

Super Soldier in the City

Chapter 25: Chapter 25 Let me show you

"Come on!"

"Come on!"

Zhao Qingsong had been at a standoff with Li Yifei for about half a minute, and to everyone's surprise, Li Yifei showed no signs of defeat, still wearing an easy smile. On the other hand, Zhao Qingsong was already sweating and his veins were bulging. Seeing this, they were shocked. They had obviously regarded Li Yifei as an outsider and immediately started to loudly cheer Zhao Qingsong on.

Seeing this, Xu Shanshan's eyes lit up; it was clear that Li Yifei had the upper hand. Although she also shouted encouragements, it was obvious that she was rooting for Li Yifei.

"Are you done?" After holding on for a bit longer, Li Yifei asked with a smile.

Zhao Qingsong's lips moved, but he made no sound. He simply nodded, and Li Yifei immediately released his hand, effortlessly.

Although Zhao Qingsong also let go of his hand, his forehead was drenched, and his facial muscles twitched. Without making a sound, he bore the pain.

When he had exerted force earlier, it felt like squeezing against a steel plate—no matter how hard he tried, he could not overpower his opponent. When Li Yifei applied force, Zhao Qingsong felt as if his bones were about to be crushed, making him realize the vast difference between their strengths. If not for his pride, he would have begged for mercy right there and then.

Li Yifei had actually held back; he hadn't used much strength at all. In Li Yifei's eyes, these people were just like children who hadn't grown up yet. He really couldn't muster any interest in competing with them.

"Sis... Yifei, you are really amazing," Xu Shanshan said excitedly, almost calling him brother-in-law. She hugged Li Yifei's arm and proudly announced to everyone, "How about that, my boyfriend is awesome, isn't he?"

"Hmph, it's just a bit of brute force, what's so impressive about that," Xiao Ming pursed his lips and with a twist of his "little waist," sat back down.

Everyone immediately showed the same expression. They all considered themselves artists and therefore had no appreciation for brute strength. They had completely forgotten how excited they were when Zhao Qingsong tried to use brute force to intimidate Li Yifei.

Xu Shanshan brought Li Yifei over to sit down and then introduced the rest of the group. To tell the truth, these people were quite talented—some could play the piano, some could compose, some could paint with oils, and some were involved in body art. In short, they were engaged in rather popular arts. Li Yifei didn't have a clue about any of these; he just smiled and greeted them.

Because of the previous incident, no one tried to challenge Li Yifei for the time being. However, it was evident they weren't interested in talking to him either. They deliberately discussed matters they called the "art circle" to intentionally exclude Li Yifei.

Before long, a few more people arrived. Together with Li Yifei and Xu Shanshan, there were sixteen, ten men and six women. At that moment, a young man named Little Long brought over a few bottles of liquor and some cups, and everyone immediately became excited.

After placing these items on the table, Little Long said, "Hello everyone, today I've got a bottle of top-notch Vodka, and I'm ready to make some amazing cocktails for all of you. Would anyone be interested in trying them out?"

"Yes, yes, hurry up, I can't wait. We haven't seen you perform in a long time."

"Indeed, Little Long's cocktails are absolutely superb. Every time there's a different sensation, it's unforgettable."

The group urged him on, and Little Long began his performance, juggling two cups like a street performer, with the cups constantly flying through his hands and the air—it was quite a spectacle. Xu Shanshan watched intently, and the crowd clapped and cheered.

Next, Little Long added several types of liquor into the cups, continuously shaking and stirring them. Before long, he had created a cocktail separated into four distinct layers.

"Shanshan, since you brought your boyfriend here today, I'll dedicate this cocktail to him," Little Long offered the cocktail to Xu Shanshan.

Zhao Qingsong snorted and said, "Little Long, that's casting pearls before swine. Can he really taste the quality of such good liquor?"

Everyone else burst into laughter, and Xiao Ming added in a high-pitched voice, "Exactly, if he can't appreciate the alcohol, it's like a cow chewing peonies. I think, Shanshan, you'd be better off enjoying the drink yourself. Don't waste it."

Xu Shanshan, who would usually join in the mocking with the others, now felt uncomfortable with them making fun of Li Yifei. However, since they were all friends, she didn't lose her temper; instead, she glared and exclaimed, "Don't talk nonsense. Yifei knows his alcohol better than anyone. Yifei, try it."

When handing Li Yifei the cocktail, she also winked at him, meaning to just praise it a little after drinking.

However, Li Yifei misunderstood; he thought Xu Shanshan wanted him to show off in this area too. Although he didn't know much about those artistic things, he was actually an expert at mixing drinks.

Despite always being with the special forces, Li Yifei had to go on missions often. During one mission, he needed to disguise himself as a bartender, so he specifically trained for a few days under one of the world's most renowned mixologists. Thanks to his martial arts training, Li Yifei had great control over his hand strength. Coupled with his natural talent, he quickly mastered several sophisticated cocktail-making techniques, despite the short learning duration.

In Li Yifei's view, Little Long's cocktail-mixing technique was simply child's play and not fit for serious consideration—it was something to fool these kids who hadn't seen much of the world.

Taking the cocktail, he first smelled it and then took a small sip. Li Yifei shook his head and said, "This cocktail is truly poorly made."

Xu Shanshan instantly felt exasperated and quickly said, "Yifei, he's my friend, just appreciate the drink." Then she continued to give him significant looks.

Li Yifei only then realized what was happening. Xu Shanshan had wanted him to just blunder his way through, not put on a show, which made him feel both amused and embarrassed. He was about to go along with Xu Shanshan's intentions, but their friends weren't having it.

"Quite the big talker, aren't you, saying Little Long's drinks are poorly mixed."

"Little Long is one of the top bartenders in Pingyang City. Countless people come to Art Bar specifically for his cocktails."

"Shanshan, your boyfriend is really full of hot air, isn't he?"

Everyone joined in the mocking, causing Xu Shanshan to blush and then turn pale. She couldn't help but throw an annoyed glance at Li Yifei, who gently

patted her leg from under the table to reassure her. That made Xu Shanshan's heart skip a beat, and she looked at Li Yifei with a sudden surge of joy. When she saw him nod, signaling his confidence, her mood lifted.

"So, Shanshan, your boyfriend says my cocktails are bad. Is he, perhaps, a master mixologist himself? If so, today I really have to see for myself," Little Long said with an unfriendly expression, challenging Xu Shanshan.

Xu Shanshan smiled smugly and said, "Of course, Yifei is very impressive when it comes to mixing drinks."

"Then why don't we have a chance to witness it for ourselves?" said Little Long, his eyes bright as he fixed his gaze on Li Yifei.

"Exactly, no more empty boasting. Show us what a true mixology master looks like!"

"Right, right. Show us what you've got, and then we'll really respect you."

Li Yifei stood up, glanced at the bottles on the table, and said, "You're missing a few types of alcohol here. I need nine different kinds in order to mix a drink for you."

Little Long immediately raised his head proudly. "What do you need? We may not talk big, but we have a complete selection."

"Alright, then bring me a bottle of '82 Lafite..."

"What? '82 Lafite? You must be mistaken," Little Long blurted out in shock. "The '82 Lafite is becoming rarer, and most of the ones sold in the market are fakes."

Li Yifei shrugged and said, "Fine, '82 might be a bit much for you. Just get an ordinary Lafite then. You should have that, right?"

"We've got it!"

"Then it'll taste somewhat inferior. It seems your place doesn't have a variety of famous alcohols. As long as the types match, it's fine. You've got whiskey, so bring me a bottle of Vodka, Bacardi, Hennessy..."

Li Yifei then listed several other alcohols, including world-famous brands and the Chinese white spirit Maotai, and even asked for a bottle of beer.

Even without specific vintages, the drinks that Li Yifei mentioned were all top-tier and expensive. This put Little Long in a bind, as he protested, "Are you planning to just randomly mix these drinks together? Who uses beer in a cocktail? Don't you ruin my good alcohol, you think these bottles are street corner bootlegs or what?"

Li Yifei smiled faintly and offered, "Alright, if you don't like the drink I make, I'll buy all these bottles off you at the original price. How about that?"

The people who were initially ready to mock Li Yifei now all fell silent. The combined cost of these bottles could easily exceed several thousand yuan, and Li Yifei's confident proposal silenced any doubters.

Although Xu Shanshan was still a bit worried, she quickly raised her head and said, "Little Long, you wouldn't be too reluctant to part with your alcohol, would you?"

Little Long's face turned red, but he quickly retorted, "Why wouldn't I be willing? I'm just afraid of it being wasted on a bad mix. Since he's so confident, what's there for me to hold back on?" He then ran to the bar, got out five or six bottles of alcohol that were usually too precious to use, and lined them up on the table.

Li Yifei stepped up to the table, opened each bottle, but he didn't start mixing right away. Instead, he closed his eyes and took slow, even breaths.

"Hey, what are you doing? Hurry up and start mixing!" Zhao Qingsong immediately shouted.

But Little Long quickly gestured for him to be quiet. As someone who loved bartending and had studied it deeply, he recognized Li Yifei's actions. He recalled a master bartender saying that to mix a great cocktail, one had to pour their heart into it, which required a mind free of distractions—a state unlikely to be found in a noisy bar.

Li Yifei's actions seemed like the prelude to immersing his heart into the drink. The others couldn't understand it, but Little Long saw it clearly. He stopped everyone from rushing Li Yifei, instead watching expectantly. Seeing Little Long's reaction, everyone else also turned their attention to Li Yifei, curious whether he truly possessed such skill.

Xu Shanshan's lively eyes sparkled with excitement and anticipation. She never imagined Li Yifei had such talent and was now eagerly waiting to see how he would impress all her friends.

Super Soldier in the City

#Chapter 26: Master Bartender - Read Super Soldier in the City Chapter 26: Master Bartender

Chapter 26: Chapter 26: Master Bartender

Li Yifei moved, grabbing a bottle of liquor with his right hand and pouring it into a shaker. Then, he quickly grabbed the shaker and started shaking it vigorously while also pouring another bottle of liquor into another shaker, but instead of shaking, he stirred it.

His hands performed different actions without any pause, just like what was described in martial arts novels as using one's mind in two places.

Most people watching Li Yifei's hands making different motions didn't think much of it, but Little Long's eyes almost popped out. He had practiced this technique himself and knew just how difficult it was to perform two different actions with both hands. Although he could barely manage it now, compared to Li Yifei's speed, he was completely outmatched.

Before Little Long could recover, Li Yifei had already poured the liquor from the two shakers into glasses and had moved on to the third and fourth drinks.

While Li Yifei was mixing, he didn't toss the shakers into the air or perform any tricks like Little Long. It was just simple shaking or stirring. It seemed way less artistic than Little Long's style, which was full of flair. Apart from Little Long, everyone else thought that Li Yifei's mixing was too ordinary, something they could do themselves.

"Done!" said Li Yifei casually after pouring all nine types of alcohol into one glass.

"That's it?" Zhao Qingsong sneered, "That was pretty average."

Xiao Ming chimed in with a sharp voice, "Yeah, that was so dull. I could do that."

Xu Shanshan was a bit disappointed, thinking Li Yifei would put on a magnificent display, but it turned out to be so ordinary. It wasn't interesting at all.

At this moment, Little Long was staring intently at the drink Li Yifei had just prepared. Suddenly, he ran over to turn off the bar lights, and everyone began to shout, especially Xiao Ming, who let out an even louder and sharper scream.

A small beam of light swept across as Little Long approached the table, cautiously shining a small flashlight onto the glass. Everyone's attention was drawn to the drink.

"Wow! It's beautiful!" a girl exclaimed.

"It's just like a rainbow."

"No! It's even prettier than a rainbow; it's like a dream!"

Only then did everyone notice the uniqueness of the drink. It was divided into nine distinct layers in the glass, with no trace of mingling. The combination of these nine colors was so breathtakingly beautiful that it was mesmerizing.

Xu Shanshan's eyes sparkled as she grabbed Li Yifei's arm, jumping up excitedly, "Brother-in-law, you're amazing—I love you!"

Everyone was so captivated by the drink that no one noticed Xu Shanshan calling him "brother-in-law"; otherwise, their relationship would have been immediately exposed.

"Nine-colored Rainbow! Nine-colored Rainbow! My god, I can't believe I've seen the Nine-colored Rainbow!" Little Long stammered in awe.

"Is this called the Nine-colored Rainbow?" a woman asked.

Little Long puffed out his chest and said, "That's right, this is the Nine-colored Rainbow. As far as I know, there's only one person in our province who can make this kind of Nine-colored Rainbow."

"What's so difficult about it? I saw him just randomly shaking and pouring the drinks in—there's nothing special about it, right?" Xiao Ming questioned with disbelief.

Little Long immediately replied, "You just don't get it. Mixing drinks isn't that simple. Liquors are liquids, and they mix easily. Only with shaking and stirring can you adjust the density and temperature to keep them from blending together. If you don't believe me, you can try it."

Those around immediately doubted and tried it themselves, but no matter what they did, once two types of liquor were poured into a glass, they always mixed. Even with just

two, they struggled, and now Li Yifei had combined nine—imagine how difficult that was.

Xiao Ming, still unconvinced, muttered, "What's the use of pretty drinks? It's just mixing, with no artistic beauty like Little Long's flair—that's what combines artistry and skill."

Little Long shook his head and said, "My flair is just for show. True masters of mixing don't resort to flashy tricks."

Little Long gazed at Li Yifei with admiration, and excitedly said, "I've seen a true expert today. Thank you, master, for showing me such a profound technique."

Li Yifei smiled gently, "It's nothing. I just practice it now and then. I can't compare to your professional skills."

Little Long felt embarrassed, "Even as a professional, I'm so much worse than you amateurs. I can't even bear to mix drinks in front of you."

Seeing Little Long's respect for Li Yifei, even if others were still unconvinced, they couldn't say much more. Otherwise, it would mean disrespecting Little Long.

"Bro... Yifei, can I drink this now?" Xu Shanshan was most interested in the Nine-colored Rainbow on the table.

Li Yifei quickly replied, "I made it for you."

Xu Shanshan let out another excited cheer, carefully raising the glass, fearing that mixing would ruin its beauty.

Sipping it gently, Xu Shanshan's eyes squinted slightly, and as she slowly drank, her facial expressions changed vividly—sometimes delighted, sometimes mesmerized, sometimes frowning only to relax again, an expression full of aftertaste.

Seeing Xu Shanshan like that, everyone couldn't help but swallow quietly, and even Little Long almost drooled. From her reactions, he sensed that the drink wasn't just a blend of flavors but offered a different taste altogether. He almost wanted to snatch it and take a gulp.

Xu Shanshan finally finished the entire drink, a blush on her face, savoring it with her eyes closed for a while. Then, opening her eyes, those sparkling wide eyes looked at Li Yifei like autumn waters, without saying a word. Suddenly, grabbing Li Yifei's arm, she leaned over and kissed his cheek.

"Oh..." everyone chorused with surprised cries.

Li Yifei was a bit embarrassed—what was going on? The fake brother-in-law getting a kiss from the sister-in-law... If Xu Yingying found out, she'd flay him alive.

Seeing Li Yifei's awkward expression, Xu Shanshan chuckled sweetly.

Now, although everyone still held some jealousy toward Li Yifei, they also thought he deserved to be among them, yet they still regarded him as an outsider, showing no warmth toward him.

Li Yifei didn't mind. He was there to accompany Xu Shanshan and see what this bunch was up to, also as an explanation to Xu Yingying.

After watching for a while, Li Yifei grew irritated. These so-called artists were just spouting lofty talks, critiquing people in their industry, always picking flaws, never appreciating others' efforts, and focusing solely on shortfalls. It was as if only they were talents tragically overlooked, waiting for an opportunity to soar.

Although Li Yifei was only a year or two older than them, years of harsh tempering had rid him of such unrealistic fantasies. They seemed like immature kids to him, uninterested in engaging with them. If not for Xu Shanshan being there, he would've left already.

Zhao Qingsong sat on Xu Shanshan's other side, ignoring Li Yifei, and said, "Shanshan, one day I'll be an emperor-level pop star. I'm just missing a chance. You have to believe in me."

Xu Shanshan nodded, "I believe in you."

Zhao Qingsong grew more enthusiastic, "The current scene involves hyped-up stars. Look at that singer's skills; they're utterly lacking. Then there's the one whose songs are entirely composed by others, and some merely use their bodies to get fame. These pop stars are a shame for us all."

He listed several pop stars, detailing their flaws, and his righteous anger resonated with everyone, even getting Xu Shanshan to nod repeatedly.

Li Yifei was already annoyed; seeing Xu Shanshan considerably influenced by them, he quietly shook his head. This group of angry youths did nothing but complain. Allowing Xu Shanshan to stay around them for too long would bring no good. On this point, Li Yifei agreed with Xu Yingying's perspective.

However, knowing Xu Shanshan's rebellious nature, forbidding her contact with them would only make her cling tighter. A better approach would be finding an opportunity to help Xu Shanshan recognize their true colors.

"Shanshan, how about we form a group, me singing and you dancing? We'd definitely become the best partners and conquer the nation."

Seeing Zhao Qingsong getting too carried away, even as Xu Shanshan's fake boyfriend, Li Yifei felt increasingly displeased. Sensing it was an opportunity, he suddenly slammed the table, standing up and startling everyone, then scolded, "Enough! With your lack of talent, how dare you talk about forming a group? Do you think you're capable?"

Xu Shanshan didn't expect Li Yifei to lose his temper and stared at him in surprise. Zhao Qingsong jumped up immediately, glaring, "Do you know music? Do you know dance? What gives you the right to lecture us?"

Li Yifei snorted coldly, "You criticize this and that, but have you considered others' strengths? Have you learned from those who succeed through talent? Do you think you're more capable than successful artists? I think you're just jealous of their luck and success, unable to achieve it yourself. Shanshan, I'm not interested in these gatherings. I'm leaving; if you want to stay, go ahead."

With that, he strode toward the exit, no longer bothering with this group of angry youths who did nothing but complain.

Chapter 27: Chapter 27 It's Settled Like That

Exiting the Art Bar, Li Yifei stood at the entrance and lit a cigarette. If Xu Shanshan came out with him, his mission would be complete. If she didn't, he couldn't be bothered anymore. After all, his role as her brother-in-law was fake, so just doing enough was fine.

Before he had taken two puffs, Xu Shanshan ran out. Seeing Li Yifei right at the entrance, she pouted and hurried over, saying huffily, "Brother-in-law, what were you thinking? They are my friends, after all. How could you just lose your temper with them like that?"

Li Yifei turned to look at Xu Shanshan and said with a stern face, "Shanshan, I don't want to preach to you, but in my eyes, they really can't be considered friends. If you harbor the same sentiments as they do, then don't expect to have any opportunities in your life."

Xu Shanshan snorted and said, "They are very talented."

"You call that talent?" Li Yifei laughed, then shook his head and said, "Indeed, they do have a certain talent in some respects. But you should also be aware that success relies not only on opportunity and talent but primarily on efforts. If you put opportunity and talent first and overlook hard work completely, how can you possibly succeed?"

"Aren't you also unsuccessful? How can you lecture me?" Xu Shanshan was somewhat displeased with Li Yifei's harsh criticism of her friends.

"You're right, I haven't succeeded, but I can clearly recognize who I am. I know what I want to do, what I'm suited for. That's all I have to say; you can listen or not, I'm not keen to interfere. After all, everyone has their preferred way of life. If you like it, I won't stop you. When your sister asks, I'll even put in a few good words for you."

Having said that, Li Yifei tossed his cigarette butt and strode forward.

Immediately behind him, Xu Shanshan's footsteps were heard, and then two small hands grabbed his arm. Neither of them spoke, merely walked in silence.

A cold wind blew, and Xu Shanshan shivered. She was wearing a cashmere coat, which wasn't very warm. The chill of the wind made her feel cold.

Li Yifei glanced at her and said, "Let's take a taxi home."

Xu Shanshan, however, shook her head and replied, "I want to walk a bit more."

"Okay then, if you don't mind, I can put my arm around you to keep you warm as we walk."

Xu Shanshan turned to look at Li Yifei and then, flashing a toothy smile, said, "Then thank you, brother-in-law." She let go of Li Yifei's arm and hugged his waist instead.

Li Yifei put his arm around Xu Shanshan. Although they both wore thick clothes and didn't feel anything special, simply holding a beautiful woman like this made Li Yifei feel a certain pride and satisfaction.

During the holiday season, the streets were particularly quiet. Most shops were closed, and not many people were walking around. However, the street lights were very bright, and many shops had lanterns hung at the entrances, which really enhanced the festive atmosphere.

"Shanshan, if you really like to pursue dance, I could introduce you to a famous dance teacher afterwards."

"A famous dance teacher? You know one?" Xu Shanshan immediately looked up at Li Yifei in surprise.

"Yeah, I know one, Qiao Ya. Have you heard of her?"

"Qiao Ya? Oh my god, you're not kidding me, are you? She's one of the most famous dancers in our country," Xu Shanshan released Li Yifei, her eyes wide as she stared at him.

"Why would I lie to you? But, don't let your sister know about this. She's very suspicious and might wonder if there's something between Qiao Ya and me."

"Giggle, how could that be possible? Qiao Ya is a nationally renowned dancer. How could she have anything to do with you? But brother-in-law, what exactly is your relationship with her, and how can you introduce me to her?"

"We're just friends. We met once because of an incident, so I still have some pull."

"Alright then, I'll take your advice. It's not like I'm actually going to study dance with her. After all, I'm getting on in age, and it's hard to make much headway in that field now. But she's my idol, and meeting her just once would be enough for me."

"That makes it even easier. After the holiday, I'll arrange a meeting. How does that sound?"

"Brother-in-law, you're incredible!" Xu Shanshan exclaimed excitedly, throwing herself at him and planting a kiss on his face.

Li Yifei broke out in a nervous sweat and said, "Tell me, Shanshan, you don't go around kissing people on impulse, do you?"

Xu Shanshan playfully hit Li Yifei and chided, "What nonsense are you talking about? Can I kiss just anyone? Aren't you my brother-in-law? We're family."

Li Yifei sighed with relief. If Xu Shanshan had been frivolous, it would have disappointed him. It seemed that the girl still valued herself highly; she had just been negatively influenced by those friends.

"I came here on a mission. Can I go back and report completion now?" Li Yifei asked with a smirk.

"Sure, I just won't contact them anymore. I know they're not all that good anyway, it's just that I enjoy watching their performances, which is why I hang out with them."

"Alright then, let's head home," Li Yifei said cheerfully as he hailed a taxi, and they joyfully returned to the neighborhood.

"Remember! Don't tell your sister or your uncle and aunt about this," Li Yifei reminded Xu Shanshan in the elevator.

Xu Shanshan nodded repeatedly, boasting proudly, "This is our little secret between us two."

"Right! Our secret, just between the two of us."

They shared a knowing smile as they exited the elevator and then went on to open the apartment door.

"Huh, you two came back so early?" Xu Zhenguo looked at the two people at the door in surprise.

Xu Shanshan chuckled lightly and said, "It's nothing much, so I came back with my brother-in-law."

Xu Shanshan's mother also looked at her with puzzlement and said, "In the past, you always came back at midnight. Now it's not even nine o'clock. This is too out of the ordinary."

Li Yifei immediately took over and said, "Shanshan saw that I was bored there, so we came back early."

Xu Shanshan hopped over and hugged her mother's arm, saying, "Alright, stop looking at me with that kind of look. I won't go out with them anymore. Are you satisfied now?"

"Really?" The Xu Zhenguo Couple asked in unison. They had lectured Xu Shanshan countless times, and although she remained indifferent, recognizing that their daughter was already grown up, they didn't feel it appropriate to press further and ultimately let her be. To their surprise, she had changed her ways today.

"Of course, it's true. My brother-in-law gave me a good scolding, and I don't dare to go (out with them) anymore," Xu Shanshan said, pouting her lips at Li Yifei with a look of grievance.

The Xu Zhenguo Couple glanced at Xu Shanshan and then at Li Yifei, feeling that something about this didn't seem quite real. At this moment, Xu Yingying also came out of her room and said to Li Yifei, "Come in for a moment."

Li Yifei winked at Xu Shanshan and then followed Xu Yingying into the room, where he sat down directly on the bed.

Xu Yingying, with her arms crossed, looked at him intently and said, "What's going on here?"

Li Yifei shrugged and replied, "Nothing much. I just didn't like the look of those guys, so I gave them a piece of my mind. Shanshan might have been awakened by my scolding, and she decided to come back with me, even saying she won't go (out with them) anymore."

"Is it really that simple?"

"Yes, it's that simple."

"Then tell me the details of what happened."

Li Yifei recounted the day's events at Art Bar. He mentioned the cocktail making, which Shanshan would certainly talk about, so he didn't hide it. However, the fact that Shanshan kissed him and that he was taking Shanshan to meet Qiao Ya were naturally things he couldn't disclose.

Walking around the room, Xu Yingying stopped and said with confusion, "This is really odd. That girl actually woke up to your scolding? Both mom and dad have scolded her before, and she never listens."

"You didn't hit the nail on the head, and besides, she was already resistant to your criticisms. That's why they didn't work. I silenced those Angry Youths with my scolding and impressed them with my cocktail skills. That's why Shanshan listened to me."

"Maybe that's the case, but it's definitely a good thing. I'm relieved if she doesn't hang out with that messy crowd."

Li Yifei said with a grin, "Then I've quite successfully completed the task, haven't I?"

Xu Yingying nodded and responded, "You did very well with this matter."

"Thank you for the compliment, Xu president."

Xu Yingying opened her wardrobe, took out a wallet, and pulled out a wad of cash, saying, "Here, take this as a reward."

Li Yifei immediately said, "Didn't I say that this was just a complimentary service?"

Xu Yingying placed the cash next to Li Yifei and said, "I only asked you to keep an eye on Shanshan, but you ended up cutting off her association with those fair-weather friends. You definitely deserve a reward, so don't be polite."

Grinning, Li Yifei said, "Then I won't stand on ceremony. I wonder if there are any other tough issues in your family that I can help solve, seems like this makes money even faster."

Xu Yingying immediately gave Li Yifei a stern look and said, "Are you actually hoping for more problems in our family?"

Li Yifei stuffed the cash into his pocket, saying cheerfully, "I was just joking. Don't take it to heart, president."

Seeing Li Yifei's eagerness for money, Xu Yingying felt slightly displeased and said, "Enough, stop calling me president, lest my parents hear it."

"Alright, I'll go out to wash up and get ready for bed."

Outside, Xu Shanshan was still narrating to her parents the heroic deeds of Li Yifei that evening: how he outmatched someone in a contest of strength, causing them to sweat profusely, and how he mixed a Nine-colored Rainbow cocktail that even astounded a professional bartender.

"Brother-in-law, come here quickly. My parents don't believe what I said, you need to come and confirm it for me, tell them how amazing you are," Xu Shanshan called out to Li Yifei as soon as she saw him come out.

Li Yifei hurried over, smiling, "What's there to be amazing about? It was just a bit of fun."

But Xu Shanshan persisted, urging, "It wasn't just fun, mix a cocktail for my parents, so they can see for themselves."

Xu Zhenguo, quite interested, said, "Yifei, if you really have such skills, you should definitely mix one for me to try. I often enjoy good liquor but I've never really had the chance to try cocktails."

Since Xu Zhenguo put it that way, Li Yifei could no longer decline, so he picked a few bottles from Xu Zhenguo's collection of fine liquors. Although Xu Zhenguo had many white spirits, there were only a few bottles of foreign liquor, such as Vodka or whiskey, which he had none.

Despite the incomplete selection of alcohol, Li Yifei managed to mix a decent cocktail. Xu Zhenguo, after tasting it, was full of praise. Xu Yingying, who had come out to watch, was also taken aback. As a president who had attended many wine events, she was very familiar with cocktails. The concoction that Li Yifei mixed was definitely superior to those made by ordinary bartenders.

Watching Li Yifei from the sidelines, Xu Yingying suddenly realized that Li Yifei indeed had some skills, and not at all like the rough exterior he presented.

Chapter 28: Chapter 28 Almost Exposed

"See that, bro-in-law was amazing, he stunned them all, with each one of them wide-eyed, especially that Nine-colored Rainbow, it was so good. I can still remember the aroma of that drink now. Bro-in-law, can you make another one?"

Li Yifei had only made that simple drink, and Xu Shanshan was clearly unsatisfied.

Li Yifei shook his head and said, "We don't have that much alcohol at home. This is already the best I could make."

"Then I'll go buy it tomorrow." Xu Zhenguo loved good drinks and felt an itch upon hearing Xu Shanshan say this, wishing he could rush out to buy some if it weren't so late already.

Xu Yingying immediately said, "That won't do, Dad. You've already had quite a bit to drink these days. You need to limit yourself, or else it won't be good for your health."

Xu Yingying's mother chimed in, "Yingying is right. Alcohol is good, but it can't be consumed excessively. Yifei, you can't just give him drinks. This old guy doesn't hold back when he sees good wine."

Xu Zhenguo pulled a face and said, "You two don't need to be like this. It's New Year's. Surely I can drink a few more glasses?"

Li Yifei smiled and said, "Actually, alcohol can promote circulation and dispel the cold, as long as it's consumed in moderation and with the right method. It's not harmful to the body—can even be beneficial. Tomorrow, I'll make Uncle two more cups of tonic wine that won't harm him."

Xu Zhenguo burst into laughter, patting Li Yifei's shoulder heartily. "Good kid, I like what you just said the most. See, old lady, Yifei can make me such wine, so you can't stop me from drinking, right?"

Xu Yingying's mother shook her head. "Yifei, I'll leave it up to you then. It's up to you to look after your uncle's health."

Li Yifei quickly said, "No problem, Auntie. Don't worry. How could I neglect Uncle's health?"

Xu Yingying's mother nodded. "Then it's settled. Your uncle always wants to drink heartily when he gets a chance. If he dares to threaten you, shout for me or Yingying, and watch how we deal with him."

Xu Zhenguo laughed heartily at Li Yifei and said, "Yifei, it turns out that besides me, everyone in our house is of the fairer sex. I have no standing at all. Now that you've come, I wanted to get an ally, but you've already been bought off by them. I'm still a lone wolf."

Li Yifei also laughed and said, "Uncle, I haven't been completely bought yet. Occasionally, I'll be on the same line as you."

This made everyone laugh, even Xu Yingying couldn't help but smile.

It was getting late, so everyone tidied up and went to rest. Naturally, Li Yifei still slept on the floor. Xu Yingying didn't let him sleep on the bed today just because they had shared one yesterday.

Nothing happened that night. The next day was the fourth day of the Lunar New Year. Since Xu Yingying's grandparents had passed, there was no one to visit, so the family gathered to play mahjong, while Xu Yingying fiddled with her computer in her room, working even during the New Year.

After playing mahjong for a while, Xu Zhenguo looked at Xu Shanshan in confusion and asked, "Shanshan, how come you're so lucky?"

Xu Shanshan smiled smugly and said, "Of course, look who I am. I chose not to go out, and if I don't win some money from you, it would be too much of a loss." Under the table, she lightly tapped Li Yifei's foot with hers, showing praise.

Xu Shanshan's mother turned to look at Li Yifei and said, "Yifei, you wouldn't be playing tricks with Shanshan, would you? Every time she's about to win something, you always play the right card."

Li Yifei rubbed his nose and said, "I have no choice, I guess my playing is just that bad."

Xu Zhenguo smiled while he organized the tiles. "Don't think that using little signals will work. Now that I'm watching you, let's see if you can still play tricks."

"Go ahead and watch. My bro-in-law and I aren't using signals, right bro-in-law?" Xu Shanshan winked at Li Yifei with a grin.

Li Yifei chuckled and said, "Indeed, there's no signal." What they were doing under the table wasn't signaling—it was an overt tactic. But Xu Shanshan's pretty and soft foot caressing his was almost too much for Li Yifei to handle. It felt like a powerful temptation, almost like an affair.

Seeing Xu Zhenguo and his wife suspicious, Li Yifei also worried they'd discover their antics under the table. He planned not to pass cards to Xu Shanshan temporarily. But after two hands without the cards she wanted, Xu Shanshan secretly stepped hard on Li Yifei's foot. Helpless, he had to pass cards again.

After playing a bit more, Xu Zhenguo still didn't find out how Li Yifei and Xu Shanshan were tricking them. Xu Shanshan kept winning, and Li Yifei kept playing the cards she needed.

"Go get an apple. Who wants one?" Xu Shanshan stood up, happy with her wins and feeling hungry.

"Get one for everyone, we're all losing our tempers." Xu Zhenguo shook his head repeatedly. They had played about eight rounds of cards, and most were Xu Shanshan's victories. He hadn't won more than three rounds.

Li Yifei took this time to visit the bathroom. When he returned, Xu Shanshan handed him an apple, which he ate while continuing the game.

However, when Li Yifei tried to stretch his leg towards the center again, he found that Xu Zhenguo's foot was now in the middle under the table. He couldn't stretch his leg over. He wanted to warn Xu Shanshan, but before he could, Xu Zhenguo said with wide eyes, "Stinky girl, why are you stepping on my foot?"

Li Yifei was startled. If Xu Zhenguo and his wife found out Xu Shanshan was using her foot to communicate under the table, the prank would seem minor, but the brother-in-law and sister-in-law playing tricks together might be deemed too much.

Xu Shanshan was also startled, but laughed it off, saying, "Move your foot. I can't stretch my leg straight, it's uncomfortable."

"Stinky girl, you're too picky." Xu Zhenguo had always been doting on his daughter, so he withdrew his foot without realizing her antics.

Because of this, Li Yifei dared not stretch his foot across for a while. But after a few rounds, Xu Shanshan started glaring at him secretly, so he tentatively stretched his foot again. Xu Shanshan was more careful this time, lightly tapping his foot first.

Li Yifei had to nod lightly, and Xu Shanshan's mouth curved into a happy smile as their little scheme began again.

Until dinner, the game stopped. Xu Shanshan won big, gaining over four thousand yuan, while Li Yifei lost nearly two thousand. The rest were losses by Xu Zhenguo and his wife.

Needless to say, Xu Shanshan was overjoyed, while Xu Zhenguo and his wife, not accepting this, agreed to play again that evening.

Li Yifei cooked the meal himself, showcasing his culinary skills once again, and even made Xu Zhenguo a drink. Despite losing money, Xu Zhenguo was in high spirits.

"Hey sis, bro-in-law was miserable today, losing over two thousand." During dinner, Xu Shanshan said with a wink at Xu Yingying.

Xu Yingying smiled faintly and said, "Let him lose. Whenever we celebrate the New Year, you always manage to make a windfall."

"Thank you, thank you, but bro-in-law loses more miserably than he usually does."

"Of course, with you around, he doesn't dare to win."

Although dinner was sumptuous, Xu Zhenguo and his wife were eager to resume their mahjong game, so they finished eating quickly. Then they set up for another round, and Xu Yingying watched for a while, keeping her family company, but soon lost interest and returned to her room.

At around eleven, Li Yifei returned to the bedroom to find Xu Yingying lying on the bed, covered with a thick robe on her upper body, her legs covered by a blanket, and a laptop placed on top.

"How much did you lose?" Xu Yingying asked blandly.

"Not much, less than five thousand." Li Yifei grinned.

"I don't have that much cash left. Give me your account, I'll transfer it to you."

Li Yifei chuckled. "Then I won't be polite."

"You don't need to be. I hired you, so I can't let you lose money. Besides, if you don't lose, then I'd end up losing the same amount as you. Every year Shanshan has to win something. Although she seems to have won more this year."

Li Yifei secretly laughed. With him here letting her win, Xu Shanshan couldn't not win. Since it wasn't his money, why not use it to buy some goodwill, and Xu Shanshan's foot had been quite a treat all day.

After Li Yifei laid down on the floor, Xu Yingying said, "It seems like Shanshan hasn't tested you today, right?"

Li Yifei replied, "She was too busy winning to have time to test me."

Xu Yingying shook her head. "That can't be right. She's usually quite sharp. How could she trust you're my boyfriend so easily? At first, she tested you. But these past few days, she seems convinced. I find it a bit unreal."

Li Yifei stretched and said, "Isn't it simple? In her mind, you shouldn't be a random person, right?"

"Obviously not."

"Then there you have it. You, a non-random person, sharing a room with me and even sleeping on the same bed at your grandfather's house. How could she doubt our relationship?"

"Hope you forget about this. Never mention it in front of outsiders again," Xu Yingying said coldly with an authoritative tone.

"You brought it up first, alright? Now you blame me. I'll be working under you as my boss, so I wouldn't dare gossip unless I plan to quit."

"That would be best."

Xu Yingying said coolly, realizing that organizing a job for Li Yifei had some effect. At least it could close his mouth; otherwise, if he babbled indiscriminately, her reputation as a boss could be ruined within the company.

Chapter 29: Chapter 29 Bar

The next day at noon, Li Yifei and Xu Yingying boarded the plane back to Mile City. Today was the fifth day of the Lunar New Year, and they were due back to work on the seventh. Most people would stay at home for one more day, but for Xu Yingying, a company executive, not only did she have work matters to attend to back at the company, there were also other things she needed to deal with sooner. It was only because her family insisted she stay longer that she hadn't returned to Mile City on the third day of the New Year.

Of course, there was another reason. Li Yifei had behaved well enough and hadn't caused any problems, which gave her quite a bit of peace of mind. Thus, she stayed at home two days longer than she had initially planned.

After disembarking from the plane, Xu Yingying and Li Yifei got into the car that had been parked in the parking lot for several days. It was a black Buick.

"Our contract ends here," Xu Yingying said to Li Yifei, her gaze quite cold.

Li Yifei smiled and nodded, saying, "I hope the boss is somewhat satisfied with my performance this time."

"Not bad. Come to our company's Human Resources Department when you start on the seventh. I'll talk to them," she replied.

"Received."

"I hope you remember your words and don't talk about this to anyone."

"Don't worry, boss. I had forgotten about it a long time ago. From now on, you're just my boss," Li Yifei said.

Xu Yingying nodded, satisfied, and started the car. Soon, they were in the city. Without asking where Li Yifei lived, she simply dropped him off at a bus station, decisively at that.

Li Yifei didn't feel any resentment. These days over the New Year's had been the most comfortable he had experienced in recent years. Nothing else was of much importance to him now.

He hailed a taxi and went directly to Prosperity Community. Here, Li Yifei had rented a simple two-bedroom apartment, less than seventy square meters in size, on the sixteenth floor, the same level as Xu Yingying's family home.

Once inside, he threw his things casually onto the sofa and collapsed onto it himself. At home, he could relax completely, no longer having to be as restrained as he had been at Xu Yingying's house. But after lighting up a cigarette, Li Yifei felt a sense of emptiness. The past few days had been lively, and this sudden quiet was something he found hard to adjust to.

Having eaten on the plane, he wasn't hungry. Seeing that it was getting dark outside and not feeling sleepy either, he simply left his home, took another taxi, and headed to a bar called Dream Origin not too far from his place.

Li Yifei had visited this bar before. The environment was quite nice, and most of the patrons were white-collar workers, so it wasn't noisy. The most important thing was the opportunity to find someone for a one-night stand if luck was on his side, a marked contrast to those bars where hostesses were the norm, which lacked much interest for him.

Today, the bar was even more quiet than usual. Only a few customers were scattered sparsely across the booths, less than ten in total, and the bar itself was deserted. This left Li Yifei somewhat disappointed, as those looking for one-night stands often preferred sitting at the bar, waiting for someone to strike up a conversation.

Since no one was around, Li Yifei didn't mind waiting for others to approach him. He ordered a beer and sat at the bar, slowly sipping his drink and chatting intermittently with the bartender.

After about half an hour, two women came up and started talking to Li Yifei, but he wasn't interested. Although he wasn't particularly traditional or conservative when it came to sex, he was picky. He couldn't be bothered if the woman wasn't to his liking.

Another half hour passed without any satisfying encounters, but then he noticed a woman in the corner booth. She was wearing a loose sweater with a coat tossed beside her and seemed to have a nice figure. Even though her long hair obscured her face, adding a layer of mystery, Li Yifei had a feeling she wouldn't be unattractive.

The woman was deeply ensconced in her seat, hardly moving at all. When she did move, it was only to take large gulps of her drink, a pricey Remy Martin, clearly indicating that she was wealthy. But such behavior also suggested that she wasn't happy.

Some women come out looking for excitement, and they're the easiest to pick up. Just give them the right look, and you can quickly enjoy a night of pleasure. Another type of woman easy to pick up in bars are those who drink to drown their sorrows. They often have issues at work or in their relationships, and their souls tend to be the emptiest. Some even act out of spite, though they may still be hesitant inside. With the right approach, they can definitely be picked up.

"Get me a whiskey," Li Yifei ordered a whiskey and went straight up to the woman. He sat down in front of her and slid the whiskey her way, saying, "This one's for you."

The woman didn't look up but replied coldly with one word: "Scram!"

Li Yifei didn't leave; instead, he became more interested. He smiled faintly and said, "Drowning your sorrows in Remy Martin isn't the best choice. It's too mellow. Whiskey's stronger and can get you drunk faster."

After speaking, Li Yifei stood up and said, "I won't bother you anymore." Then he returned to the bar, sitting down without casting another glance at the woman.

Over the years, Li Yifei hadn't had a girlfriend. When he had the chance to relax, he loved going to bars. He was quite a pro at it. He knew that with this type of woman, if he persisted, she would never agree. By turning around and leaving, he often piqued their interest instead, increasing his chances of success.

Li Yifei's judgment was correct. Twenty minutes later, footsteps approached from behind - the sound of high heels on the floor, somewhat disorderly, indicating the woman was unsteady on her feet and obviously a bit tipsy.

The footsteps stopped beside him, and a woman sat down on the bar stool next to him. It was the same woman who had been huddled in the booth. Li Yifei turned his head, gave her a slight smile, and raised his glass in a toast before taking a sip of his beer.

He felt even more pleased inside as this woman was quite beautiful. With a melon-seed shaped face and slightly pointed chin, which didn't detract from her attractiveness at all. She wore hardly any makeup, but her big, watery eyes, slightly red around the rims, were striking. A woman this beautiful without makeup would surely outshine those so-called starlets if she put some on.

"You told me to drink whiskey, why are you drinking beer?" the woman asked, tilting her head as she looked at Li Yifei, her eyebrows slightly furrowed.

Li Yifei smiled lightly and answered, "You and I are different. I come to the bar to relax, but you're here to get drunk. That's why whiskey suits you better."

The woman gave a mocking laugh, "I don't think so. You're trying to get me drunk so you can take advantage of me later. I've seen too many men like you."

Li Yifei nodded without a hint of embarrassment and said, "You're right, that is what I'm thinking. I'm sitting here with a clear purpose: to find a one-night stand. Offering you whiskey was my way of striking up a conversation. But if you don't agree, I won't insist. A one-night stand should be consensual and should leave no strings attached afterward."

The woman was surprised by Li Yifei's reaction. Men who were caught out usually got a bit flustered, but he remained calm, "Consensual... No strings attached afterward..." she muttered under her breath, then scoffed, "Just as expected from men, always led by the desires of the lower half."

Li Yifei replied composedly, "Yeah, emotions are reserved for one's wife, but in the absence of a wife, I prefer being this direct."

"Haha..." the woman suddenly laughed, her expression filled with disdain, "You men talk a good game. Before marriage, you treat women like treasures, but once married, you don't take them seriously anymore and search for new thrills. Love... sounds nice, but you men never truly take it to heart."

Li Yifei shook his head and said, "You shouldn't negate all men just because one has hurt you."

"Are you the type of man who'd never look at another woman once you're in a relationship?" the woman challenged, staring into Li Yifei's eyes.

Meeting her gaze steadily, Li Yifei slowly shook his head and replied, "I can't guarantee that because I haven't found the love that's meant for me. Besides, who knows what the future holds? Those who frequently make vows often lack them, just as those who often make promises hardly ever keep them."

Chapter 30: Chapter 30 Not Caring

Li Yifei didn't have the habit of bringing a stranger home. It was too dangerous, a habit cultivated by Li Yifei over many years. The most important thing was, he was only after a one-night stand, merely a form of release to satisfy his physical needs. He certainly didn't want to attract a clingy woman because of such needs. Women, that kind of creature, might be utterly arrogant and ignore you before you get her body, but once you do, she might cling to you and not let go. Li Yifei couldn't afford to deal with such women right now.

He arrived at a nearby hotel, wrapping his arm around the waist of the half-drunk woman as they entered the room. The woman's figure was truly remarkable, and at the age of twenty-six or seven, she was at her prime, neither unripe like a young girl nor slackened like a woman over thirty. To bed a woman in this age range was always Li Yifei's favorite, especially when the woman was so beautiful, she could be considered a top-notch beauty.

Once the room door was shut, the woman suddenly tensed up, pushed Li Yifei away, and staggered a few steps back, hugging her chest while looking at Li Yifei somewhat frantically.

Li Yifei really hadn't expected this woman to have regrets after getting to this point, which made him shake his head and sigh, saying, "If you regret it now, you can leave. I won't force you."

Meeting Li Yifei's gaze, the woman burped from the alcohol and asked, "Are you serious?"

Li Yifei shrugged his shoulders, smiling helplessly, and said, "Of course, I am. I always like it when it's mutually agreeable. If you're unwilling, forcing you takes away the pleasure." With that, he pulled open the bathroom door and added, "I'll take a shower first to give you time to think. If you haven't left by the time I'm done, I'll take it as your consent."

After filling the tub with water, Li Yifei stripped naked and soaked in the bathtub. The forty-two-degree water was just right, relaxing his entire body and quickly bringing sweat to the surface of his skin. Alcohol from inside his body was also slowly seeping out with the sweat, leaving a faint scent of alcohol in the bathroom.

During this time, Li Yifei hadn't heard the sound of the door opening, which apparently meant the woman hadn't left yet. It seemed she had decided to stay, or perhaps, she was still conflicted and might rush out the moment he opened the bathroom door after his shower.

This was Li Yifei's judgment of the woman because she seemed incredibly indecisive.

But this time, Li Yifei's judgment was wrong. He was comfortably soaking in the bath when the bathroom door suddenly opened. The woman walked straight to the tub, her face so red it seemed blood would drip from it, yet she still looked directly at Li Yifei and said, "I'll shower with you."

Li Yifei flashed a radiant smile and replied, "I'd be delighted."

The next morning, Li Yifei woke up early, another one of his long-standing habits. Even after leaving the military, he didn't give up this routine. He indeed wanted to live a peaceful life, but he never thought of giving up the skills he had learned, nor did he want to let his body deteriorate due to tranquility.

The woman in his arms was still sound asleep, suffering from the aftermath of last night's frenzy—an incredible fatigue. Li Yifei could recover quickly, but this woman was obviously exhausted.

Considering he still had the day off, Li Yifei wasn't in a hurry to get up. There was nothing to do anyway, so he might as well stay in bed with this beautiful woman, pulling the blanket over them. He casually turned off the air conditioning, having found the warmth it provided all night long pleasant, but not liking the hot air it blew out.

He fell back asleep for a while, and it was nearly eight o'clock when the woman finally woke up. Although she was still nestled in Li Yifei's arms, he could distinctly feel the confusion in her heart, along with guilt and pain.

Li Yifei said nothing, did nothing. Why the woman was conflicted, why she was in pain, those weren't his problems to consider. They were each fulfilling a need, without any involvement of responsibility. Li Yifei didn't wish to take that responsibility upon himself.

Suddenly, he felt a coolness and a slight wetness on his chest—the woman was crying. But Li Yifei couldn't offer her anything, so he continued to pretend to be asleep.

After a while, the woman slowly let go of Li Yifei, then silently got up, dressed, and finally looked back at Li Yifei one last time before swiftly leaving the room.

Only after the sound of the door closing did Li Yifei open his eyes, stretching his limbs, his entire body feeling utterly refreshed. A one-night stand with such a beauty was indeed a very enjoyable thing.

After getting up and washing up, Li Yifei dressed and prepared to leave. But he unintentionally found an ID card on the floor—it was the woman's from just before.

"He Fangqing," Li Yifei muttered the woman's name, then pocketed the ID, intending to give it to the hotel reception for the woman to retrieve later. It was not worth keeping; he wasn't interested in any further entanglements, even if the woman was beautiful.

Exiting the elevator, Li Yifei was about to approach the reception desk when his phone rang. It was Xu Yingying calling. He quickly answered.

"Li Yifei, Shanshan just called me, wanting to talk to you. I said you'd gone out but would be back soon. Where are you now? I'll come pick you up, so Shanshan can hear you when she calls again."

"There's no need to pick me up, I'll just call her back myself."

"No, no, Shanshan is clearly testing us. If we're not together, it'll be easy for her to spot the problem. These days my mom is pressuring me to set her up with someone. If she finds out we're faking, she'll definitely push me back to my mom. Quick, give me your address, I'll come and pick you up right away."

Li Yifei broke out in a cold sweat. The role of the fake boyfriend was still not over. He reluctantly gave the hotel address, and Xu Yingying immediately said with excitement, "I'll be there in less than a minute, come out now."

What a coincidence. Li Yifei had to settle his bill and walk out of the hotel, only to see Xu Yingying's Buick pulling up as he reached the entrance.

After getting into the car, Xu Yingying breathed a sigh of relief and handed her phone to Li Yifei, saying, "Call Shanshan back."

Li Yifei nodded and dialed Xu Shanshan's number, smiling, "Shanshan, what's up?"

"Eh, you're really with my sister?" Xu Shanshan sounded genuinely surprised.

"Hehe, of course, we're together. I just went out to buy breakfast. Your sister wanted something light, so I especially went to the supermarket to get some bamboo shoots for her, to make bamboo shoot porridge."

"Ah, I want some too."

"Then when you come over, your brother-in-law will cook it for you."

"Mm, then I won't keep you from making porridge for my sister, bye-bye."

"Bye-bye."

After hanging up, Li Yifei made a victory gesture and handed the phone back to Xu Yingying.

Xu Yingying breathed a sigh of relief but immediately sniffed and frowned, saying, "You seem rather merry."

Li Yifei immediately knew why Xu Yingying thought so; although the woman from yesterday didn't wear makeup, she had sprayed a bit of perfume, leaving a light fragrance on him. Plus, since he came out from a hotel, Xu Yingying must've guessed he had spent the night there with a woman.

However, Li Yifei didn't mind, and he chuckled, "Boss, is my mission complete then?"

Xu Yingying nodded, took out roughly two thousand yuan from her bag, and said, "This is for you. Keep your phone on recently; I might need to reach you any time."

Li Yifei hurriedly said, "No need, it's not a big deal, just a phone call."

"I don't want to owe you any favors. Let's do it by the book. Don't worry, you can still come to work at my company tomorrow."

Li Yifei understood Xu Yingying's meaning; she didn't want any personal entanglements with him, their relationship was purely professional. He happily accepted the money and then got out of the car.

Xu Yingying's Buick started up immediately and merged into the traffic, disappearing from sight.

Li Yifei shook his head, knowing that Xu Yingying had a bad impression of him, mainly because of the perfume on him and the fact he stayed in a hotel. Clearly, she thought he wasn't a good man.

But Li Yifei didn't care. He had no intention of leaving a good impression on Xu Yingying, and after all, his private life was his own. Even Xu Yingying, as the boss, couldn't meddle in her subordinate's private life. He hailed a taxi and returned home. However, upon taking off his coat, he suddenly remembered that the woman's ID was still on him. By then it was late, and he was too lazy to return it; he would wait until he had time.

Lying in his own bed at home, Li Yifei couldn't help but reminisce about the previous night's madness. It had been a long time since he had such a wild night. In every way, that woman was exceptional, with stunning looks and an incredible figure, and when it came to passion, she had quite the taste. If it weren't for the fear of trouble, Li Yifei wouldn't mind having such an encounter with her again.

Shaking his head, Li Yifei banished these thoughts. He didn't want to tie his emotions down too soon, especially since there was another person he needed to figure out—until then, he had no intention of just finding a woman to marry.

