

Sidekick 101

Chapter 101: Courtyard Barbecue (2)

"Yep," Jian Yiling replied. She turned around and walked to the barbecue grill.

Jian Yujie stood on the left of Jian Yiling whilst Yu Xi stood on the right. This was the result of their discussion back in the kitchen.

In order to prevent any accidents from happening today, they decided to follow Jian Yiling.

"What do you want to eat?" Jian Yiling asked. She raised her head and looked at Jian Yujie.

"I want to eat the scallops with bean vermicelli!" He opened the scallops himself. Jian Yiling then placed the minced garlic bean vermicelli on the scallops. She also seasoned them for him.

Jian Yiling nodded.

Then, she turned around to ask Yu Xi, "What do you want to eat?"

Yu Xi paused for a moment before he said, "I want ten lamb skewers!"

After Jian Yiling had diced the lamb into blocks, she skewered them together. One by one.

When Jian Yiling got her responses, she turned around to start barbecuing. At the same time, she grilled the scallops, lamb skewers, prawns, and corn.

The prawns were for Grandma Jian.

The grilled corn was for Grandpa Jian.

Although she was grilling several different things at once, she appeared to be quite methodical. It was as though she was a professional at this.

Zhai Yunsheng was sitting on a chair less than two meters away from them. He looked visibly displeased.

"What about me?"

Why didn't she ask him?

She had asked Jian Yujie and Yu Xi. However, she had forgotten about Zhai Yunsheng.

That's right. Yu Xi looked over at Jian Yiling. She was currently being busy in front of the barbecue grill.

Although Master Sheng hadn't helped with preparing the ingredients, he had gone shopping with them today!

He had even carried the bags for Jian Yiling! He didn't even ask the bodyguards to help him!

"You eat vegetables."

Jian Yiling replied with a calm and unhurried tone.

"Why?" Zhai Yunsheng asked. He suddenly got up and walked over to Jian Yiling.

Yu Xi was taken aback by Zhai Yunsheng's actions.

Oh no! It seems as though the little rabbit has annoyed Master Sheng!

Yu Xi's eyes were filled with worry.

An alarm was also set off in Jian Yujie's mind. He stared vigilantly at Zhai Yunsheng.

If he dared to take a step forward, he was ready to fight him!

Yu Xi was about to try and prevent the situation from escalating. However, Jian Yiling responded in a calm and clear voice:

"Avoid fatty and high cholesterol foods. Spicy, high protein and raw foods should also be avoided."

When she spoke, Jian Yiling turned her head and looked at him. She had a serious expression on her face. She didn't appear frightened at all.

Zhai Yunsheng's heart wasn't good. It didn't matter how healthy he seemed nor how emotionally strong he was. When it came down to it, his body was still weak.

Yu Xi hurriedly added, "Yiling, Master Sheng hates eating vegetables. You have to add a bit of meat or fish."

The Zhai family always had a headache when it came to this.

They wanted Zhai Yunsheng to have a light diet. However, he never listened to them. He couldn't be persuaded.

His family was worried that it was dangerous for him to eat foods that were high in calories and cholesterol. However, they were also worried that if he got angry, that'd be worse for his health.

After weighing up the pros and cons, they could only compromise. They attempted to minimize his intake of foods that were high in calories or cholesterol.

Jian Yiling continued to speak, "I'll grill you some mushrooms. They'll be delicious."

Some mushrooms tasted similar to meat. They were as delicious as seafood.

Jian Yiling raised her head and looked at Zhai Yunsheng. She was inquiring about his opinion on the matter.

He hadn't been forgotten. He had initially thought that he wasn't allowed to eat delicious food.

On the contrary, she had specially prepared food for him.

When they had gone out to purchase ingredients, Jian Yiling had specifically requested to go to a place to buy rare and uncommon mushrooms.

At that time, Yu Xi and Zhai Yunsheng had assumed that Jian Yiling had wanted to eat mushrooms.

"Okay, that's fine." Zhai Yunsheng replied.

He happily sat back on his chair. He couldn't hide the smile that spread on his lips.

Chapter 102: Courtyard Barbecue (3)

Wait what? Master Sheng compromised just like that?

Yu Xi felt that Master Sheng was incredibly easy-going today.

Jian Yujie snorted in dissatisfaction. However, he didn't say anything. He had heard that Master Sheng had poor health. As a result, it made sense for Yiling to prepare food that was just for him.

Everyone else just looked at the situation from where they were seated. They didn't say anything as it'd be awkward for them to interrupt.

Wen Nuan felt quite anxious when she saw Zhai Yunsheng talk to her daughter from time to time.

She looked at Grandma Jian for help.

However, Grandma Jian didn't appear to have any intention to discourage such an interaction.

She had already heard from Grandpa Jian that despite the fact that Master Sheng was hard to deal with, he had no unhealthy or bad habits.

It was known by everyone that the Zhai family had attempted in numerous ways to introduce women to him. However, he had rejected all of them.

And according to Grandpa Jian's evaluation, Master Sheng was fundamentally a good person. His character was similar to Jian Yiling.

Grandma Jian trusted Grandpa Jian's opinion on the matter.

Furthermore, what was wrong with the younger generation hanging out? There were so many people here. Nothing would happen. If she were to interfere, wouldn't that be a bit too unreasonable?

Grandma Jian wasn't an unreasonable person.

On the other hand, He Yan hurriedly asked the chef of the Old Jian Residence to start preparing food on another barbecue grill.

It would take forever for Jian Yiling to prepare food for the eleven of them. Furthermore, the food that she prepared wouldn't even be sufficient.

She planned to just let the children play around with their cooking.

Naturally, the chef could start preparing large amounts of food for the guests.

She had to make sure that a distinguished guest like Zhai Yunsheng was treated well. He must not think that the Jian family didn't know how to take care of their guests considerably.

After a while, Jian Yiling's scallops and lamb skewers were ready. Jian Yujie and Yu Xi were the first to taste Jian Yiling's cooking.

No spice had been added to the scallops. However, quite a bit of spice was added to the skewers.

Yu Xi didn't know when Jian Yiling had discovered that he was addicted to spicy food.

"Oh my, Yiling! It's so delicious!" Jian Yujie cried out with an expression of joy. He wasn't reserved in praising her.

Yu Xi muttered to himself. Even if Yiling fed you bitter medicine, you'd probably say it's sweet or something...

After that thought, Yu Xi bit down on a lamb skewer.

"Wow! How is this even? These lamb skewers are better than the ones I buy from restaurants!"

"Of course! Yiling made them for you! How can you compare the two?"

Jian Yujie replied to Yu Xi's statement. It was to be expected.

"No, like legit! I'm not lying. It's much better than the ones I eat outside!"

Yu Xi hadn't expected Jian Yiling's skewers to be so delicious.

However, it wasn't a surprise that Jian Yiling's skewers tasted better than the ones that were made in restaurants and roadside stalls.

First of all, the ingredients were different. They had bought the best meat. It was fresh and succulent. Most restaurants and roadside stalls wouldn't use such expensive and high-class ingredients in their skewers.

Furthermore, Jian Yiling had followed the texture of the meat when she sliced it. The seasoning had also been carefully prepared. When she cooked them, she had also been precise with her control of the fire and time.

After a moment, the prawns and corn were ready. After Jian Yiling placed them on separate plates, Jian Yujie brought the plates over to Grandma and Grandpa Jian.

Jian Yiling brought out an earthenware that she had prepared in the kitchen. She poured water onto the barbecue grill and then heated the earthenware.

It appeared as though she was planning to heat soup.

Then, Jian Yiling began roasting different types of mushrooms.

This type of mushroom could be roasted directly. She didn't have to brush oil on them. When they were almost ready, she sprinkled a little bit of salt on them. In that way, the natural flavor of the mushrooms could be preserved.

Chapter 103: Courtyard Barbecue (4)

She had skewered thinly sliced truffles and carefully selected beef together. Then, she roasted them on the barbecue grill.

Although Zhai Yunsheng couldn't eat too much greasy food, it was still okay to eat an appropriate amount of lean meat. It wasn't fair if he wasn't allowed to eat any.

Jian Yiling placed tin foil on the barbecue grill before placing sliced up morels and lobster balls on the foil. Then she added XO sauce¹, minced garlic, and other seasonings to the morels and lobster balls. Once she finished preparing the seasoning, she wrapped up the tin foil. The foil could help preserve the heat and fragrance.

After a while, she opened the foil and a wonderful fragrance floated out.

Before she finished cooking, she added kale in the dish as well.

When Jian Yiling had finished with all the preparation of food, she placed everything on a western-styled plate. The plate contained the roasted mushrooms, the truffle and meat skewers, and the morels with lobster balls.

Finally, she garnished the plate with a few cherry tomatoes.

The plate was overflowing with fragrance and appeared to look incredibly exquisite.

Yu Xi suddenly had a craving for the food on that plate. He felt that he didn't want to eat the lamb skewers in his hands anymore.

Zhai Yunsheng took the plate of food that Jian Yiling handed him. He slowly began to sample the food.

Both Yu Xi and Jian Yujie stared at the plate longingly. However, Zhai Yunsheng pretended not to see them.

As Jian Yiling was cooking the food, her phone kept ringing in her pocket.

At first, she didn't plan to answer. However, after a while, her phone rang again.

As a result, Jian Yiling had to temporarily stop what she was doing. She took out her phone to see who had been calling her.

She saw that people from the medical institution had been contacting her. They had sent her a few messages already. As she hadn't replied, the other party started to call her.

It appeared as though they seemed quite anxious.

Jian Yiling sent a single character as a response: [?]

[Oh my god, you finally replied!]

[?]

[I contacted you because of an urgent matter. Do you remember the case I sent you a while ago? Mr. Qiu from the field of medical science just contacted our deputy. They sincerely want us to accept the case. If you were to accept and succeed in completing this operation, it will greatly help your reputation in the industry in the future.]

Mr. Qiu was a renowned figure in the field of medical science. Whilst he specialized in treating tumors, he still held a position of great status and could influence the entire medical industry.

[No, we wait.]

[Mr. Qiu hopes that you give the correct response. This is because the earlier the surgery is done, the better the effect will be.]

The person of contact relayed the information to Jian Yiling.

[No rush. Otherwise, I won't accept it.]

When it came to matters regarding work, Jian Yiling had her own judgment and way of handling things.

Her decision wasn't going to be influenced by anyone else.

Once Jian Yiling replied to the message, she placed her phone back into her pocket. She went back to the grill to continue roasting things.

Within two minutes, Grandpa Jian's phone rang.

Not many people knew of Grandpa Jian's phone number. The person who usually contacted him was his assistant.

Other than his family, there were not many people who could directly call Grandpa Jian's phone.

When his phone rang, Grandma Jian, Jian Shuxing, Wen Nuan, and even Jian Yunnao turned around to look at him anxiously.

Grandpa Jian accepted the phone call. On the other end, there was the voice of an old man:

"I'm so sorry Grandpa Jian. I didn't manage to convince the other party."

When Grandpa Jian heard this, he went silent for a moment.

Mr. Qiu was rather well known in the medical industry.

So many people wanted to be his student. Even if they didn't specialize in the tumor section, most people would have heard of his name.

Due to that, a normal person would have agreed to his request.

He hadn't expected the other party to reject Mr. Qiu's request.

Chapter 104: Courtyard Barbecue (5)

The old man on the other side of the phone continued to speak: "The other party's attitude was set. They asked us to wait for a response and refused to let us know the answer right away."

When he spoke about this, the old man's voice was full of regret.

"I understand. Sorry for troubling you."

"It's fine. Grandpa Jian, you don't need to be so polite. I didn't manage to help you with anything. I think it's best for you to continue communicating with the other party."

"I understand."

After responding, Grandpa Jian hung up the phone.

The rest of them could guess what had just happened from Grandpa Jian's tone. They knew that things hadn't turned out well.

Jian Yunnao's head drooped down. It was evident that he was very disappointed.

No one cared more about this operation than him.

He wanted this operation to be successful.

However, once again, he received disappointing news.

Jian Shuxing attempted to comfort his son, "It's okay. This isn't bad news. It's the same as before. They just asked us to wait."

The other party hadn't rejected them. Therefore, it wasn't bad news.

However, all of them wished that the other party could give them a clearer and more definite answer.

"It's fine."

Jian Yunnao continued to lower his head and play with his phone. He pretended as though he didn't care about what had just happened.

He was already half disabled. Could it become worse?

When Jian Shuxing and Wen Nuan saw their son like that, they felt incredibly upset.

Upon seeing the situation, He Yan quickly asked the chef to serve them some food. She tried to relieve the atmosphere.

"Come, come. Let's eat. This is Australian lobster. The meat is incredibly tender."

The ingredients that He Yan selected were of top-notch quality. In the short period of time that she had, she bought the best and most expensive ingredients.

Some of the ingredients in that list included Australian lobster, wagyu beef, caviar, and king crab.

However, Grandma Jian didn't appreciate He Yan doing such a thing. She didn't like the fact that He Yan tried to pile expensive ingredients in front of them.

Grandma Jian believed that it was okay if the food wasn't expensive. When it came down to it, money couldn't buy good hospitality. It was more important to treat people kindly.

However, Grandma Jian didn't mention this to He Yan. This was merely her preference. As a mother-in-law, she would respect He Yan's habits.

To ease the atmosphere, everyone started to eat.

He Yan requested one of the servants to bring a platter of food over to Zhai Yunsheng.

Around the same time, Jian Yujie brought over a tray that had multiple bowls of soup.

It was the vegetable soup that Jian Yiling had simmered in the earthenware over the charcoal fire. She had added matsutake and fresh bamboo shoots to the kale soup.

The soup appeared delicious and light. It was perfect to drink whilst eating skewers and greasy foods.

Jian Yujie placed a bowl in front of everyone before he returned to Jian Yiling.

He felt that if he didn't return quickly, someone would take his spot.

Grandpa and Grandma Jian happily tasted the soup that was prepared by their granddaughter.

Jian Shuxing and Wen Nuan also picked up their bowls of soup. However, they merely held it in their hands. Their hearts were navigating through complicated feelings.

Jian Yuncheng's eyes had softened. He picked up a spoon to taste the soup.

When Jian Yunnao looked at the soup in front of him, he froze for a moment. In the next moment, he suddenly knocked over the bowl with his left hand.

The bowl toppled sideways and the soup splashed onto the table. Some of the soup spilled on the ground.

At that moment, everyone went silent. The atmosphere became tense.

Everyone turned around to look at the overturned bowl beside Jian Yunnao. Their expressions were stiff.

Wen Nuan felt that someone had violently grabbed at her heart. She tightly gripped Jian Shuxing's hand.

Grandma Jian frowned. She could tell that Jian Yunnao had deliberately tipped over the bowl. As a matter of fact, everyone could tell.

He was telling everyone that it was impossible for him to forgive Jian Yiling. He would not eat something that Jian Yiling had prepared.

Chapter 105: Sweater was Knitted by Yiling (1)

Jian Yujie was furious. He was about to argue with Jian Yunnao.

However, just as he got up, a small hand grabbed at his arm. She firmly held the corner of his clothes.

Jian Yujie turned his head to look at Jian Yiling.

Jian Yiling looked back at him and shook her head, "It's okay."

If Jian Yujie were to argue with Jian Yunnao, that would make the situation awkward for the rest of them. Everyone would be upset and nothing good would come out of the situation.

"But..."

Jian Yujie was unbearably angry. Jian Yunnao had obviously done it on purpose!

"Don't fight." Jian Yiling said in a quiet voice. She had a firm expression on her face.

Jian Yujie furrowed his brows as he struggled with internal conflict.

However, finally, he gave up. He would let go of the situation.

Jian Yuncheng suddenly turned around to ask Grandma Jian:

“Grandma, did Yiling spend a lot of time knitting this sweater?”

Grandma Jian paused for a moment before she replied, “As long as you like it, it’s okay.”

Grandma Jian didn’t want to emphasize the fact that Jian Yiling had spent a lot of time and effort on the sweater.

She didn’t understand why Jian Yuncheng had asked her such a question all of a sudden.

For this reason, she continued to look at Jian Yuncheng whilst waiting for a reply.

At this moment, Jian Yunnao looked up at Jian Yuncheng in surprise:

“What are you talking about? Shiyun gave you the sweater. She knitted it herself!”

When Grandma Jian heard this, she frowned before replying: “Yiling knitted the sweater. I saw her knit it. How could it possibly be made by someone else?”

“No way. Shiyun gave him the gift. I was there when he received it. I saw the situation with my own eyes!” Jian Yunnao cried out with confidence.

Then he turned around to look at his parents, “Mother, Father. You were there as well! Tell grandma that the sweater was a gift from Shiyun!”

When faced with Jian Yunnao’s questions, Jian Shuxing and Wennuan both frowned.

With a deep voice and a heavy heart, Jian Shuxing replied, “Yunnao, we’ve confirmed the situation. The sweater was knitted by Yiling.

Before today, Jian Yuncheng had discussed the matter with Jian Shuxing. They planned to tell Jian Yunnao about the situation.

Regardless of the final result of the investigation, the girl named Mo Shiyun had lied.

As they were his parents and elder brother, they had the responsibility to let Jian Yunnao know the truth. The fact that his trusted friend had deceived him.

However, Jian Yunnao didn’t believe their words. “Are you telling me this because you want me to get along with her? You know you don’t need to find a ridiculous excuse like this right?! There is no need to slander Mo Shiyun’s name!”

Jian Yunnao’s voice was filled with anger.

His anger and tone surprised his parents. Tears began to brim in Wen Nuan’s eyes. It hurt that her own son questioned her like this. It was almost as if her heart had been cut by a knife.

“You bastard!”

Grandpa Jian slammed the desk with his hand. His voice shocked everyone there.

Even He Yan's heart skipped a beat when she heard Grandpa Jian yell. She had been intently watching the scene unfold in front of her.

Even after so many years, she was still scared of Grandpa Jian. Grandpa Jian was not someone to be reckoned with when he was angry.

Jian Yunnao was also stunned. He could only blankly look at his grandpa.

"I understand why you don't believe your sister. Sometimes she has a bad temper and can get angry over small things. However, now, you don't even believe what your older brother says? The words that your parents and grandma tell you? Do you even think of us as your elders? Who are we to you?!"

Grandpa Jian's voice was strong and powerful. People trembled in fear under his glare.

"No... I..." Jian Yunnao stammered. He had gotten intimidated by Grandpa Jian.

Chapter 106: Sweater was Knitted by Yiling (2)

"I know that we've been biased towards your sister ever since both of you were young. When it came to choosing gifts, we've always let her pick first as well. However, when it came down to the big issues, have we ever wronged you?!"

Grandpa Jian reprimanded Jian Yunnao in front of the entire family. However, none of the other members dared to speak out.

No one had thought that Grandpa Jian would lose his temper over this matter.

As the head of the Jian family, he allowed his children and grandchildren to fool around to a certain extent. Mistakes were fine as well.

However, Grandpa Jian had principles that he stuck to. He wouldn't tolerate anyone who failed to abide by them.

The most important thing that allowed the Jian family to flourish over the years was harmony within the family.

Jian Yunnao's attitude failed to abide by Grandpa Jian's principles.

Jian Yunnao was in complete shock. He froze in his tracks.

Grandma Jian saw that it was about time to wrap things up. She didn't want matters to escalate. "All right, all right. Grandpa Jian, Yunnao was just a bit confused. Just talk to him and he'll understand. There is no need to be so angry. You need to watch your high blood pressure."

The only one who dared to speak up at a time like this was Grandma Jian.

Then, Grandma Jian turned around to speak to Jian Yunnao, "Yunnao, even if your grandpa's words are a bit harsh, they're still reasonable. Look at Yujie's clothes. Aren't they the same as Yuncheng's? How can

they be so similar if your friend gave it to him? And even if your friend did give Yuncheng the sweater, why would she give one to Yujie? If you don't believe me, why don't you ask Yujie?"

Jian Yunnao was still stunned.

He had his doubts this morning when he saw Jian Yujie's sweater.

Now that Grandma Jian mentioned it, he seemed to realize a fact.

Jian Yunnao turned around to look at his parents and brother.

Suddenly, he realized that his attitude towards them had been incredibly bad.

He hated Jian Yiling and not them. He shouldn't have directed his anger to someone else.

Jian Yunnao awkwardly turned his head away.

Wen Nuan said to him softly, "It's okay. Mummy understands that you've been in a bad mood lately. I don't blame you for being mean to me. I just want you to understand our intentions."

Jian Yunnao nodded his head.

He couldn't express how he felt. However, either way, he had lost his appetite.

When Jian Shuxing and the rest of them saw Jian Yunnao accept their words, they became incredibly relieved.

Grandma Jian turned around and asked Grandpa Jian, "Old man, what else do you want to eat?"

Grandpa Jian used this opportunity to move on from the matter, "Bring me another bowl of soup."

Grandpa Jian's anger went as quickly as it came.

The atmosphere had finally become normal again.

Grandma Jian asked Jian Yuncheng, "Yuncheng, go get your grandfather another bowl of soup."

"Okay," Jian Yuncheng replied. He walked over to Jian Yiling.

When Yu Xi saw Jian Yuncheng come over, he said, "Wow, both the sweaters that Brother Yuncheng and Brother Yujie are wearing were made by Yiling? They look so soft and warm. The style is also quite slim. It shows off your figure."

When Jian Yujie heard this, he was delighted. "Of course, Yiling knitted it."

No one else in the family had a sweater knitted by Jian Yiling. The only people that had one were Jian Yuncheng and him.

Furthermore, Yuncheng had only gotten one because it was his birthday.

Yu Xi smiled and said to Jian Yiling, "Yiling, when you have time, please knit one for me and Master Sheng as well."

He mainly said that because of the smug look that Yujie had on his face. Yu Xi wanted to make fun of him.

"I think that's a good idea," Zhai Yunsheng added. He had been sampling his food.

They had assumed that he had been focusing on eating. However, it turned out that he had heard everything that had just happened.

"No." Before Jian Yiling could reply, Jian Yujie refused for her. "Did you not hear what Grandma Jian just said? It takes a lot of effort for my sister to knit a sweater. If you want one, go buy one!"

Then, he turned around to speak to Jian Yiling, "Yiling, don't listen to Yu Xi. He's just joking around. He doesn't need a sweater!"

"What do you mean? Joking?" All of a sudden, Yu Xi felt that he had been accused.

However, Jian Yujie completely ignored him.

After Jian Yuncheng picked a bowl of soup up, he told Jian Yiling that, "The soup is delicious."

"Mhmm," Jian Yiling replied. Her eyes were focused on the barbecue grill. She didn't even look up.

Chapter 107: Confrontation (1)

In the evening, Jian Shuxing and the others left the Old Jian Residence.

Upon returning home, Jian Yunnao immediately went to find Mo Shiyun.

He wanted to find her and ask her why she did such a thing! Why did she lie to him?!

Mo Shiyun spent the weekends in her room. During that time, she always studied and never left home.

She had to work twice as hard to get into a good university for her college entrance exams.

When she was studying, she received a call from Jian Yunnao.

Mo Shiyun had a bad feeling when she read that Jian Yunnao asked her to meet him. He said that he needed to ask her about something.

Mo Shiyun's knuckles turned white as she squeezed her phone.

In her heart, she warned herself: If it's regarding Yuncheng's gift, she had to answer according to the original plan. She must not make a blunder. This was related to her mother's job! She couldn't destroy her mother's only hope!

After making up her mind, Mo Shiyun went outside.

She saw Jian Yunnao rushing towards her. His eyes had obvious anger in them.

At that moment, Mo Shiyun was sure that Jian Yunnao knew about the situation. She started to feel a little nervous. Her palms were slightly sweating.

"My brother's gift. Was it from you or not?" Jian Yunnao asked. He got straight to the point.

"What's wrong?" Mo Shiyun replied. Her voice was soft and sounded surprised.

"I'm asking if my brother's gift was from you! I want you to answer me honestly!"

"It was from me... I left it at the door the other day..."

"You're still lying to me?" Jian Yunnao said as he gritted his teeth. "I found out the person who gave the gift! I don't understand why you're lying to me!"

Jian Yunnao felt ridiculous. The people he was close to and cared about were betraying him, one by one!

First, it was Jian Yiling. Now it was Mo Shiyun!

"I didn't..." Mo Shiyun replied. Her voice trembled as she squeezed her hands.

"You're still saying you didn't do it?"

Mo Shiyun said, "No. Could it be... Could it be a mistake? I don't need to lie about a gift... If it wasn't from me, then I wouldn't say it was. That type of lie is so stupid..."

Mo Shiyun continued to explain to Jian Yunnao, "As soon as the person who gave the gift showed up, they would figure out that I lied. There's no reason for me to tell a lie like that."

Aunt Mo and Mo Shiyun hadn't intentionally told this lie. It was too easily debunked. It was similar to lifting a stone and dropping it on your own foot.

When Jian Yunnao looked at Mo Shiyun's pair of moist eyes, he hesitated again. Half of his confidence had disappeared.

Indeed, such a lie would be quite ridiculous.

Mo Shiyun continued to speak, "A gift is a token of appreciation. It's not about whether it is expensive or not. I really have no reason to do such a thing."

"Then why was the gift that my brother received from someone else? Where was your gift?"

"This... I don't know. I left the paper bag at the door. When I saw Aunt An bring the bag in, I really thought that it was mine..."

Mo Shiyun was incredibly nervous as she spoke. Her palms were sweating a lot.

She wasn't good at lying. However, this time she had to lie. It was for the sake of her mother. She had to deal with this matter.

Jian Yunnao frowned. Mo Shiyun's explanation made sense. However, his parents and brother didn't need to lie to him either.

Chapter 108: Confrontation (2)

"Let's go to the door." Jian Yunnao suggested this after thinking for a while.

"Okay," Mo Shiyun replied.

They both headed to the door.

“Where did you put your gift?” Jian Yunnao asked Mo Shiyun.

“Here,” Mo Shiyun said. She pointed to the spot by the door and continued speaking, “I didn’t know that I was going to have dinner with you guys that day... That’s why I left the gift by the door. I assumed that someone would bring the bag in if they saw it.”

If Mo Shiyun had placed the bag there, someone would have seen it and brought it in.

Jian Yunnao looked around the door. He found a paper bag in the bushes not far away from the door.

The bag was wet from dew and it had been crumpled.

It was obvious that the bag had been in this place for several days. It had been exposed to the wind and the sun.

When Jian Yunnao opened the bag, he found a black sweater and a black scarf that had embroidery on them.

“Was this the gift that you prepared?” Jian Yunnao asked.

Mo Shiyun stepped forward. She felt guilty when she looked at the sweater and the scarf. However, she nodded.

Her heart was beating incredibly fast. This was the first time that she had ever told such a lie. It made her feel incredibly uneasy and worried.

She kept telling herself that it was okay. As long as she dealt with this matter, her mother could keep her job.

Jian Yunnao held the bag in his hand. There was a frown on his face.

So Mo Shiyun hadn’t lied to him. She indeed prepared a gift for Yuncheng.

However, for some reason, the gift that she had prepared had gotten thrown into the bush. And it just happened that Yuncheng received a gift that was the exact same.

Could things be such a coincidence?

When Jian Yunnao was contemplating the situation, Jian Yuncheng walked over.

“What’s wrong?” Jian Yuncheng asked.

Jian Yuncheng’s gaze shifted to the crumpled bag in Jian Yunnao’s hand. The paper bag had a black handmade sweater in it. The style of the sweater was different.

Then, he took a look at Mo Shiyun.

“Brother, Mo Shiyun wasn’t lying. Look at this. This was the birthday gift that she prepared for you. But I don’t know why it was thrown in the bush.”

Jian Yunnao attempted to explain the situation to his brother. He handed the paper bag over so Jian Yuncheng could examine it.

“Oh? Is that so?” Jian Yuncheng replied. He turned his face to look at Mo Shiyun’s expression.

Mo Shiyun met Yuncheng's gaze. She desperately tried to suppress her nervousness. She needed to act as calm as possible.

"I'm sorry, Young Master Yuncheng. I didn't know that the paper bag wasn't mine. I didn't look at it carefully. When I saw Aunt An bring a paper bag in, I assumed it was mine."

Mo Shiyun apologized for the situation. She confessed her mistake with a sincere attitude.

Jian Yunnao also spoke up for Mo Shiyun, "Brother, it's not Shiyun's fault. I don't why someone would throw away a gift that someone else left at the door."

"Well, that's unfortunate."

Jian Yuncheng merely commented on the situation before he went back to his study.

When Mo Shiyun watched Jian Yuncheng leave, she felt incredibly uneasy.

She didn't know why she felt uneasy. However, the way Jian Yuncheng had said 'unfortunate' made her feel that he was suspecting something.

However, Jian Yunnao apologized to Mo Shiyun. "I'm so sorry. I wasn't clear about the situation. Did I scare you?"

Mo Shiyun shook her head, "It's not your fault. It's just a misunderstanding. It's clarified now."

"Well, thank you for not blaming me."

Mo Shiyun was as understanding and empathetic as ever.

Chapter 109: They Must Pay the Price

Once Jian Yuncheng went back upstairs, he sat down in front of his computer. After opening his computer, he looked for the security camera footage in front of his house.

Whilst he was unable to find the surveillance footage for Heyunshan Resort, he still had control over the footage in his own house.

Jian Yuncheng opened the footage for the day before his birthday. That was the day that Jian Yiling had come over to give him a gift.

After watching the footage several times, he found Mo Shiyun's figure in the footage. However, she appeared in the footage on the next night.

She had deliberately hidden from the surveillance cameras.

Mo Shiyun knew that there was surveillance at the entrance of the Jian Residence. As a result, she picked a spot where she thought that the cameras couldn't capture her.

However, she didn't know there were two types of surveillance cameras at the Jian Residence: the ones that were directly visible, and the ones that were hidden.

The ones that were clearly visible could be easily tampered with.

As a result, Jian Yuncheng had installed hidden cameras throughout the house.

He worked in the Internet industry. As a result, he was more concerned with security than an average person.

However, he didn't expect that he needed to use the cameras for someone who lived in their household. Usually, surveillance cameras were meant to prevent intruders.

As expected, Jian Yuncheng found a video clip of Mo Shiyun throwing a paper bag away.

All of a sudden, Jian Yuncheng's eyes became cold.

Then, he pulled up another audio file.

It was a recording of the conversation that Jian Yunnao just had with Mo Shiyun.

As he knew that Aunt Mo had been secretly instilling certain thoughts into Jian Yunnao's mind, he had installed a covert listening device on Jian Yunnao's phone. He had to make sure that Aunt Mo wasn't affecting the peace of their family.

Jian Yuncheng had heard Jian Yunnao and Mo Shiyun's entire conversation.

As he walked towards the two of them, he had listened to their entire conversation via earphones.

He couldn't help but laugh after he compared the audio to the video.

Then, Jian Yuncheng made a call. Once the call went through he said,

"I need you to find someone for me."

"Oh my god, Young Master Yuncheng, why are you always looking for someone lately?"

"You don't want to help me?"

"No, no. Just tell me who you're looking for. As long as he's on the records and not hiding his whereabouts, I'll definitely find him!"

"Our servant Aunt Mo's ex-husband."

Mo Huiqin's ex-husband was He Jianjun. He was a man who spent his days gambling and drinking.

"Huh? Young Master Yuncheng, what's wrong with your servant? Why is she worth your time investigating?"

The person on the other end of the line was quite curious.

"Aunt Mo and her daughter did a few things that ruined the peace and relations in our family. They must pay the price."

They had claimed Yiling's gift as theirs. At that point, Jian Yuncheng wasn't sure of whether or not these two had more sinister intentions.

However, the series of actions today had been planned.

As such, there was no need for him to be kind to them anymore.

"I understand. I'll find him for you as soon as possible. However, Young Master Cheng, why don't you fire the servant right away? Shouldn't you make sure that she doesn't cause any more trouble?"

"I want to give them the chance to perform."

As Jian Yuncheng said this, the man on the other end of the line trembled.

Ahh... So Young Master Yuncheng planned to torment people again.

He was a difficult person to deal with!

Once Jian Yuncheng hung up the phone, he called Aunt An over and explained some things to her.

Aunt An immediately understood what Jian Yuncheng was saying. She replied, "I understand Young Master Yuncheng. I know what to do."

Chapter 110: Second Brother Jian Yunmo's Phone Call

After Jian Yuncheng finished talking to Aunt An, his phone rang. This time, it was an international call.

When Jian Yuncheng answered the call, the person on the other side asked:

"Brother, how is Yiling doing?"

It was a young man's voice. His voice was clear and sleek.

"Every time you call, the first thing you ask about is your sister. Why don't you just call her instead?" Jian Yuncheng replied rhetorically.

The young man on the other end of the line was his second brother, Jian Yunmo.

As he was studying abroad, he hadn't heard about the matters that were going on at home.

Even if he knew, he couldn't do anything about it. It would be better for him to just focus on studying.

Unlike Jian Yuncheng's cold and stern personality, Jian Yunmo doted on his younger siblings much more. He cared about Jian Yiling the most. As long as she wanted something, he would give it to her.

For a long time, Jian Yuncheng had always played the bad cop and Jian Yunmo had played the good cop.

When Yiling was younger, she would hug her second brother's legs whilst saying that her eldest brother was a bad guy.

She was confident that her second brother would back her up. She knew Jian Yuncheng couldn't do anything about her as long as Jian Yunmo was there.

The other end of the line was silent for a moment. Then he said:

"Brother, I can't come back for Christmas. I bought some gifts for Yiling and the rest of you. I'm going to send them ahead of time because international delivery is quite unreliable. When you receive the gifts, hold onto them for me. When Christmas comes by, please give it to Yiling."

"I think the main point here is you buying a gift for Yiling. Buying gifts for the rest of us were probably done in passing." Jian Yuncheng said. He completely exposed his younger brother.

"Ahem, ahem. Brother, please don't accuse me like this. I prepared your gifts with great care as well."

"Okay, I'll pretend that you have then." Jian Yuncheng replied. He didn't want to tease his brother too much.

Jian Yunmo asked Jian Yuncheng, "Is everything okay at home? When I called Mom a couple of days ago, she seemed to be in low spirits."

"It's fine. She's been feeling a little sick lately. However, it's something small. You don't need to worry about it."

"That's good. How are Yiling's studies? Does she have trouble with anything? I haven't seen her post anything on Wechat recently."

"She..." Jian Yuncheng paused for a moment, "You should ask her yourself. She'll be happy if you talk to her."

"Ah... I... I rather not." Jian Yunmo replied.

"Suit yourself. Just take care of yourself. Don't worry about us. I'm here to take care of everyone else."

"Brother, you should also take care of your own body. Don't stay up late every day. You always have a pale face. If you keep staying up late, you may eventually look more ten years older than me!"

Jian Yunmo was only three years younger than Jian Yuncheng.

"Nah. Just make sure that you don't look older than me."

After Jian Yuncheng said that, he hung up the phone. He didn't give his second brother a chance to retort.

After chatting with his second brother, Jian Yuncheng walked out of his study. He walked into his father's study and called his mother and Jian Yunnao over as well.

"Yuncheng, what's the matter?" Wen Nuan asked in confusion.

"There's something I need to tell you. Mother and father, please sit down and listen."

After he said that to Wen Nuan, he turned around and looked at Jian Yunnao.

"Brother, what's the matter?" Upon seeing the way his brother looked at him, Jian Yunnao felt that something was wrong.

"Why don't you talk about what you think about today's incident?" Jian Yuncheng asked Jian Yunnao. He wanted his younger brother to speak first.