

Sidekick 281

Chapter 281: A Mediocre Student's Counterattack

One after another, the results of the mid-term exams came back.

In the span of one day, Hu Jiaojiao suffered a series of setbacks. She became emotionally and physically exhausted. All her hopes were turned to dust.

"Why did I fail again? The worst thing is that I got 59 in Chemistry! 59! Why couldn't the chemistry teacher have given me one more mark as consolation? Just give me an extra mark in the harder questions that I attempted... I was just one mark away from passing!"

What's even more devastating than failing in an exam was missing a pass by one mark!

Hu Jiaojiao turned her head around to look at Jian Yiling's chemistry paper. She saw three bright numbers.

100.

One hundred! It was a perfect score!

Hu Jiaojiao was dumbfounded.

She picked up Jian Yiling's paper again. She repeatedly checked the number. Over and over again.

It was really a perfect score. Not a single mark was deducted. Even the last question was correct!

The last question of the chemistry exam was incredibly difficult. The question was beyond the scope of the syllabus.

Everyone complained about the question after the chemistry exam was over. The cries of the students sounded like victims that had just suffered a disaster. Even Liu Wen, a member of the student committee, exclaimed sadly that she couldn't solve the question.

After repeatedly confirming the mark that was on Jian Yiling's paper, Hu Jiaojiao almost burst into tears. She felt both sad and happy at the same time.

She felt sad because they had promised each other to improve together. However, Jian Yiling had become a top student all of a sudden. She had been left behind to struggle in the dregs of learning.

However, she was also happy because her friend had gotten a perfect score in an exam! This was awesome! It could prove to the other students that Yiling hadn't cheated in the Chemistry competition! It could make those students shut up! Especially Wang Xiangchong!

"Yiling, you're my second idol now!" Hu Jiaojiao cried out. She granted the second spot in her heart to Jian Yiling.

The first spot was still Luo Xiuen's.

The other papers were handed back one after another.

Jian Yiling's results in each subject were mind-boggling.

She had scored a perfect mark in Maths, Physics, and English.

Hu Jiaojiao was almost on her knees after she saw Jian Yiling's results.

Finally, the last paper was handed out. This subject was Chinese.

Based on her previous experience, Hu Jiaojiao was curious enough to take a peek at Jian Yiling's reading comprehension.

Once again, she saw a big fat zero. The zero was akin to a duck egg.

Zero. Jian Yiling got zero in her reading comprehension!

She had still answered the questions in the same strange way.

Compared to her other marks, Jian Yiling's reading comprehension was an outlier. It didn't match her performance in her other subjects.

However, Jian Yiling's overall score in Chinese was still decent.

Out of a total of 150, Jian Yiling had scored 116.

Out of the 34 marks deducted, 20 were due to reading comprehension. Another 8 marks were from the essay writing and 6 marks were deducted due to small mistakes.

Hu Jiaojiao took a look at the areas where Jian Yiling had lost the 6 marks. She realized that those marks were also related to reading comprehension questions.

However, when it came to memorizing examinable texts, Jian Yiling had received a solid score.

For example, Jian Yiling had no problems with the literary analysis that Hu Jiaojiao had suffered with. Literary analysis had always given Hu Jiaojiao a major headache.

Jian Yiling's essay writing also intrigued Hu Jiaojiao.

The essay component was out of 60. Anyone who could score more than 50 in this section was a god!

Hu Jiaojiao was curious as to how Jian Yiling who scored a zero in reading comprehension could score 52 in essay writing.

Very quickly, Hu Jiaojiao got the answer to her question.

Jian Yiling had written an argumentative essay!

###

After the mid-term papers were returned to the students, the rankings were also announced.

Jian Yiling's name was first in her year.

Her name was incredibly eye-grabbing on the list.

Compared to her last two monthly exams, the improvement was incredible. In fact, such an improvement was almost difficult for the other students to believe.

However, with the previous Chemistry competition as a prelude, such results were not totally unacceptable.

Chapter 282: Master Sheng Punishes Wang Xiangchong (1)

Some students were able to accept this.

However, there were some students who still refused to accept this.

The person who refused to accept this the most was Wang Xiangchong. He had made a bet with Jian Yiling!

Jian Yiling had ranked first in the year.

Wang Xiangchong had ranked third in his class. And fifty-first in the year.

This meant that Jian Yiling's win was clear and unquestionable.

And thus, according to the bet between him and Jian Yiling, he had to apologize to Jian Yiling and Hu Jiaojiao in the public. Furthermore, he had to write 'sorry' to them a thousand times!

Although the punishment itself was not serious, Wang Xiangchong found this matter to be incredibly humiliating.

This time, Hu Jiaojiao took the initiative to approach Wang Xiangchong: "Wang Xiangchong, you should keep to your word. The results are out. Yiling got a higher score than you."

"Who knows how this score came about?" Wang Xiangchong replied with a strong voice.

"What nonsense are you talking about again? You either show evidence or don't talk nonsense!" Hu Jiaojiao cried out. Once again, she was angry with Wang Xiangchong.

"I'm just an ordinary person. I don't have the same skills as a certain lady. And thus, I can't get my hands on some certain things. If I had the same backing as her, how would I let her cheat?"

"Wang Xiangchong! You're so hateful! You're not keeping to your word!"

"Well, a certain someone will do anything to win! Isn't that more hateful?!"

Hu Jiaojiao was so angry that she stomped her foot: "Well, then go tell the teacher! Let the teacher investigate this matter! If you can't find any evidence, you must apologize to us!"

"You don't have to tell me what to do! I'll go after lunch!"

Wang Xiangchong didn't want Jian Yiling's name to be at the top of the rankings.

After lunch, Wang Xiangchong headed towards the Head of Teaching's office. He wanted to report Jian Yiling's matter to them.

However, he was only there for a short while. Very soon, he went back to the classroom and called for Jian Yiling.

“Jian Yiling, come with me to the Head of Teaching’s office!”

A smile was on Wang Xiangchong’s face.

This was because the Head of Teaching had asked him to come back and call Jian Yiling to come along with him. This request made him believe that the Head of Teaching had believed in his words. It seemed like the school still viewed this as an important matter.

“Yiling...” Hu Jiaojiao said as she looked at Jian Yiling worriedly.

“It’s fine,” Jian Yiling replied. Her reaction was incredibly calm.

She got up and headed towards the administration building where the Head of Teaching’s office was located.

As soon as Jian Yiling entered the office, she saw a familiar figure.

Zhai Yunsheng was also in the office.

The former Head of Teaching had been fired by the Board of Directors. The new Head of Teaching was a male in his early forties. His surname was Zhang.

Teacher Zhang’s face looked much kinder. He wasn’t as intimidating as Teacher Li.

Wang Xiangchong began to speak to Teacher Zhang. He didn’t pay much attention to the presence of Zhai Yunsheng in the office.

“I’ve called over the student who cheated. This is Jian Yiling. Her previous examination results were all incredibly poor. However, this time, she suddenly got the top mark in the grade. I’m incredibly skeptical of her mark.”

Teacher Zhang didn’t answer directly. Instead, he turned his head to look in the direction of Zhai Yunsheng.

Zhai Yunsheng’s eyes were on Jian Yiling.

Jian Yiling was also looking at Zhai Yunsheng.

Jian Yiling’s expression was calm and cold.

Then, a smile reached Zhai Yunsheng’s eyes. However, the smile in his eyes was sharp and evil.

“Oh? You’re saying that she cheated? Do you have proof?”

After waiting for a moment, Zhai Yunsheng had opened his mouth.

The tone of his voice was lazy. The expression on his face seemed like a smile yet not a smile at the same time.

Chapter 283: Master Sheng Punishes Wang Xiangchong (2)

Wang Xiangchong hesitated before he answered Zhai Yunsheng’s question. Initially, he didn’t plan to reply. However, after seeing Teacher Zhang’s reaction, he began to answer.

"I don't," Wang Xiangchong replied. At this moment, his tone was still quite confident. "However, if you ask someone to check into this matter, then you will find out that I'm not the only one who is suspicious about this. You can also look at the comments and discussions on our school forum. A lot of people doubt Jian Yiling's results."

As he wasn't the only one who thought this, Wang Xiangchong was incredibly confident as he answered Zhai Yunsheng's question.

A repeated rumor becomes a fact. And thus, when Wang Xiangchong discovered that he wasn't the only one who had such suspicions, he wasn't scared of expressing himself. His confidence had grown.

"Well, you're telling me that you don't have evidence. However, what you do have is the masses supporting your opinion. So as long as the wrongdoer is not a single person, you don't have to worry about this being a mistake?" Zhai Yunsheng asked with a sneer.

"You..." Wang Xiangchong looked at Zhai Yunsheng in surprise.

He sensed that something was amiss.

"Keep explaining yourself. As long as you can't give a reasonable explanation, this will be counted as slander."

"No. It's obvious that Jian Yiling obtained her marks unfairly. Cheating is shameful. And thus, it's completely reasonable and fair for me to report her, no? If we see such things, shouldn't we report it?"

"Mhmm, you're right. We should report things such as cheating. However, which eye did you see her cheating with? Hm?"

When it comes to this, you have to 'see' it.

Zhai Yunsheng's eyes were full of mockery as he looked at Wang Xiangchong.

Wang Xiangchong got caught by Zhai Yunsheng's question.

No one had seen Jian Yiling cheat. No one. In fact, he hadn't seen Jian Yiling cheat either.

He just thought that the results were impossible when they came out. The results hadn't made sense!

Zhai Yunsheng turned around to the bodyguard beside him. "Contact his parents. Since this student dislikes the act of bullying, I'll teach him what it means to bully someone."

Since Wang Xiangchong was convinced that he was being 'bullied', Zhai Yunsheng decided to satisfy him.

Zhai Yunsheng could make sure that Wang Xiangchong understood what it meant to take advantage of one's position to bully someone.

It didn't take long for Zhai Yunsheng's bodyguard to contact Wang Xiangchong's father.

Wang Xiangchong's father was the middle-ranking manager of a company. Their family income was quite decent. Otherwise, his father wouldn't have sent him to Shenghua High School.

However, his family's income was only average when compared to the other students in Shenghua High School.

Wang Xiangchong's father was incredibly confused when he received the call.

Zhai Yunsheng took the phone from his bodyguard and said, "Your son insists that someone is bullying him. Since he's saying that, I'll satisfy him."

Before Wang Xiangchong's father could react, the boss of the company came to him and informed him that he had been dismissed.

By then, Zhai Yunsheng had already hung up the phone.

Soon after, Wang Xiangchong received a phone call from his father.

Wang Xiangchong heard his father say that he had been fired. The boss who had fired him said that he was not suited to continue working in the company because he could not teach his children to behave. Due to this reason, his character was deemed to be questionable. And thus, he had gotten fired.

Wang Xiangchong's face turned white.

Then, Wang Xiangchong realized that this was the work of the man in front of him.

Wang Xiangchong was still dumbfounded. He stuttered out, "How... How can you do this?"

"How can I not? Isn't this the taking advantage of one's position to bully someone that you were talking about? I'm making sure that you're satisfied," Zhai Yunsheng replied in a leisurely tone.

Chapter 284: Master Sheng Punishes Wang Xiangchong (3)

"Wait, but I'm talking about Jian Yiling. How is this related to you?" Wang Xiangchong asked. Master Sheng's reaction and actions were quite baffling to him.

"Why do you expect others to be reasonable with you when you're unreasonable? If you can accuse people without evidence, why can't others treat you in the same way?"

When it came down to speaking, Zhai Yunsheng's words could create much more impact than Wang Xiangchong's words.

Wang Xiangchong was dumbfounded. He still couldn't believe that someone would fire his father over something like this.

He hadn't even done anything. He had only said a couple of words. And those words had somehow caused his father to lose his job?

Although he didn't have any evidence, he hadn't done anything wrong by questioning the matter in the first place. Everyone on the forum was also talking about it. He wasn't the only one who doubted Jian Yiling's results.

Wang Xiangchong didn't think that he had done anything excessive.

Even if Jian Yiling hadn't cheated, he was only merely questioning the matter. So why couldn't the school investigate the matter to make sure that she hadn't cheated? If she hadn't cheated, they could announce it after the investigation.

Why should he be treated like this?

Wang Xiangchong couldn't understand this at all.

However, Jian Yiling could understand Zhai Yunsheng.

A normal person would typically find evidence before disproving Wang Xiangchong's words. Then, one could tell him that he was wrong and ask him to apologize.

However, Zhai Yunsheng was not a normal person. He was the villain in the original novel. He was never reasonable.

Wang Xiangchong glanced at Teacher Zhang. However, he realized that Teacher Zhang was not going to express his opinion.

This made Wang Xiangchong pause for quite some time before he stammered out, "Well, even if she didn't cheat... Can't... Can't you just investigate the matter and clear her name afterward? Why are you doing this? I'm just questioning the matter... I've only said a couple of words... I didn't kill anyone or set fire to anything... You don't need to fire my father like that! That's... You've gone too far!"

Zhai Yunsheng held back his smile as he answered slowly, "Well, you like moving your lips no? Coincidentally, I was also just moving my lips."

Zhai Yunsheng had only spoken to his bodyguard regarding the matter of firing Wang Xiangchong's father.

Some people didn't know the damage that they could cause to others with their mouths and words.

If Wang Xiangchong didn't know about it, then why should Zhai Yunsheng know?

Zhai Yunsheng glanced at his bodyguard.

Immediately, the bodyguard requested Wang Xiangchong to leave the office.

As the bodyguard sent Wang Xiangchong away, he told him: "Your mother still has a job. If you keep trying, Master Sheng wouldn't mind using a bit more lip service."

This left Wang Xiangchong walking out of the administration building in a mute manner.

After that, Teacher Zhang also left the office. He used the excuse that he had to take care of something. From Zhai Yunsheng's gaze, Teacher Zhang knew Master Sheng wanted him to leave.

And thus, only Jian Yiling and Zhai Yunsheng were still left in the office.

"Come here."

Zhai Yunsheng waved at Jian Yiling to come over.

"What do you want?" Jian Yiling asked in a small voice. Her bright eyes looked at Zhai Yunsheng.

"There's a small bed over there. Go and take a nap."

A foldable bed was set up in the corner of the office.

A small pink quilt was on top of the bed.

Jian Yiling stared at Zhai Yunsheng. She didn't move for a long time.

"Don't make me carry you over there. Stop trying to be a rabbit. Your eyes are red again."

Zhai Yunsheng knew that Jian Yiling had been staying up late again.

However, Jian Yiling had been sleeping relatively earlier compared to before. She was no longer sleeping three to four hours a day.

Chapter 285: Can't Help But Be Envious

However, in Zhai Yunsheng's eyes, the amount of sleep that Jian Yiling received was still substandard.

A person who was still growing needed more than six to seven hours of sleep a day.

How would she grow taller if she didn't get at least eight hours of sleep?

In the end, Jian Yiling gave in. In order to grow taller, she decided to nap on the small bed in the corner of the office.

Zhai Yunsheng sat down at the desk. He was busy with his own work. Occasionally, he glanced at Jian Yiling. Jian Yiling was curled up in a ball as she slept.

She was incredibly small already. Now that she curled up under the blanket, she appeared to be a small ball on the bed.

Why was someone so small so incredibly stubborn? Why did keep insisting on doing things on her own?

Jian Yiling ended up napping for half an hour.

After she woke up, Zhai Yunsheng brought her some desserts.

She did not refuse Zhai Yunsheng's kindness when it came to food. She had already gotten used to eating food that Zhai Yunsheng bought her.

As she left the office, Zhai Yunsheng said to Jian Yiling, "Stop knitting those mitten, scarves, and beanies in your spare time."

###

When Jian Yiling's results were announced, it wasn't just Wang Xiangchong who reacted. Nor was it just the students in Jian Yiling's class.

Jian Yiling's entire grade was surprised.

In fact, even students in other grades paid attention to this matter. This was because Jian Yiling's name was quite well-known in the school.

She had suddenly jumped from the bottom of the class to the top of the grade! This was something that most mediocre students could never achieve in their lives!

The students in the Class of High Achievers in the Final Year of Senior High had also heard the news. This was Jian Yunnao and Mo Shiyun's classroom.

As soon as the students heard the news, they had rushed up to Jian Yunnao to compliment his sister:

“Jian Yunnao! Your sister is amazing! Before the last chemistry competition, she was still a mediocre student! However, now she’s something completely different!”

“Yeah! When your sister first entered high school, she did quite poorly in her monthly exams. I thought she was an anomaly in your family! However, it turns out that she’s actually a genius!”

As Jian Yunnao heard his classmate’s praise towards Jian Yiling, he couldn’t help but feel a sense of pride in his heart.

Just as he was about to reply, the image of Jian Yiling appeared in his mind. He remembered her cold and detached actions towards him. It was as though cold water had been poured on him.

All of a sudden, he couldn’t be happy anymore. He responded to his classmates in a low tone:

“Yeah, my sister used to be very smart. She loved to spend time in the laboratory with my second brother.”

“Oh, so your sister is actually a genius!”

“Of course,” Jian Yunnao replied without the slightest hesitation.

“Ahh, it’s in the genetics. We can’t help but be envious.”

As Mo Shiyun looked at Jian Yiling’s name on the ranking published on the school’s official website, she didn’t know how she felt.

The mid-term exams for their grade had been held at the same time as Jian Yiling’s grade. And thus, the results were also announced at the same time.

Jian Yiling had ranked first in her grade whilst Mo Shiyun had ranked third.

As she was top ten of Shenghua High School, she was almost guaranteed to get into the top two universities in the country.

Previously, Mo Shiyun would have been incredibly satisfied with this result.

After all, Rank One and Rank Two were top students. Their results were incredibly difficult to surpass.

However, Mo Shiyun didn’t feel happy for some reason.

She couldn’t tell what kind of feeling she was feeling.

She knew that Jian Yiling’s grades and ranking would not affect her. They were in different cohorts.

However, it was as if Jian Yiling’s actions were making a sarcastic comment on her efforts.

Chapter 286: Silent Gentleness

As soon as Zhu Sha learned about Jian Yiling’s results, she immediately headed over to Mo Shiyun, “Shiyun, look at Jian Yiling. She’s actually too much to deal with. She’s really capable of doing anything to make a name for herself. Last time, it was the chemistry competition. This time, it’s the midterm exam. When is this going to end?”

Zhu Sha spoke in a quiet voice. The reason behind this was because Jian Yunnao had returned back to school. She was afraid that her words would be heard by Jian Yunnao if she spoke too loudly.

“Don’t think too much about it,” Mo Shiyun replied. She had finally calmed herself down. “We can’t change anything anyway. Just let it be.”

“Ugh,” Zhu Sha sighed. “I know that we can’t change anything. We’re not as lucky as her! In the past, I could post comments about this on the forum. However, my forum account got restricted.”

Last time, Zhu Sha had created a post about Jian Yiling and Qin Chuan. However, it wasn’t long before the post had gotten deleted. When she tried to post the same thing again, she found out that her account could no longer post anything.

Zhu Sha had been nervous about this for quite some time. However, after a while, her worries ended up passing.

“Let’s just worry about ourselves,” Mo Shiyun replied.

Mo Shiyun had to force herself to stop thinking about Jian Yiling.

As of now, she had to make more money. She had to also further her career whilst she took care of her studies. She had to do this. She had to do this for the sake of herself and her mother.

###

Grandma Jian eventually got into a dispute with Jian Yunmo.

Jian Yunmo refused to say the problem that he had with Jian Yiling. However, Grandma Jian insisted for him to explain.

In order to force him to ‘give in’, she ended up giving him the task of taking Jian Yiling to and from school.

“I’m not feeling well lately. So I’ll leave the task of picking up my darling to you. If you don’t complete this task, then don’t you dare say that your surname is Jian anymore.”

Grandma Jian’s attitude was incredibly firm. She did not give him any room to refuse her request.

Faced with the task, there was no way for Jian Yunmo to refuse.

In fact, in his heart, he also wanted to be by Jian Yiling’s side more often.

However... He didn’t want to hurt her.

When Jian Yiling woke up in the morning, there was another eternal flower at the door of her room.

This time, it was a Mandara flower. It was also an incredibly rare species of Mandara.

The petals of the flower were blue and purple. It was an incredibly romantic and mysterious color.

In the past two days, every morning, Jian Yiling saw an eternal flower in front of her room. Each day, it was a different species of flower. They were all rare and precious.

Jian Yiling knew that these flowers were not bought from the markets. Instead, they were made by Jian Yunmo himself.

It would have taken a lot of time to collect these flowers.

Furthermore, the flowers had to be in full bloom when they were gathered.

A lot of time and effort had to be put into this.

Similar to the previous few days, Jian Yiling put the flower away in her bedroom.

When she came downstairs for breakfast, she saw Jian Yunmo seated at the table.

She hadn't seen him at breakfast for the last few days. However, it was obvious that he had gotten up before her to place the flowers at her door.

"I'll take you to school today." This was the first time in a few days that Jian Yunmo had taken the initiative to speak to Jian Yiling.

His voice was gentle and his tone was soft.

"Mhmm," Jian Yiling replied. At least now, she knew the reason for his conflicting attitude.

However, as of now, she still didn't know how to change this matter yet.

After breakfast, Jian Yunmo drove Jian Yiling to school. After Jian Yiling got off the car, Jian Yunmo watched his sister enter the school. He withdrew his gaze after she was out of sight.

In the evening, he picked up Jian Yiling from school. Jian Yunmo prepared snacks, blankets, and games for Jian Yiling. However, there was no communication between the two of them.

Chapter 287: Master Sheng Tries the Cream

Later at night, Jian Yiling headed over to the Yu Residence with her ointment cream.

Zhai Yunsheng was to become the first clinical test subject of Jian Yiling's scar removal cream.

Before this, all of Jian Yiling's experimental data had been gathered from animals.

According to the regulations, enough data must be obtained from animals before the cream could be used on humans.

Furthermore, the only reason why Jian Yiling dared to use Zhai Yunsheng as her first clinical test subject was because before she entered this world, the cream had been widely used by her patients. There was enough data that had been collected from humans.

Jian Yiling asked Yu Xi to smear the cream on Zhai Yunsheng's wound.

As Zhai Yunsheng's wound had been relatively new, this was a good time to apply the ointment.

Under Jian Yiling's request, Yu Xi once again donated his 'first' time. This time, it was applying an ointment to another person.

Zhai Yunsheng stared at Jian Yiling. His eyes seemed to be reading her thoughts:

“Did you make this ointment yourself?”

“Mhmm,” Jian Yiling answered truthfully.

Upon hearing this, Yu Xi’s hand shook as he applied the cream.

God Ling made this cream? Then, there wouldn’t be problems, right?

This was Master Sheng’s arm! It was incredibly valuable. If a problem arises from this...

Yu Xi didn’t dare to further think about it.

As soon as he thought about the frightening look in Master Zhai’s eyes, Yu Xi’s legs felt weak.

And thus, Yu Xi couldn’t help but start praying in his heart. Merciful Buddha! Heavens please protect us. Please don’t let anything happen to Master Sheng after applying this cream! It’s okay if the scars don’t go away. I just hope that Master Sheng’s body is safe and sound!

“Do you have any investors for this cream?” Zhai Yunsheng asked.

“Not yet.”

The cream was still in clinical trials.

It was okay for her to use it on people around her. However, if one wanted to mass-produce it, one would still need more clinical trial data to support the production.

Jian Yiling still had to apply for a patent and license before she could produce it on a larger scale.

And thus, thinking about investors was something that was still very far away. Jian Yiling hadn’t considered it at all.

“Then, I can invest in it. How about that?”

“No,” Jian Yiling refused.

“Huh?”

“We have other relationships. It’s not suitable to do business.”

Jian Yiling felt that business should not involve emotions.

Furthermore, it was commonly said that talking about money hurts relationships.

Whilst Jian Yiling didn’t know how to deal with relationships, she still knew how to deal with making money.

And thus, she didn’t want her feelings and emotions to be involved when she was making money. She didn’t want a simple matter to become a complicated issue.

“Relationship? What’s our relationship?” Zhai Yunsheng asked. He wanted to get to the heart of the matter.

Jian Yiling hesitated for a moment. She didn’t know how to describe their relationship.

It didn't seem right to say that they were friends.

Jian Yiling remembered that Zhai Yunsheng rarely admitted that other people were his friends.

For those who claimed to be his friends, Zhai Yunsheng would not hesitate to tear them down.

"You're Yu Xi's friend," Jian Yiling answered. She finally managed to find a relatively reasonable answer.

However, as soon as she said this, Zhai Yunsheng's expression darkened.

Even Yu Xi, who was applying the cream to Zhai Yunsheng's arm, was stunned.

"So, you're treating my wounds and getting rid of my scars for Yu Xi's sake?"

There was a smile on Zhai Yunsheng's face. However, the smile was incredibly terrifying.

When Yu Xi saw Zhai Yunsheng's smile, his legs felt weak.

He hurriedly looked at Jian Yiling.

However, Jian Yiling's face remained calm. Her eyes were clear and she didn't seem to be aware of the danger before her.

"God Ling... You... You..."

Yu Xi tried to say something to save the day. However, he didn't know what to say.

There were not enough words in his vocabulary for this...

Chapter 288: Jian Yunmo's Concerns

When Yu Xi looked at Zhai Yunsheng's eyes again, he immediately felt like running away.

No, if he wanted to run, he had to drag God Ling with him.

He had to be a good friend! He couldn't just ditch God Ling! God Ling's small body wouldn't be able to withstand Master Sheng's wrath!

Jian Yiling paused for a moment before she said, "You've never recognized me as your friend. I shouldn't say that you're my friend if you haven't recognized me as one."

Jian Yiling said this with a deadpan expression. The look in her eyes was dead serious. Her tone was even more serious than the look in her eyes.

Immediately, the coldness on Zhai Yunsheng's face faded. A real smile appeared on his face.

"Well, I recognize you as a friend."

Yu Xi felt like he was about to have a heart attack.

He couldn't help but mutter in his heart: Master Sheng's mood changes faster than I can flick a page of a book! He almost gave me have a heart attack!

God Ling is amazing! She didn't even flinch in front of Master Sheng! I admire her so much!

He had to learn from God Ling!

Just as he finished applying the cream, the door suddenly opened. Jian Yunmo walked in.

"Huh? Brother Yunmo?" Yu Xi said. Yu Xi recognized him immediately. Just as he was about to greet him, he noticed that the expression on Jian Yunmo's face didn't look right.

Jian Yunmo walked forward. He didn't greet Yu Xi nor Zhai Yunsheng.

He looked down at Jian Yiling and his brows were furrowed.

"It's time to go home," Jian Yunmo said to Jian Yiling. Although his voice was gentle, it also sounded imposing.

"Okay."

Jian Yiling followed behind Jian Yunmo and left the Yu Residence.

On the way back, Jian Yiling noticed that Jian Yunmo's hand was clenched in a fist.

Jian Yiling knew that he was fighting his bipolar disorder.

This man with a gentle personality had suddenly developed a mental illness that was very different from his usual self.

However, that's the thing about mental illnesses. People who are normally cheerful could also get depressed. They could smile and laugh during the day. However, when they got home at night, they would grieve by themselves.

A mental illness could eat away at a person's character and sanity.

When Jian Yunmo found out that he was ill, he was scared that he would hurt his sister. He didn't want to hurt the person that he was trying to protect.

In order to prevent himself from hurting his sister, he chose to distance himself from Jian Yiling.

Although he had been abroad for two years, he always cared for her. He still remembered the promise he had made with her.

He had prepared eternal flowers for her. Beautiful flowers that never wilted. He wanted to bring all the beauty in the world to her.

However, he had to keep himself at a distance from her.

If it hadn't been for this incident, he wouldn't have come back any time soon.

On the way back to the Old Jian Residence, Jian Yunmo slowed down his pace. He wanted to make it easier for Jian Yiling to keep up with him.

Jian Yunmo didn't know what Jian Yiling was thinking. However, he knew that she was still following him. He could hear her footsteps behind him.

And thus, the two of them walked back to the Old Jian Residence in silence.

Neither of them said anything on the way home.

Neither of them asked each other anything either.

However, somehow, it was as though they understood each other.

###

After returning to the Old Jian Residence, the two siblings were called to the orchid greenhouse by Grandpa Jian. Grandpa Jian wanted them to spend some time with him whilst he planted orchids.

In this respect, the only two people in the family who could talk to Grandpa Jian about orchids were Jian Yunmo and Jian Yiling.

Jian Yunmo did not major in botany. Instead, he majored in microbiology and virology.

However, he still knew more about plants than the rest of the family.

“Grandpa, you need to divide the roots of this orchid.”

Jian Yunmo was carefully examining each orchid in Grandpa Jian’s greenhouse.

“Don’t just talk about it. Do it for me. I don’t trust other people with my orchids. However, I trust the two of you.”

Chapter 289: Failing to Celebrate for Jian Yiling

After hearing Grandpa Jian’s order, Jian Yunmo rolled up his sleeves and started to divide the roots of the orchid.

Jian Yunmo’s arms were rather fair. The reason for this was because he spent a lot of time in the laboratory.

He was very skilled at handling these flowers and plants as well.

On the side, Jian Yiling was collecting pollen from stamens.

She then hand-pollinated the pistils.

The seed germination rate of orchids was rather low. Thereby, if you wanted to breed new species of orchids, crossbreeding with pollen was a good option.

The three of them were incredibly busy in the orchid greenhouse.

When Grandma Jian visited to bring the three of them a snack, she couldn’t help but smile when she saw the scene in front of her.

Although there was still not much communication between Jian Yunmo and Jian Yiling, it was clear that the atmosphere between the two of them was still good.

Upon seeing this, Grandma Jian felt incredibly relieved.

###

Early on a Saturday morning, Jian Shuxing, Wen Nuan, Jian Yuncheng, and Jian Yunnao rushed over to the Old Jian Residence.

They had finally thought of a good reason to visit their daughter/sister. This time, they planned to celebrate Jian Yiling's exam results.

They didn't want to miss an opportunity to visit their daughter. It had been quite difficult to find an adequate reason for this.

However, as they arrived at the Old Jian Residence, not only did they not see Jian Yiling, but they did not even see Grandma Jian and Grandpa Jian there.

After they asked the housekeeper, they found out that Grandpa Jian and Grandma Jian had taken Jian Yiling out to eat and have fun. They were out to celebrate the occasion.

Jian Yunmo, Jian Yumin, Jian Yujie, and Yu Xi and Zhai Yunsheng from next door had also gone on this trip.

However, Grandma Jian and Grandpa Jian hadn't invited Jian Shuxing and the others. For this reason, the four of them didn't even know about this until they heard about it from the housekeeper. And thus, it seemed like they had once again failed to celebrate Jian Yiling's achievements.

Jian Shuxing gazed at the other three people with him. The rest of them had more or less despondent expressions on their faces.

Jian Yunnao hung his head down in despair.

Jian Yuncheng was frowning.

Jian Yumin and Jian Yujie were invited to go. Even Yu Xi from next door had gotten invited. However, he hadn't gotten invited?

This feeling was inexplicably unpleasant.

Jian Shuxing paused for a moment before he decided to call Grandma Jian.

"Speak up! I'm playing games with my darling!" Grandma Jian urged as soon as she answered the phone.

"Mother, where did you and Yiling go?"

"To the hot spring resort. To soak in the hot springs, eat good food and see the beautiful sights."

"Mother, can we come over?" Jian Shuxing asked carefully. He was worried that his poor choice of words might upset Grandma Jian.

"Oh, you can. Ask the housekeeper to send you the location. Then, you can drive yourself over."

Grandma Jian didn't refuse them. They could come if they wanted to.

However, Grandma Jian hadn't sent them an invitation. The purpose of this trip was to spend time with her darling and to celebrate her darling's results. And thus, they didn't have the right to receive an invitation.

They had to take the initiative and think of her darling girl. Not the other way around!

“Okay,” Jian Shuxing replied in relief. He was relieved to receive that answer from Grandma Jian.

After hanging up the phone, Jian Shuxing arranged for the four of them to go to the hot spring resort where Jian Yiling and the others had gone.

###

The two elders of the Jian family and the rest of them were already on their way to the hot spring resort.

As there were so many people heading to the resort and the journey was quite long, the Jian family had decided to use a recreational vehicle.

While on the road, Jian Yumin, Jian Yujie, Yu Xi, Jian Yunmo, and Jian Yiling played games. Grandma Jian acted as a judge for their games.

On the side, Zhai Yunsheng and Grandpa Jian discussed business matters.

Grandpa Jian hadn't expected Zhai Yunsheng to come on this trip with him. However, as he was here anyway, Grandpa Jian couldn't exactly refuse Zhai Yunsheng either.

Chapter 290: Soak in the Hot Spring

Lately, his granddaughter had been getting along with Yu Xi and Zhai Yunsheng quite well. As a result, Grandpa Jian felt that it was quite reasonable for the two of them to come along to celebrate Jian Yiling's results.

In the afternoon, the group arrived at the hot spring resort.

The hot spring resort was located halfway up a mountain. It was built at a certain height above sea level. The trees around the resort were dense and beautiful. For all the above reasons, this made it a good place to spend a winter break.

All the youngsters headed towards the open-air hot spring.

On the women's side, there was only Jian Yiling.

On the men's side, there were four of them. Jian Yumin, Jian Yujie, Yu Xi, and Zhai Yunsheng.

Jian Yunmo had decided against joining them.

Amongst the four of them, Jian Yumin was the oldest, and Jian Yujie was the youngest.

The four of them were all in good shape. In particular, Jian Yumin and Zhai Yunsheng. They had well-defined muscles that didn't appear too intimidating.

Jian Yumin's eyes rested on Zhai Yunsheng for a few seconds before he huffed in defiance.

Jian Yujie also secretly glanced at the bodies of the other three people around him. All of a sudden, he felt that he should take the time to go to the gym and train his muscles. If he didn't, the other three would steal Yiling from him!

When Yu Xi noticed Jian Yujie's frustrated expression, he patted him on the shoulders, "Yujie, don't feel sad. You don't have to compete with our muscles. You have your own merits too!"

"What merits?" Jian Yujie asked. He was seriously waiting for Yu Xi's answer.

"You're easy to bully!" Yu Xi said in amusement.

Jian Yujie's expression sank. Why did he believe in Yu Xi's words...

Jian Yumin also seized the opportunity to bully Jian Yujie. He would never miss out on a chance to embarrass his little brother, "Yujie, you're so small! So small and slim! Be careful that you won't find a girlfriend in the future!"

Upon hearing this, Jian Yujie bristled up in defiance, "Well, cousin Yiheng isn't here! If he's here, then you guys wouldn't be acting so tough!"

"Ahem, stop bringing others up! It's just us right now." Jian Yumin puffed up. He was determined to not back down. "Furthermore, why would I compare myself with such a monster?"

Compared to Jian Yiheng, Jian Yumin's and the other's bodies were incredibly slim!

That guy had been practicing taekwondo and other martial arts from a young age. He had won all kinds of awards in that aspect.

Compared to him, their muscles were nothing.

"Then, why are you comparing yourself to me?" Jian Yujie muttered in displeasure.

His brother only liked to bully him! When he grew up, he would grow muscles and get his revenge!

Yu Xi piped up, "Well, you guys shouldn't compare yourselves! Why don't you let Yiling come to judge who has the best body?"

"No!" Jian Yumin and Jian Yujie said in unison.

The two brothers who had just been arguing reacted in unison to Yu Xi's proposal.

"How can you let Yiling see a boy's body?" Jian Yumin said incredibly seriously.

"Yeah! That's right! Absolutely not! Even if we're her brothers!" Jian Yujie echoed.

"But..." Yu Xi said as he turned his head towards Zhai Yunsheng, "Yiling has seen Master Sheng's body already."

As soon as the two of them heard these words, Jian Yumin and Jian Yujie's expression changed immediately.

Zhai Yunsheng was immediately met with two stares that could have inflicted a thousand cuts on his body.

The two of them glared at Zhai Yunsheng.

However, Zhai Yunsheng continued to leisurely lean on a rock in the hot spring. His actions were still relaxed and calm.

In the face of Jian Yumin and Jian Yujie's anger, the corners of Zhai Yunsheng's mouth rose slightly. He looked smug. This look was especially infuriating in the eyes of Jian Yumin and Jian Yujie.

The two of them wanted to beat him up. They gnashed their teeth as they glared at Zhai Yunsheng. However, they couldn't do anything because of Zhai Yunsheng's status.