

"Wait a minute." Xu Nian'an carried the items and ran towards the dormitory building.

Soon after, Xu Nian'an came down gasping for breath and said, "Let's go, I'll take you to eat some delicious hotpot from our school."

"It doesn't matter what we eat, as long as it fills the belly." Xu Nianhua patted her flat stomach. Since the morning at the factory, then buying food, and taking the ride to school, Xu Nianhua felt like the pancake-fruits she had in the morning had totally digested and disappeared.

"How have you been recently?" Xu Nian'an asked, since he had been busy these few weeks and hadn't been able to visit Xu Nianhua.

"Doing great, Big Brother's Zhuangzhuang is growing better and better!" Xu Nianhua started talking non-stop about her eldest brother's family and Zhuangzhuang, almost wishing she could go home right now to see her chubby grandnephew.

Xu Nian'an gave her a sidelong glance and asked, "You haven't seen him, how do you know he is getting better and better?"

"How would I not know? I often call mom, and she always says Zhuangzhuang is doing better and better, chubby and super cute." When Xu Nianhua thought of Ji Ying speaking about her grandnephew over the phone, she felt a special anticipation for this grandnephew she hadn't yet met. Last week, after she got her paycheck, she bought a bunch of lovely clothes and shoes for the baby and sent them home.

"Soon, in just over a month, we'll be on vacation as well." Xu Nian'an had also called home, and he led them to the hotpot restaurant, which had all kinds of hotpot dishes that Xu Nianhua and Pei Yining liked.

The siblings hadn't seen each other for half a month, and Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an shared their recent experiences.

"There's an exam next week. How about it, Second Brother, feeling confident?" Xu Nianhua asked with a grin. The knowledge he had learned from Doctor Du was extensive, more than enough to handle minor ailments.

With such a foundation, studying at the medical college should give him an edge over others.

"Of course." Xu Nian'an affirmed. Since the semester started, he had either been visiting Xu Nianhua or cooped up at the school studying, or immersing himself in the library soaking up knowledge like a dry sponge thirsting for water.

"Come on, let's cheer for Second Brother, wishing you great success." Xu Nianhua held up her orange soda, which clearly was soda, yet she managed to make it look like she was drinking hard liquor.

Xu Nian'an had already had lunch, and now he drank a bottle of soda. Looking at his younger sister's beaming smile, he said, "Alright, I'll take your good luck, if I don't come back with a first place, I'd be letting you down."

Xu Nian'an jokingly said, "I heard that my little sister is quite famous at Beining University. In foreign languages, she has never ranked second after ranking first the first time."

Even though he was at Ningbei University, he still heard from classmates about that Xu Nianhua from Beining University, who always ranked first. Especially since Xu Nian'an and Xu Nianhua's names differed by only one character, many people quietly inquired about their relationship.

Chapter 437: First Place Again?

Having such a sister, Xu Nian'an felt proud, but at the same time, he felt immense pressure. With such an outstanding sister, as a big brother, he would be embarrassed to call himself her brother if he were too inferior.

"Bro, you're not lying to me, are you?" Xu Nianhua was somewhat surprised and said, "You've actually heard of my name in your school?"

"Of course."

Xu Nian'an said with pride, "My little sister isn't just top in her exams, her looks are among the top too. You wouldn't believe how many classmates secretly admire you and keep asking me if I know you. It's honestly getting annoying."

Having such an exceptional sister gave him his own set of troubles as a brother.

Xu Nianhua: "..."

She looked at Xu Nian'an skeptically, feeling that his words seemed a bit exaggerated.

Could her reputation really be that great?

"Nianhua, I can vouch for that." Pei Yining, who had been busy with the hotpot, suddenly raised her hand and said, "I have classmates at Medical University too, and indeed, they've been asking me about you."

"What's there to ask about me?" Xu Nianhua felt it was inexplicable.

"You're good at studies and pretty; why wouldn't there be anything to inquire about? Everyone wants to see what this consistent top scorer looks like," Pei Yining said with a grin. These matters were indeed true; a few of her classmates had asked her about this, but she had always vaguely dismissed them.

Xu Nianhua was so good, but she was the sister-in-law she had internally chosen. How could she introduce her to someone else?

"Still just two eyes, a mouth, two hands, two feet. It's not like she could have an extra head," Xu Nianhua casually said, disinterested in these matters and changed the subject: "Okay, let's not talk about this anymore. Second brother, I have some good news for you."

Xu Nianhua said mysteriously, "Second brother, come on, guess what the good news is?"

"Did you rank first again?" was Xu Nian'an's first thought. As soon as the words fell, he denied it himself: "You always rank first; surely you wouldn't mention it just for that."

"Could it be that something good happened at mom and dad's factory?" Xu Nian'an guessed.

"Big brother already got his driver's license, and my sister-in-law just had Zhuangzhuang, so she couldn't possibly be pregnant again, could she?"

Xu Nian'an thought through his whole family but still couldn't figure it out.

Xu Nianhua pointed at herself, signaling Xu Nian'an to keep guessing.

Xu Nian'an looked uncertainly at her, then glanced at Pei Yining beside her. Remembering that he had previously noticed Pei Yicheng's unusual interest in his little sister, his heart skipped a beat. He thought, could it be that my sister and Pei Yicheng have already made their relationship official?

"Second brother, you're so silly!" Seeing his face change colors without guessing correctly, Xu Nianhua joyfully said, "I've got a job."

It wasn't about confirming a relationship, and Xu Nian'an breathed a sigh of relief. The next moment, he stared at Xu Nianhua and asked, "You're still a student, where did you get a job from?"

"It's a weekend job, kind of a part-time thing," Xu Nianhua briefly explained her work at the Lou Fan factory. If it wasn't for particularly urgent contracts, Xu Nianhua would usually spend both Saturday and Sunday in the factory, rather than bringing the work back to campus.

"This is the salary I earned last week, I'm giving you half," Xu Nianhua said with a grin, handing him an envelope.

When Xu Nian'an opened the envelope, he felt even more pressure. Even though he was the older brother, how could he accept money from his little sister?

Chapter 438: The Doctor We Are Most Proud Of

"Look, look!" Xu Nianhua urged with a face full of joy.

Xu Nian'an opened the envelope with mixed feelings, which contained five ten-yuan bills—fifty yuan, equivalent to a month and a half's salary.

"How about that, am I not impressive?" Xu Nianhua asked, eagerly seeking praise and recognition.

"Impressive."

Xu Nian'an praised generously, "You've always been smart. Back when we were making mung bean jelly, if it weren't for you, our family wouldn't have undergone such a big change. Little sister, you are so outstanding, you're giving your big brother a lot of pressure."

Now that both mom and dad work in factories, the family expenses no longer rely on them, even the day-to-day living expenses, including his own, aren't small.

The eldest brother, now a delivery driver, will only earn more in the future.

The little sister, still a student, is earning more than many adults, whereas he, Xu Nian'an, seems to only spend money and not earn any.

"You don't have to feel pressured, big brother," Xu Nianhua said with admiration in her voice. "In the future, you'll be the most proud doctor of our family." She continued, "Big brother, what you need to do now is to focus on your studies, to learn medical skills well. I believe you will definitely become a good doctor."

"I believe so too," Pei Yining echoed. Since the incident last summer when she saw Xu Nian'an calmly save that child, Pei Yining felt Xu Nian'an truly had the makings of a doctor.

In that sudden situation, Pei Yining herself was startled, panic-stricken and at a loss, but Xu Nian'an remained calm, using his learnt knowledge to alleviate the child's pain, meanwhile inspiring her.

"For what my little sister just said, I'll also study hard!" Xu Nian'an's lips curled in a small smile, as he pushed the envelope back. "The living expenses mom sent me are enough. You should buy more clothes with the money you have; the weather is getting colder, don't catch a cold."

"Big brother, I've kept some money for myself. You should keep more money on you while you're at school too."

Xu Nianhua pushed the envelope back again.

Both siblings worried about the other not having enough money, pushing the envelope back and forth. Pei Yining snatched the envelope and handed it back to Xu Nian'an, saying, "Xu big brother, Yining and I are at the same school. If she's in need of anything, I will definitely not stand by and do nothing. But you are here alone for your studies; Yining would surely worry about you. Besides, the weather is getting colder, and the schoolwork is piling up. We don't know when we'll be able to visit you next."

Pei Yining's words were both logical and emotional, and with Xu Nianhua being very persistent, Xu Nian'an had no choice but to accept the envelope.

The happy and joyful gathering was always brief. Before leaving, she encouraged him again, "Big brother, keep it up, and I'm waiting to hear about your great exam results."

"Alright, once I finish my exams, next weekend I'll go with you to check out the bicycle factory where you work," Xu Nian'an said, always worried if he didn't see things for himself.

"Great, I'll wait for you," Xu Nianhua said, leaving reluctantly with Pei Yining.

"Yining, what are you looking at?" Xu Nianhua noticed Pei Yining seemed distracted, continuously on her tiptoes and looking around as if she was searching for something while they were on the way from the school to wait for the bus.

"Nothing."

Pei Yining quickly answered, but her swift response made her seem even more evasive.

After a moment of thought, Xu Nianhua asked uncertainly, "Yining, don't tell me you and your brother mentioned that we were coming to visit mine today?"

"Hehe." Pei Yining, feeling embarrassed, scratched her head.

Chapter 439: Pushed Away with One Hand

"Your brother is busy too, there's no need to trouble him to pick us up," Xu Nianhua thought of the words Pei Yicheng had wanted to express his feelings last time and subconsciously wanted to dodge.

"The bus stop is just ahead, let's go there and wait. It saves bothering your brother," she said.

Seeing the bus stop so close at hand, Xu Nianhua took Pei Yining's hand and walked towards it.

"Nianhua, you seem to be avoiding my brother. Come on, tell me, is there something I don't know about that has happened between you and my brother?" Pei Yining, her face full of curiosity, grabbed Xu Nianhua and stood on the sidewalk by the road, with vehicles passing by.

"Nothing."

Xu Nianhua's denial was very swift as she said, "It's just that it's too much trouble for your brother. Not only does he have to study for his professional courses, but he also has to look after the factory affairs. It's too troublesome for him.

"Really?" Pei Yining looked at her skeptically, but Xu Nianhua was very calm, with no guilty expression on her face, nor could any sign of falsehood be seen in her dark eyes.

Pei Yining was half-convinced.

"Of course, it's true."

Xu Nianhua nodded affirmatively and changed the subject, "Let's hurry. There's a bus in ten minutes."

No sooner had she finished speaking than Xu Nianhua noticed a black sedan car moving in an 'S' pattern as if it were dancing. Before Xu Nianhua could wonder if it was due to drunken driving, the car suddenly sped directly towards them.

In the blink of an eye, Xu Nianhua had no chance to dodge; she instinctively pushed away Pei Yining who was standing next to her.

"Ah..."

Pei Yining was thinking about how to delay Xu Nianhua, but she was unexpectedly pushed aside by her. She lost her balance and staggered to the ground.

It hurt.

Pei Yining's hands scraped against the ground, causing her to grimace in pain. Before she could realize what had happened, the sound of a violent collision and a heavy object hitting the ground echoed by her ears.

Turning back, Pei Yining's face instantly lost its color.

The spot where she and Xu Nianhua had been standing was now occupied by a black car, which would have continued to surge forward had a utility pole not been in its way.

"Nianhua."

At this moment, Pei Yining didn't care about the pain anymore; she struggled to get up and anxiously searched for Xu Nianhua.

The black sedan was stopped by the pole, but on the left front side, Xu Nianhua was lying motionless beneath a freshly painted white wall.

"Nianhua."

Pei Yining trembled all over, her eyes instantly reddened as she stared at the blood staining the white wall. The piercing red made Pei Yining feel dizzy.

She rushed over and, seeing Xu Nianhua lying in a pool of blood, dared not touch her, only kneeling on the ground, continuously calling out, "Nianhua."

As soon as she spoke, tears began to fall in drops.

"Doctor, we need to go to the hospital right now."

Pei Yining was frantic, pleading with the slowly gathering crowd, "Please, can someone help call an ambulance, save her, save Nianhua."

Her voice was choked with sobs as she begged those around her.

"I'll make the call."

A kind person in the crowd immediately ran to the nearest place to make an emergency call.

"Nianhua, don't worry, you'll be fine once we get to the hospital," Pei Yining dared not touch Xu Nianhua, fearing she might cause further harm; she could only lie halfway on the ground, constantly talking into her ear.

The crowd of onlookers grew more numerous.

"Hey, there's been a car accident over there." Lou Fan was in Pei Yicheng's car, intending to deliver a new contract to Xu Nianhua.

Chapter 440: Panda Blood

Pei Yicheng glanced at the crowd, packed tightly together that even their car felt congested as it passed by. He gently pressed the brakes, planning to slowly make his way through.

"That girl got hit pretty badly."

"She's not going to die, is she?"

"She looks so young, what a pity."

"How did that person even drive onto the sidewalk and hit someone?"

"Reeks of alcohol, definitely drunk."

"If it weren't for that utility pole, even the wall wouldn't have survived."

The intermittent voices of the onlookers reached Pei Yicheng, who at first didn't care much, only thinking about hurrying to Medical University to pick up Nianhua and Yining. As for the traffic accident, as a passerby, he could only sigh and wonder why a driver would get behind the wheel after drinking?

It's one thing to put oneself in danger, but it's quite another to harm others.

Pei Yicheng focused on driving when suddenly, an ambulance arrived, and he stopped his car to give way.

"Doctor, please save her," Pei Yining's voice was hoarse as she anxiously explained to the doctor where the victim might have been hit after the accident.

Pei Yining kept talking about where Xu Nianhua might have been injured. Terrified and at a loss, if it weren't for one of her classmates, a nurse who had shared quite a bit of first aid knowledge with her, she probably would have foolishly touched Xu Nianhua.

"Why does that voice sound so familiar?"

Lou Fan was estimating how much longer it would take to reach the school gate when he suddenly stopped the car, and the sounds outside became even clearer.

Swiftly.

Pei Yicheng, who was seated at the driver's seat, suddenly unbuckled his seatbelt and crazily squeezed into the crowd.

"Yicheng, where are you going?"

Lou Fan looked on cluelessly at Pei Yicheng. The car had just stopped, and the engine wasn't even turned off yet.

As if realizing something, Lou Fan looked up to see Pei Yicheng following the ambulance, leaving... leaving...

Could it be...

Lou Fan's expression changed, and he promptly tossed the files in his hand to the back seat, hurried out of the car, took the driver's seat, and started the car to follow the ambulance.

"Yining, the one in the accident, it couldn't be Nianhua, could it?" Even though Lou Fan suspected, he still couldn't bring himself to believe it.

"It was all to save me that Nianhua got hurt; she could've avoided it," sobbed Pei Yining, her eyes swollen from crying, extremely worried all the way.

Lou Fan pursed his lips and looked at the operating room, lit up brightly, consoling her, "She'll be okay."

Apart from offering pale and powerless reassurances, he didn't know what else to say.

Outside the operating room, Pei Yicheng stood like a pillar at the door, motionless, his eyes unblinkingly staring at the glass covered by cloth, seeing nothing.

Pei Yining, her mind in turmoil, paced back and forth at the door of the operating room.

"The patient has Panda Blood, and there's not enough in our blood bank. Who among you is a relative of the patient?" The nurse came out of the operating room, her face etched with anxiety.

"How could this be."

Pei Yining staggered, almost falling over. Panda Blood, she knew, was very rare and precious, but in an emergency with excessive blood loss and the need for a transfusion, it posed a significant problem.

Because, apart from Panda Blood, even the universal O-type blood can't be transfused to someone with Panda Blood.

"Nurse, don't the other hospitals have any blood either?" Pei Yicheng grasped the nurse's hand, his face growing pale.