

Sidekick 141

Chapter 141: Yiling's Friends (3)

How was Jian Yiling so fortunate?

Jian Yunnao's eyes fell on Jian Yiling's body.

This was the first time since the incident that he had looked at her carefully for a long period of time...

At this moment, his emotions were in a mess. He didn't understand how he felt.

Jian Shuxing, Wen Nuan, and Jian Yuncheng stared at Jian Yiling in a similar way. It appeared as though they had something to say, however, they didn't know what to say.

It was comforting to know that their daughter/sister had friends to come and visit her whilst she was sick.

However, her friends were quite 'special'. They were also closely related to the matter that the family cared about the most recently. As a result, none of them could feel relaxed in this situation.

Grandma Jian also had the same feelings. Although she appeared to look calm, she was also surprised and relieved at the same time.

It seemed as though the problem that she had been worried about all this time had been solved. Furthermore, it appeared as though she had made the right decision to let her darling play more games.

However, Jian Yumin's attention was entirely on the person who had answered the question. And that was Cheng Yi.

He wondered whether or not Cheng Yi was actually a gentleman. He wasn't ready to be deceived by appearances.

During his time in the entertainment industry, he had seen people who appeared civil and well-mannered on the outside. However, when he had gotten to know them more, they were worse than animals.

Although there were only a few people that were like this, it was still proof that these people existed.

Hong Baizhang was confused and also quite surprised: "For real? You mean Dr. F.S who has been in the limelight at your institution recently?"

Hong Baizhang had heard of this person before. Dr. F.S had published many groundbreaking research reports and academic articles recently.

Professor Xu never typically posted things on his newsfeed. However, he had posted several screenshots of passages in the reports. Accompanied by those screenshots, Professor Xu had also expressed his own thoughts and opinions on the research. It was as though he regretted not meeting Dr. F.S earlier.

Hong Baizhang wanted to laugh at such an action. However, at the same time, he still was incredibly impressed and envious of Professor Xu.

“Yeah, that’s right.” Cheng Yi said. Whenever he spoke, he always had a shallow yet warm smile on his face.

After they received confirmation, the expression on everyone’s faces became even more complicated. The feelings and thoughts that were running through their hearts and minds could not be summarized by a single word.

Jian Yunnao felt that his heart was being roasted on top of a barbecue.

Jian Yiling knew the mysterious surgeon.

Then, what would she do?

For a moment, Jian Yunnao wanted to ask Jian Yiling. He wanted to know what she would do...

However, he suddenly remembered their stiff and awkward relationship.

During this period of time, they had so many conflicts and arguments...

All of a sudden, Jian Yunnao felt a trace of bitterness in his throat. He could only swallow back the words that had just reached his lips.

If he were to ask Jian Yiling, he might receive a response that was the opposite of what he wanted.

It was even possible that his words might annoy Jian Yiling.

And that would be the last thing that he wanted to happen right now.

The anxiety and bitterness were written on Jian Yunnao’s face. However, not only did the Jian family see his expression, Cheng Yi and Luo Xiuen also saw it.

The only person who didn’t understand what was happening was Hong Baizhang. His mind was still full of thoughts regarding Dr. F.S.

“Did you meet Dr. F.S whilst playing a game?” Hong Baizhang asked.

“Pretty much.” Cheng Yi responded. He made a habitual motion of pushing up his glasses.

Hong Baizhang continued to fire away questions: “What game is it? I want to play as well!”

Hong Baizhang was already in his fifties. However, all of a sudden, he wanted to download the game that they had all been playing.

“Dr. Cheng, why don’t you invite me to play that game later?”

Maybe he’d end up becoming friends with these big shots as well.

Chapter 142: At Most I Lose a Fan

Luo Xiuen immediately interrupted Hong Baizhang with a look of disgust on her face, “You? Play a game? First of all, why don’t you get out of this room? There are too many people here. The air isn’t even going to be fresh. Are you even planning to let the patient rest?”

There were eight or nine people who stood in the hospital room. All of them had been chattering incessantly. How can someone rest in an environment like this?

Luo Xiuen began to drive people out of the room. The first person to be driven out was Hong Baizhang.

Grandma Jian also spoke out, "I agree. We can talk about these matters later. For now, my darling needs rest."

Then Grandma Jian turned around to speak to Jian Yunnao who had been standing at the entrance of the room: "Please remember that she is your sister. Even if you break a bone, it's connected to your muscle. Sometimes, you need to think positively. You shouldn't waste time and go on a wild goose chase. What's the point in that? You're only giving bad people the opportunity to lie to you."

Although Grandma Jian didn't clearly mention what she was talking about, everyone who knew what had happened could understand the implication of her words.

Jian Yunnao had already thought badly of Jian Yiling once. It shouldn't happen the second time.

Grandma Jian hoped that Jian Yunnao would learn to trust his sister again. She wanted him to let go of those bad thoughts that were in his heart.

Jian Shuxing bent over and said softly to Jian Yiling, "Yiling, your brother and I will go home first. We will come back to see you again in the evening. We've contacted your school to tell them that you are sick. Don't worry about it."

"Mhmm." Jian Yiling replied softly.

The sound of her voice inflicted pain through Jian Shuxing's heart.

Although his daughter had responded to him in a nice way, he felt that there was a long-distance that had been created between them. He didn't know why this was the case.

After a long period of hesitation, Jian Shuxing left the room with his eldest son.

As everyone left Jian Yiling's ward, Jian Yumin turned around and asked the housekeeper, "Housekeeper, when you go back later, could you bring me a change of clothes?"

Until now, he didn't have the opportunity to change his clothes.

To be on the safe side, Jian Yiling would remain hospitalized for tonight.

Jian Yumin had planned to stay with her for the night.

For the next two days, he hadn't been given any arrangements by his manager. He knew that he had a rehearsal later at night with his group, however, he wouldn't be able to attend that.

As soon as Jian Yumin spoke, Luo Xiuen suddenly squinted her eyes.

The voice sounded so familiar!

She recognized this voice. There was only one person with such a magnetic voice!

Luo Xiuen turned around to look for the person speaking.

Her eyes met a man who had unkempt hair. He was also wearing pajamas and slippers.

This man...

He was a little sloppy with the way was he dressed.

However...

“You... You... Why do you look like Xie Minyu so much?”

Luo Xiuen’s voice was a bit loud. Her eyes stared at Jian Yumin.

Xie Minyu was Jian Yumin’s stage name. The reason for using a stage name was because He Yan had been strongly opposed to him entering the entertainment industry. As a result, he decided to use a stage name when he debuted. He wanted to clear his relationship with his family.

Xie had been Grandma Jian’s surname before she had gotten married.

Luo Xiuen continued to stare at Jian Yumin. The more she looked at him, the more resemblance she saw.

Even Cheng Yi recognized him. Although he wasn’t a fan of the boy band Jupiter, he had seen the merchandise that Luo Xiuen had on her work desk. Under Luo Xiuen’s influence, Cheng Yi could also recognize members of the band.

Jian Yumin raised his head and looked at Luo Xiuen. He saw the surprise in her eyes, however, he didn’t really care:

“Yeah, that’s me. What’s the problem?”

He knew that his image was quite sloppy right now. It wasn’t what he looked like on posters and videos.

However, did that matter?

At most, it was just losing a fan.

If his fans didn’t want to support him anymore, he couldn’t do anything about that. In the first place, he didn’t know how to sweet-talk or coax them anyways.

Chapter 143: Still Need to Take Care of My Reputation

“Oh my god! Is this actually Xie Minyu?! It’s Jupiter’s Xie Minyu!!!”

Luo Xiuen’s reaction was filled with excitement. She pulled Cheng Yi backward and put him into a chokehold.

“Cheng Yi! Hurry up and look! It’s Xie Minyu!!”

“Sister En, you should ask him for an autograph... That’s what someone typically does when they see their idol...” Cheng Yi said with a strained voice. It was difficult for him to breathe, let alone speak!

Instead of choking him, asking for an autograph was the usual course of action

“Oh right! I want an autograph! I want a picture together as well!”

Once Luo Xiuen realized what was happening, she reached for her pocket. However, there was no pen and paper in her pocket.

If she couldn't get an autograph, she would get a picture together. Luo Xiuen took her phone out in a hurry.

When Jian Yumin saw that Luo Xiuen wanted to take a picture with him, he dived into Jian Yiling's bed. He pulled the blankets up and buried himself under it.

It was okay to lose fans. However, he still had a reputation to keep!

He was an idol for goodness sakes!

Jian Yiling looked down to see the big ball in front of her.

She reached down to the blanket and made sure that it covered him completely.

Cheng Yi stroked his nose before he said, "Sister En, you successfully managed to scare away your idol."

At first, Luo Xiuen was in shock. After a while, she realized that something was strange. She turned around and asked:

"Yiling, do you know Xie Minyu?"

"Yeah," Jian Yiling replied.

At that moment, the voice of Jian Yumin came out from under the blanket:

"I'm her cousin."

Although his voice was quite muffled because of the blanket, it still sounded quite beautiful.

Xie Minyu was Jian Yiling's cousin?

"Wait... No way. Your surname is Xie. Whilst her surname is Jian!" Luo Xiuen's eyes lingered on the big ball under the blanket for a moment before her eyes went back to Jian Yiling.

"That's my stage name!"

Jian Yumin retorted from under the blanket.

It wasn't uncommon for idols to use stage names. In fact, it was more common for them to use stage names and not their real names.

"Oh right, idols often use stage names. Wait, so you're actually our darling's cousin?"

Her brain couldn't process the fact that Xie Minyu was Jian Yiling's cousin.

This fact made Luo Xiuen both surprised and excited. Typically, she would be swift and decisive with her responses. However this time, she reacted quite a few beats later.

"What do you mean your darling? She's our darling!"

Was it appropriate to say that Jian Yiling was their darling in front of her family? Absolutely not!

Cheng Yi coughed twice to break the tension in the atmosphere. "Ahem, Sister En, why don't we go out and let Yiling's cousin freshen himself up?"

He was an idol after all. They shouldn't be staring at him when he was in such a state. Ever since the morning, he hadn't yet had the time to wash his face and brush his teeth.

Fans should act like fans.

They shouldn't be sasaeng fans.

Luo Xiuen got dragged out of the room by Cheng Yi. Before she left, she chuckled another look at Jian Yiling's bedsheets. However, she couldn't see anyone through the blankets.

When the door was finally closed, Jian Yumin peeked out from the blankets.

Jian Yumin gave Jian Yiling a soft smile before he climbed out of the bed. He went to the bathroom to freshen himself up.

After Luo Xiuen left the room, she remained in her bubble of excitement. She was so happy that she met her idol!

"Cheng Yi, I saw Xie Minyu! The real person!"

"Sister En, I don't know what virtues Jupiter has done in their past lives. I'm surprised that they have captured the entirety of your feminine heart."

Luo Xiuen didn't have much of a feminine heart. Despite that, Jupiter had captured its entirety.

"Cheng Yi, is your skin itching? Are you waiting to get smacked?"

"No, no, no. I'm not. I swear I didn't have that intention. I'm just happy for you!"

Cheng Yi changed his remark instantly.

"Um... Dr. Cheng and Dr. Luo. Are you guys free now?"

Hong Baizhang, who was nearby, had suddenly spoken up. He intervened in their conversation.

Earlier, he hadn't left. Instead, he had been waiting for them in front of the room.

Chapter 144: Master Sheng's Visit (1)

Luo Xiuen turned her head around to look at Hong Baizhang before she said, "Old man Hong, I told you that we're not here to talk about work-related matters today."

"Oh, I understand. However, would it be possible for the two of you to give me an opinion on a few of the medical cases that I have?"

Hong Baizhang appeared as though he was pleading.

If he needed their help, he didn't plan to protect his self-esteem.

Cheng Yi paused for a moment before he replied, "Hm... I guess so. We're waiting for someone anyways. Let's go over and take a look."

Cheng Yi knew that Hong Baizhang had taken the effort to wait for them. Furthermore, if they were to wait in front of the ward, there was nothing for them to do anyway.

Luo Xiuen chuckled another yearning look at the ward before she walked off to Hong Baizhang's office.

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Not long after, Yu Xi and Zhai Yunsheng came to visit.

At that time, there was only Jian Yumin accompanying Jian Yiling inside the room. Wen Nuan had been called outside by Grandma Jian to have a talk.

As soon as Yu Xi entered the room, he saw Jian Yumin. He was laughing and cracking jokes with Jian Yiling.

At this time, Jian Yumin had groomed himself. His appearance was stunningly handsome.

Yu Xi stopped in his footsteps.

Wasn't this man a member of some idol group?

Off the top of his head, he couldn't remember the name of the man. However, he had an impression of the man's face.

He remembered reading an article about this man. The Internet had said that he had a stunning appearance, a good voice, and amazing dance skills.

Out of all the popular idols right now, he was quite highly rated.

God Ling, what was this situation?

His memory flashed back to that time that they had gone to find Ji Ming. Back then, God Ling had stared at that boy group for quite some while.

And now, the two of them seemed to be quite familiar. In fact, their behavior extended the scope of ordinary friends.

According to Yu Xi's understanding of Jian Yiling, Jian Yiling didn't like having physical contact with anyone. If anyone got too close to her, she would instinctively back off.

To be able to get into a 20 centimeters radius of Jian Yiling... What was their relationship?

Hm...

When Yu Xi stared at Jian Yiling and Jian Yumin, the two of them directed their attention to him.

After so many years, Yu Xi didn't recognize Jian Yumin. Similarly, Jian Yumin was unable to recognize Yu Xi.

Amongst all of the children of the Jian family, Jian Yumin spent the least time at the Old Jian Residence.

Due to his choice in career, he hadn't been back to Hengyuan City for quite some time. As a result, he hadn't seen Yu Xi for a long time.

After Yu Xi entered the room, Zhai Yunsheng walked in as well. When he saw the situation in the ward, he sneered, "Did I come in at a bad time?"

Yu Xi hurriedly smiled, "I didn't expect to see an idol in God Ling's ward."

After he said that, Yu Xi walked forward and placed a few gifts on the coffee table.

"Yiling, who are these two people?" Jian Yumin asked.

"Friends."

As soon as she spoke, Yu Xi and Zhai Yunsheng could tell that she was a lot weaker than usual.

"Oh, you're Yiling's friends? Are you here to visit her? Please take a seat."

Jian Yumin greeted Yu Xi and Zhai Yunsheng with a formulaic smile.

"Yiling, how's your health? I heard you have gastroenteritis?" Yu Xi asked. He was quite worried about Jian Yiling's condition.

"Yeah. That's why I can only feed her congee right now." Jian Yumin replied.

Feed her.

Hm... Those two words were quite interesting...

It appeared as though God Ling had quite an intimate relationship with this man.

Zhai Yunsheng took a few steps towards the sofa and sat down.

Jian Yumin took a look at Zhai Yunsheng. He gave off quite an arrogant impression. Furthermore, it appeared as though he wasn't easy to get along with.

Zhai Yunsheng took a look at Jian Yiling who was lying on the hospital bed before he said, "Last time, you didn't allow me to eat this and that. Now, it seems like it's your turn to not eat anything."

Chapter 145: Master Sheng's Visit (2)

The way Zhai Yunsheng spoke made it sound like he was making fun of Jian Yiling's pain and suffering.

Yu Xi thought to himself, was Master Sheng taking revenge for when Jian Yiling didn't let him eat meat? Was that the reason why he came to visit God Ling today?

"You still can't eat those foods right now," Jian Yiling replied.

"You can't stop me."

"You still can't eat those foods," Jian Yiling replied. Her tone was strong and determined. However, her voice was quite soft which made her sound unintimidating.

Being sick and not listening to the doctor's advice was no different from looking for death.

If Zhai Yunsheng's doctor saw what he did on a day to day basis, he may have died from excess anger.

In all honesty, in the original novel, Zhai Yunsheng had also been a headache to deal with. He never took his life seriously.

“You can’t even take care of yourself. Why are you thinking about taking care of me?”

Yu Xi listened by the side. He felt that Zhai Yunsheng’s attitude towards Jian Yiling was a bit different from usual.

“I’m not doing this on purpose. You are though.” Jian Yiling retorted with a low voice.

When Jian Yumin saw the way Zhai Yunsheng was speaking to his sister, he interrupted the conversation:

“Mister, my cousin told you to watch your own diet for your own good. If you don’t want to listen to her advice, then forget it. Just think of it as my sister worrying over nothing.”

Cousin?

Huh?

Yu Xi looked surprised: “Your cousin? Who are you? When did the Jian family have an idol?”

“Who are you again? Why does it sound like you’re familiar with our family?” Jian Yumin replied with another question. He took another look at Yu Xi.

“I’m Yu Xi. I live next door to them. I know almost everyone from the Jian family.”

“You’re Yu Xi?” Jian Yumin asked. His eyes darted around Yu Xi’s body as he scanned the man again.

Then, he carefully compared the image of the person in front of him with the one in his memories.

The man in front of him did seem like that little kid called ‘Yu Xi’.

“Who the hell are you?” Yu Xi asked again.

“Jian Yumin.”

After he confirmed that the person in front of him was Yu Xi, Jian Yumin confessed his identity.

“Oh! You’re the big brother of Jian Yujie!” Yu Xi remembered that name. How could he forget Jian Yujie’s brother?

“Ahhh that makes sense now. I didn’t think God- I mean Yiling... Ahh, it turns out that you are Yumin!”

Everything made sense now. It was normal to be fed porridge by her brother!

After they figured out who the other person was, Yu Xi and Jian Yumin got along much better.

“And who is he?” Jian Yumin asked. He squinted his eyes at Zhai Yunsheng.

This man was different from Yu Xi.

“He’s my friend. He’s staying over at my house right now. He’s a good friend of Yiling. He’s usually on good terms with her.”

Yu Xi didn't know how to introduce Zhai Yunsheng. He didn't feel like it was appropriate to say his identity out loud. Furthermore, he knew that Master Sheng disliked people being eagerly attentive to him.

Although Yu Xi explained the situation, Jian Yumin's vigilance towards Zhai Yunsheng was still not completely gone. However, his attitude was a little better than before.

Yu Xi smiled before saying, "Master Sheng, we're here to see Yiling today. She's still sick right now. There's no need to joke around with her like that."

Her brother was still watching.

When Yu Xi saw Jian Yumin's attitude towards Master Sheng, he knew that Yumin was about to treat him like a bad guy.

However, Yu Xi didn't know why Master Sheng's attitude towards God Ling was so different from usual.

"Okay," Zhai Yunsheng replied.

In his heart, Yu Xi chanted: Praise the lords.

Jian Yiling emphasized her previous point again, "Don't eat foods that are bad for you."

"Okay."

Zhai Yunsheng suddenly changed his attitude completely. He stopped fighting with Jian Yiling and agreed with whatever she said.

Immediately afterward, he leaned back against the sofa and his posture became lazy.

Chapter 146: Yujie's Visit

Once Cheng Yi and Luo Xiuen finished discussing the medical cases with Hong Baizhang, they returned to Jian Yiling's ward.

As soon as they entered the room, they realized that there were people in the room.

In terms of attractiveness, the man who was lounging lazily on the sofa did not lose to Jian Yumin.

However, Luo Xiuen's attention was fixated on Jian Yumin.

After Jian Yumin freshened and tidied himself up, he looked better than he did on posters.

Her idol was right in front of her! Luo Xiuen's face was filled with smiles. She couldn't help grinning from ear to ear.

"Sister En, seize the opportunity to take a picture together," Cheng Yi whispered. He had to remind her to take a photo before anything else happened to him.

Although Luo Xiuen was scary without a feminine heart, she was even scarier when she had one.

Her reaction was a beat slow as well.

"Oh right! A photo!"

Luo Xiuen rushed forward to take a photo with Jian Yumin. This time, Jian Yumin didn't refuse. Instead, he cooperated quite well with Luo Xiuen to get the photo taken.

When she got a photo with her idol, Luo Xiuen kept staring at the picture on her phone. She felt incredibly content.

"Oh my god. I got a photo with my idol! I got a photo with my idol!"

Luo Xiuen flaunted in front of Cheng Yi.

Cheng Yi's expression looked quite helpless. Thank goodness Luo Xiuen didn't go too crazy. If she was a little crazier, he was afraid that his heart could not withstand the onslaught.

###

After school, Jian Yujie came over to visit Jian Yiling as well.

He carried a lot of bags in his hands.

"Yiling, are you okay? Grandma told me that you had a fever. She also said that you developed gastroenteritis. Does your stomach still hurt?"

Jian Yiling shook her head, "No, it doesn't."

"You're lying. Grandma told me that you had a fever in the middle of the night. Furthermore, gastroenteritis definitely causes stomach pains! You didn't even tell anyone! Grandma only found out in the morning!"

The more Jian Yujie thought about it, the more upset he became.

However, as soon as he looked at Jian Yiling's face, he couldn't bear telling her off anymore.

"By the way, have you eaten yet? I bought you a lot of good food."

Half of what Jian Yujie held in his hand was food.

Plonk.

Jian Yumin, who was standing beside the bed, threw a chestnut at Jian Yujie's forehead.

"Are you dumb? Yiling has gastroenteritis. She can't eat most of what you bought. Why did you buy so much? Do you want to see her stomach hurt more?"

When Jian Yujie realized his wrongdoing, he pouted, "Brother, I know I bought the wrong thing... However, you don't have to hit me on the head right?"

"I'm just hitting a dummy."

"You're calling me a dummy? You live with Yiling. How come you didn't figure out earlier that she was sick? It's obvious that you're the dumber one here!"

Not to be outdone, Jian Yujie retorted to Jian Yumin's statement.

"You brat! Is your skin itching? Do you want to go out and fight?"

Jian Yumin was accustomed to fighting with his two younger brothers. Jian Yujie's buttocks had often gotten beaten by his two brothers.

"Yeah, I'd fight you! I'm seventeen now! I won't necessarily lose!"

Jian Yujie couldn't back off too easily. Jian Yiling was watching him!

When he was a kid, his buttocks had often gotten beaten by his brothers. However, now, he had finally grown up. Things weren't necessarily going to turn out the same way.

"Okay, let's see how much you've grown up," Jian Yumin responded. He started to roll up his sleeves.

It appeared as though the two brothers were actually going to fight each other.

Jian Yujie was just about to get up. However, he discovered that a small hand was holding onto his clothes.

"Don't fight," Jian Yiling said. Her voice was a little muted. However, her tone was quite certain. She also grabbed at his clothes quite tightly.

Jian Yiling didn't know that the two brothers were just joking around. She had assumed that they were actually going to fight it out. As a result, she grabbed onto Jian Yujie's clothes quite firmly.

Jian Yujie immediately said, "Since Yiling does not want us to fight, I'll let you go for now."

Chapter 147: Yumin Encourages Yujie

Despite saying such a thing, Jian Yujie was still a little scared of fighting Jian Yumin. As of now, he had zero wins against Jian Yumin.

"You're lucky. Next time, I'll beat you up." Jian Yumin still wanted to fight Jian Yujie.

After a while, Jian Yumin found an excuse to bring Jian Yujie outside for a talk.

The two of them talked as they walked through the hospital corridors.

"Did our mother not come along with you?" Jian Yumin asked Jian Yujie.

Jian Yumin initially assumed that he was going to meet his mother again. Every time the two of them met, they would start another argument.

"Nah, my mother just asked the chauffeur to drive me to the hospital after school."

He Yan didn't come. She didn't want to argue with Jian Yumin in front of Grandma Jian.

Reputation was quite important to He Yan. She didn't want to do anything that would put her on Grandma Jian's bad books.

Ever since she married into the Jian family, she had been fighting for her reputation and dignity. She constantly compared herself to the other two daughters-in-law.

Although she had problems and arguments with her sons, she didn't want to bring them up in front of Grandma Jian and the rest of the family.

"What about your ambitions of becoming a magician?" Jian Yumin asked. He knew that his little brother wanted to become a magician.

"Mother won't approve of it. I don't know what to do..."

Jian Yujie was at a loss when it came to this.

Jian Yumin patted Jian Yujie on the shoulder, "Don't think about it too much. If you really like it, then you should follow your dreams. After you graduate from high school, pick a university that is far away from home. Your second brother and I will give you financial support. You can do anything that you want. Don't worry about it too much."

"Mother said that there has to be someone in our family that inherits the company. That's why..."

Of course, Jian Yujie wanted to follow his dreams. However, he couldn't completely ignore his mother's thoughts. He didn't want to see her sad.

"Why are you guys worrying about inheriting a company so much? The Jian family isn't separated into small divisions. We stick together. Furthermore, our father and our uncle have been managing the company together. When the time comes, the company can be given to Yuncheng. We will just take some of the shares. He'll be technically working for us! We can share the profits without even doing much. Why do we have to manage the company anyways?"

Of course, Jian Yujie understood the logic behind Jian Yumin's words. Their father had told them that. However, their mother didn't agree with this.

Then, Jian Yumin patted Jian Yujie on the head, "Our mother has been like this for a long time. You can listen to her for other things, however, when it comes to your future, you should decide for yourself. If you force yourself to follow the path that she has planned for you, you will have a lifetime of pain."

"Thanks, brother."

The guidance and encouragement from Jian Yumin's words gave Jian Yujie quite a lot of courage.

"You dummy. Why are you saying thank you to your own brother? I'll be waiting for the day you perform on the stage. Remember to give me a ticket!"

"Yes!" Jian Yujie replied whilst nodding.

After they finished their conversation, they returned to Jian Yiling's ward. After talking for a little while longer, Jian Yujie left the hospital. He still had to attend school tomorrow. As a result, he couldn't stay for too long.

###

When Jian Yujie returned home, he briefly explained Jian Yiling's condition to He Yan.

Of course, He Yan didn't really care about Jian Yiling's health. She had asked him to make the trip because she didn't want Grandma Jian to think badly about her.

“Oh right. Yujie, there’s something wrong with my computer. Please check it out for me.”

When it came to technology, He Yan wasn’t as proficient as her son.

“Okay.” After Jian Yujie put down his things, he went straight to He Yan’s study.

After a long period of attempting various things, Jian Yujie gave up. He decided to reinstall the entire system for He Yan.

As it would take quite some time to reinstall the system, Jian Yujie got bored and started to play around with the music box that was on the desk beside the computer.

Chapter 148: Yujie Discovers the Surveillance Video (1)

This music box was quite special to his mother.

It had been here for several years. If he remembered correctly, it had been a gift from his dead grandfather. He had given it to He Yan before he had passed away.

Whilst playing with the music box, Jian Yujie opened a small compartment. A USB drive fell out of the music box.

Jian Yujie picked up the USB out of curiosity.

As Jian Yujie was quite curious about the contents of the USB, he inserted it onto another laptop next to him.

After opening the USB, he discovered that there was only a video inside.

However, Jian Yujie was shocked as soon as he saw the contents of the video.

The people that were in the video were Jian Yiling and Jian Yunnao!

They had been quarreling at the top of the stairs. Could it be...

The surveillance video soon came to the scene where Jian Yunnao had fallen down from the stairs.

From the video, Jian Yujie could clearly see that Jian Yunnao had fallen down the stairs by himself. Although Jian Yiling tried to pull him back up, she couldn’t grab onto him in time.

Jian Yujie was in way too much shock. He stared at the computer screen and didn’t know what to do.

“What are you doing?”

He Yan walked over to see what her son was doing. When she saw that Jian Yujie was watching the surveillance video she had hidden, she had rushed forward and unplugged the USB from the computer instantly.

“Who told you to touch my things?!”

He Yan yelled at Jian Yujie.

The reason why He Yan had kept the video was to blackmail Jian Yunnao on a later date.

The more that this incident ruined Jian Yiling now, the more guilt Jian Yunnao would feel when she eventually showed the surveillance video to him.

However, Jian Yujie had accidentally discovered the surveillance.

“Mother, this video can prove Yiling’s innocence! Give me the video! I’m going to show my uncle and everyone else in the family! I want them to know that Yiling is innocent!”

Jian Yujie’s expression was excited and anxious at the same time.

He Yan squeezed the USB in her hand. She willed herself to calm down.

“Yujie, I can’t hand you this video. Furthermore, I definitely will not be handing this video to your uncle.” He Yan said with a quiet voice. Her expression was stone cold.

“Why?”

“No reason. The matter has already been settled. Just pretend that you didn’t see this video.”

“But this video can prove Yiling’s innocence! How can I pretend I didn’t see it? Mother, what are you doing?!”

Jian Yujie didn’t understand the logic behind his mother’s actions.

“Why are you asking so many questions? Just listen to me!”

“No! Mother, I’m begging you! Please give me the video. I need to show it to everyone else!”

“Jian Yujie. I am your mother. Do you not understand the words I’m saying?”

“Yes. I don’t understand. I don’t understand why you would do such a thing. What good does this do for you...? Yiling has never harmed us in any way. Nor has her family! This video can help them! But instead, you’re hiding it. I really don’t understand...”

Jian Yujie started to yell as well. His eyes turned red as tears welled up in his eyes.

This was the first time that he had ever spoken to his mother in such a manner.

No matter how much he and his mother had disagreed about his future, they had never argued so fiercely before.

This was his mother. She was the one who had raised him. He had always respected her. Even though she was strict with him at times, he had never resented her.

However, now, she was doing something that he couldn’t understand. He couldn’t accept such a thing.

He Yan shouted back at him: “Yeah, their family hasn’t harmed us yet. However, how can you guarantee that they won’t in the future? Your grandparents are so biased towards Jian Yiling. You can see how much they love their granddaughter. Furthermore, they also adore Jian Yuncheng. In the future, everything the Jian family has right now will be theirs! There will be nothing remaining for us!”

Chapter 149: Yujie Discovers the Surveillance Video (2)

“Mother, I’ve talked to Yumin about this. It’s fine if we don’t manage the company. We can still get shares and earn profits off the dividends.”

Jian Yujie countered He Yan’s point of view. He tried to prove to her that things were not as bad as she thought.

“Don’t be so naive. Do you really think that we’ll still have a foothold in the Jian family if that were to happen?” He Yan wasn’t willing to listen to any of the things that Jian Yujie said.

“Mother, things are not that bad...”

“You think that I’m imagining things to be worse than they are?” He Yan began to laugh maniacally. Tears streamed down her face as she did so. She started to speak again:

“When I was eight years old, my father died at a construction site. However, the construction site refused to give us a single penny. My mother was watching the little money that we had dwindle away, day by day. We didn’t even know what the next month would be like. We were in danger of being evicted by the landlord.”

“Later, my mother married a divorced man. She had to bring me into her second marriage. Our days were a little better. However, whenever that man got drunk, he would hit us. Every day, I lived in fear. I was so cautious. I was so incredibly scared that I’d be beaten for doing something wrong. I didn’t want to end up on the streets.”

“I know that I didn’t come from a good family. As a result, I know that a lot of people still look down on me. Even after I married into the Jian family, I had to live and act cautiously. I was afraid of upsetting my in-laws. I was so scared of losing this family. And losing your father.”

“What am I doing all this for? I will tell you what I’m doing this for! I don’t want to feel like I’m constantly stepping on eggshells. I want to finally live for myself!”

He Yan cried out. Tears rapidly streamed down her face.

Jian Yujie stood there numbly. He didn’t know how to respond.

The sound of his mother crying felt like a sword stabbing him in the chest.

For the first time in his life, he felt as though he was going to break down.

He Yan continued to shout at Jian Yujie, “Go ahead! Show the video to your uncle! Wait for them to show it to Grandpa and Grandma Jian! And then watch them kick me out of the family!”

“They wouldn’t do that. They wouldn’t...” Jian Yujie replied. He shook his head vigorously to deny that such a thing would happen.

“Are you sure that they wouldn’t?”

Jian Yujie wasn’t sure.

Grandpa Jian’s biggest taboo was hurting family members and causing disharmony within the family.

And his mother’s actions had done exactly that.

“Mother, I won’t tell them I got the video from you. Mother, I’m begging you.” Jian Yujie held onto his mother’s arm and pleaded.

“Do you think that they’re stupid? If you hand in the video, wouldn’t they ask you where the video came from? How do you plan to fool them with a brain like yours?”

He Yan put a stop to all of Jian Yujie’s suggestions.

He was forced to choose between Jian Yiling and his mother.

However, how could he make such a decision?

One of them was his beloved sister!

And the other was his mother!

Although he had several disagreements with her, she was still the person who had raised him up!

Jian Yujie couldn’t handle it anymore. He crouched down and held his head in his hands before he started to cry.

He was devastated.

He couldn’t make a choice.

He didn’t understand why he was forced to make a choice.

He didn’t want to do anything bad to Yiling, however, he didn’t want to hurt his mother either!

He Yan came up to him and squatted down to hug her son, “Yujie, listen to your mother. Forget about what happened today. If you don’t disclose the video, nothing will happen. Jian Yiling won’t be hurt. She still has her grandma to protect her. However, your mother is different. I’ll be forced to divorce your father. I’ll be forced to leave the family. I’ll lose all of you. I’ll have nothing left.”

“Go! Leave me alone!” Jian Yujie’s voice was hoarse as he choked out those words.

“Okay, I won’t force you to make a decision. Think about it.”

He Yan knew that she shouldn’t keep pressing her son to make a decision.

He Yan left the room. She left Jian Yujie alone in the study.

Jian Yujie stayed in the study until midnight.

He numbly looked outside the window.

He saw the night sky. The moon. And the shadows of the trees.

He felt cold. So incredibly cold. It was a chill that he had never felt before.

Chapter 150: Another Group of Friends

When He Yan saw Jian Yujie the next morning, his face was not as lively and optimistic as before.

As soon as she saw him, He Yan asked him about his decision: "Have you made up your mind?"

He Yan had been waiting for Jian Yujie's decision for the entire night. If he decided to help Jian Yiling, he would be pushing her into a desperate situation.

"Don't ask about it anymore. I didn't see anything last night."

Jian Yujie's voice was filled with despair. It was as lifeless as a puddle of stagnant water.

He had come to a decision. He decided to protect his mother.

However, that also meant that he was betraying Yiling.

He didn't deserve to be Yiling's brother anymore.

Jian Yujie had completely broken down last night. He had cried throughout the night.

However, now, he had finally calmed down.

Coming to this decision meant that he had to give up his affection for Yiling. It also meant that he had to give up the person he was. He was no longer innocent, optimistic, and hopeful.

17 years old.

He had finally lost. He had lost to reality. He had given up those things that were dear to him because of his personal interest.

He Yan watched Jian Yujie walk out the door. All of a sudden, she felt as though her son had become a stranger to her.

His reaction was different from before.

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Jian Yiling was still lying down in the hospital.

Today, there were more people who came over to visit her. They brought with them a large number of gifts. All the gifts were valuable tonics to help her get better.

However, no one in the Jian family knew who was visiting.

Wen Nuan was quite surprised to see several men in suits in her daughter's hospital room.

The head of the group was a courteous man who greeted Wen Nuan.

"Hello, Mrs. Jian. We're Jian Yiling's friends. We've heard that she is sick and therefore, we came here to visit her."

"You're... Yiling's friends?" Wen Nuan asked. She was quite puzzled as she looked at the people in front of her.

If she were to judge off their appearance, they didn't seem like people who would be in contact with her daughter.

She could understand why Cheng Yi and Luo Xiuen were Jian Yiling's friends. They appeared to be of a similar age range.

However, these people in front of her seemed like people who would not cross paths with Jian Yiling at all.

"Yes, they're my friends." Jian Yiling spoke up. She had to confirm their identities.

"Yiling, they're..."

When Wen Nuan saw that her daughter knew several middle-aged men, she couldn't help but worry. She wanted to confirm the situation with her daughter before she did anything.

"Mrs. Jian, please don't worry. We're not bad people. If we were, we wouldn't be here in front of you."

One of the middle-aged men attempted to explain to Wen Nuan.

If they were indeed bad people, they wouldn't have appeared in front of everyone in such a fashion. Their normal entrance deemed that they were just and honorable.

Although their words were quite reasonable, Wen Nuan still didn't want to let her guard down.

However, they were in front of her right now. They wouldn't have the chance to do anything that was out of line.

"Yiling has an ordinary fever. Thank you for visiting her."

Despite her worries, Wen Nuan still greeted them politely.

"You're welcome, Mrs. Jian. We just came here to have a few words with Jian Yiling."

The middle-aged man appeared to look quite well-educated. He approached Jian Yiling and said:

"My Master has asked me to bring a message. He wants you to take care of your health. Your health is more important than anything else."

Jian Yiling had struck a deal with them. However, now, she was sick.

His words implied that the other party knew that she was sick and decided not to prompt her on their deal. They didn't want her to be anxious about the matter.

"Thank you," Jian Yiling replied.

Jian Yiling didn't dare to not take care of her body anymore. Although she didn't want to postpone the work she had, she still had no choice but to do so.

"Furthermore, my Master also asked me to bring you another gift. Please accept the gift."