

Toxic Ex 121

Chapter 121: He Returned to the Country for Me?

The pain on her cheek burned, but it was nothing compared to the pain in her heart. Every word Mrs. Xing said felt like a sharp knife, piercing Lin Yixun's heart.

Yes, why wasn't she the one who died?

The car was clearly heading towards her; it was Xing Yi who pushed her away at the last moment. She should have been the one in that cold coffin, but it was Xing Yi lying there instead.

Xing Yi's funeral was held three days later, attended by his family, friends, colleagues, and some students who wanted to see him off.

Lin Yixun knew she was not welcome. If she appeared at Xing Yi's funeral, it might upset his mother. She caused Xing Yi to lose his life and really did not have the courage to face his family again.

But she still went to the cemetery where Xing Yi was. Even from a distance, she wanted to see him off one last time.

From a distance, she saw the backs of Mrs. Xing and Mr. Xing. In the autumn wind, the backs of the elderly couple seemed so desolate, swaying in the wind as if they might fall at any moment.

Lin Yixun's eyes reddened. They had only one son, Xing Yi, and because of her, they had to endure the cruel fate of burying their child.

When Lin Yixun's coffin was lowered into the cold earth, memories flashed through her mind like movie scenes.

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"Miss Lin, I don't mind if you've been divorced."

"To me, work is just a tool to support myself; it doesn't matter whether it's prestigious or not."

"As for the scar on your face, I don't think it affects your beauty."

"Miss Lin, although I'm a salaried worker, I sometimes take private jobs too. Supporting a family shouldn't be a problem."

"Miss Lin, did you graduate from A University? I also graduated from A University."

"Miss Lin, if you're willing, I'd like to date you with marriage in mind."

...

Memories faded like smoke. Unconsciously, Lin Yixun's vision blurred. She thought, in this world, she would probably never find another person like Xing Yi, who didn't care about her past, her job, or her appearance.

She would never find another person like that.

"Lin Yixun?" Suddenly, a male voice called from behind.

Lin Yixun hastily wiped her tears, turned around, and saw a stranger.

"Excuse me, you are...?"

"I was Xing Yi's college classmate and roommate. I thought I might have recognized the wrong person, but it turns out it's really you."

Lin Yixun was surprised and confused. How did Xing Yi's roommate know her?

The man seemed to read her thoughts, "Back then, you were quite a prominent figure in school. Besides, you were in the computer science department, so of course I knew who you were."

A prominent figure back then?

Lin Yixun gave a bitter smile. He probably never imagined that the prominent figure from school would end up so downcast.

"Why are you hanging around here? Aren't you going to see Xing Yi off?" the man asked.

"I..." Lin Yixun lowered her head and fell silent.

The man seemed to remember something, a flicker of awkwardness crossed his face, which was soon replaced by regret and sorrow. He sighed, "I thought after so many years, that guy had finally moved on from you. Who would have thought he came back to find you. Unexpectedly, this is how it all ended."

"Xing Yi... He returned to the country for

Chapter 122: How Should She Pay Back What She Owes Him?

"Isn't that true? Ever since that kid got into A University, there's been no end to the people chasing after him. I'm not exaggerating here, the line might stretch from the east gate to the west gate of A University. But he didn't even blink and rejected them all. Later, he went abroad, and I heard he didn't have any relationships there either. Subsequently, I heard a university overseas wanted to keep him and even promised him a tenured professorship, but he still came back to the country.

During a small gathering, I asked him why he refused such a good job and insisted on returning to the country. He just smiled and said something about how American Imperialism's food didn't suit his taste. But, having been brothers with him for so many years, I knew very well that this was probably the least significant reason. He likely came back for you, after all, he missed the chance to chase after you back then... That time, when he heard about your marriage to Leng Yixiu, he actually dragged me to a bar to drink himself into oblivion. He ended up with a stomach hemorrhage and almost lost his life. He was always so calm and self-restrained, yet he did such a ridiculous thing for you.

So, when I heard the news of his death this time, knowing he died for a woman, the first person I thought of was you. In this world, besides you, who else could make him so reckless?"

Lin Yixun listened quietly, feeling a burning pain in her eyes. She never knew, she never knew, all this time, there was someone who had been silently and unreservedly loving her.

The man saw Lin Yixun was overwhelmed with grief, and gently patted her shoulder, speaking in a deep voice, "Life and death are fated, there's no need to be overly sad and blame yourself. These were all Xing Yi's own choices."

Lin Yixun's eyelashes trembled slightly, and tears rolled down her cheeks. How could she not be heartbroken, how could she not feel guilty?

The closer she got to the past, the more she felt immense guilt. Five years ago, she had let Xing Yi down and broke his heart, and now, she had even cost him his life.

How could she ever repay the debt she owed him?

The man comforted her a bit more, then shook his head helplessly before leaving. He was just an outsider, unable to help her. All he could do now was to see his friend off one last time.

A light drizzle started, wetting Lin Yixun's hair, but she stood still, watching the final scene of the funeral.

After the funeral, Lin Yixun saw Mrs. Xing walking step by step towards her. She didn't know if Mrs. Xing had noticed her, but she knew that avoiding her at this moment would be the wisest choice.

She lowered her eyes sadly and moved her steps to make way for Mrs. Xing, but Mrs. Xing stopped in front of her.

In just a few days, Mrs. Xing seemed even more haggard, as if she had aged ten years. Her eyes were still filled with sorrow, but when she looked at Lin Yixun, there was less sharpness and hatred in her gaze.

After a long silence, Mrs. Xing finally opened her mouth, "Miss Lin, I lost my senses the other day and hurt you. I'm truly sorry."

Lin Yixun was a little surprised. She had thought she would be scolded again, but didn't expect that Mrs. Xing would actually apologize. It was clear that Mrs. Xing was a reasonable woman.

Then to make a reasonable woman lose her senses, speak malicious words, and even resort to violence, one could only imagine how sad and desperate she must have been at the time.

"Auntie, I..." Lin Yixun opened her mouth, but didn't know what to say.

Chapter 123: Classmate, If You Cry Again Your Makeup Will Ruin

"You don't need to blame yourself too much. Life and death are fate; it's all fate." Mrs. Xing wiped the tears from her cheeks. "He liked you for so many years, loved you for so many years, he considered you more important than life itself. It was all his voluntary choice, no one else can be blamed. My son was a foolish child. Back then... if it weren't for... if it weren't for... it's all in the past now. What's the point of talking about it again."

Mrs. Xing paused and took a few heavy sketchbooks from Mr. Xing's hands, handing them over to Lin Yixun, "We found these in Xiao Yi's room. I think Xiao Yi would want us to give these to you."

Lin Yixun hesitated for a moment but eventually extended her hands to take the sketchbooks.

On the way back to the hospital, she opened a sketchbook and found that it was filled with her portraits. She took out the other sketchbooks, and the same; every page, every book was filled with her images.

The paper in the sketchbooks was somewhat yellowed, indicating they were made some years ago. Lin Yixun noticed that each portrait was annotated with a date. The earliest date was six years ago in autumn, and the latest was four years ago in spring.

In the portraits, sometimes she was smiling radiantly, sometimes she looked playfully charming, and other times she wore a faint melancholy. Each scene in the drawings, each expression, was so vivid. Those memories from the past were drawn back into Lin Yixun's mind bit by bit by these sketches.

Lin Yixun turned the pages one by one, examining each page carefully. The image of herself in each picture, every stroke, conveyed the artist's heartfelt emotions. She could even feel Xing Yi's mood while he was drawing.

When she smiled radiantly, his strokes were smooth and natural; when she was frowning, his strokes would become somewhat hesitant. His mood seemed to follow hers – when she was happy, he felt joy; when she was sad, he would be sorrowful too.

Lin Yixun let out a bitter smile. At that time, all her emotions were being led by one person, but she didn't realize that she was also influencing others.

What is this? She had misplaced her affections on Leng Yixiu, while Xing Yi had misplaced his intentions on her.

She couldn't help but sigh at how fickle fate is.

When she turned to a particular page, Lin Yixun's fingers paused slightly. She vaguely remembered the scene in this drawing.

At that time, she was still in her freshman year, deeply infatuated with Leng Yixiu, almost entirely focused on that man. But at that time, Leng Yixiu only had Cheng Ying in his heart.

Because of this, she skipped a professional class for the first time and ran alone to Lover's Bridge, feeling heartbroken. It was the height of spring, the willows were swaying, and the air was filled with floating willow catkins. It should have been the epitome of romance, but it made her feel incredibly heavy-hearted.

Lin Yixun's gaze slowly moved up, finally resting on Lover's Bridge in the drawing. On the bridge stood a boy, his gaze seemed to be looking at a corner under the bridge, yet it appeared as if he was seeing nothing.

Lin Yixun's eyes momentarily froze, and the fragments of memory suddenly pieced together into a complete picture, gradually becoming clearer.

She vaguely remembered, at that time, she was relentlessly pursuing Leng Yixiu, employing every possible method, but that man wouldn't even spare her a glance.

She was utterly embarrassed and pitifully hid in a corner to nurse her wounds alone.

When she was heartbroken and in tears, someone handed her a tissue and said with a smile, "Classmate, if you keep crying, your makeup will smudge."

Chapter 124: I Lost My Boyfriend

The boy's smile was gentle like the spring breeze, making her forget to cry for a moment. Lin Yixun tried hard to recall, how did she respond to him back then?

"So what if I'm crying? It's none of your damn business!"

Lin Yixun suddenly let out a laugh. She had been so wild and bossy back then, like a female bandit. Even Xing Yi had suffered under her, and she wondered what he felt at that time.

Lin Yixun never expected that even such dusty memories could be remembered so clearly; even Xing Yi's gentle smile was fresh in her mind.

As she laughed, tears started to fall "plop, plop" continuously.

It turned out that she had met him years ago, but back then, her whole heart was occupied by someone else, leaving no space for Xing Yi.

But, if she had met Xing Yi a little earlier, would things have turned out differently?

The aunt next to her saw Lin Yixun crying so sadly and gently patted her shoulder. "Girl, what's the matter? Are you facing some difficulties? Did you quarrel with your boyfriend?"

Upon hearing this, Lin Yixun felt as if her heart was being wrung painfully. She covered her mouth hard but said nothing.

"It's normal for young people to have arguments. You'll make up soon, don't be too sad," the aunt comforted her.

Lin Yixun turned her eyes to the aunt beside her. After a long time, she heard her own hoarse voice, "Auntie, I lost my boyfriend."

"How could you lose him?" The aunt frowned and then smiled to comfort her, "No worries. If you lost him, just find him again, won't you?"

Lin Yixun's tears flowed even more fiercely. But the person she lost could never be found again.

When Lin Yixun got off the bus, she was almost exhausted. But she had to pretend to be strong in front of Lin's mother, acting as if nothing had happened.

"Xiao Xun, why are you back so early today? Where's Xing Yi?"

"Mom, Xing Yi has been very busy with work lately, and he has to work overtime tonight."

"No wonder he hasn't come to see you these days."

"Mom...he has his own things to do, how could he be around me every day?"

"What do you mean 'be around you or not'? When young people are in love, they're always stuck together. That's how it is on TV; a day apart feels like three years, right?"

Lin Yixun couldn't take Lin's mother's questions any longer. She stiffly turned her back to her, offering only a view of her back. "Mom, what do you want to eat tonight? I'll go to the cafeteria to get it for you."

"Don't try to change the subject. You keep evading me. Did you and Xing Yi have a fight?"

Lin Yixun's eyes suddenly reddened. She was somewhat relieved that her back was to Lin's mother. Struggling to open her mouth, she said, "Nothing happened. Mom, I'll go get the food now."

With that, she walked towards the door without looking back.

Lin's mother watched her back and shook her head. It seemed likely that she had quarreled with Xing Yi. This daughter of hers had become more and more silent over the years, always keeping her thoughts to herself and never actively sharing her feelings with her.

As Lin Yixun walked out of the hospital room, she could no longer control her tears. She wiped her cheeks forcefully, but her mind was filled with Xing Yi's gentle face. Even now, she couldn't accept Xing Yi's death.

Suddenly, the ringing of her phone in her bag interrupted her thoughts. It was a call from Ouyang Hao. The man's carefree voice soon came through from the other end of the line.

"What are you doing, wooden block? It took you so long to answer my call."

Chapter 125: Watch How I Deal with You

"Mr. Ouyang, is there something you need?"

"Can't I call you if there's nothing wrong?" Ouyang Hao sounded a bit displeased. This girl, why does she sound so distant after just a few days without seeing each other?

....." Lin Yixun pressed her lips tightly together in silence. She really wasn't in the mood to deal with Ouyang Hao right now.

"What's the matter, cat got your tongue?" Ouyang Hao pouted unhappily, leaned back against the leather seat behind him, and lazily said, "I've got a flight at 10:30 tomorrow morning. I'll be in T City around noon. Come pick me up."

"Alright, Mr. Ouyang." Lin Yixun nodded her head. After a pause, she added, "Mr. Ouyang, if there's nothing else, I'll hang up now."

Ouyang Hao frowned. This girl was pretty heartless. They hadn't seen each other in a while, didn't she want to chat with him? They had barely said a few words, and she was already rushing to hang up!

He was about to scold her when the beeping sound came through the phone. Ouyang Hao stared at his now black-screened phone, his eyebrows raised in displeasure. This girl was getting bolder and bolder.

Once he got back to T City, he definitely had to teach her a lesson!

Ouyang Hao's mother saw her son glaring angrily, thinking someone must have upset him, and couldn't help but ask, "Who were you talking to just now?"

"Your future daughter-in-law."

Ouyang Hao said it casually, but it shocked his mother so much that she almost dropped the soup bowl in her hand. "What? Future daughter-in-law?"

"Aren't you always nagging about finding me a wife? There's a ready-made one. Do you want her?" These days, Ouyang Hao was really fed up with the endless blind dates and just wanted to find someone to get his mother off his back.

Mrs. Ouyang handed the soup bowl to the maid behind her, took three steps and turned them into two to stand in front of Ouyang Hao, leaned close and asked mysteriously, "You've got someone you like? Which family is the girl from? What do her parents do? How about you bring her home for me to see sometime?"

She fired off a series of questions, looking eager to immediately meet this so-called future daughter-in-law.

Ouyang Hao felt a bit overwhelmed. "Mom, we just started dating. It's not at the stage of talking about marriage yet."

"Just started dating?" Mrs. Ouyang's eyes twinkled, and she searched through all the recent gossip about her son in her mind. Then she frowned, "Is it that model... what's her name again? Li Yun'er, right?"

"Mom, we're just caught in a scandal."

"So, there's someone else? Who is it?"

"Mom..." Ouyang Hao's patience was wearing thin. Annoyed, he said, "You're more nosy than a paparazzo."

"Humph! It's for your own good! You're almost thirty, you should settle down. Stop hanging out with Mu Chen and those other guys every day, finding a girlfriend is the real deal."

"I've never been short of girlfriends." Ouyang Hao smirked.

"That's different. You've dated plenty, but haven't they all ended in less than half a month?" Mrs. Ouyang got more and more anxious, her heart sinking further. "Actually, I don't have high requirements for my future daughter-in-law. She doesn't need a perfect background, as long as her character is good, I'd be satisfied. But you and your brother are both so worrisome. Ah, why is my life so hard..."

As soon as Ouyang Hao heard his mother nagging like that, he felt a major headache coming.

"Alright, alright, my dear mother! Stop, stop! I'll go back to T City tomorrow and find your future daughter-in-law for you."