

Crippled 201

Chapter 201: Why Are You Here?

The kiss in the morning was gentle and passionate.

After the kiss ended, Shen Hanxing pursed her lips, and her slender fingers caressed Ji Yan's eyelid. She smiled and said, "It seems that Mr. Ji didn't sleep very well last night. With these dark circles under your eyes, you can go to the zoo and work as a panda."

Ji Yan had dark circles under his eyes. It was obvious that he hadn't slept all night.

Ji Yan looked at Shen Hanxing helplessly and dotingly, allowing her to make fun of him. "The beautiful things in this world always need to wait, and I... am a patient man."

After that night, Ji Yan's gaze became passionate as he wanted more. His gaze that landed on Shen Hanxing was like a hungry wolf that had been starving for a long time, restrained and endured. Shen Hanxing couldn't look straight into his eyes, and her face flushed red. She looked away. "I'm hungry. I'm going to wash up and eat breakfast!"

After breakfast, the two of them left the hotel together. After they left, the person in the next room slowly woke up. Shen Sisi woke up feeling very pleased after that intense night. She adjusted the expression on her face, and she was determined to reveal her most beautiful and innocent side.

"Who are you? How can you..." Tears shimmered in Shen Sisi's eyes. She looked delicate and pitiful. She vividly portrayed the shocked and sad look as though someone had forced themselves onto her last night. However, when she turned her head to look at the familiar handsome face beside her. She subconsciously screamed and blurted out, "Why are you here?"

The woman's scream woke up Zhuang Li. He curled his lips. Before Zhuang Li could put on his best smile, he met a pair of familiar eyes shimmering with tears. His face turned gloomy as he asked, "Why are you here?"

The same question exposed their dirty intentions.

Zhuang squinted his eyes and stared at Shen Sisi. "Not me? Then who should it be? Who do you want it to be?"

Shen Sisi's face turned pale. She knew that Zhuang Li had been suspicious of her since the last time. Although she did not understand what had gone wrong last night, she also did not understand why the person who appeared in this room was Zhuang Li. She was disappointed and unwilling to accept it. However, since things had already come to this extent, she had no other choice but to bite the bullet and say, "I, I was just surprised..."

As Shen Sisi said this, she blinked lightly, and her tears fell. Her delicate face, which did not have any makeup on, looked even more attractive. "I was too tired last night, so I wanted to find a room to rest. But I did not expect to be pulled onto the bed... I struggled with all my might, but no matter how hard I tried. I could not break free." She covered her face and whimpered with a voice filled with the joy of surviving a disaster. "Zhuang Li, I thought someone had ruined me. I didn't expect it to be you in the end. Thank God it was you!" She cried tears of joy and flew into Zhuang Li's arms, longing for his care.

However, Zhuang Li pushed her away with a cold expression. His large palm was like an iron hoop, pinching her chin. He sneered coldly. "Shen Sisi, do you think I'm a fool?"

"Zhuang Li!" Shen Sisi could not believe that Zhuang Li would treat her like this. Her eyes widened in shock. "What... what's wrong with you? What are you saying? I don't understand."

"Struggling with all your might? Unable to break free? I saw that you enjoyed yourself last night," Zhuang Li looked at her mockingly. "Stop pretending to be confused. Didn't you climb into bed last night on your own accord? You enjoyed it even more during the process. You were much more excited and proactive than when you were with me."

Shen Sisi's face instantly turned pale. Zhuang Li was awake last night! He was not sleeping after drinking too much as she had imagined. Instead, he knew what had happened from the beginning to the end!

After the shock, the anger of being betrayed took over. Shen Sisi questioned loudly, "What about you? Who are you waiting for here? Who do you want to see when you wake up!"

Zhuang Li's expression froze, and he shoved Shen Sisi's hand away impatiently. "It's not you anyway." He said it as though he wasn't wrong!

Zhuang Li had specially arranged for someone to send Shen Hanxing up last night. Who knew that the last person to come was Shen Sisi? He had worked so hard last night, relying on his imagination to wake up in the morning and see Shen Hanxing's painful and broken appearance. Who knew... Frustration struck Zhuang Li. He would never admit that when he misunderstood the person who came was Shen Hanxing. His adrenaline surged, and he could not control the excitement in his heart.

"Zhuang Li, how could you do this to me? What am I to you?" Shen Sisi did not expect him to admit it so easily. Her heart shattered, and tears flowed down her cheeks. "I'm your girlfriend, but you're thinking about someone else. How can you do this! Tell me, who is that person! Who is it!"

Chapter 202: Blood Trace on the Bed

With Zhuang Li's status, it was obvious who that person was, as if he still had to be so secretive and put in so much effort.

Shen Sisi was on the verge of breaking down. She screamed in despair, "It is Shen Hanxing, am I right? Tell me! Are you waiting for Shen Hanxing!"

Zhuang Li's facial expression was gloomy. "Don't ask what you shouldn't ask."

He did not deny it, and it left Shen Sisi in despair. She couldn't accept it. Shen Hanxing had already stolen her engagement. It was not enough that she had stolen Ji Yan. Now, she wanted to snatch Zhuang Li away from her! Why was this woman so vicious! An abandoned daughter that even her biological father disdained. A lowlife who came from the slums. Why could she get all the men she wanted?

"What's so good about Shen Hanxing that all of you fall in love with her insanely?" Shen Sisi pounced on Zhuang Li in a frenzy and attacked him. She had lost her rationality. "What did she do that made you fall for her? Am I not good enough for you?"

“Why don’t you ask yourself?” Shen Sisi’s sharp nails scratched Zhuang Li’s face. He could not bear it anymore and pushed her onto the bed. He said coldly, “Shen Sisi, you better behave yourself. You can only be my girlfriend if I allow it. If I don’t...” He sneered.

Shen Sisi stopped moving and froze on the spot. She did not notice the disdain in Zhuang Li’s eyes. She only had Zhuang Li now. If she lost Zhuang Li, where else could she find a more outstanding man? She did not want to look up to Shen Hanxing, who she had once looked down. She did not want to become that loser for the rest of her life!

Shen Sisi’s hesitation had already proved that she was a woman who cared about status and money. She was no different from other women who had gone to great lengths to marry into a wealthy families. Zhuang Li suddenly felt a little bored. The little fairy who had once been in his hands had now turned out to be so ordinary. When she ran amok, she was no different from a lunatic.

Zhuang Li sneered. He lifted the blanket and was about to get out of bed to put on his clothes. However, he suddenly stopped when he saw the glaring bright red on the white bedsheet.

Shen Sisi looked over. Her face instantly turned pale. There was only one thought in her mind. It was all over.

“Shen Sisi!” Zhuang Li clenched his teeth and wanted to kill Shen Sisi. He suddenly grabbed Shen Sisi’s neck. “Tell me, what is this thing on the bed?”

“No, no... Zhuang Li... Cough, let me go first...” Shen Sisi struggled to explain. “Listen to me. It’s not what you think...”

“It’s not what I think? Could it be that these are your menstrual blood?” Zhuang Li sneered. His fingers dug into the quilt, and he touched it forcefully. But when he took out his hands, his fingers were clean and did not leave a trace. “Tell me! Why aren’t you telling me? Tell me how you have a special condition and only have a little menstrual blood?”

Shen Sisi opened her mouth, but she couldn’t say anything. She could only struggle to hold the hand on her neck with tears streaming down her face.

“Shen Sisi, what a woman you are!” Zhuang Li was furious, and he said fiercely, “I didn’t expect you to be able to fake your first time. You’re even dirtier than those women who sold themselves out!”

Zhuang Li had learned the true Shen Sisi. Shen Sisi could even fake her first time. What on Earth was genuine about her?

“You disgust me!” Zhuang Li flung Shen Sisi away and quickly put on his clothes. He looked down at the woman who was crying on the bed. “From now on, don’t appear in front of me again. You are dirty!”

“No, Zhuang Li!” Shen Sisi felt heartbroken. She did not care that she was naked, and she jumped off the bed to hug Zhuang Li. “No, you can’t do this to me. I gave you my first time. You know that!”

“I don’t know!” When Zhuang Li pushed her away coldly, he pulled her hair. Then, he shoved her onto the bed. “Your first time is here. Seeing how skilled you are, it’s not your first time using it, right?” Zhuang Li looked at her coldly as he said, “You gave me your first time? Who knows if you used the same

method when you slept with me last time? I'm blind. That's why I fell for such a vicious woman like you!"

Zhuang Li's eyes filled with disgust. Shen Sisi was heartbroken. It hurt her so much. "No, Zhuang Li, it's not like that... You can't treat me like this!" She wailed loudly. Even her desperate and painful cry could not make the man turn back.

Chapter 203: Cry to Your Heart's Content

Seeing that Zhuang Li was about to open the door and leave, Shen Sisi finally panicked. She grabbed the silk nightdress by the bed and put it on. She chased after him without caring about anything else.

"Zhuang Li, don't leave me behind... Please, please don't... I love you. I love you!"

Shen Sisi finally regretted her greed and what she had done. She chased after him with tears streaming down her face and hugged him. "Zhuang Li, I was wrong. Can you forgive me this time? Can we start over?" She cried and wailed. She did not care even if she attracted the strange gazes of others.

Shen Sisi cared about her reputation the most, but now she begged him to turn back so humbly. Zhuang Li's eyes flashed with a hint of struggle. But as soon as he thought of the bright red stain on the bed sheet, anger replaced his struggle. He shoved Shen Sisi to the ground and said coldly, "Get lost! Don't let me see you again!" After saying that, he strode out with his long legs and quickly disappeared into the corridor.

"No, don't do this to me..." Shen Sisi sat in the corridor and cried loudly without caring about her image, feeling abandoned by the whole world. A great panic rose in her heart. After losing Zhuang Li, she lost her boyfriend and her glorious and bright future. This kind of panic and pain made her unable to distinguish between love and fear. She could only cry out loud in pain.

"Sigh..." At this moment, a gentle sigh sounded above Shen Sisi's head. The man in the white suit squatted down in front of her, his gaze gentle and tender. "It seems that you are crying every time I see you."

Shen Sisi paused and looked up to see who it was. Her tears fell. She sobbed and called out, "Cheng Songyang!"

"Okay," Cheng Songyang replied in a soft voice. He handed her a clean white handkerchief and comforted her gently. "Wipe your tears. Don't cry anymore."

"Cheng Songyang, I'm sad," Shen Sisi cried. "I love him so much. Why is he unwilling to believe me? Why... why does everyone care about that woman, Shen Hanxing! What's so good about her?"

Cheng Songyang's eyes flashed, concealing the disdain in his eyes without a trace. He gently helped Shen Sisi back to her room. His gaze swept across the messy presidential suite before he retracted his eyes and smiled like a spring breeze. "It's okay. To me, you're the best." His voice was gentle and affectionate. He seemed to want to say something to her but hesitated. He said in a low voice, "Seeing you cry breaks my heart. You're the weakest and most special girl I've ever met."

Shen Sisi stopped crying. She hesitated for a long time before she said softly, "But I've already fallen in love with someone else. I'm sorry, I..."

“You don’t have to apologize to me. That is all my wishful thinking. I want to treat you well,” Cheng Songyang smiled gently. He helped her sit on the chair thoughtfully. “I don’t understand. How could there be someone in this world willing to hurt such a beautiful you and make you cry for him?” It was rare for him to be angry. He said in a deep voice, “He doesn’t know how lucky he is to have you!”

After being treated coldly by Zhuang Li, Cheng Songyang’s gentleness became more precious. Shen Sisi knew that she shouldn’t be addicted to it, but she couldn’t help but want to get close to him. Finally, she could not help but throw herself into Cheng Songyang’s arms and burst into tears. “It’s not his fault. It’s my fault. I love him too much!”

Cheng Songyang’s body stiffened. He resisted the urge to push Shen Sisi away and patted her back gently. “Cry to your heart’s content.”

After he said that, Shen Sisi’s cries became more and more sorrowful. She did not realize that no matter how gentle and affectionate Cheng Songyang’s tone was when he hugged her, his eyes were always cold as if he was waiting for his prey in the dark. He was so rational that there wasn’t the slightest bit of emotion.

Shen Hanxing didn’t know what had happened in the hotel. She only felt that someone was plotting against her at the dinner. Who was in the room she was supposed to be in did not matter anymore!

Time passed in the blink of an eye. It was New Year’s Eve. Shen Hanxing instructed the servants to hang up the decoration art that she had made and paste the decorations. They even hung up the red lanterns. The Ji family was in a new year’s mood.

Ji Qian, who had never experienced such a scene before, was excited. Early in the morning, she dragged Ji Ning and Ji Mo around the house. Their chatter was everywhere.

Chapter 204: Ji Yang Is Back

“Madam!” The butler called out with a smile, “look who’s here!”

Shen Hanxing subconsciously turned her head, and her eyes lit up. She couldn’t help but laugh in surprise, “Grandma!”

“Grandma, you’re here!” Hearing the commotion, Ji Qian cheered, “that’s great! We’re all celebrating the new year together!”

“Hello, grandma,” Ji Ning and Ji Mo greeted Grandma obediently. The lively atmosphere made grandma smile so much that she couldn’t close her mouth. She pulled Ji Ning and the others along and nodded.

Shen Hanxing smiled as she tilted her head to look at Ji Yan standing at the side. “Didn’t you say you work overtime at the company? Why did you bring grandma back?”

“I’m trying to please my wife,” Ji Yan’s pitch-black pupils reflected the falling snow outside the window as he smiled. “I hope you will remember to give me more rewards in the New Year.”

Shen Hanxing lifted her head and looked into his eyes. Her heart moved. At this moment, the door was pushed open. After not seeing him for a few months, righteousness replaced the arrogance on Ji Yang’s face. Even when he returned home, his back was still straight, and he walked with an awe-inspiring

presence. However, the moment he saw Shen Hanxing, a broad smile bloomed on Ji Yang's solemn face. He called out, "Sister-in-law!" A moment later, he looked at Ji Yan and greeted him, "Brother."

Ji Yan glanced at his younger brother, who had almost been reborn. The young man who used to fight and had Assistant Chen go to school every few days to deal with the teacher had grown up. His posture was upright and full of righteousness. He nodded in satisfaction.

Ji Ning let out a low cheer and ran over to stand in front of Ji Yang. "Brother, you're back!" She eagerly took the coat and walked around Ji Yang.

Ji Qian and Ji Mo also came over and called out, "Brother."

Ji Yang first patted Ji Ning's little head, then opened the suitcase to take the presents and handed them out. After receiving the New Year Presents, Ji Ning and the others were very happy. They excitedly surrounded their grandmother, who had also received the presents, and opened them together.

After receiving the last small gift box, Ji Yang paused for a moment. He grabbed it in his hand and walked in front of Shen Hanxing. His throat tightened. "Sister-in-law." After not seeing her for half a year, their sister-in-law was still beautiful and bright. When she looked at him, it calmed his mind. After experiencing the baptism of gunfire and blood, his heart suddenly calmed down at this moment. With the fragrance of the dishes in the air, Ji Yang subconsciously loosened his straight posture. He opened his hands and revealed the box in his hand. There was a rare bit of shyness on his face. "Sister-in-law, this is my gift to you."

Ji Yang was a little nervous. He looked carefully at Shen Hanxing. Ji Yang was clearly taller than Shen Hanxing by more than half a head, but Ji Yang always had a pitiful look on her face. He was like a puppy waiting for praise.

Shen Hanxing looked at him silently before opening the gift box. Inside was a small tank made of bullet shells. The craftsmanship was a little rusty, and the base was slightly unstable.

"This... this is not worth much," Ji Yang, who would not be nervous even in the face of a life and death situation. Suddenly, he felt uneasy as he carefully said, "I made this myself. They are all bullet shells that I have used before. I, I have a few days of vacation this time. If sister-in-law doesn't like it, I will go buy other gifts for her in a few days." At the end of his sentence, he felt a little dejected. He knew that the things he made were a little ugly.

A person as exquisite as his sister-in-law should be treated well. They should give her the best things in the world. However, these bullet casings were from Ji Yang's gun during his first battle on the battlefield. The first thought that came to his mind when he held them in his hands was to give these bullet casings to his sister-in-law.

Shen Hanxing carefully weighed the small model in her hand. After more than half a year of living, the thin calluses on Shen Hanxing's fingertips had faded away. Her white fingers became more delicate, and she did not fit in with this cold small tank model.

The glow in Ji Yang's eyes gradually dimmed. He felt that he was so stupid and didn't know what gift to give her.

“You made it yourself? I like it very much,” Shen Hanxing finished looking at it. A bright smile blossomed on her face. She didn’t force herself to hold the model in her palm. “Later, get someone to make a display cabinet for me and put it in my room. I want to put it in the middle of the display cabinet.” The first thing Ji Yang gave her was the spoils of the war he joined. How could she not like it?

Shen Hanxing hugged the little tank and looked at it lovingly. She couldn’t bear to let go.

Chapter 205: Shen Hanxing Is an Angel

“There’s... There’s no need to make a cabinet for it,” Ji Yang scratched his head. Although he spoke modestly, he couldn’t help grinning, revealing a mouthful of snow-white teeth.

It was really an eyesore.

Ji Yan, who had not received a gift, cast a sinister glance at Ji Yang, then stared at the rough-made model. What was this? Back when he was overseas... If he had not met Shen Hanxing so late, he could have filled Shen Hanxing’s cabinet with models like this.

Ji Mo, who sat on the sofa, observed the scaled-down model of the fighter jet he had received. Looking at Ji Yang, who was smiling like a fool, he suddenly felt that the gift in his hand was not that great anymore. Ji Qian felt the same way, pursing her lips. She angrily wrapped the gift up again. She might seem annoyed, but she treated her gift gently. She even muttered, “I thought I would miss him because I haven’t seen him for a long time, but no matter how long I haven’t seen him, I still hate the person I should hate!”

Hmph! Why did the big sister-in-law have to make a display cabinet for Ji Yang’s gift and place it in the most conspicuous place in the middle? Ji Qian swore she would make some achievements in the future. Then, she will give the honor to her sister-in-law, letting her fill them in her room!

“Indeed,” Ji Mo curled the corners of his lips and nodded, “I still dislike him.”

“What do you know at such a young age!” Ji Qian, who was still in a fit of anger, scolded everyone. She glared fiercely at Ji Mo. “You’re not likable either!” He shared her sister-in-law’s favor for her every day at home.

“Same goes for you!” Ji Mo was unwilling to be outdone!

Ji Ning looked at them helplessly. She looked at Ji Qian one moment and then at Ji Mo the next. She opened her mouth but didn’t know what to say. Seeing the siblings throwing a tantrum, grandma couldn’t help but laugh. She patted Ji Ning’s hand and chuckled. “Don’t bother about them. They’re a bunch of mischievous children. I don’t know how happy they are to see Ji Yang coming back!”

“Grandma!” Ji Qian’s face turned red after their grandmother exposed her thoughts. She stomped her feet and moved closer to her grandma, acting coquettishly. “How can you say such nonsense? I don’t want Ji Yang to come back!”

“I don’t like it either,” Ji Mo’s face was stern. He tilted his head slightly, but his ears unconsciously turned pink.

Seeing them like this, Ji Ning couldn't help but bit her lips and snicker. Today, it snowed again in S City. Snowflakes fell like goose feathers. Before the sky turned dark, Ji Zhou finally pushed open the door and walked in, covered in snow. He smiled brightly at the people waiting for him on the sofa. "I'm back."

Ji Ning couldn't help but call out happily and skipped over. "Second brother, you're finally back. I thought you weren't coming back!"

"The snow was heavy, and they delayed the flight," In the past, Ji Zhou's eyes were always indifferent and boredom, but now his gaze was much calmer. He rubbed Ji Ning's little head. "Fortunately, I made it home in time."

That's right. Ji Zhou had returned home. On this day of the family reunion, he didn't miss the good time to reunite with his family. Now, he had returned to his warm home. The journey through the wind and snow wasn't that hard anymore. The wind and snow were heavy. When he thought of the word "home", the journey became less arduous.

Like Ji Yang, Ji Zhou distributed gifts as soon as he returned home. After returning from abroad, Ji Zhou did not bring any of his belongings. He had filled the large suitcase with gifts.

Receiving gifts was a happy thing, especially for children who rarely had this kind of experience in the Ji family. Receiving gifts was even more exciting and difficult not to look forward to during this festive season. Ji Qian and the others were opening their presents in a lively manner. He had even bought a gift for grandma.

Ji Yan looked at the scene of them laughing and could not help but raise his hand to hold Shen Hanxing's hand. Shen Hanxing looked over, and her bright eyes seemed to contain starlight.

"I want to thank Hanxing," Ji Yan held Shen Hanxing's hand and planted a kiss on the back of her hand. Suddenly, he said with a serious expression, "what I said before was wrong."

Shen Hanxing was puzzled. "Huh?"

"I shouldn't have hated the reward from Hanxing. Instead, I should have thanked her properly," Ji Yan's black eyes were surging with a warm tide, like the dark waves rolling on a quiet beach in summer. If it weren't for Shen Hanxing's arrival, he would never have known what it was like to be at home. These younger brothers and sisters who had nothing to do would not have changed into their new appearance.

Ji Yan said softly, "Hanxing must be an angel from heaven. She must have come specially to save us, right?" Otherwise, why would she suddenly appear and make his world a brand new world?

Chapter 206: Happy New Year

Ji Yan was getting more and more honey-tongued.

Shen Hanxing shook her head helplessly. "I'm not an angel." An angel was not as vengeful and petty as she was.

"If I knew magic, I must be a witch," Shen Hanxing's eyes flashed with deep sorrow. She deserved to be feared and avoided by others. She deserved to be tied to the gallows and burned to death to atone for her sins.

Ji Yan did not expect Shen Hanxing to say this. When he thought of Shen Hanxing's background, Ji Yan's heart ached as he clenched her hand. He said in a deep voice, "If you are a witch, then I will break the rules of this world and turn the whole world into a witch's kingdom."

Shen Hanxing looked at him in surprise. "Mr. Ji's IQ is not enough today?" She felt that Ji Yan's words were a little childish. But many, many years later, when she recalled what Ji Yan said today, Shen Hanxing suddenly realized that he wasn't joking, but a promise that he had spent his entire life to fulfill.

The living room was bustling with activity as a television program broadcasted. It was rare for the Ji family to gather for a reunion dinner. Along with the loud sound of firecrackers outside the window and the fireworks that lit up the night, they heard the host's high-spirited countdown on the television. "Three, two, one! Happy New Year!"

Amidst the clamor, the Ji family raised their glasses together and clinked them together. The New Year had begun.

After dinner, Shen Hanxing took out a few red packets and gave them to her younger siblings. "Happy New Year. You must put the red packets under your pillow and sleep on them." The New Year's money meant that the next year would be peaceful.

It was the first time they had received such a ceremonial red packet, so the Ji family's children treasured it and put it in their pockets. Ji Qian held onto the red envelope and jumped around happily. "Then I must sleep early today!" She was also the one who was giving out red envelopes for the new year!

Shen Hanxing ignored their ruckus. She stuffed a thick red envelope into her grandmother's hands. Her voice was gentle as she said, "Grandmother, Happy New Year." In the past, her grandmother gave her new year's money. This year, it was finally her turn to give it to her grandmother. Thinking of the days that the two of them had spent together in the past, Shen Hanxing's eyes were red and teary.

"My baby has grown up," Her grandmother's eyes were also red. Her wrinkled hand gently touched Shen Hanxing's hair. She sounded grateful. "My Hanxing must be happy too. In the new year, you must always be happy." Her grandmother had always placed Shen Hanxing first. She was always on her mind.

Shen Hanxing could not help but cry. She nodded hard. "I'll listen to grandma."

"Silly child," Grandma's eyes were red. She wiped Shen Hanxing's tears and smiled, "You're already married, yet you still cry all day."

"Even if you're married, she can always be a child who cries and laughs whenever she wants," Ji Yan squatted down beside Shen Hanxing. He took out a thick red envelope that was about to burst from his suit pocket. "This is my new year's money for Hanxing."

Looking at the red envelope bearing its maximum content, Shen Hanxing, who was still crying, could not help but burst into laughter. She took the red envelope and rolled her eyes. "Who would stuff a red envelope so full?"

Ji Yan smiled faintly and did not say anything. If the lucky money were the best wish for the New Year, he would have wanted to make this red packet even bigger so that his wishes would be even heavier and she would be able to live in peace and happiness year after year.

Ji Yan could not hide the emotions in his eyes. Grandma's smile grew wider as she looked at them. She folded their hands together and instructed, "Hanxing, Ji Yan, the two of you must live a good life together."

"Grandma, don't worry. We will," Ji Yan said firmly.

"Okay, that's great," Grandma nodded with a smile. She was old, and she started to feel sleepy after midnight. Shen Hanxing sent her upstairs to rest early.

The Ji siblings were downstairs waiting for the new year. Ji Qian excitedly took out a few sets of poker cards and wanted to play with everyone. Ji Zhou and Ji Yang looked at her in disdain, but they sat at the table. At this moment, Shen Hanxing's phone rang.

To avoid being harassed today, everyone had muted their work cells. Those private calls were from people who were close to them. She picked up the call. Professor Xu Jinghe's anxious voice came from the other end of the call. "Hanxing, I'm sorry to disturb you at this time."

"Professor Xu, what's the matter?" Shen Hanxing shook her head indifferently.

Chapter 207: I'm Here

Xu Jinhe smiled bitterly. On New Year's Eve, the developers who supported the development of the city east area protested to the higher-ups, thinking that the plan proposed by Xu Jinhe and the professors had no precedent and could not guarantee profits. If they carried out the development in the city west area as planned, the cost would be very high once implemented, far exceeding the cost of developing the city east area.

The risk of such a development was too high, and most investors vetoed it. That forced the government to temporarily stop the development plan of the city west area and required Professor Xu Jinhe to prove that the development plan of the city west area was profitable. Otherwise, they would probably announce the development of the city east area after the New Year.

Shen Hanxing's gaze turned gloomy. Could it be that the city west area could not be classified as a development zone, no matter how hard she tried? This feeling of not being able to get anything in return despite putting in all her efforts sucked.

As if sensing Shen Hanxing's emotions, Ji Yan reached out to hold her slightly cold palm and said in a deep voice, "I'm here. Everything will be fine."

Seeing Ji Yan, Shen Hanxing's heart inexplicably calmed down a little. She heaved a sigh of relief and calmed down. She said in a deep voice, "Professor Xu, don't be anxious. Since the government wants us to show them, we'll do it."

"It's easier said than done," Professor Xu Jinhe let out a long sigh. This old man obsessed with academics, could not help but feel a little bitter when he thought of the devastated west side of the city that he had seen during the inspection. He did not want to bother Shen Hanxing with this kind of thing on the day of the family reunion, but he had delayed it repeatedly. He had been enduring it since he had heard the news during the day. He really could not bear it anymore. For those who supported the development of the west side of the city, time was too tight, and they didn't have much time to wait.

Xu Jinhe said in a low voice, "The most qualified person to speak is our construction of the folk commercial street. This commercial street is a prime location on the west side of the city development zone in our plan. "But where are we going to get a commercial street in a short time?"

How could a high-rise building rise from the ground overnight?

"Since we have no folk commercial street, we can make a simplified version," Shen Hanxing pondered. She said softly, "there are many small restaurants with a long history in the west of the city. We can clear out a street and use it as a snack street."

Ji Yan was also thinking. He knocked on the table and added, "We can also sell goods in the latter half of the snack street. Part of the goods are specialty products of S City, and the other part will invite major merchants to support the shops." In this way, they could satisfy the customers' needs no matter what they wanted. After eating, they could go shopping. It was convenient.

"Okay, we can persuade the merchants," Professor Xu Jinhe also became spirited. "We can also distribute leaflets to promote this commercial street and inform the public of our idea so that everyone can support the development of the west side of the city."

"But..." On the other end of the call, Professor Xu Jinhe's wife could not help but interrupted, "the Commercial Street itself needs several days to set up. Where will the customers come from? There will be more people selling goods than buying goods. Wouldn't it turn out to be a joke then?"

Professor Xu Jinhe sighed. Yes, what was the use of their great plans without tourists and buyers? The main thing was that they were in a hurry.

"Now is the era of the Internet. Information is transmitted quickly on the Internet," Ji Yan reacted very quickly and decisively grasped the main point, "we can use the internet to promote and attract tourists."

Shen Hanxing could not help but take a look at Ji Yan. No wonder others call Ji Yan a business genius. Being able to stand firmly as the head of one of the three giants of S City at such a young age, his brain must be good.

Shen Hanxing gradually had a plan in her heart. "That's right. You can leave the matter of the promotion to us. We have to make full use of the power of the Internet." Short videos had not yet arisen, but people had already started broadcasting live on the Internet and making short videos.

Xu Jinhe spent most of his time researching and did not know much about these things. He lamented that he was getting old. He smiled in relief and said, "It seems that this world belongs to your generation. Just do it. As long as we do our best, it doesn't matter even if we fail."

Xu Jinhe hung up the phone. Shen Hanxing looked determined. She knew that she could not achieve many things through hard work. But this time, she did not want to fail.

On the first day of the New Year, Shen Hanxing was busy preparing for the commercial street. She left early and returned late every day.

Chapter 208: Here to Give Me Money

Ji Yan gave her money and effort. He expressed his support and gave her advice, filling in the details she had not thought of brightly. At the same time, Ji Yan was also one of the biggest investors in the business street event.

Someone leaked the news of the business street in the west of the city. Shen Hanxing once again received the benefit of having her younger brothers and sisters give her money, as well as the money and bombs from the socialites' daughters. She did not know whether to laugh or cry as she used a similar amount of money as an investment for this event. She returned the remaining small amount and thanked them for their kind help.

On this day, it was rare for Shen Hanxing to return home early. She saw a familiar-looking girl sitting on the sofa. When she saw Shen Hanxing return, the girl stood up, clasped her hands together, and greeted her carefully, "Mrs. Ji."

Shen Hanxing recognized her. She was Yu Miao, whom she had chatted with at the banquet the last time. She looked at Yu Miao carefully, then smiled. "Miss Yu."

Yu Miao was a simple person. When she heard Shen Hanxing call her by her name, she was so happy that it filled her eyebrows with joy. She responded in a loud and clear voice. She looked cheerful and innocent.

Shen Hanxing raised her eyebrows. Could it be that it was not her?

On the day of the banquet, Shen Hanxing suspected that one of the glasses of wine she drank had been spiked. She had always restrained herself and controlled the amount of wine she drank. Even if she had drunk too much, she would only be a little tipsy. After thinking about it, Yu Miao was the most suspicious. However, looking at her innocent smile and the obvious admiration in her eyes, it was hard to believe that she would do something like drugging someone's wine.

So... was Yu Miao's acting too good, or was she thinking much? Shen Hanxing sat down calmly. "Miss Yu, why did you come to visit?"

"I heard that Mrs. Ji is setting up a commercial street in the west of the city as an event for the Mid-Autumn Festival." Yu Miao's face flushed red as she took out her bank card and pushed it over. "I, I also want to invest in this commercial street!"

Another money delivery? Shen Hanxing looked at the bank card on the table. She found it hard to believe that this sincere girl would do something like drugging someone. Perhaps she was thinking much.

At the thought of this, Shen Hanxing's gaze became much gentler. "Alright, I'll get my assistant to send the contract later. Miss Yu, you have to sign it."

Yu Miao nodded excitedly. She even tried to push the bank card in front of her and urged, "I haven't changed the password. Mrs. Ji, please accept it."

"You haven't signed the contract yet!" Shen Hanxing found it funny and deliberately teased her, "aren't you afraid that I'll make a donation and run away?"

“Mrs. Ji, you aren’t that kind of person!” Yu Miao was serious. She did not doubt Shen Hanxing, even a little. “I believe in Mrs. Ji!” As she said that, she seemed to have thought of something. She took out a document bag from behind her and giggled. “Oh right, Mrs. Ji, I have a present to give you today. No, no. It’s my parents who have a present for you.”

Yu Miao rarely received love from her parents, and her eyes were shimmering. She said happily, “After my parents found out that Mrs. Ji had brought me to earn a lot of money, they said they would thank Mrs. Ji for taking care of me.” She cupped her face, and she giggled. “I always thought that my parents didn’t care about me. But in fact, they were probably too busy in the past.”

Shen Hanxing’s heart skipped a beat.

“This is a little gift from my parents. Mrs. Ji, you must accept it,” Yu Mi’s body was emitting small bubbles of happiness as she opened the document bag. She giggled, “this is a shop in a relatively good location we owned. My parents asked me to give it to you.”

“Give me a shop?” Shen Hanxing looked at the document as she thought and pointed with her fingertips. “Did your parents say anything else?”

“They said that you don’t have to attend if you are busy,” Yu Mi smiled. She was extremely excited about her parents’ rare thoughtfulness. “You only need to sign or provide an ID. Our family is responsible for helping with the transfer.” Yu Mi’s parents had instructed her not to trouble Shen Hanxing with such a small matter. After all, the development of the west side of the city was important now. They did not want Shen Hanxing to waste time on such a small matter as the transfer. Their goal was to get Yu Mi to persuade Shen Hanxing to sign.

“I can’t accept this gift,” Shen Hanxing’s gaze was complicated. She shook her head and said, “take it back.”

“Mrs. Ji, this is a small gift from my parents,” Yu Miao was suddenly anxious and advised, “you have been kind to me. I have nothing to repay your kindness. It’s just a shop...”

Chapter 209: Stop Talking Nonsense

“Stop it,” At this moment, Ji Qian, who was reading at the side, couldn’t bear to listen anymore. She couldn’t help but mock, “are you stupid or pretending to be muddle-headed?” Her expression was ugly as she placed the pen on the table. She said impatiently, “I don’t think your family has any good intentions.”

“You... How can you say that?” Yu Miao’s face turned pale as he looked at Ji Qian in shock. “This is just a small token of my parents’ goodwill. How can you...”

“Tsk,” Seeing Yu Miao’s sincere expression, Ji Qian pulled her hair impatiently. She thought that she was stupid enough to help when something was hapenning at home. Ji Qian did not expect that there would be someone more foolish than her in this world. Even though she could see the logic, she still could not understand it!

Ji Qian thought that her sister-in-law was right. Reading was a ladder for human progress. After reading for such a long time, she was no longer that idiot from before.

In this way, Ji Qian felt a little smug. She did not see Yu Miao as an eyesore anymore. "I feel that you helped count the money after being betrayed."

"What do you mean?" Yu Miao grabbed the edge of the document bag. Her knuckles were slightly white from the force. She bit her lip and said stubbornly, "stop talking nonsense."

"Yes, I'm talking nonsense," Ji Qian rolled her eyes. "Your family values boys over girls. You're not the only daughter. You're not sweet-talking and don't know how to speak. You're the least favored in the family. Do you still think I'm talking nonsense now? Also, your parents supported the development of the east side of the city and followed Zhuang Li all day, smiling obsequiously. Do you think that is nonsense too?"

"Enough!" The wound in her heart was poked open, and no matter how good Yu Miao's temper was, she could not help but blush. "So what? What are you trying to prove by saying all this?"

"Prove what?" Ji Qian raised her voice. "Your parents and my sister-in-law stand on opposite sides. At a time like this, if they ask you to give my sister-in-law a shop, what kind of good intentions can they have? My sister-in-law works for Professor Xu Jinhe and the others, making plans for them. If she takes over someone's shop in the east of the city at a time like this, what will others think? What will they think?"

Yu Miao's parents' actions were to break the unity of the people in the west city area! It would cause Shen Hanxing, Professor Xu Jinhe, and the others to have a conflict!

Ji Qian's eyes were cold as she mocked, "Your parents are cunning people. They don't have good intentions!"

"You're talking nonsense!" Yu Miao's face was pale. She could not believe that the care and warmth that her parents gave her after living for more than 20 years was all to use her.

"You know well whether I'm talking nonsense or not," Seeing Yu Miao like this, Ji Qian was also a little upset. She put away the random books, "your parents are really stingy. They only gave my sister-in-law a shop. Is the madam of the Ji family someone you can bribe with just a shop?"

Ji Qian rolled her eyes and said disdainfully, "If my sister-in-law wants it, I can give her a few myself!"

Yu Miao opened her mouth. She wanted to say that not everyone in the circle of wealthy families was like the Ji family. Because of the generosity of Ji Yan, his younger siblings did not lack money. Ji Qian might not care about a shop. But in the eyes of others, it was a great gift. However, she could not say it out loud.

Yu Miao felt guilty and sad. He could not sit still on the sofa and did not even dare to look Shen Hanxing in the eye.

Shen Hanxing sighed and shook her head at Ji Qian.

Ji Qian pursed her lips and could not help but add, "You want to discredit my sister-in-law and alienate the people from the west side of the city. Kill two birds with one stone. Your parents are quite smart." Moreover, they did not need to do anything throughout the whole process. As long as Yu Miao, who was

not smart and was not the favorite child at home, did it, she could blame it all on Yu Miao if she found it out. It had nothing to do with them.

Yu Miao was about to cry. At this point, she could not lie to herself anymore. Why? Why? Shen Hanxing was so good to her, but her parents wanted to use her to give Shen Hanxing a fatal blow. What was she in her parents' eyes?

Yu Meng's face was blank and painful. She was ashamed and looked extremely pitiful.

"I don't blame you because you don't know about it," Shen Hanxing said gently. "It's just that I really can't accept this shop. You can take it back."

"Mrs. Ji, I'm sorry. I'm really sorry," Yu Meng apologized desperately and clenched the document bag tightly. "I, I'll go back now. Sorry to disturb you!" As she said that, she stood up and bowed deeply. Tears flowed down her cheeks. Yu Miao wiped her face awkwardly and turned around to leave.

Chapter 210: Things Are Destroyed

Destroyed

"Wait," Shen Hanxing suddenly called out to her, "I have a question for you. At the dinner last time, did your parents give you the cup of fruit juice with extra ingredients you gave me?"

"Fruit juice with extra ingredients?" Ji Qian almost jumped up in anger. "What fruit juice with ingredients? Sister-in-law, what did they do to you?"

Shen Hanxing smiled at Ji Qian to appease her. Then, she turned her gaze back to Yu Mi's face.

Yu Mi's face was deathly pale. The sparkle in her eyes just now when she mentioned her parents' concern for her had gone. Her slender figure trembled slightly, filled with despair and pain. Although she did not answer, Shen Hanxing already knew the answer.

Yu Mi's expression was too pitiful. Shen Hanxing stood up and helped her put on her coat. "Don't think so much. You can go back."

Even if Yu Mi did not do all of this on purpose, she had unintentionally become a knife in her parents' hands. If Yu Mi did not have her independent thoughts and precautions, she would eventually hurt others one day. Being overly kind and naive was a sin.

Yu Mi did not know how she walked out of the Ji family's front door. The sky darkened. The winter in the city was cold. The cold wind penetrated her body. She looked up and saw the lights of the tall buildings in the distance lit up. She did not know where the aroma of food came from. The world was so big, and there seemed to be no place for her to stay.

Yu Miao's matter was just a small episode in Shen Hanxing's busy life. She quickly forgot about it and threw herself back into a new round of busyness.

That night, Shen Hanxing had just fallen asleep when the construction company's phone call woke her. "Not good, Mrs. Ji. I don't know which wicked person destroyed the promotional posters and decorations we prepared!"

The sleepy Shen Hanxing instantly woke up. She got up, put on her coat, and rushed over. They rented the warehouse around the business street and had been working day and night. There were all kinds of paper lanterns, red ribbons, and other decorations in the warehouse. There were also many themed paintings painted by their special lover that matched the style of the west side of the city.

But now, the door of Warehouse No. 3, where they placed the things were open. Someone splashed the inner part with pungent paint and ruined everything.

Today was the penultimate day of the event. They wouldn't be able to produce these things in two days!

Shen Hanxing's expression was cold as she looked at the mess on the ground. "Who did this?"

"I've already sent someone to check the surveillance cameras," Han Qi had rushed over in the middle of the night. The button of his shirt, which had always been strict, was crooked. He said in a deep voice, "I've also called the police." But the problem was, even if they caught the person, they would still be unable to repair these damaged things.

Ji Yan knew when Shen Hanxing left the house. He had been one step behind Shen Hanxing. He walked to Shen Hanxing's side in just a few steps. "No matter how urgent the matter is, you must take care of your health." He put the coat in his hand on Shen Hanxing's shoulder, and his black eyes darkened slightly. He did not panic in the face of such a situation. "The Matchmaker Temple will hold a lantern festival every year on the 15th of the first month. I'll get someone to contact them to see if they have any spare items."

The Matchmaker Temple had a retro style. Their items would not be too different from what they needed.

Ji Yan solved a big problem, and Shen Hanxing's turbid mind became clear. "Then I'll look for a few studios to pay more to have them make an urgent order. As for this one that we need to place at the entrance of the business street..." She looked at the half-closed wall. The picture was magnificent and had an antique flavor. She said firmly, "I'll do it myself!"

If she painted a whole wall in two days, she should be able to make it in time as long as she did it faster.

"I'll help sister-in-law," Ji Mo appeared out of nowhere and smiled. "I've learned with Mr. Lin for so long. It's time for sister-in-law to see my progress."

"I can be in charge of the supervision!" Ji Qian also raised her hand and pulled Ji Ning, "sister-in-law, don't worry. The two of us will decorate the business street beautifully!"

"Han Qi and Chen Liang, you two are in charge of negotiating with the remaining businesses," Ji Yan nodded and ordered methodically, "if there's anything you can't solve, you can look for me to handle."

Ji Yang and Ji Zhou's New Year holiday was short, so they had already left one after another. The remaining members of the Ji family all started to act for the main event two days later. Ji Qian and the others had taken over Shen Hanxing's work. She was only responsible for focusing on painting.