

Regaining 451

Chapter 451: Mouth Full of Medicine Taste

At night, Pei Yining arrived at the hospital with the brown sugar black rice porridge she had cooked. She had consulted the doctor specifically, who said that Nianhua could have some liquid food, and if her condition improved by tomorrow, they could start making some bone broth to nourish her body.

"Nianhua, how are you feeling, any better?" When Pei Yining reached the hospital, Xu Nianhua had already been moved from the intensive care unit to a regular ward. To let Xu Nianhua rest better, Pei Yicheng had specially requested a private room.

"Much better."

Seeing Pei Yining's bandaged hand, Xu Nianhua apologized remorsefully, "Yining, sorry, it was urgent then, I had to push you to the ground."

"Nianhua, I should be the one thanking you. I only got a minor scrape, but you nearly lost your life." Pei Yining sat in front of the sickbed, presenting the porridge she had made like a treasure, and said, "I brewed this brown sugar porridge for you. I asked Aunt Jin to teach me, and I made it myself. Try it."

"Sure."

Having been on an IV drip all day, Xu Nianhua's mouth tasted purely of medicine. Now, smelling the brown sugar black rice porridge, she found it exceptionally sweet and was eager to eat it.

"Okay, Yicheng, Brother Nian'an, you guys go ahead and eat downstairs. I'll take care of her here," said Pei Yining as she carefully fed Xu Nianhua the porridge. Since her head couldn't move and she had to lie down to eat, extra care was needed to avoid choking her.

The warm, sweet porridge entered her stomach and Xu Nianhua felt all the medicinal taste in her mouth was gone. She finished one bowl and wanted more, but Pei Yining refused, saying earnestly, "Nianhua, the doctor said not to eat too much. Tomorrow, tomorrow I'll make you some bone broth."

"Mm." Xu Nianhua licked the last bit of sweetness from her lips, looking eagerly at the bowl in Pei Yining's hands, her expression longing for more, which made Pei Yining both amused and heartachy.

"Once you're better, I'll make more for you, and you can eat as many bowls as you want, how about that?" Pei Yining beamed a radiant smile, put away the bowl, and then picked up another bowl to finish off the remaining brown sugar black rice porridge cleanly.

After a simple rinse of the bowl, Pei Yining sat beside Xu Nianhua's sickbed again and asked, "Are you feeling any discomfort? Does anything hurt?"

"No, I'm doing well, it doesn't hurt at all." Xu Nianhua's lips curved slightly. Apart from her pale complexion, it was impossible to tell she was someone who had been seriously injured.

"It's all my fault." Pei Yining blamed herself as she held her hand and said, "Nianhua, you saved my life. From now on, my life is yours."

"It was just an accident. If the roles were reversed, you would have pushed me too. So let's not talk about this," Xu Nianhua comforted her in return. "This way, I don't have to go to school every day, even if the hospital is a bit boring. Time will pass quickly, and I can even sleep in."

Between being injured and going to school, Pei Yining knew without thinking which she would choose.

After dinner, Pei Yicheng and Xu Nian'an walked in, greeted with such a scene.

Embedded in Xu Nianhua's pale face were her black eyes, twinkling like stars in the night sky, as ever, showing no hint of pain or discomfort.

Many people, faced with such circumstances, would complain, bemoan their bad luck, or lash out in pain, but not Xu Nianhua. Her face was adorned with a smile, resilient and optimistic, even comforting Yining.

Chapter 452: Night Talk

Night had fallen, and Xu Nian'an slept on the accompanying bed while Pei Yining and Pei Yicheng, the siblings, were sent home to rest by Xu Nianhua.

They hadn't slept all night yesterday, so they really should get some proper rest.

After the lights went out, a small light remained on in the hospital room, convenient for the nurses to make their rounds and for patients so it wouldn't be pitch-black at night.

"Second Brother, you should go back to school for classes tomorrow,"

Nianhua said in the dimness.

"No," Xu Nian'an immediately refused without thinking, "These few days are a critical period for your recovery. How could I leave? Little sister, there's no room for discussion on this matter, and you're not allowed to send me away."

Xu Nian'an's tone was more resolute than ever before.

Xu Nianhua sighed and said, "I'm sorry for making Second Brother worry."

"Little sister, it's not your fault. The blame lies solely with the driver who still drove after drinking. He's gone too far." As soon as Xu Nian'an brought up the driver, he clenched his teeth in anger. He recounted to Nianhua about the driver's family members coming over, saying, "Little sister, if they want to settle privately with money... I, I don't want to agree."

Xu Nian'an hung his head. He wanted the driver to receive the punishment he deserved, not to smooth things over with money!

How could the pain and suffering his little sister endured be compensated with some money as if it never happened?

Yesterday, when Nianhua gave him money, Xu Nian'an had already started thinking about earning money. However, before he could act on it, Nianhua had the accident.

The idea of making money took root in his mind, grew slowly, and became extremely urgent.

"All right, I'll do whatever Second Brother says," Xu Nianhua lifted the corners of her lips, understanding Xu Nian'an's thoughts, and asked, "Second Brother, you haven't told Mom and Dad, have you?"

"No."

When Xu Nian'an brought up the matter, he felt inexplicably guilty. He thought he would buy the wheelchair tomorrow, so that even if his little sister disagreed, it would be too late to argue.

When he heard the doctor say that his little sister's leg needed at least over a month to heal, he casually mentioned getting a wheelchair, and Xu Nian'an had etched the thought deeply into his mind.

"That's good."

Xu Nianhua let out a sigh of relief and said, "As for my injury, it will be fine with some rest. By the time we go home, Mom and Dad won't be so worried."

"No problem. When the time comes, I'll say I didn't tell Mom and Dad. If there's any scolding or beating, it's all my fault," Xu Nian'an said, reminding her, "Little sister, when the time comes, push all the blame onto me, understand?"

"Pfft."

Xu Nianhua laughed out, afraid of tearing her wound, it was especially hard for her to restrain. She cleared her throat and said, "Second Brother, what do you take me for?"

"Little sister, are you in pain? If it hurts, you must tell me," Xu Nian'an repeatedly reminded her. The doctor had said that after she woke up, her injuries on the head and foot would definitely hurt. If the pain became unbearable, medication could be used for relief.

"It doesn't hurt, not at all."

Xu Nianhua's voice was relaxed, giving the impression she wasn't injured at all. This little bit of pain, compared to what she'd endured in the past, she felt was nothing. Endure it, and it would pass.

"Second Brother, then on Thursday, you must go back for the exam, okay?" Xu Nianhua worried about Xu Nian'an's exam.

If it hadn't been for her, Second Brother would be at school during this time, revising thoroughly.

"We'll see when the time comes," Xu Nian'an didn't readily agree. He turned over, and with the aid of the faint light, could see Xu Nianhua lying on the hospital bed with white bandages and a plastered foot. He said, "Don't worry, I'll bring the books to the hospital when the time comes, and I can still review. If you're recovering well by then, I'll go take the exam."

Xu Nian'an comforted her, saying, "You shouldn't worry so much. The doctor said you need to rest more, use your brain less, and not stress out."

Chapter 453: Two Wheelchairs

"Be good and get some sleep," Xu Nian'an said softly. "If you need anything, just call for your second brother, I'll be here."

"Okay," Xu Nianhua replied obediently, closed her eyes, and the pain in her head and feet seemed magnified, but she didn't speak out. She was afraid to disturb her second brother who hadn't slept the previous night and had been busy all day today.

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"Second brother, where did you get the money to buy the wheelchair?" Xu Nianhua was a bit dumbfounded by the wheelchair that appeared before her early in the morning.

The money from the driver's compensation, after paying for the medical bills, shouldn't have been much.

"Little sister, I've asked the doctor, and for more than a month, you need to recuperate. I bought this wheelchair for you so when you're better, you can sit in it and move around, instead of being confined to the hospital room every day," Xu Nian'an explained as he talked about the wheelchair. He had spent a long time picking it out, and they even didn't have it in stock; it was supposed to arrive yesterday.

"Second brother, where did you get the money?" Xu Nianhua glanced at the wheelchair and persistently fixed her gaze on Xu Nian'an regarding this question.

"I..." Xu Nian'an thought for a moment, then sitting on the edge of the hospital bed, said, "I told mom and dad that I damaged some equipment at school, so I had to pay for it. They sent me the money."

Xu Nianhua: "..."

What was the second brother thinking?

Wouldn't this worry mom and dad?

It was just a month; she could lie in bed every day with no problems.

"I know you would think it's worrying for mom and dad. But this also serves as a way to prepare them psychologically. Besides, I'll return the money to them in the future," Xu Nian'an said earnestly. "I've figured it all out. I have a day off every week. You used to work part-time at the factory, and I too want to take some time to set up a stall and sell things."

Having sold mung bean jelly before, he was all too aware of the profits involved.

You wouldn't think a humble stall could be that profitable, but it really earns money.

"Second brother, you should spend all your time studying," Xu Nianhua said, looking at her second brother's determined face, thinking about how the flap of a reborn butterfly's wings led to his no longer dying young as before and becoming more and more outstanding. Furthermore, because of his previous experience selling mung bean jelly and now with family selling chili sauce and furniture, his outlook had changed.

She had once heard that in the eighties, as long as you dared, even starting a stall could make you a millionaire!

"Little sister, I won't neglect my studies. But I can't study twenty-four hours a day; that would just turn me into a bookworm," Xu Nian'an said, laughing lightly. "I understand the knowledge needed for school. In a few months, I can keep up with the teacher's pace. Little sister, you should also let your second brother explore some side businesses, right?"

Xu Nian'an's light-hearted and humorous words even incorporated 'side business,' a term Xu Nianhua often mentioned.

"I definitely believe in second brother's talent. It's just that I'm worried you'll overexert yourself," she said.

Xu Nianhua's words made Xu Nian'an instantly roll up his sleeves, making a gesture of a strongman, saying, "Your second brother is still young. Look at these muscles; they won't wear out your second brother."

"Xu Second Brother, what are you doing showing off your muscles so early in the morning?" Pei Yining, who came in with breakfast, couldn't help but chuckle upon seeing Xu Nian'an's strongman act. She was surprised when she saw the brand-new wheelchair in the room and exclaimed, "Eh, where did this wheelchair come from? My brother also bought one."

As soon as Pei Yining finished speaking, Pei Yicheng came in pushing another brand-new wheelchair. The wheelchair he used before, he had donated after he recovered from his injury. Now, this was a newly purchased one.

Chapter 454: Changing Dressings

Xu Nian'an turned around and saw that wheelchair, feeling incredibly grateful for his foresight.

"Brother Cheng, Yining, my leg will be fine after some rest. Why did you all get me a wheelchair too?" Xu Nianhua, seeing the wheelchair, couldn't help but feel a headache coming on. Her leg wasn't beyond healing; why was everyone getting her a wheelchair?

Her second brother did just that, and so did Brother Cheng and Yining.

"You will still need to move around while recovering, and the wheelchair will be useful for that," Pei Yining explained. "Of course, we hope your leg heals quickly, but you can't rush it. It's okay, you can alternate between two wheelchairs."

"No, that won't do, Yining. Please return yours," Xu Nianhua urged. "Since it hasn't been used yet, it can definitely be returned. One wheelchair is enough; why would we need two?"

Pei Yicheng's eyes fell on the one Xu Nian'an had bought, and he suggested, "How about we donate one?"

"That's a good idea," Pei Yining immediately agreed. "The one my brother bought is specially made, it's still..."

"Brother Cheng."

Xu Nian'an interrupted Pei Yining, looked towards Pei Yicheng, and said with a smile, "Brother Cheng, since the wheelchair is so specially made, it's best to return it quickly. It's quite a sum of money; let's not waste it."

In the end, Pei Yicheng didn't win against Xu Nian'an—it wasn't that he couldn't, but that he was concerned it would make Xu Nianhua uncomfortable.

After all, the intention behind giving the wheelchair was to help with moving around and getting some fresh air during recovery. If the gift of the wheelchair ended up making Xu Nianhua unhappy, it would defeat the purpose of the gesture.

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On Wednesday, it was time to change the dressing on Xu Nianhua's head, and this gave Xu Nian'an, Pei Yicheng, and Pei Yining a direct view of the wound on Xu Nianhua's head.

A few days later, the wound still looked shocking.

Pei Yining clutched her older brother's hand, thinking how painful such a deep wound must be. No wonder she had lost so much blood that day.

All for her.

Pei Yining's heart clenched, and she couldn't help feeling a numbness on her scalp, repeatedly reminding the doctor to "be gentle."

On the other hand, it was Xu Nianhua who was getting her wound dressed and she didn't cry out in pain, instead comforting, "It doesn't hurt, the doctor is being very gentle."

There was even a faint smile on her lips, as if she wasn't the one injured.

Xu Nian'an didn't speak, only silently holding Xu Nianhua's hand, giving her strength without words.

Pei Yicheng's gaze remained on the smile at the corner of Xu Nianhua's mouth, which unexpectedly made him think of last summer, when she seemed to fall from the sky, seemingly unfazed by her injuries, as though she felt no pain, her resilience catching his eye in an instant.

"Nianhua, if it hurts, just say so. There's no shame in that," Pei Yining felt that Xu Nianhua's words were meant to comfort a three-year-old. With such a frightening-looking wound, how could it possibly not hurt?

She herself would cry out over a minor cut on her finger.

"It really doesn't hurt," Xu Nianhua said lightly, still consoling Pei Yining as she changed the subject. "Yining, you haven't been to school for two days? Is that okay? Oh, my dorm mates, they don't know I haven't been back for two days, do they wonder about me?"

That's when Xu Nianhua belatedly remembered this concern.

"I've asked for a leave on your behalf," Pei Yining immediately reassured her. "My classes are pretty simple, and I know them already. The people in your dorm are unaware that something happened to you; they only know you've taken leave."

"That's good."

Xu Nianhua breathed a sigh of relief.

At noon, when Xu Nianhua saw those five familiar faces at the door, she was taken aback. Wasn't it agreed that they wouldn't be told?

Chapter 455: The Delicate Beauty

"Nianhua, if it weren't for the teacher telling us, we wouldn't have known!" Fei Jiayi entered the hospital room, and when she saw Xu Nianhua, she thought she had seen wrong.

Her head was wrapped up, and her foot was in a cast, making her look immobile.

"Nianhua, such a big deal, how could you not tell us? Aren't we roommates?" Ding Guo placed the fruits they brought on the table beside them.

The advantage of a private room is that it is spacious and quiet; there's no need to worry about disturbing others, or being disturbed.

"Yes, Nianhua, although we might not be able to help much, we'll always do whatever little we can," the usually shy Chang Hui also spoke up. In the dorm, the person she admired and felt closest to was Xu Nianhua. It was Xu Nianhua who encouraged her to bravely speak foreign languages.

"Exactly." Liao Jinling also joined in. When she was sick last time, it was Xu Nianhua who carried her down to the infirmary.

Without Xu Nianhua, without the people in the dorm, she would have suffered in pain unnoticed that day.

"Nianhua, we are roommates."

Zhou Wanwan presented some pastries, saying, "This is a little token from all of us."

"Thank you guys." Xu Nianhua listened to everyone's comments, and couldn't be happier. She smiled and said, "I'm fine, just bad luck, nothing serious."

"You call this nothing serious?" Fei Jiayi stared at her injuries, incredulously looking at her, injured like that and still saying it's nothing serious.

"I'm really fine, just need some rest," Xu Nianhua earnestly nodded.

Fei Jiayi: "..."

"This person is beautiful, truly blessed by nature." Ding Guo immediately continued, saying, "Nianhua has been in the hospital for a few days, except for looking a bit pale, appearing pitiable, she doesn't look bad at all, even... there's a delicate beauty to her."

"Absolutely," Chang Hui nodded in agreement.

Zhou Wanwan looked carefully before saying, "Indeed, it's true."

Xu Nianhua: "..."

She hadn't washed her hair in days, and it almost stank, and her face, only wiped with a cloth, wearing hospital clothes, how could she look good?

Delicate beauty?

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The people from the dorm stayed until two in the afternoon, and since they had classes, everyone left.

"Why are you staring at me?" Xu Nianhua, while eating an apple, noticed that Pei Yining was continuously watching her.

"I think your roommate is absolutely right," Pei Yining earnestly said. "You possess a delicate beauty that makes you even more endearing."

"Ah geez."

Pei Yining rubbed her forehead, feeling aggrieved; she hadn't said anything wrong.

"You should go to school tomorrow, no need to come see me," Xu Nianhua reminded. "All three of you are now at the hospital, I'm fine alone, there's no need for you all to stay with me."

The three of them had been with her almost every day since the incident, and it felt... too troublesome.

It was alright with her second brother, but having Pei Yicheng and Pei Yining around made her feel guilty.

"No way," Pei Yining firmly said. "What if you need to go to the bathroom?"

"My brother carries me to the bathroom, I can manage myself," Xu Nianhua felt that having them all here was putting too much pressure on her!

They were all students and needed to attend classes. Hanging IVs in the morning and chatting idly, mornings would pass, but come afternoon, the hospital room seemed to turn into a small classroom.

Chapter 456: The Student Surpasses the Master

"Then, how about we take turns?" Pei Yining suggested.

Xu Nianhua nodded repeatedly, saying, "Actually, I can be at the hospital alone..." It's okay.

Before she finished her sentence, she was interrupted by Xu Nian'an, "Little sister."

"Anyway, you can't be alone at the hospital." Pei Yicheng agreed, "So, I will head back later, and I won't come tomorrow. Thursday and Friday would be perfect for Nian'an to go back and take his exams."

"Mmm-hmm."

Xu Nianhua nodded vigorously, as her second brother's upcoming exams were indeed very important, and her condition had stabilized. She couldn't delay his exams.

"Little sister, missing an exam once is no big deal." Xu Nian'an didn't want to leave.

Xu Nianhua swiftly retorted, "Second brother, if you don't take the exam, I... I will stop talking to you."

After Xu Nianhua spoke, she turned her head away, adopting a feigning-to-be-upset demeanor towards Xu Nian'an.

Xu Nian'an had no choice but to agree.

"Then when I don't have classes, I can come every day, right?" Pei Yining raised her hand, speaking meekly. Her coursework wasn't much.

"Sure, if you don't mind the trouble."

Xu Nianhua blinked rapidly; she had told them early on that she was going to attend classes, but they were all insistent, and she couldn't be bothered to waste her breath anymore.

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"Guozhong, what's been bothering you these past few days? Are you in a bad mood? Is there something going wrong with the construction of Xiyue Hotel?" Wan Hongxing specially made lotus seed and white fungus soup, bringing it to Pei Guozhong, not sure if it was her imagination, but feeling that Pei Guozhong had seemed rather irritable lately.

"Sigh."

Pei Guozhong heaved a sigh, having been busy with the affairs of Xiyue Hotel. Just when things were finally falling into place today, he arrived home only to think back to the conversation he'd had with Pei Yicheng. Drinking the lotus seed and white fungus soup, he heard the gentle whispers of Wan Hongxing.

He thought that what he desired was Wan Hongxing's tenderness, her kindness. If she hadn't been gentle and kind, how could Yining be raised so well?

Being a stepmother was not easy, yet Wan Hongxing, as a stepmother, showed no less care for Yining than a biological mother would.

He had his own business; naturally, he did not have many demands for his wife. As long as she was gentle and kind, treated the two children well, making him feel comfortable and relaxed when he returned home, that was enough.

But what about Yicheng?

His career was just starting, or rather, hadn't even started yet.

Coming out of school was exactly when he needed a capable wife. He had looked into Xu Nianhua; she was just from an ordinary family in Gaoliang County of South City, that Chili Sauce Factory was something Yicheng wanted to help with. Although they made a bit of money, that small amount of family wealth was insignificant in front of Pei Guozhong.

"Hongxing, tell me, I'm doing this all for Yicheng's sake. Why doesn't he appreciate my goodwill at all?" Pei Guozhong discussed the matter with Wan Hongxing, of course, he didn't mention a word about Yicheng's question regarding his motives.

"This brat, doesn't he realize that I am his father, would I harm him?"

Pei Guozhong grew angrier as he thought about it. He finished the soup in one gulp and continued, "The other day when I was looking for blood, I contacted quite a few people, pulled a lot of strings."

"Guozhong."

Wan Hongxing stood behind him, her hands gently massaging his temples. The originally agitated Pei Guozhong slowly calmed down as Wan Hongxing's soft voice arose, saying, "Guozhong, what do you think of Yicheng's capabilities?"

"Yicheng is outstanding. Not only is he exceptional in his profession, but his business acumen is also beyond comparison," Pei Guozhong said with pride when he spoke of his son.

Chapter 457: Becoming Reality

"When he injured his leg, I was truly worried about him. Then he stayed with his grandfather. I know his pride wouldn't let him accept it," Pei Guozhong spoke with a sense of emotion about the time Yicheng was injured.

The doctors had given up hope, but miraculously, Yicheng's leg was saved.

When the second semester began, Yicheng went straight into his junior year. This shows that even while he was nursing his leg, he didn't fall behind in his studies. Guozhong was proud of his outstanding son and wished even more for his future to be brighter and his journey longer.

"Also, that 'Liunian'—the hand cream that's been selling really well lately—was his creation," Guozhong said, pride evident in his tone.

Although 'Liunian' has just been released, its popularity has already reached Guozhong. Given time, it's sure to be promising.

You should know that Yicheng's most impressive talent is in architecture.

"Right, for the design of the Xiyue Hotel, I specifically chose a public tender, because I wanted Yicheng to try as well," Guozhong believed in his son, confident that he could handle the hotel's design even though he was only a junior.

Many architects had approached Guozhong, but he insisted on a public tender to choose the best design proposal.

"With Yicheng being so capable and accomplished, he doesn't need any further embellishment; he just needs to do what he enjoys," Wan Hongxing followed up his words.

Guozhong: "..."

Didn't Yicheng answer the same way?

"Brother Cheng, what you're holding...is that a contract?" Xu Nianhua asked uncertainly as he looked at the document in Yicheng's hands, which seemed more and more familiar.

"Yes."

Yicheng passed the marked contract forward, saying, "This is a contract brought by Lou Fan. I have roughly translated it; you just need to fill in the gaps."

"Lou Fan didn't mention this when he came?"

As Nianhua stared at the contract, he was somewhat bewildered. Lou Fan had visited her but hadn't mentioned the contract.

Yicheng said, "Perhaps seeing you injured, he didn't mention it."

"Oh, let me handle it then. I'm just bored," Nianhua took the contract and looked at it. It was not just roughly translated; it was almost completely done. She only needed to polish and proofread it. Her gaze shifted to Yicheng, complex and aware; if she didn't realize now that Yicheng was intentionally helping her, she would be a fool.

"I need to attend to school matters and deal with Liunian. I'm even planning to enter an architectural design contest soon, so I won't have time," Yicheng explained aptly, letting Nianhua understand his good intentions and allowing her to accept them.

"You're still a student, and yet you can already participate in architectural design?" Nianhua looked at him in surprise.

Yicheng didn't speak, only handed her his recent architectural drafts and said, "This is my design for the Xiyue Hotel. Take a look."

"Should I be looking at this?" Nianhua held the drafts, not immediately opening them. Technically, this was a trade secret, wasn't it?

Yicheng gave her a look that seemed to chide her for her needless question, and he immediately spread out the drafts.

Nianhua might not understand architecture, but she could vaguely make out the main design; even she couldn't help but be amazed. There were many hotels in later years, but Yicheng's design had a unique flair.

"In a few years, will I be able to see the Xiyue Hotel you designed by yourself, transformed from paper into reality?" Nianhua's gaze at Yicheng was filled with admiration.

Chapter 458: Not Enough Air

What does it feel like to be adored by the one you desire?

Even Pei Yicheng, who had read so many books, struggled to describe it, as if there was only Xu Nianhua in front of him, and only those admiring black eyes were left.

Happy, blissful, proud, and feeling a sense of pride.

"Aren't you afraid that others might not like my design?" Pei Yicheng's lips couldn't help but curl upwards.

A smile that could captivate a city, another that could captivate a country.

Xu Nianhua felt that this phrase applied not only to women but also perfectly to Pei Yicheng.

Thump, thump, thump.

She couldn't help but be mesmerized; his features were naturally striking. Normally, his rare smiles made him seem stern and unapproachable, but when he did smile, it was like a spring breeze, making everything around him seem merely a backdrop.

Her heart raced wildly. Having never been in love, Xu Nianhua felt that she might... truly be falling for him.

"Nianhua." Pei Yicheng leaned in close enough to feel her breath, gazing at her amazed expression, he realized for the first time that being attractive was indeed advantageous.

"Stay away from me."

Xu Nianhua blurted out, disrupting the mood. She quickly lowered her head, took a deep breath, and changed the subject, "Cheng, I think, I think your design is great. If they don't like it, they must be jealous of your talent."

"Are you shy?" Pei Yicheng's voice arose next to her ear. He looked down to see her ears flushed a deep red, utterly adorable.

"You're overthinking it." Xu Nianhua instinctively denied it, "I, I'm just..."

Xu Nianhua's black eyes swiftly shifted as she said, "I just feel a bit suffocated, probably because we're too close, not enough air."

Xu Nianhua lowered her head even more.

Pei Yicheng didn't tease her further. Today's events showed him she wasn't completely indifferent. He was even more pleased and didn't rush her to admit anything. Instead, he followed her words, "Right, not enough air."

...

It was time to change her dressing again, and this time, Xu Nianhua felt it particularly vividly, as if a piece of hair was missing at the back of her head.

"It's okay. Once your wound heals, you can let your hair down, and it won't show," the doctor reassured, knowing the young girl's concern for beauty.

"Thank you, Doctor."

Although Xu Nianhua felt gloomy, the doctor's words comforted her. Previously, she disliked looking in the mirror because she found herself too ugly to face, but now, her face full of collagen and her hair exceptionally smooth, she looked into the mirror every day. Seeing her young and beautiful face, she felt incredibly happy.

No matter the challenge, just by looking at her face, she felt like there was nothing she couldn't overcome!

"Nianhua, you're already beautiful enough. If you keep looking at yourself, how do you expect the rest of us to survive?" Pei Yining arrived just in time to catch this scene.

Xu Nianhua paused with the mirror in her hand and asked, "Yining, are you complimenting me or teasing me?"

Pei Yining raised a big smile and said, "Of course I'm complimenting you. You don't know, but many people at school are asking about you. And your dorm mates, they brought you these notes."

She handed over a notebook with notes, "They wanted to come too, but they saved their bus fare to buy you these fruits instead."

"They really are thoughtful."

Xu Nianhua looked at the notebook and the fruits, silently taking note of all the kindness her dorm mates had shown her.

Chapter 459: Little Sister, You're So Kind

"Little sister, how are you?"

After his two days of exams were over, Xu Nian'an rushed immediately to the hospital. Although he was physically sitting for the exams, his heart had remained in the hospital.

"I'm fine. They changed the medicine on my head again. After one more change, they can remove it," Xu Nianhua said, munching on an apple and holding a contract, which she was reviewing for the last time. She asked, "Second brother, how were your exams? Were they okay?"

"Nah, your second brother is clever," he said.

Xu Nian'an scrutinized her from head to toe to make sure she was recovering well, and then he sighed in relief. He said, "By the way, there's something I want to discuss with you."

"Go ahead."

Xu Nianhua put down the contract in her hands and looked at Xu Nian'an attentively.

"Remember I mentioned before I wanted to start a stall? What do you think I should sell?" Xu Nian'an asked. He always felt his little sister had better ideas.

"You're really planning to sell things?" Xu Nianhua was somewhat surprised.

She thought her second brother was just talking about it. She hadn't expected that just a few days later, he was ready to take action?

"Of course, I'm serious. I'm not just fooling around."

Xu Nian'an was completely earnest.

After thinking for a moment, Xu Nianhua said, "Women and children's money is the easiest to earn. What do you think about selling something in that line?"

"Children's clothes, I don't understand, and women's clothes, it's not quite appropriate for a man like me to sell," Xu Nian'an murmured. Selling clothes involved fitting, and it seemed awkward for him.

"Right."

Xu Nian'an's eyes lit up. He slapped his thigh and said, "I know what to sell now, things like hair clips, scarves, things that almost every female student at the school could use."

"That's a good idea. But do you know where to get the supplies?" Xu Nianhua asked curiously.

"I don't know."

Xu Nian'an shook his head honestly. He added, "I don't know, but Yicheng and Yining are locals, they must know, right?"

...

"Why are you asking that?" Pei Yining looked at Xu Nian'an with a curious expression and said, "There are many shops that sell those in the nearby department stores."

"You're thinking of buying wholesale to sell?" Pei Yicheng caught on immediately to Xu Nian'an's idea.

"Yes," Xu Nian'an nodded in confirmation. He thought that if Yicheng didn't know, perhaps someone in their dormitory would, since several of them were from Ningbei.

"I'll take you there tomorrow."

Pei Yicheng said, and sure enough, on Saturday, he took Xu Nian'an to the wholesale market. They also delivered Xu Nianhua's proofread contract to Lou Fan.

When Lou Fan saw the contract, it was like seeing a lifesaver. He had been waiting for this contract for several days.

However, since Xu Nianhua had been in an accident, he felt bad about pushing too much.

Xu Nian'an used the afternoon to buy stock, and then set up his stall in a particularly crowded area near a school.

He chose not Ningbei Medical University but a normal university, where there were particularly many female students. He stood at the entrance selling, and with his experience of selling Mung Bean Jelly, he began calling out to attract customers. Soon, with the beautiful hair clips and scarves displayed, a crowd had tightly surrounded Xu Nian'an.

"This one for one dollar, this one for three dollars."

Xu Nian'an didn't stop talking as he quoted prices, supplied goods, and collected money, wishing he had ten mouths and ten pairs of hands.

He was busy until he had sold all of today's stock. When he looked up, the sky had completely darkened. He hurriedly dragged his tired body to the hospital.

"Second brother, you haven't eaten yet, have you?"

Xu Nianhua handed over the thermos containing food that Pei Yining had brought.

"Little sister, you're really great." Xu Nian'an, who was extremely hungry, took the thermos and devoured the food voraciously, looking as if he was starving.

Chapter 460: A Promising Future

"Second Brother, please eat slower, no one is competing with you for food," Xu Nianhua said as she watched him wolfing down his meal, hastily reminding him, "Be careful not to choke yourself."

"I won't."

Xu Nian'an was gobbling up his rice, stir-fried chili pork, fried tofu with minced meat, and vegetables. He mixed all his food together in one thermos of rice and ate it all until his once-empty stomach felt comfortable.

There was also rib soup, which he drank heartily, finishing off what his little sister couldn't eat, filling his stomach completely.

"Burp."

With a satisfied burp, Xu Nian'an was over the moon as he took out all the money he had made that day and stacked it up on Xu Nianhua's hospital bed.

One-yuan notes, two-yuan notes, five-yuan notes, even fifty-cent pieces, a huge stack that was very eye-catching.

After closing the door to the ward, while straightening out the notes, Xu Nian'an said, "I found a wholesale market just after one pm, and before two pm, you wouldn't believe it, sis. The market had so many things, loads that I've never even seen before."

Xu Nian'an shared his excitement about the day's experiences with his sister and added, "I think it was around four pm when I got to Ningbei Normal University's entrance. I had just set up my stand when many people came to look, and many bought stuff too. My throat is on fire right now."

Xu Nian'an grabbed a big cup of water, which soon emptied as he continued, "Today was my first time stocking up. I was just trying it out and didn't dare buy too much, but everything got sold out."

"Sis, I think I made at least forty yuan today."

Xu Nian'an felt as if he were back in the last summer, reminiscing about the happiness, excitement, and thrill of making and selling Mung Bean Jelly with his sister.

"We can count it to be sure," said Xu Nianhua. Even with her preconceived notions, she found Xu Nian'an's sales of hairpins and scarves to be quite a success.

The siblings silently counted the money. After subtracting the cost of goods and transportation, they found they had fifty yuan more than what Xu Nian'an had estimated.

"Oh, and there's this." Xu Nian'an saved a big red scarf, some gloves, and several hairpins, saying, "I specifically kept these for you. And this pink set is for Yining."

Xu Nian'an placed another bag aside, ready to give it to Pei Yining when she came to visit.

"Thanks, Second Brother."

Xu Nianhua gladly accepted the gift. She really liked the big red scarf, which was not only warm but also lovely and made her skin look fairer.

"As long as you like it."

Xu Nian'an handed the money to Xu Nianhua, but she pushed it back to him, saying, "Second Brother, keep the money for your capital. We are counting on you to have enough for our trip home during New Year's."

"I promise there won't be a problem."

Xu Nian'an thought that in the future, he must stock up more and sell every day. Over the long term, he was sure to replace that thousand yuan and take it all back home with him.

As Xu Nian'an was putting away the money, suddenly a thought struck him, and he hastily said, "Sis, in the future, you must be careful, and then careful some more."

"Uh..."

His abrupt words caught Xu Nianhua off guard, leaving her dumbfounded.

"You have AB Rh-negative blood, commonly known as 'Panda Blood,'" Xu Nian'an said with a solemn expression. "I've specifically looked up information on this. People with AB blood type are already fewer than those with other blood types, which makes yours even rarer. Moreover, the most critical thing is, if you are ever in danger and don't receive a blood transfusion in time, you could be in life-threatening