

## Toxic Ex 111

Chapter 111: Elder Brother Ouyang Hao

Lin Yixun was woken up by pain in the morning. She regretted it a bit. Although she had enjoyed the hot pot meal the previous day, her stomach paid the price. It seemed like she shouldn't indulge like that in the future.

She squatted in the bathroom for a long time, initially considering asking Ouyang Hao for a leave. However, she felt bad since she seemed to have been taking leave quite often lately.

Ouyang Hao seemed very busy these days and didn't have time to pay attention to her. She enjoyed her freedom, and after cleaning the house, she happily got off work.

That day, just as she finished cleaning and was preparing to leave, she suddenly heard the doorbell. She looked at the security camera and saw a handsome man.

The man's looks were somewhat similar to Ouyang Hao's, but his features were more defined, and he lacked Ouyang Hao's devilish charm. Instead, he had a bit of a stern air about him.

She thought that this person must be a relative of Ouyang Hao and opened the door without further thought. As she opened the door, she casually observed the man in front of her. He was around 1.85 meters tall, with a tall and straight figure, very handsome, and had a strong presence.

"Sir, may I ask who you are?"

"I am Ouyang Hao's brother. Is Hao here?"

"Oh, you must be Mr. Ouyang. Mr. Ouyang is at work and it might be a while before he gets back. Would you like to come in and sit for a while?"

The man nodded, changed his shoes, and walked into the living room. Lin Yixun, with her height of a little over 1.60 meters, felt significantly shorter beside him and sensed a huge difference in their presence.

Lin Yixun secretly sighed, thinking the Ouyang family had pretty good genes.

"Mr. Ouyang, would you like some coffee or green tea?"

"Coffee, thank you," the man said expressionlessly.

"Alright." Lin Yixun nodded, smiled politely at the man, and said, "I will go make some coffee for you. Please make yourself comfortable."

Lin Yixun turned around slowly and walked towards the kitchen, thinking to herself, "Is this really Ouyang Hao's elder brother? How come his personality is so different from Ouyang Hao's? Isn't he a bit too serious?"

Lin Yixun suddenly realized that she had gotten quite used to Ouyang Hao's flippant attitude. Meeting someone so serious felt a bit unnatural to her.

Lin Yixun entered the pantry and decided to call Ouyang Hao to inform him.

On the other end of the line, hearing that Ouyang Che had arrived at the apartment, Ouyang Hao nearly fell off his folding chair. "What, you said my brother is here?"

"Mr. Ouyang is still in the living room, seemingly waiting for you to come back. It looks like he has something to talk to you about."

"Tell him I'm busy!" This brother of his, visiting with no good reason, definitely meant trouble.

"Is that... appropriate?" It wasn't often that his brother came by. Would it be inappropriate to treat him like this?

"Just tell him I have to attend a charity event tonight and won't be back for a while."

"Alright then."

So, Lin Yixun carried the coffee into the living room and said quietly to the man, "Sir, here is your coffee."

"Thank you." The man moved his lips politely, but his tone conveyed distance.

Lin Yixun had met all sorts of people, and it was clear that this man was not easy to get along with. She wasn't surprised, after all, Ouyang Hao himself wasn't an easy person to deal with either. There's a saying that goes, "Birds of a feather flock together."

Even while drinking coffee, every subtle movement of the man exuded an invisible elegance. Clearly, he was very well-educated. This was quite different from Ouyang Hao.

Lin Yixun hesitated for a moment but ultimately decided to speak softly, "Sir, I just called Mr. Ouyang. He mentioned that he has to attend a charity event tonight and might not be back for a while."

#### Chapter 112: I Am Willing to Wait for You

The man lifted his eyes to look at her. His gaze was deep, and Lin Yixun couldn't tell if it was just her imagination, but it felt like he could see right through her.

Just as Lin Yixun started to feel a chill down her spine, the man stood up, "Since he's not coming back anytime soon, I won't wait for him. Please pass on a message for me: Mom is sick and really wants to see him."

"Alright, I will relay your message to Mr. Ouyang."

After Ouyang Hao left, Lin Yixun called Ouyang Hao again and delivered his brother's words to him.

The Empress Dowager is sick?

Ouyang Hao raised an eyebrow. Could she be faking it? After all, this wasn't the first time. Nevertheless, Ouyang Hao decided to take a trip back to Beijing. The commercial here was already finished filming, and he didn't have much else to do these days.

Before leaving, Ouyang Hao felt a bit uneasy. He pulled Lin Yixun close and commanded, "While I'm away, stay away from other men. There are a lot of rogues pretending to be gentlemen out there. You're so naive, without me to protect you, you'd definitely be fooled."

Lin Yixun rolled her eyes. Did he think she was stupid? Was she really that naive? Besides, who was the rogue pretending to be a gentleman? Xing Yi? In her view, Xing Yi was much better than him.

She muttered in her heart a million times over but didn't show it. She nodded firmly.

"That's more like it." Ouyang Hao reached out and gently tapped her nose. Realizing that the gesture seemed a bit too intimate, he cleared his throat awkwardly, "You'll be fine if you listen to me. I'm off!"

With that, Ouyang Hao dragged his suitcase and walked towards the security check area.

During the days Ouyang Hao was away, Xing Yi came to pick her up from work every day. At first, Lin Yixun kept declining, but seeing Xing Yi's persistence, she eventually stopped refusing.

Just like other dating couples, they spent most of their time together having meals, and occasionally they would watch a movie. Since they were both alumni of A University, they interacted quite naturally, and gradually became more familiar with each other.

But Lin Yixun knew very well that familiarity was a long way from liking. Her heart was so scarred that it was difficult to feel anything for another person again.

She didn't want to drag things on with Xing Yi without clarity. It would be disrespectful to him, and to herself as well.

One day, as they walked out of the cinema, Lin Yixun hesitated for a long time before finally mustering up the courage to speak.

"Um... Senior, maybe we should just stop?"

The man suddenly halted and turned to look at her. For a moment, Lin Yixun thought he was going to be angry, but then he curved his lips into a smile, "What do you mean by stop?"

Lin Yixun's eyelashes trembled, and she opened her mouth, "Senior, I might not be able to like you."

"Oh, so it's because of that." The smile on the man's face deepened, "Actually, many couples who meet through matchmaking don't initially like each other, but many of them still end up together. Yixun, love is like boiling water, given enough time, it can come to a boil."

"But what if this pot of water never boils?"

The man looked at her deeply, "There's no rush. We have a lifetime. If one year doesn't make it boil, then ten years. If ten years aren't enough, then twenty. It will eventually come to a boil."

"But Senior, life is too short. How many ten years do we have? You're so excellent, lots of girls will like you. Why waste your time on me?"

"It's not a matter of wasting time. It's about willingness, and I'm willing to wait for you."

Chapter 113: Who Do You Think You Are

"Senior?!"

"Yixun, don't be quick to reject me. I know you've had a failed marriage, and accepting another man to restart can be difficult. But I can wait, wait for the day you open your heart."

"Senior, this is unfair to you."

"In love, there isn't any fairness or unfairness. Yixun, you should give me a chance, and also give yourself a chance."

Lin Yixun looked up at the man in front of her. He was so heartfelt and sincere that she couldn't bring herself to refuse him again. She slowly lowered her gaze and said in a low voice, "Alright, Senior. I will try to date you and work on loving you."

"Silly girl, love isn't something you can achieve through effort." The man smiled at her, stepped forward, and grasped her hand. Seeing her want to withdraw, he said in a deep voice, "Love is brewed gradually, let's start by holding hands."

Upon hearing this, Lin Yixun stopped struggling and let the man hold her hand. His hand was large and warm, making her feel at ease.

Though Lin Yixun's heart was as calm as water, it felt warm deep down. With Xing Yi's encouragement, she took the first step and suddenly realized it wasn't as difficult as she had imagined.

She thought, maybe in no time, she could actually like the man in front of her.

"So, am I your boyfriend now?" The man asked with a smile.

Lin Yixun shook her head unconsciously, then remembered what she had just said. She hesitated and nodded, stammering, "Let's consider it as an internship period."

The man burst into laughter, "So I need to work harder to become official quickly."

"Exactly." Lin Yixun raised her chin, "I have high standards for boyfriends, as a prospective boyfriend, you should be prepared."

"Why do I suddenly feel like I've boarded a pirate ship?" Xing Yi joked.

"It's still not too late to regret."

"Let's forget it, it's hard to get a ticket."

The two of them bantered, smiling and laughing.

Suddenly, two beams of strong light shone towards them. Lin Yixun's eyes hurt, and she quickly raised her hand to shield them. Through the gaps in her fingers, she could vaguely see the contour of a car. Before she could react, a roar of an engine filled her ears.

"Watch out!"

Xing Yi cried out, grabbing her shoulder and pulling her to the side of the road. The car zoomed past her in the next moment, and Lin Yixun staggered, nearly falling.

It was only then that she realized if it weren't for Xing Yi's swift reaction, she might have been run over by that car.

Lin Yixun stared at the disappearing direction of the car, a string of license plate numbers flashed through her mind, making her heart sink bit by bit. Those numbers were too flamboyant to ignore.

She curled her lips mockingly; did that person hate her so much that he couldn't even tolerate living under the same sky?

Lin Yixun was sent back to the hospital and soon received a text message. The message was from an unknown number, but from the domineering tone, she could guess who sent it.

"Stay away from Xing Yi."

Lin Yixun curled her lips sarcastically; was the man a maritime police? Why did he have to manage everything? The last time, he told her to stay away from Ouyang Hao, and now he was meddling in her affairs with Xing Yi.

Who did he think he was? What right did he have to control her?

## Chapter 114: His Methods

Lin Yixun couldn't help but retort, "I just want to be with him. What right or position do you have to control me?"

As soon as she sent the text message, Lin Yixun regretted it. Why did she even bother with him? It was simply a waste of time and emotions!

Soon, she deleted the message cleanly and added the number to the blacklist, although she knew it wouldn't help much. Given Leng Yixiu's status and position, getting in touch with her would be a piece of cake for him.

That night, Lin Yixun tossed and turned on the nurse's bed, unable to fall asleep for a long time. She wasn't sure if it was just her imagination, but she had a feeling this time, Leng Yixiu wouldn't let it go so easily.

Sure enough, the next day, Lin Yixun's premonition was confirmed.

That day, Xing Yi had originally made plans to have dinner with her in the evening, but midway through, he called, saying he had to work overtime and might not be able to make it. Lin Yixun didn't think much of it and returned to the hospital early.

When Lin's mother saw Lin Yixun return to the hospital so early, she asked curiously, "Xiao Xun, didn't you have dinner with Xiao Xing? Why are you back so early?"

"He had to work overtime tonight and said he might be late, so I came back first."

"Overtime, huh? Young people today do have a lot of work pressure. I wonder if he's had anything to eat yet. Why don't you take him some supper later? It's not far from here to T University anyway."

"Mom, there's no need for that."

"What do you mean, no need? When your father used to work overtime, I always took him supper." Mentioning Father Lin made Lin's mother's eyes darken. She composed herself and said earnestly, "Xiao

Xun, Xiao Xing has always been very considerate of you. Now that he's working overtime, and as his girlfriend, you're being hesitant?"

"Mom... Senior and I haven't really made it official yet."

"What do you mean, not official? I saw you two holding hands yesterday, and you still say it's not official?"

Unable to argue with Lin's mother, Lin Yixun surrendered, "Mom, I'll listen to you and take him some supper."

Saying this, Lin Yixun left the ward hastily. Her mother wasn't concerned about other matters but was fully invested in her lifelong happiness, which was a bit overwhelming.

Lin Yixun felt somewhat helpless but also understood.

Leaving the hospital, Lin Yixun took out her phone and dialed Xing Yi's number. It rang several times before he answered.

"Hello? Yixun?"

"Senior, it's me. Are you off work now?"

"I... I'm still in the teaching building. It'll be a while before class ends."

For some reason, Lin Yixun felt something off in Xing Yi's tone but couldn't pinpoint what it was. She chuckled at herself, thinking she might be overthinking.

"Alright, Senior, I'll let you get back to your class then." Lin Yixun didn't tell Xing Yi that she was going to T University because if she did, Xing Yi would surely stop her from going.

Security in T City hadn't been great recently, and Xing Yi had reminded her not to go out alone at night.

It was only a few bus stops from the hospital to T University. Lin Yixun got off the bus near a restaurant they had eaten at before, ordered some takeout, and went to the third teaching building.

Today was Wednesday. Luckily, she had attended one of his classes last Wednesday, so she still remembered the classroom. She was fortunate; just as she reached the classroom door, she heard the dismissal bell.

However, to her surprise, the person walking down from the podium was an elderly professor, not Xing Yi. Lin Yixun frowned and glanced at the room number. It was correct.

She hesitated before approaching the elderly professor and asked softly, "Excuse me, could you please tell me why Mr. Xing Yi didn't come to teach today?"

Chapter 115: I am Your Girlfriend

"Who are you?"

"I... I am his friend."

"Are you Xing Yi's girlfriend?" the old professor asked.

Lin Yixun hesitated for a moment and then nodded.

"There are too many people here, it's not convenient to talk. Come with me," the old professor led her to the office next to the classroom. Seeing no one around, he finally spoke, "Xiao Xing has been suspended by the university."

"How could it be? He was still at T University last week!"

"The university administration made the decision temporarily today," the old professor said in a deep voice.

"What mistake did he make? Why did T University fire him?"

"I can't disclose that," the old professor paused and continued, "Young lady, I can only tell you that Xiao Xing is not at fault in this matter."

Even he felt some regret; such an excellent young man, how could the school suspend him just like that? Truly, the world is getting worse!

Lin Yixun stood in shock, it wasn't Xing Yi's fault? Since he wasn't at fault, why did T University suspend him?

Suddenly, Lin Yixun remembered the text message Leng Yixiu sent her last night. He told her to stay away from Xing Yi, and she had directly rebutted him.

Then, could it be Leng Yixiu? Could all of this be related to Leng Yixiu?

That man always disliked being defied, and his methods were always quick and precise. This matter seemed very much in line with his style.

Lin Yixun didn't know how she left the teaching building. As soon as she walked out, she dialed Xing Yi's number.

"Yixun?"

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"Tell you what? Yixun, what happened?" On the other end, the man's voice was calm, as if nothing had happened.

Lin Yixun tightened her grip on the phone and took a deep breath, "I am at T University now, I... I know everything. Xing Yi, how could you lie to me?"

There was a brief silence on the other end of the phone. After a long while, Lin Yixun finally heard the man's voice, "Yixun, are you...angry? I'm sorry, I shouldn't have lied to you. I just didn't want you to worry."

"You didn't want me to worry? But, I am your girlfriend. If something so big happens, shouldn't you tell me first?"

"Yixun, you finally admit you are my girlfriend?" There was undisguised joy in the man's voice on the other end of the phone.

"Do you want to back out?"

"No, no! I just... I'm just so happy. Yixun, you don't need to worry about this matter, I will handle it."

"Really?"

"Even more true than a pearl. The papers I published were all written by me, never plagiarized. The matter is still under investigation, once the truth comes out, everything will be fine."

Although Xing Yi said this, Lin Yixun always felt things were not that simple.

Sure enough, her premonition was correct. In the following days, Xing Yi went through hell.

Originally, there was no problem with his papers, but a graduate student he supervised had several plagiarized papers published in a core journal. The graduate student was found guilty of plagiarism and threw all the blame on Xing Yi.

Somehow, the matter was posted online by someone with ill intentions. Consequently, everything developed in an unfavorable direction for Xing Yi. Even with ten mouths, he couldn't explain it clearly.

Lin Yixun's gaze stayed on the headline "Computer Genius Doctor Deep in Plagiarism Scandal". She moved her fingers; under the news were countless unsightly comments.

Lin Yixun understood this feeling very well. She picked up her phone and dialed Xing Yi's number, but it rang for a long time and no one answered.