

Regaining 461

Chapter 461: I Took It Seriously

"Second brother, you don't need to worry too much; this was just an accident." Xu Nianhua chuckled lightly, breaking the serious atmosphere. She said, "Some people never encounter a situation in their entire lives where they need a blood transfusion. This was just an accident, no need to worry too much, Second Brother."

"Little sister, you can't treat this as nothing significant. This time, if it hadn't been for Cheng's friend, Su Yan, having the same blood type as you, it could have been dangerous for you." Xu Nian'an's expression was stern, hoping Xu Nianhua would take this issue seriously.

"Then we should thank them." said Xu Nianhua.

Xu Nian'an sighed and, seeing her casual demeanor, said, "The person has already gone abroad. However, Cheng said that his mother also has this blood type. If in the future we live in the same city and... if his mother has any issues, we should also help them. Therefore, you should remember to eat more red dates and other blood-nourishing foods."

Thinking about Panda Blood, Xu Nian'an was worried. This incident had been truly dangerous.

"Mm-hm." Xu Nianhua nodded fervently, thinking that her brother was just scared by this incident. Since some people never face a situation in their lives where they need an emergency blood transfusion, she wasn't taking it too seriously.

"Also," Xu Nian'an remembered something difficult to mention, but considering it concerned his little sister's whole life, he still said, "You must never have an abortion. If you get pregnant, you must deliver the baby because the second child could face hemolysis."

"Oh." Xu Nianhua's reaction was quite bland as she thought, she wasn't planning to get married, so where would the child come from?

"Little sister, you must take this seriously." Xu Nian'an felt like the eunuch who was more anxious than the emperor!

"I am taking it seriously." Xu Nianhua replied earnestly.

Xu Nian'an: "..."

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Staying in the hospital was boring, but Xu Nianhua had her roommate's notes and Lou Fan's contracts, and spent her days reading and doing homework. Besides the inconvenience of going to the bathroom, she didn't feel too troubled.

Noon.

Pei Yining had no classes today, and arrived at noon carrying a thermos. Seeing her carrying two thermoses, Xu Nianhua felt her scalp tingle and said, "Yining, can we not bring soup next time?"

Pei Yining brought soup every day, creating a variety of nutritious soups, whether it was pork rib soup, chicken soup, or tonic herbal soups, making Xu Nianhua feel that she might turn into a fatty if she stayed in the hospital a few more days.

"That won't do, the doctor said you lost a lot of blood, so you should replenish it." Pei Yining was particularly insistent on this point, smiling as she opened the thermos, and said, "Smell this, today it's chicken soup with angelica and red dates. How is it, does it smell good?"

"It does."

Xu Nianhua thought that by the time she was discharged, she might have turned into a ball, mostly because drinking so much soup made her need the bathroom more often.

And right now, going to the bathroom was particularly inconvenient.

"I feel like my face has gotten rounder," Xu Nianhua touched her face and said.

Pei Yining gave her a significant eye roll and said, "Nianhua, you had lost weight because of your injury. Just getting rounder isn't enough, you need at least two more rounds!"

Xu Nianhua: "..."

Could she even look good with two more rounds?

"I'll serve myself." Xu Nianhua reached over and grabbed the bowl from Pei Yining's hand, knowing that if Pei Yining served it, it would definitely be a brimming bowl.

"Sigh."

Pei Yining exaggeratedly said, "Nianhua, why do I feel like I'm feeding you poison."

"How could such delicious chicken soup be poison?"

Xu Nianhua's corners of her mouth lifted into a broad smile. After she served herself a bowl, she said, "Yining, join me for a bowl. Girls are prone to anemia, right?"

Chapter 462: Do You Still Not Trust Me?

"Sure, I love it," Pei Yining didn't refuse at all. After all, no matter how much she drank, she never gained weight, and Aunt Jin's chicken soup was exceptionally delicious.

Xu Nianhua: "..."

Her gaze fell on Pei Yining's delicate and well-proportioned figure. She felt that she might as well worry about herself.

As the days passed, the wound on Xu Nianhua's head had also healed. After the stitches were removed and her hair let down, one couldn't tell she had been injured on the back of her head at all, though unfortunately, she still couldn't wash her hair.

On this matter, Xu Nianhua was full of complaints. She braided her long hair into one braid so she could go a few more days without washing it.

"Second brother, don't come to the hospital anymore. After selling the goods, just go back to school. I'm much better now," Xu Nianhua felt sorry for Xu Nian'an's exhaustion during this time, spending every morning with her in the hospital getting IV drips, doing homework, and after lunch, wheeling Xu Nianhua downstairs for a walk; by mid-afternoon, he would begin to set up his stall to sell things and wouldn't return until late at night.

"I'm not tired, my school has given me a few days off, my teacher made an exception for me," Xu Nian'an said with a grinned smile. Recently, the thing that brought him the most joy each night was counting money with Xu Nianhua.

From an initial fifty yuan to sometimes later reaching eighty or ninety, despite his throat being hoarse from talking and the exhaustion, Xu Nian'an was happy!

At this rate, he was sure to make a thousand yuan by the time he went home for the New Year.

"Oh right, the doctor said I could be discharged the day after tomorrow." Xu Nianhua suddenly spoke up, her face full of anticipation: "I've been in the hospital for half a month; I'm practically molding."

Although she went out in a wheelchair during the day, upon returning to the hospital, Xu Nianhua could smell the disinfectant.

"Your leg still hasn't healed," Xu Nian'an examined her leg, which still couldn't bear any weight.

These sorts of muscle and bone injuries take a hundred days to heal!

"I just need to come in periodically to change the dressing on my leg; it doesn't affect me getting discharged, right?" Xu Nianhua wished she could be discharged immediately.

"But how will you get back to school after you're discharged?" Xu Nian'an's eyebrows nearly furrowed together, regretting that if he had chosen Beining University, perhaps his little sister wouldn't have had to suffer this time!

After she was discharged, he wouldn't be able to take care of her either.

"I'll go to my place," Pei Yining came in with freshly baked egg cakes, saying happily, "Nianhua got hurt trying to save me, so I should take care of her until her leg is healed. My place is close to school; I can push Nianhua to school every day."

"And you don't have to worry about Nianhua's classroom. Her roommates have already said that the few of them can help carry Nianhua to class," Pei Yining actually wanted her brother to carry her, so that in the school, nobody could lay a finger on Nianhua. It would be like announcing to the whole school that Xu Nianhua was taken.

But, Nianhua didn't agree. No sooner had she spoken than Xu Nianhua rejected the idea.

"Right, with five of them, plus Yining, that makes six. They can support me all the way to the classroom, and besides, I still have one leg that can move," Xu Nianhua tried to convince Xu Nian'an, talking until she was out of breath.

"Nian'an, don't worry, we'll take good care of Nianhua. You can call my place every day," Pei Yicheng, who had been silent all this while, spoke up with a meaningful tone: "Nian'an, don't you trust me?"

"Of course not," Xu Nian'an denied. After the accident with his little sister, Pei Yicheng's actions had moved Xu Nian'an. If he were to compare Pei Yicheng to others, he felt that it would be hard to find many at their school suitable for his little sister, not to mention Pei Yicheng's genuine feelings for her.

Chapter 463: Gray Hair is also the Most Beautiful

"Actually, I can stay in the dorm too, I can walk on my own with the support of crutches," Xu Nianhua said weakly.

"No way."

"That's not going to work."

"No."

Pei Yicheng, Pei Yining, and Xu Nian'an all spoke in unison.

Although Xu Nian'an was worried that Pei Yicheng, the big bad wolf, might snatch his little sister away, she was smart and had clear eyesight, so he wasn't worried anymore.

Staying in the dormitory, although her roommates were nice, this wasn't a matter of just one or two days.

Staying at Pei Yining's place was at least convenient and safe, and after classes, it wasn't too far for his sister to go to Pei Yining's home in her wheelchair.

Xu Nianhua had been longing for this day, and finally, the day of her discharge from the hospital arrived. On her first day staying at the Pei Family's home, she didn't smell the unpleasant disinfectant, and she couldn't contain her joy. She went to school in the afternoon and attended classes for half a day; the concern of her classmates and roommates made her feel as warm as the winter sun.

Night, at the Pei Family's home.

The room where Xu Nianhua stayed was specially arranged on the first floor; it was a guest room with an en-suite bathroom that had everything she needed.

With the help of Pei Yining, she took a bath and washed her hair, feeling especially refreshed afterwards.

"Nianhua, wait for me, I'll find a hairdryer for you," said Pei Yining as she brought out a hairdryer from the house. Initially, she planned to dry Xu Nianhua's hair, but Xu Nianhua urged Pei Yining to take her shower while she sat in front of the mirror, blowing her hair and looking at her reflection.

She lifted her long hair and looked at herself sideways in the mirror; the bald patch was especially noticeable, and the stitched area was not clearly visible, but she imagined it looked hideous.

There was a hint of sorrow in Xu Nianhua's eyes; loving beauty is a woman's nature, regardless of age, one always cares about their appearance.

Her hair, which she had taken great care of, was black and soft; now with a missing patch, it looked particularly... displeasing to her eye.

A pair of large hands lifted the long hair in her hands and let it fall back down.

When Xu Nianhua looked up, she saw Pei Yicheng in the mirror. He had just taken a shower; his hair was still damp, and he was dressed in an extremely comfortable set of home clothes. He looked different from his usual sternness, appearing softer.

"Your hair will grow back; besides, even if you were bald, you would still look good," Pei Yicheng encouraged, wanting to praise her beauty no matter what.

Bald?

Xu Nianhua immediately pursed her lips with a puffed cheek, showing displeasure as she said, "I don't want to be bald, it would be better if you shaved your head."

"Yicheng, it's so late, aren't you going to your room to sleep? You have classes tomorrow," Xu Nianhua said, lowering her eyes and not looking at the handsome man in the mirror anymore. She always felt like she was about to be sucked into those eyes of his.

Pei Yicheng belatedly realized his mistake and quickly corrected himself, "Nianhua, I didn't mean you should shave your head bald. I just want to tell you that even without hair, you are beautiful."

Xu Nianhua thought with her eyes cast down: Is he being exceptionally sweet today?

"Even if your hair turns white, in my eyes, you will always be the most beautiful," Pei Yicheng said, standing behind her, watching her fair face gradually flush and even her earlobes turn red. He couldn't help but lift the corners of his mouth, his eyes softening even more. In the depths of his dark eyes, there was an unmistakable affection as he continued, "In the future, when we both grow old and your hair is all white, I believe you will still be the most beautiful old lady."

To walk with you from youth until our hair turns white with age.

Chapter 464: Why Is Your Face So Red

"Pfft."

Xu Nianhua had felt a bit uneasy, but upon hearing his words, she couldn't help but laugh. Her laughter, like the tinkling of silver bells, filled the room. She looked up, her eyes brimming with brilliant starlight, and the corners of her lips curved into a smile as she said, "Yicheng, by then you'll be an old man with white hair too, and I—a white-haired old lady, with even my teeth gone, will be far from beauty."

"Who says?" Pei Yicheng gazed at her, articulating each word, "In my heart, you are the most beautiful, unparalleled by anyone. If you don't believe me, just ask me again when we're old. I definitely won't change my answer."

By then... who knew if one of them would have passed away first?

Or perhaps, due to distance, they would have lost contact a long time ago?

Who could predict such things decades from now?

The focus and depth of Pei Yicheng's gaze, combined with the firm and almost promise-like quality of his words, made Xu Nianhua swallow back the rest of her sentence.

"Nianhua, is your hair dry yet? Let me help you."

After washing her hair, Pei Yining worried that Xu Nianhua might struggle on her own, so she called out loudly.

Xu Nianhua immediately responded, "My hair is dry. Come over and use the hair dryer to dry yours."

The moment Pei Yining entered the room, while still drying her hair, she felt as if she had interrupted her brother's... special moment.

She stuck out her tongue in silence, assuring herself that it wasn't intentional.

"You two should also get some rest early. You have classes tomorrow," Pei Yicheng didn't linger.

As soon as Pei Yicheng's tall figure left, Pei Yining moved closer with a face full of curiosity and asked, "Nianhua, what did my brother say to you? Why is your face all red?"

Had she interrupted her brother's confession?

With gossip flashing in her eyes, Pei Yining's face showed regret. She shouldn't have come so soon.

"Maybe it's just because I just took a bath." Xu Nianhua changed the subject, supporting herself on the table as she hobbled to the bed. While yawning, she said, "I'm sleepy, going to sleep first."

Xu Nianhua climbed onto the bed as quickly as she could and closed her eyes to sleep.

Pei Yining wanted to ask more but couldn't anymore. She took the hair dryer back to her room, saying, "Nianhua, should I sleep with you?"

"No need, I'm fine alone. I don't get up at night," Xu Nianhua's groggy voice answered.

Pei Yining considerately turned off the light for Xu Nianhua, closed the door, and in an instant, Xu Nianhua opened her eyes again. The scene from just before was still playing in her mind.

She shook her head, forcing herself not to think about it, and started pondering another matter.

Ever since Xu Nian'an learned about her Panda Blood type, he had been repeatedly cautioning her to be extremely careful and to not get hurt again. He even planned to check the blood type of the entire family when they went home.

Wouldn't such a check reveal the secrets of her birth?

But she didn't want her origins to be exposed.

The Gu Family, if they truly came looking, she wouldn't let them off.

Whenever Xu Nianhua thought of the Gu Family, a sense of unresolved resentment lingered in her heart. Aside from Gu Mingcheng, none of the Gu Family had treated her as one of their own.

Xu Nianhua took a deep breath, remembering a home destroyed and lives lost, all because of the Gu family, she couldn't wait to strike first!

The Gu Family hadn't harmed her in this life, but one couldn't be too cautious. Xu Nianhua grew increasingly eager to earn more money. The translation work introduced by Pei Yicheng was not enough; she needed to think of other ways.

Chapter 465: The Gift

"Wow, such a beautiful hairpin."

Fei Jiayi opened the bag and saw beautiful hairpins and scarves, all in her favorite orange color.

Fei Jiayi's was orange, Zhou Wanwan's was white, Ding Guo's was a bright yellow, Chang Hui's was a tranquil gray, and Liao Jinling's was a vibrant green.

"Nianhua, your second brother isn't selling scarves for a living, is he? These scarves are really pretty and warm." Fei Jiayi cuddled the scarf, happily fiddling with the hairpin on her head, looking good no matter how she wore it.

"Nianhua, I can't accept these things," Zhou Wanwan handed back what she was holding.

Chang Hui did the same.

Though Ding Guo liked it, seeing everyone else doing so, she too handed back her items.

Liao Jinling and Fei Jiayi made the same gesture.

Xu Nianhua looked at the items handed to her and sighed helplessly, "What are you all doing? When I was in the hospital, you didn't hesitate to bring me all sorts of things. And not to mention your notes, thanks to them, I could keep up with the teacher's lessons even though I wasn't at school."

"My second brother went to the wholesale market to stock up on hairpins and scarves to sell. So, to thank you for taking care of me before—and also for the care in the future—he specifically asked me to give these to you."

Xu Nianhua puffed her cheeks, blinking her big eyes, and said, "Don't you all want to help me anymore? My leg still needs half a month before I can walk. Are you really going to leave me in the lurch?"

Xu Nianhua was naturally pretty, with those round, expressive eyes which seemed to speak for themselves. She was already cute enough on a normal day, but now, trying to look even more adorable, she was simply irresistible to Fei Jiayi and the others.

"How could we possibly ignore you?" Fei Jiayi was the first to express her stand.

"Exactly," Ding Guo followed up, saying, "Nianhua, please don't look at me like that. It's not just the guys; even I, a girl, feel my heart thumping wildly."

Ding Guo dramatically clutched her chest as if smitten.

Her act made everyone laugh.

Zhou Wanwan said earnestly, "Nianhua, we're roommates, and it's right for us to help each other. We can't accept these gifts."

"Wanwan, just stop refusing already. My brother sells these at a wholesale price; it doesn't cost much. If you won't accept them, what, do you want my brother to personally deliver them to you?" Xu Nianhua teased them on purpose, saying, "Ah, my second brother is very handsome. If any of you are interested, I can set you up."

This remark from Xu Nianhua made all the dormitory mates blush. Fei Jiayi draped the scarf around her neck like a treasure, saying, "Thanks to your brother. However, as for matchmaking, forget it, I'm still a student."

Fei Jiayi had seen Xu Nianhua's second brother, who was sunny and handsome, but Xu Nianhua's direct words were too much, even for the straightforward Fei Jiayi, who felt a touch of shyness.

As for Zhou Wanwan and the others, they quickly accepted the gifts, fearing Xu Nianhua might blurt out something even more earth-shattering.

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The New Year of 1981 arrived, and Xu Nianhua's leg was improving day by day.

On January 10th, Xu Nianhua could basically walk, so she moved back to the dormitory. When leaving, Pei Yining was very reluctant, saying, "Nianhua, your leg still isn't fully healed. Stay a few more days, then go back to school."

"Besides, the holidays are just ten days away. You might as well stay here until the break and go straight home." These past days, Pei Yining had gotten used to accompanying Xu Nianhua. The very thought of her returning to school suddenly made Pei Yining feel particularly lonely.

Chapter 466: Welcome Nianhua Back

"It's precisely because the farewell is imminent that we treasure the time we have together even more,"

Xu Nianhua said with a smile, feeling that it had been a very long time since she last stayed in the dorm.

Pei Yining, who was helping with carrying things, walked back to the dorm with Xu Nianhua. Along the way, they didn't run into any of Xu Nianhua's roommates. Pei Yining spared no effort to say, "Nianhua, it looks like your roommates don't welcome you either. Otherwise, you might as well come and live with me."

Pei Yining, holding Xu Nianhua's hand, said this, almost dragging Xu Nianhua back with her.

"Maybe they have classes," Xu Nianhua replied, not minding and saying, "Moving back into the dorm, it's such a small matter, there's no need for a deliberate welcome. I wouldn't want to interrupt their classes either."

Pei Yining pouted. If it were her, she would definitely have made an effort to welcome her.

The two chatted all the way to the dormitory. Just as Xu Nianhua was about to open the door, she found that it wasn't locked. She pushed it gently.

"Welcome back, Nianhua!"

The loud welcome startled Xu Nianhua.

As soon as the door opened, Fei Jiayi and the other five people inside were standing in the dormitory, each holding a balloon in their hands. The dormitory, specially tidied up, looked festive and joyful.

"Nianhua, I ordered this egg cake especially for you. Take a sniff, doesn't it smell good?" Fei Jiayi said, proudly presenting her specially ordered egg cake.

Liao Jinling was not to be outdone, saying, "This is the fruit I bought; the oranges are really sweet, you know."

Zhou Wanwan brought a book and some notes with her elegant handwriting. The notes she had given before were all written by Zhou Wanwan.

Ding Guo's gift was candy, the delicious White Rabbit Creamy Candy and some new candies she particularly liked.

"Nianhua, I knitted this cozy for the hot water bottle myself. With it on, the bottle won't be too hot to hold," said Chang Hui, somewhat shyly handing over the cozy. This item was practical for Xu Nianhua and, for Chang Hui, it was something she could afford.

Xu Nianhua and the others had helped her sell a lot of tea, but she sent all the money home, keeping very little for herself. Last time, when everyone in the dorm chipped in to get Xu Nianhua some fruit and gifts, Chang Hui didn't have much money left.

The cozy she knitted for the hot water bottle, compared to the other gifts, made her offering seem insignificant.

"Thank you all," Xu Nianhua said, accepting a series of gifts—food, books, and the practical hot water bottle cozy, all of which made her feel cared for.

Especially this cozy for the hot water bottle, as her feet had been particularly cold since her injury. The bare hot water bottle, after pouring in boiling water, was too hot to touch, and without it, she felt cold.

Pei Yining couldn't persuade her to flee back to her home, and seeing how caring her dorm mates were, could only sigh and go home.

The day Xu Nianhua was discharged was also a great piece of news for Xu Nian'an. Since then, Xu Nian'an set aside two hours each day to sell hair clips and scarves, and he would take care of Xu Nianhua on weekends.

His little stall became more and more familiar, and when he returned from Xu Nianhua's place on weekends, he would stop by the market to stock up on a large batch of goods, storing them in a big box. His roommates only knew that Xu Nian'an frequently carried the large box back and forth, but they didn't know what exactly he was doing with it.

As time passed, the numbers in Xu Nian'an's savings book grew, and he believed that he would certainly be able to save a thousand yuan before going home.

"Big brother, everyone in our dormitory really likes the gifts you sent. These fruits were specially bought for you by them," Xu Nianhua said with a beaming smile, offering the oranges and saying, "These oranges are really sweet, not sour at all."

Chapter 467: Reward

"If you like it, that's great. How's your leg? Does it still hurt when you walk?" Xu Nian'an asked with concern about Xu Nianhua's leg.

Xu Nianhua confidently said, "It's fine, my leg is doing well. Look, I can walk, run, and even jump now."

To prove her point, she not only walked but also ran and jumped.

Seeing her hopping and jumping around, Xu Nian'an feared her leg hadn't fully recovered and quickly cautioned her, "Stop jumping. If your leg is healed, you should take good care of it. Don't jump around too much."

"Big brother, why can't I jump around if my leg is healed?" Xu Nianhua stuck out her tongue playfully, feeling that her brother was making a big deal out of nothing. She said, "By the way, I'm going to go find Yining for lunch."

Xu Nianhua and Xu Nian'an, the siblings, just reached the school gates when they ran into Pei Yicheng and Pei Yining.

"Where are you guys headed? Luckily we arrived a bit earlier; otherwise, we might have missed you," Pei Yining asked cheerfully.

"We were actually coming to find you. Do you want to have lunch together?" Xu Nianhua's suggestion immediately received enthusiastic approval from Pei Yining.

Since it still wasn't time to eat, the four of them sat in a nearby park, enjoying the sun and chatting.

"What is this?" Pei Yicheng suddenly handed her an envelope and a document.

Xu Nianhua was stunned for a moment.

"Take a look," Pei Yicheng said with a smile on his lips, thinking she would definitely like this gift.

"This is a contract, and this?"

Xu Nianhua, while taking the items, said, "You're not giving me my salary in advance, are you?"

No wonder she thought so; it was almost time to go home for the New Year.

"Wow, isn't this a bit much?" Xu Nianhua looked at the thick stack of money and instinctively handed it back.

Pei Yicheng did not take it back; instead, he explained, "Do you remember the inspection team from before?"

"I remember." Xu Nianhua nodded, having benefited from Lou Fan's influence, she had made quite a bit of money.

"Last week, we officially signed the contract. Besides your salary, the remaining one thousand yuan is your reward."

Pei Yicheng explained that originally the reward wasn't this much, but he told Lou Fan that if it weren't for Xu Nianhua's involvement, they might not have secured such a large order.

This was the largest order they had ever received in their history!

Lou Fan had thought about it for a long time; Xu Nianhua had indeed played a significant role, especially during the final contract negotiations. Even though her leg was injured, Xu Nianhua had been extremely professional, spending all day on weekends at the factory for the sake of the contract.

"That much?" Xu Nianhua couldn't help but gulp, but thinking about the amount of the big order on the contract, it seemed normal. Securing such a large order and getting a reward was to be expected, though it was much more than she had anticipated.

"All of this is what you deserve." Pei Yicheng replied, thinking of the inspection team and the factory staff's praise for Xu Nianhua, he felt proud of her.

On the side, Xu Nian'an, upon hearing about the one thousand yuan reward, felt that his previous pride in the money he had saved was rather lacking in ambition.

His little sister had earned a thousand yuan reward from one deal.

Xu Nian'an seriously considered whether he should work harder.

In the future, he not only wanted to be an outstanding doctor, but he also wanted to earn more money.

Chapter 468: Farewell Dinner

"I'll come to pick you up on the morning of the 20th. Just stay at the school and don't go running off anywhere, do you hear?" Xu Nian'an instructed earnestly. On January 20th, they would be on vacation and it was time to head back home.

"Heard."

Xu Nianhua nodded obediently. Having a brother who cared about her so much, she felt very happy and blessed.

Although her brother was a bit nagging, Xu Nianhua, who had once been lonely for a lifetime, actually liked it very much.

"Xu Second Bro, Nianhua, we're off on the 19th. Most people will have left by the evening. Why don't you come to my place that night, and we can all head home early on the 20th?" Pei Yining joined the conversation as soon as she heard them talk about this topic. She glanced at the dormitory and said, "If only Nianhua is left in the dormitory, won't you be scared?"

Xu Nianhua was about to shake her head to say she wasn't scared, but Xu Nian'an had already spoken up, saying, "Then we'll trouble Yicheng."

"It's no trouble at all." Pei Yining looked at Pei Yicheng with a proud and smug expression as if she was seeking his approval for her suggestion.

Pei Yicheng sincerely said, "Nian'an, Nianhua, when we were in South City, it was you who took care of me and my sister. Now, it's our turn to extend our hospitality. Besides, Nianhua saved..." Yining.

"Yicheng, we'll come to your place on the afternoon of the 19th." Xu Nianhua quickly interrupted Pei Yicheng, worried he would bring up the car accident again. It was just an accident.

She certainly didn't have the mindset of expecting a favor in return.

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On January 18th, the holidays were just around the corner, and everyone was exceptionally excited, yet also a bit reluctant to leave.

"I can't believe it; we've been living together for half a year already," Fei Jiayi said while packing her bags. She was leaving tomorrow and didn't want to part with them.

"I don't want to leave you guys," Ding Guo, the happy-go-lucky girl of the dormitory, said with her mood quite low at the moment.

She sighed, looking around at everyone who was also downhearted, took a deep breath, and resumed her role as the dormitory's cheerleader decisively. Clapping her hands cheerily, she asked, "Should we have a farewell dinner tonight? After we eat tonight, we won't see each other until next year. What do you think, should we?"

"Yes."

Fei Jiayi and the rest all nodded in agreement, and all six dorm mates rushed to the restaurant behind the school.

They all enjoyed the dinner immensely, which helped to dispel the sadness of parting.

On the 19th, everyone left one after another.

"Nianhua, can you help me out?" Fei Jiayi had a lot of stuff, and her family was too busy to help her move, so she had to ask her dorm mate Xu Nianhua for help.

Xu Nianhua started packing things into boxes and immediately noticed the two big suitcases and two large backpacks at Fei Jiayi's feet.

"Sure." Xu Nianhua took the initiative, hoisting one of the backpacks on her back and picked up a large suitcase, asking as she walked downstairs, "Jiayi, isn't your family coming to pick you up?"

"My cousin said she would come and help me move stuff, but I don't know if she has been delayed by something. She hasn't arrived yet," Fei Jiayi said, struggling with her luggage—carrying the backpack and lifting suitcases was a difficult task for her petite frame.

But when she looked up...

Ahead was Xu Nianhua, carrying her large bag and lifting her heaviest and biggest suitcase without a word of complaint. Fei Jiayi suddenly felt embarrassed and said, "Nianhua, wait a minute. How about I go back to the dorm and wait, maybe my cousin will come with help in a bit."

"No worries, I'll take it down first," Xu Nianhua cautiously pulled the suitcase outside.

Chapter 469: Not Afraid of Him?

"No, no, I forgot, your leg has just recovered," Fei Jiayi belatedly remembered.

Xu Nianhua looked back with a smile and said, "Don't worry, this bit of stuff is nothing to me."

As she spoke, she carried the items downstairs, her slender body weighed down by so much stuff, the large backpack seemed about to overpower Xu Nianhua.

Fei Jiayi kept reminding her to be careful, very careful, and at the same time felt annoyed with herself; she shouldn't have asked Nianhua to help.

They lived on the third floor, and going down the stairs had never seemed challenging, but today, carrying all those things, Fei Jiayi found the stairs insufferably difficult. Yet, thinking about how Xu Nianhua was even more petite than her and carrying even more items, Fei Jiayi gritted her teeth and persevered.

Once downstairs, Xu Nianhua saw students coming and going, all carrying stuff. She found an open spot near the dormitory entrance and put the items down.

"You're Jiayi's roommate, right? Thank you for carrying stuff for Jiayi," said Su Xi, who had just arrived and immediately noticed the yellow suitcase in front of Xu Nianhua.

"I'm Fei Jiayi's cousin, Su Xi," introduced Su Xi herself.

She had the face of a classical beauty, and when she smiled, it was like a breeze in spring, even her eyes radiated softness.

Today, Su Xi wore a beige cotton-padded jacket that reached her calves, accentuating her tall and beautiful figure.

"Xu Nianhua, Fei Jiayi's roommate," Xu Nianhua introduced herself. Jiayi had always talked about introducing her to her cousin. Unfortunately, her studies got in the way, it was never the right time, and then she got injured. The semester ended, and unexpectedly, she ended up meeting Su Xi.

"I know you," Su Xi said with a smile, her lips slightly pursed. "You've always been the top scorer in the foreign languages department. Jiayi really admires you."

"It might just be good luck that I come across questions I can answer," Xu Nianhua said modestly. She changed the subject and added, "At the freshman welcome party, I saw you playing the guzheng. It was truly heavenly, like a Little Fairy descending to earth."

"Pfft."

With a gentle laugh, Su Xi, who was already a classical beauty as if stepping out of a painting, seemed even more down-to-earth, making her feel more approachable. "That's just for show," she said. "If I acted so ethereal every day, wouldn't it be too dull?"

As Su Xi said this, she playfully blinked.

Xu Nianhua was momentarily stunned, finally understanding why Jiayi spoke so highly of her cousin. Essentially, Su Xi's personality was just like Fei Jiayi's.

"I heard you're Pei Yicheng's girlfriend? Don't you find him..." Su Xi paused, then continued, "very cold? When he has a poker face, it's like he gives off a 'keep away' vibe."

"Aren't you scared of him?" There was a tone of eager gossip in Su Xi's eyes.

"Why should I be scared of him?" Xu Nianhua countered, thinking of Pei Yicheng's handsome face, which seemed a bit cold only the first time she met him, but afterward, it only made her feel that he was indifferent, uninterested in everything.

"Yicheng might seem cold on the outside, but actually, once you get to know him, you'll find he's very warm-hearted."

Xu Nianhua explained, actually finding Su Xi quite different from the rumored icy goddess.

Suddenly, she realized something and asked, "Wait a minute, he and I aren't in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship."

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Su Xi gave a small, tight-lipped smile. She didn't believe what Xu Nianhua had said.

"Xi, you've finally arrived." Fei Jiayi struggled to move things out, and when she saw Su Xi, she looked like she had seen a savior.

"There was a bit of an incident on the road, so I was late. Why did you start moving things by yourselves?" Su Xi explained as she conversed with Fei Jiayi; the two didn't look like cousins but rather like sisters.

Looking at Xu Nianhua with concern, Fei Jiayi said, "Nianhua, is your leg okay? It's all my fault. I forgot you injured your leg."

"It's okay." Xu Nianhua shook his head and hesitated before turning his gaze toward Su Xi.

"Xi, what were you guys talking about just now?"

Realizing later, Fei Jiayi asked.

Su Xi cleared her throat, had the driver load the things onto the car, and then explained to Fei Jiayi what they had just been discussing.

"Nianhua, allow me to introduce her properly—this is Su Xi, my cousin from my aunt's side," said Fei Jiayi playfully, linking arms with Xu Nianhua and continuing, "She's Xu Nianhua, the prettiest and the brightest flower in our dorm."

"Hello." Su Xi and Xu Nianhua greeted each other more earnestly than before. Su Xi said, "Jiayi often mentions you. Though it's our first meeting, I already know quite a bit about you."

Xu Nianhua smiled and shook hands with Su Xi, saying, "Hello, I've also heard a lot about you. Jiayi always says how beautiful and talented her cousin is. Now that I see you, I think Jiayi wasn't exaggerating at all."

"Just to clarify, Yicheng is just a friend of mine," Xu Nianhua added.

"Nianhua, Pei Yicheng is both handsome and impressive. I heard he's only a junior, but his architectural design has already been chosen for construction next year. Tall, handsome, treats you well, and talented—aren't you going to grab onto such a man quickly?" Fei Jiayi looked at Xu Nianhua as if she was looking at a fool.

While Fei Jiayi didn't exactly know what Pei Yicheng was like, Pei Yining, who often visited the dorm, was very good to Xu Nianhua. Occasionally, he would reveal bits and pieces, all suggesting that Pei Yicheng was very considerate toward Xu Nianhua.

Su Xi stood aside, silent but with a gleam of gossip in her eyes, proving she too was curious about the matter.

"Jiayi, I'm only twenty years old. Besides, it's true Yicheng is outstanding, but so are many people," said Xu Nianhua, who had no thoughts of marriage, let alone dating.

Her first goal was to relieve her family from the misfortunes of her past life and live happily ever after.

Her second goal was to earn a lot of money so her parents could enjoy their retirement.

Her third goal was to start her training classes again, enabling more children to learn foreign languages easily.

"Twenty isn't that young either. People used to marry at eighteen in the past," Fei Jiayi urged. "Nianhua, if you don't clutch this great man now, you might regret it later."

Xu Nianhua: "..."

She simply rolled her eyes at Fei Jiayi.

"Nianhua, when are you going back? Why don't you come to my house today?" Fei Jiayi suggested. "I've been wanting to introduce you to my cousin for a long time. Now that we've met, we can all have dinner together and chat."

"Yeah, I really like you," Su Xi said earnestly. It was rare for her to like someone the first time she met them, to feel drawn to them.

But Xu Nianhua was different, she liked being with Xu Nianhua.