

Little Brat's 1181

Chapter 1181 Nobody Can Bully You

Shen Li blinked her eyes.

At this point, some things could not be any clearer.

Gu Tingyun was very clearly behind the rapid collapse of the Yu family's corporation.

For many years, the two brothers of the Yu family had constantly been fighting openly and secretly. Yu Ming had always had the upper hand because of Yu Cheng.

First, something had happened to Yu Cheng, causing Yu Ming to lose his biggest pillar. Then, Yu Yu and Yu Media had fallen, making things worse for him.

It was at this time that Yu Feng had received Gu Tingyun's help.

Naturally, when comparing the two, all Yu Ming felt was that he had lost.

After suffering so many blows in succession and having all his years of hard work destroyed in one day would definitely be unbearable for anyone.

In his despair, Yu Ming had simply chosen the most extreme method. Since he could not get the Yu Corporation, then everyone would just have to die along with him!

The Yu family's business would definitely be investigated.

Furthermore, what was Yu Ming's status? He was the former vice president of Yu Corporation!

Who knew how much evidence he had against the Yu clan?

“Actually, it was faster than I thought.”

Gu Tingyun thought for a moment, before smiling casually.

“I heard that Yu Ming has been having a hard time recently. One after another, the companies under him have been facing problems, especially the Yu family’s real estate company. It was the last card in his hand, but it’s a pity that he’s been facing a lot of problems recently. He probably did this because he had no other choice.”

“The Yu real estate company?”

“It seems like you don’t know?”

Gu Tingyun seemed to be a little surprised, but he soon shook his head and laughed.

“Lu Huaiyu should be quite busy recently. Didn’t you notice?”

It was true.

Shen Li had been busy with the issue regarding the fake painting and her mid-term exams.

She really had not thought of that.

So it was because...

Looking at her expression, Gu Tingyun could guess what she was thinking.

He smiled and patted Shen Li’s head.

“Alright, I guess he doesn’t want to bother you with such small matters. After all, your exams were more important, right?”

Shen Li was at a loss for words.

Even she felt that his words were a little too much.

However, Gu Tingyun did not seem to think that there was anything wrong with his words.

This time, Yu Ming had made up his mind to drag the entire Yu Corporation to its death, so there was no need to waste any more effort.

Shen Li pondered for a moment and said, “Third Uncle, you don’t have to do this for me. I’ve already done what I needed to do to Yu Yu and Yu Cheng...”

“Ah Li.”

Gu Tingyun seemed to know what she was going to say and interrupted her with a smile.

“I know you’re someone who won’t suffer a loss. Whoever bullies you, you always have the ability to get back at them. However, that was not the main point. Because no matter what you do, the bullying you’ve suffered will never be erased.”

Shen Li’s heart trembled.

Gu Tingyun looked at her as he spoke in a tone of voice that was much gentler and lower.

From the moment Yin Yin had cried and held the caterpillar, standing in front of him, sobbing as she insisted that she liked this gift...

“No one can bully you, not even a little bit.”

...

In the evening, apart from Old Master Gu, Old Madam Gu, and Gu Tingyun, even Gu Tingchuan's family rushed back to the old mansion for dinner.

At the dining table, Old Master Gu casually asked, "I heard that the Yu clan is in trouble again?"

He looked at Gu Tingyun as he spoke.

Gu Tingyun smiled.

"Yes, it seems that it's quite powerful this time. But fortunately, we were still at the last stage in our deal to cooperate with them, so I can still cancel it in time."

Old Master Gu hummed in agreement.

"We need to be careful about this kind of thing."

"You're right, Father,"

Gu Tingchuan, who was listening from the side, was speechless.

Of course, he did not dare to talk back to the old man. He could only shoot Gu Tingyun a disdainful look.

In front of the child, he could just say anything. But what had he really done to the Yu family?]

Gu Tingyun's smile did not fade as he sipped his tea.

This was nothing to him, it was just part of his duty.

Besides, he was not the only one. The kid from the Lu family in the Capital had also been instrumental in pushing for this to happen.

Gu Tingchuan choked and withdrew his gaze.

He would just have to forget it. After all, it was for the sake of avenging Ah Li—

“Ah Li, are you going back tomorrow?”

Shen Li nodded her head.

She still had classes on Monday, so she had specially picked a Saturday to come back for the weekend.

Gu Tingchuan’s face was full of regret.

“I was going to take you out for a trip to the sea.”

He had already heard that Gu Tingyun had taken her to see the art gallery that afternoon.

“I’ll definitely go with you next time,” Shen Li said with a smile.

Gu Tingchuan’s expression softened.

“I understand that you’re under a lot of pressure in your studies, so you have to balance work and rest.”

The table fell silent again.

Gu Tingyun put down his teacup and returned his gaze with a soft, yet not heavy, reply.

Very good.

He did not even understand the person he was talking about.

Although her family was indeed very concerned about Shen Li's grades, they were still afraid that she would be under pressure from her studies. If one was not thick-skinned enough, they wouldn't say it.

Shen Li swallowed a piece of fish with difficulty and said, "... Thank you, Second Uncle, but I'm fine. I'm... not under too much pressure..."

Gu Tingchuan was much more relieved.

"That's good."

Gu Tingyun smiled.

His second brother was still his second brother. He really had a lot to learn.

...

After dinner, Shen Li chatted with Old Madam Gu for a while before she returned to her room.

She took a shower, changed into her pajamas, and lay on the bed.

Recalling Gu Tingyun's words during the day, she opened Lu Huaiyu's conversation window.

She decided it was better to call him and talk to him...

As she thought about this, she clicked on the voice call button.

Her face suddenly appeared on the screen.

Her eyes suddenly widened... She had actually clicked on a video call!

She immediately wanted to hang up, but the person on the other end had already picked up.

A handsome, cold, and ascetic face appeared before her eyes.

“Ah Li?”

Seeing that it was her, Lu Huaiyu had answered the call without thinking twice.

However, in the next second, when he saw what was on the screen clearly, his eyes darkened.

Chapter 1182 A Gift of Thanks

The girl opposite him looked like she had probably just taken a shower. Her hair was a little messy, and the ends that were still a little damp were casually draped behind her.

She was wearing a pearl-white spaghetti strap nightdress. The thin straps hung over her thin, straight shoulders. She had delicate collarbones, and rounded shoulders.

The color of her nightdress was already extremely white, but on her body, it still could not be compared to her delicate, milky-white skin.

As she was lying on the bed, the neckline of her pajamas was hanging loosely.

Her snow-white figure caught him off guard.

As the soft light fell upon her, every inch of her body was reflected in his eyes very clearly.

Shen Li also immediately noticed that something was wrong. The moment Lu Huaiyu answered the call, she had quickly sat up in a flurry.

The camera shook.

When she finally adjusted herself, the young girl's face appeared on the camera again. She now presented herself in a well-behaved manner, as if nothing had happened just now.

... If one could ignore the tips of her ears.

The two of them did not speak and fell into an ambiguous and subtle silence.

Shen Li suddenly felt as if her room had become a little stuffy and a little hot.

Lu Huaiyu's Adam's apple bobbed as he concealed the waves of emotion in the depths of his eyes. He was the first to break the silence.

"It's very late, why aren't you asleep yet?"

Perhaps it was because the night was too dark, or perhaps it was because the room was too quiet, his voice sounded particularly low and hoarse.

Shen Li felt her ears go numb, the tingling feeling almost drilling its way into her heart.

She quickly explained, "I wanted to call Second Brother, but I pressed the wrong button."

She had not answered his question.

However, as soon as she said that, Shen Li regretted it.

Would this not make it seem even more obvious that she was trying to hide something?

Lu Huaiyu was silent for a moment before he chuckled and said in an indulgent tone, “Yes, I know you didn’t do it on purpose.”

Shen Li was speechless.

Why did this seem even more inexplicable?

She took a deep breath and forced herself to forget what had just happened. She then returned to her intended topic.

“My third uncle and I went to visit the art gallery today.”

Lu Huaiyu quickly understood that she was referring to the one that Gu Tingyun had built just for her.

He nodded.

“Do you like it?”

Shen Li nodded and looked at him again. After some deliberation, she said, “Also, I saw the news about the Yu family. Third Uncle said that the collaborative effort with Yu Corporation will be canceled. Also... he mentioned that Second Brother has been quite busy recently...”

Lu Huaiyu finally knew why she was calling.

In actual fact, after the Yu family had gotten into trouble, he knew that with her intelligence, she would have guessed it sooner or later.

He just had not expected Third Master Gu to bring it up.

However, this did not matter. What was important was the result.

“So, you called just for this?” He chuckled lazily. “I thought it was because Miss Shen missed me because she hasn’t seen me in a while.”

The Yu family’s world had already been turned upside down, but the people behind the scenes were each calmer than the other.

When Shen Li heard what he said, she knew that there was no need to say more. But, after thinking about it, she still asked, “When did Second Brother contact Third Uncle?”

After all, the Yu family was a big family with a big business. The reason it had collapsed so quickly this time was obviously because it had been forced to by many parties.

“There was no contact between us.

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

“It was just a coincidence.”

Coincidentally, he had planned to make a move on the Yu family when Third Master Gu had also had the same idea.

Some time ago, the Yu family’s internal strife had become more and more intense. There were rumors in the social circles that Gu Tingyun wanted to cooperate with Yu Feng, and someone had even seen Third Master Gu’s special assistant entering and leaving Yu Feng’s office. The winds of gossip were very strong.

With such things happening, many people believed it.

This included Yu Ming.

It just so happened that Lu Huaiyu had been dealing with the Yu family's real estate business, which had been Yu Ming's last trump card.

It would have been a pity to miss out on such a good opportunity.

There had been no need to say anything. Sometimes, having a tacit understanding of a common goal was enough.

Shen Li reacted in an instant and immediately understood.

So, it was true.

Whether it was Lu Huaiyu or Gu Tingyun, these were not people to be trifled with.

It would be troublesome enough to provoke either one of them, let alone the two of them working together.

She looked at Lu Huaiyu through the camera screen.

He looked like he was in the study room at Rongyue Mansion. The first two buttons of his black shirt were unbuttoned, and he looked cold and noble.

She let out a sigh of relief.

"Thank you, Second Brother."

Even though Gu Tingyun and Lu Huaiyu had said that it was just a small matter, she knew very well that it was not.

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows and chuckled.

“Why so serious?”

Shen Li nodded and thought of the painting that she had painted earlier.

That day, after she had shown the painting to Mei Yanqing and Yu Pingchuan, they had asked her if she was going to auction it. She had said that she wanted to keep it for herself.

But now, perhaps it was the right time for her to show her thanks with that painting.

The corners of her lips curved slightly, and her eyes were bright.

“I have also prepared a thank you gift for Second Brother. I will send it over to Second Brother when I return to the Capital.”

Lu Huaiyu did not really need the young lady to thank him. After all, it was natural for him to protect his people.

However, if the young girl insisted on giving him a thank-you gift...

“Alright,” he agreed with a smile.

After settling the matter, Shen Li decided to end the call.

“Second Brother, if there’s nothing else, I’ll hang up first, alright?”

Lu Huaiyu replied with a “hmm.”

“Second Brother, you should sleep early,” said Shen Li as she waved at him.

“You should go to sleep first,” Lu Huaiyu said.

Shen Li was stunned, “Second Brother, do you still have work to do? It’s very late now.”

Lu Huaiyu had always been very efficient. From what she remembered, he rarely worked until this hour.

Lu Huaiyu’s brows raised slightly as he looked at her with a faint smile.

“So, you do realize that it’s very late, do you?”

Shen Li stayed silent.

Her face slowly turned red.

Lu Huaiyu laughed when he saw her blushing face.

It was rare for her to feel guilty.

He said, “Be good and go to sleep.”

Shen Li obediently replied, “Oh. Then, good night, Second Brother.”

They finally ended the call.

Lu Huaiyu put down his phone, leaned back in his chair, and closed his eyes.

However, the moment he closed his eyes, the scene that had entered his vision earlier continued to appear in his mind.

He opened his eyes and felt the frustration in his heart getting stronger.

He unbuttoned another button of his shirt, but he still felt hot.

He looked at his phone again.

Well, the little ancestor only knew how to light a fire and was probably asleep by now.

That little heartless one.

After a while, he finally got up and went to the bathroom.

...

Chapter 1183 Bright Moon

The next morning, Shen Li accompanied Old Madam Gu to Dutian Villa.

This was where Gu Tingyin's horse was being raised.

Old Madam Gu held Shen Li's hand as she walked slowly.

The morning air was still filled with the smell of grass.

What do you think of this place, Ah Li? " Old Madam Gu asked with a smile.

"It's very good," Shen Li nodded.

It was quiet in the midst of chaos, with an excellent environment.

As far as the eye could see, the grass was green, and there were several sprinklers watering the lawn. The clear water splashed in all directions, and a few small rainbows could be seen scattered beneath the sun.

Only the Gu family could afford to set aside a mountain in a place like Hong Kong City where every inch of land was worth an inch of gold, just to raise a horse.

Old Madam Gu patted her hand and said, "In fact, Bright Moon was also raised at Dutian Racecourse in the past, but it had quite a stubborn temper and it didn't like the horse racing field there. It felt restricted and refused to move. Later, when Yin Yin brought it here once, it was so happy and very happily ran around. Yin Yin loved it so much and when she saw that it liked this place so much, she asked your grandfather to reserve this place for it."

Shen Li's lips curved up unconsciously.

The Gu family had a common trait... protecting their own.

Even if it was a horse, it was still worthy of being doted on.

Of course, the main reason for that was because it was Gu Tingyin's horse.

"Ah Li, if you think this place is good, you can bring Qingfeng here more often," said Old Madam Gu as she laughed.

Just then, a horse trainer walked over while leading a white horse.

A horse's normal life span was 30 to 35 years, and Bright Moon was already in its twilight years.

It was walking very slowly.

Shen Li hesitated and asked, "Then, will... Bright Moon be unhappy?"

After all, it had always had this place to itself.

"How can that be?" Old Madam Gu smiled gently and said softly, "If someone else came, it would definitely not be happy. But you are different."

Shen Li's heart stirred. She suddenly remembered the receipt in Shen Zhijin's email.

The drawing of a little boy and a little girl riding a white horse together under the starry night was still so vivid in her mind.

Over it seemed to have been a drawing of a bright moon.

She walked forward.

"Old Madam Gu, Miss Shen Li," the horse trainer bowed slightly.

Bright Moon raised its head and looked at her.

Due to its age, its eyes were a little cloudy, but it still had a trace of stubbornness.

Shen Li raised her hand.

The horse trainer quickly advised, "Miss Shen Li, Bright Moon is quite proud and arrogant."

Before he could finish, his voice stopped abruptly.

Bright Moon had taken a step forward and lowered its head to nuzzle against the palm of her hand.

Shen Li hugged its neck and stroked its hair.

Bright Moon's head tilted to the side, and it quietly leaned against her shoulder.

Old Madam Gu's eyes reddened and she turned her head away in a hurry.

Shen Li hugged it for a while before she turned to the horse trainer.

"How is Bright Moon's health?"

The horse trainer came back to his senses.

"It's pretty good. It's getting old, so its bodily functions have deteriorated a little. But its overall condition is still pretty good."

After all, it was old.

Shen Li nodded and touched Bright Moon's head. She smiled and said, "Bright Moon is really beautiful. It's no wonder that my mother liked it so much."

Old Madam Gu wiped the corners of her eyes and laughed when she heard this.

"Isn't that so? At that time, many horses came to the horse track, but Yin Yin just had to pick Bright Moon."

In terms of bloodline, physique, and overall quality, Bright Moon was not the best.

However, it was really beautiful, especially its soft and shiny white fur, which was clean and luxurious.

Old Madam Gu sighed.

“She had a special liking for white horses, and that’s how it got its name Bright Moon.”

Shen Li suddenly paused.

White horse...

A white horse?

The horse that Shi Yang had bought from the racecourse was also a white horse.

The horse trainer had said that he had recommended other better horses to him, but he had declined all of them. He had still insisted on taking the white horse.

It was said that they were fated.

Shen Li moved back a little, but Bright Moon seemed to be reluctant to let her go, so she leaned over again.

Shen Li frowned.

“Is Bright Moon a thoroughbred?”

The horse trainer did not know why she had suddenly asked this, but he still nodded. “Yes, it is.”

Shen Li's brows furrowed even more, and she rubbed Bright Moon's ears to comfort her, deep in thought.

The horse that Shi Yang had bought was also a white thoroughbred.

This was too much of a coincidence.

Of course, buying a horse was based on personal preference. White horses were good-looking and rare, and thoroughbred white horses were even more precious. Just standing there was enough to attract people's attention.

Shi Yang was definitely not the only one who had his eyes on that horse.

After all, even the staff at the stable yesterday had said that the horse was very beautiful.

There did not seem to be anything wrong. At most, it seemed to be just a coincidence.

But...

She remembered Yu Pingchuan mentioning that Shi Yang had never been interested in horses before.

Moreover, Shi Yang had told Gu Tingyin...

"Ah Li? Ah Li?"

Seeing that Shen Li had not spoken in a long time, Old Madam Gu called out to her.

"Grandma?" Shen Li pulled back her thoughts and looked up.

Old Madam Gu looked concerned.

“What were you thinking about just now? You looked so lost in thought.”

“It’s nothing,” Shen Li shook her head.

She touched Bright Moon and said, “I’ll come back to see you again after a while, alright?”

Bright Moon nuzzled against her shoulder.

“Bright Moon can’t bear to part with you,” Old Madam Gu said jokingly. “It looks like if you bring Qingfeng over next time, it might really get jealous.”

Shen Li’s eyes curved as she smiled.

“How could that be? Bright Moon is very sensible, isn’t it?”

Bright Moon stretched its neck and took a step back. However, after a while, it still came over.

Shen Li could not help but laugh.

“I told you, Bright Moon is very sensible.”

...

After staying at Dutian Villa the whole morning, Shen Li accompanied Old Madam Gu back to the Gu family’s old residence in the afternoon, in consideration of her health.

She flew back to the Capital that afternoon.

It was already evening when she reached home.

Shen Zhijin had also been on a business trip for the past two days and was not at home.

Shen Li decided to cook a simple bowl of noodles.

As the water in the pot was boiling, Shen Li stood in front of the kitchen counter, feeling a little distracted.

For some reason, she kept thinking of Bright Moon and the white horse that had just been sent back to the Capital.

She vaguely felt that something was wrong, and her heart felt as if it had been left hanging.

However, she could not accurately capture the details.

From the first time she had seen Shi Yang, she had not liked him.

However, Shi Yang's attitude toward her was the exact opposite.

If it was truly because he liked her paintings, his attitude seemed a little too "friendly".

She did not believe that Shi Yang could not sense her coldness towards him.

For someone of his status, there was no need for him to treat a junior who had no good feelings for him in such a way.

Of course, it could also be that he was magnanimous and unbothered about such things.

However...

Shen Li lowered her eyes and pursed her lips.

In actual fact, she did not feel any genuine feelings of “affection” from Shi Yang.

When Mei Yanqing had first approached her and asked if she was willing to learn painting from him, she had been able to feel his admiration.

When she had first met the Gu family, she had also been able to feel that they truly liked her.

Only with Shi Yang...

She turned off the stove and brought the noodles to the dining table. After thinking for a moment, she made a phone call.

Beep—

Chapter 1184 Dylan

After one ring, the person on the other end picked up.

“Ah Li?

There was a hint of a smile in Gu Tinglan’s voice.

“Why did you suddenly call me?”

It was rare for her to take the initiative to call.

Shen Li said, "Uncle, I accompanied Grandma to Dutian Villa to see Bright Moon this morning."

Gu Tinglan was stunned.

He knew that Shen Li had returned to Hong Kong in the past two days, but he had not known the specific itinerary.

So, it turned out that...

"Oh, really? How do you feel about it?"

"It was pretty good," Shen Li replied, "It was just a little clingy. I had to comfort it for a long time before I left."

Gu Tinglan was silent for a moment before he burst out into laughter and sighed.

"Clingy?"

Other than his fourth sister, this was the first time he had heard someone describe Bright Moon in this way.

These past few years, its behavior had been fine. However, in the past, no one had been able to touch Bright Moon due to its bad temper.

Especially after his fourth sister had passed away, Bright Moon had fallen into a long period of depression. After that, it had seemed to feel even more lost.

"I guess all it knows is how to stick to you."

He sighed.

Shen Li paused and asked, "Uncle, back then... how did the fire start?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Gu Tinglan suddenly fell silent on the other end of the phone, as if even his breathing had stopped.

The air seemed to freeze.

After a long while, Gu Tinglan finally spoke with difficulty, "Why are you suddenly asking this?"

This was a pain that the Gu family and Shen Zhijin could never forget.

For nearly twenty years, they had maintained a tacit understanding to mention it as little as possible.

This was because just a single touch would cause a pain that seemed to go all the way to the bone marrow.

Even after they had acknowledged Shen Li, they rarely mentioned this matter in front of her.

In fact, many of the things that Shen Li had heard of that had happened in the past were from Xu Yin and Yu Pingchuan.

Gu Tinglan had never expected her to take the initiative to ask about it.

Shen Li was quiet for a moment before she said in a quiet voice, "When I... saw Bright Moon today, I missed her so much."

No.

She missed Gu Tingyin, the one who had held her child tightly in her arms until death. The one who had originally belonged to her, but she had never even called her “mother” before.

It was more than just today that she missed her.

Gu Tinglan felt a dull pain in his chest. It was as if his heart had been crushed by something.

They had never talked about what happened in the past to Shen Li, and Shen Li had never said such words to them.

She missed Gu Tingyin very much.

Everyone knew that there was a scar there.

No one touched it. They all pretended that it did not exist, as if this would reduce some of the pain.

But how was that possible?

That wound had been there for many years and could not be healed.

It was so painful, how could she not feel it?

Actually, she should have asked Shen Zhijin about this.

But she could not.

She could not.

So, after much thought, she had decided that she could only ask Gu Tinglan about it.

"I remember that Uncle went to Lincheng to investigate this matter, right?"

Gu Tinglan was silent for a long time before he said, "Yes."

He sorted out the chaotic thoughts in his mind.

"I've mentioned to you before that the fire actually started from the house downstairs. The man had forgotten to turn off the valve after cooking in the morning, causing the natural gas to leak. Later, when he went to the bathroom to take a shower and turned on the water heater, it exploded. The kitchen and bathroom were next to each other, so...

"At that time, your mother... and the baby were upstairs. The fire started very quickly, but your mother had just given birth and was still weak. She had to protect the child, so... she couldn't run out."

Gu Tinglan closed his eyes.

"In the end, she... suffocated to death."

Shen Li did not speak for a long time.

Gu Tinglan took a deep breath and said, "Ah Li, your mother's expected date of delivery was July 10th. Our family also said that they would go over when it was closer to the date. However, we didn't expect you to be born half a month earlier. After receiving the news, the family immediately rushed to Lincheng. However, as you know, it takes some time to get to Lincheng from Hong Kong City.

"Your mother arrived at the hospital in the morning. The delivery had gone smoothly, but... the child had a very serious congenital heart disease. The hospital in Lincheng couldn't treat her, so the family discussed transferring her to Yunzhou. At that time, your father... went to contact the hospital in Yunzhou. Bringing them to Yunzhou would require a lot of preparation, so he only left for a short while, really just a short while..."

Gu Tinglan's voice choked up.

“... We waited for him to make all the arrangements. But by the time he returned, it was already...”

No one would have thought that the fire would start at that time.

Shen Li sat on the chair with her eyes slightly lowered and her shoulders straight, but her fingers were trembling.

“That’s why your father couldn’t forgive himself all these years.”

Even if it really was not his fault.

Who could have predicted what would happen next?

If it was not for the fact that so many people had stopped him, Shen Zhijin would have already died inside.

In the end, he had knelt in despair outside the scene of the fire, watching his life burn with his own eyes, before finally turning into a void of black ash.

It had vanished like smoke.

From now on, there was no difference between living and being dead.

Shen Li listened without moving.

She suddenly remembered the night they had conducted the paternity test. She had advised Shen Zhijin that the weather was too cold and that he had not recovered from his injuries, so it was better for him to go home first.

He had said that he had no right to ask her to do anything, but he should have the right to wait for that night.

At that time, she had not known, but now that she thought about it, she knew how much unspeakable pain was hidden under those words.

He had not even had a chance to start over and was forced to suffer day and night.

He had endured it, suffered, and remained silent, day and night.

She lowered her head slightly, her long eyelashes fluttered, and a small dark mark appeared on her jeans.

She closed her eyes and tried to make her voice sound calm.

“It was morning. Why had that person suddenly gone to take a shower?”

Gu Tinglan’s voice was serious.

“We’ve always had our suspicions about this. However, the dead could not testify, and the police did not find anything. Thus, they could only leave it at that and conclude that it was an accident. It was only a few years ago that we accidentally discovered that the kidnappers who tried to kidnap your mother had a secret relationship with a man named Dylan. This person might have been involved in the kidnapping, and he might even be the mastermind behind it. It’s a pity that the contents of their conversation have been erased. All that could be found out was that it was a foreign number and that the number corresponded to a non-existent person.”

This was where the trail of clues ended. The other party had obviously hidden their identity.

Shen Li remembered this person.

“Uncle, didn’t you say that when the fire broke out, that person had returned to China?”

“That’s right. Because at that time, on a flight from abroad to China, that person used that fake passport again.” Gu Tinglan shook his head. “It’s a pity that by the time we found out about this, it had already been more than ten years since the incident. Back then, investigative methods were limited. Moreover, that person must have disguised himself when he entered the country. That’s why even though we know he’s returned to the country, it’s like throwing a stone into the ocean, and we can’t find any more information.”

“In the years that followed, the fake passport was never used again, so we had no way to start. But he seems to be involved in both the kidnapping and the fire, so...”

Therefore, he could not help but be suspicious.

Shen Li thought for a while and suddenly asked, “Uncle, are you familiar with Shi Yang?”

Chapter 1185 Spring on Xi Hill

“Shi Yang?”

Gu Tinglan was slightly stunned.

“I’ve heard of him before, but I’m not familiar with him. Why?”

Shi Yang had a high status in the painting world. Even if they did not know each other, they would probably at least have heard of each other.

Shen Li asked again, “Then, you and your family don’t know that he used to like my mother?”

“He liked your mother?”

Gu Tinglan frowned.

“I’ve never heard of this before. But I seem to remember that he was also from Xijing Art School? He should be your mother’s senior.”

Gu Tingyin was beautiful, with a lively and innocent personality. There were many people who had liked her since she was young.

Who would have cared about Shi Yang?

Shen Li fell into deep thought.

Not many people knew that Shi Yang had wooed Gu Tingyin before. After all, according to Bella, he had only given her a painting with a love letter in it. Gu Tingyin had very quickly returned the painting and her rejection could not have been more obvious.

After that, it did not seem like there had been any more contact between the two of them.

Such a small matter was extremely common.

It was nothing more than him having feelings for Gu Tingyin, confessing them to her, and then being rejected.

No one would think too much about it. Perhaps even Gu Tingyin herself had never taken it to heart.

However...

"Why are you suddenly asking about him?" Gu Tinglan vaguely felt that something was wrong.

Shen Li was silent for a while, then she said, "I think some of his actions are a little strange."

Then, she briefly told him about how Shi Yang had once pursued Gu Tingyin, bought a white thoroughbred horse that looked like Bright Moon at the horse race event, and how he had suddenly arranged for the horse back to the Capital the day before.

“Teacher Yu mentioned to me before that Shi Yang isn’t actually interested in horses. I don’t know why, but he suddenly went to the racecourse and bought that white horse. Moreover, the National Art Association is in the middle of investigating the matter of the fake painting recently. He should be very busy, but he just had to take the horse away at this time.”

Shen Li rubbed her eyebrows.

“Maybe I’m overthinking it, but I really can’t understand the logic behind his actions.”

Gu Tinglan fell silent on his end.

After a long time, he asked, “So, you think there’s a problem with him?”

“It’s just a guess,” Shen Li replied after a pause.

At present, she had no evidence in her hands, so naturally, it was not appropriate for her to say anything.

But Shi Yang was very strange.

One or two coincidences might be a coincidence, but when there were too many coincidences, it was likely that they were not just coincidences.

Shi Yang clearly did not like her, but he pretended to. He had even gone to the auction to bid for one of her paintings.

In everyone’s eyes, Shi Yang was a gentle and elegant man.

However, if he was really such a person, he would not have insisted on raising the paddle that day even though he knew that he could not win against the Gu family and Lu Huaiyu.

He had just wanted to fight.

This kind of person...

After a long time, Gu Tinglan said in a deep voice, "I see."

For the past few years, they had been trying to find out where Dylan was. However, it was something that had happened many years ago and there had been no results.

If Shen Li had not mentioned it, no one would have linked the two names together.

Dylan.

Shi Yang.

"I'll investigate it."

Shen Li replied with a "hmm."

She ended the call. The bowl of noodles in front of her had already turned cold.

However, she no longer had any appetite.

She thought for a while and called Bella.

...

It was noon in Bai City. In the conference room at the headquarters of WM, everyone was discussing the topics for the next season's magazine issue.

A fashionably dressed young woman was standing in front of the projector, introducing a proposal of her own designs.

Bella sat at the head of the table. She was exquisitely made up and exuded a strong aura.

These designs were obviously not to her liking. She showed no reaction and her expression remained cold.

The designer in charge of explaining the proposal also started to feel uneasy.

Just then, Bella's phone vibrated.

Everyone looked over.

Bella frowned.

Everyone's hearts were also in their throats... Who was so unlucky to have hit the muzzle at such a time?

However, at the very next second, they saw Bella's brows relax.

As she signaled everyone to pause the meeting, she got up and walked out. She picked up the phone and said in a gentle tone, "Ah Li?"

Everyone was dumbfounded.

The female devil was actually capable of having such a pleasant expression?

"Auntie Bella, I hope I'm not disturbing you by calling you so suddenly?"

Shen Li asked.

Bella looked back at the meeting room.

“No, I just finished with a meeting. Is there an emergency?”

Everyone in the meeting room understood what she meant and waited silently.

Shen Li paused for a moment.

“Aunt Bella, you said before that Shi Yang once gave a painting to my mother. Do you remember what kind of painting it was?”

Bella was stunned.

She had not expected Shen Li to call her to ask about this.

“You mean that particular painting?”

“That’s right. Recently, I’ve been quite interested in traditional Chinese paintings and happened to study his techniques and changes in painting style. I remembered that you mentioned that painting before, so I thought of asking you.”

“So that’s how it is.”

Bella suddenly understood.

Shen Li had studied under Mei Yanqing and was good at oil painting, but Gu Tingyin had studied Chinese painting.

It was normal for her to be interested in these things.

Besides, Shi Yang was indeed one of the top Chinese art masters in the country.

“Let me think...” Bella crossed her arms and fell into deep thought.

Shen Li thought for a while and said, “It’s fine if you can’t remember. I was just asking. If you can’t recall it, I can still go and look up his other works.”

After all, it was many years ago. Moreover, Gu Tingyin had returned the painting not long after Shi Yang had given it to her.

It was estimated that—

“I remember now!”

Bella snapped her fingers.

“That painting’s name is “Spring on Xi Hill”!”

The Chinese words “Spring on Xi Hill” were a little obscure, but Shen Li still understood it.

Xi Hill was a hill in the suburbs of the Capital. It had beautiful scenery and could be considered a rather famous small scenic spot.

“Xi Hill?”

“Yes.”

Bella recalled,

“The reason why I remember it so clearly is because Yin Yin specially invited me there before. There was a large area of camellias that had been planted on Xi Hill. Every March and April, the camellia flowers would bloom all over the hill, and the view was especially beautiful. She really liked it.

“The painting that Shi Yang gave her back then was a scenery of this place.”

The intention of such a painting was clear.

Bella shrugged.

“But your mother returned it the very next day and didn’t keep in touch with him after that. I don’t know if the painting is still there.”

Shen Li said, “I see, thank you.”

Bella smiled and said, “If you really want to thank me, come to Bai City more often in the future.”

Shen Li’s lips curved in a smile as she said, “I will.”

Bella reluctantly ended the call and turned to go back to the meeting room.

Her mood was obviously much better than before.

“Continue.”

...

“Spring on Xi Hill”.

It was hard to say if the painting was still there.

However, that was not what Shen Li was concerned about.

She thought for a while and sent a message to Wei Songze.

[Are you free tomorrow? Please do me a favor.]

Chapter 1186 Probing

Wei Songze replied almost instantly.

[Since Sister Li has instructed me, I'll just have to ensure that I'm free!]

It was really rare that Sister Li would actually take the initiative to ask him for help.

Shen Li typed.

[Please help me send a painting to the National Art Association.]

...

The next afternoon, at the National Art Association.

Shi Yang was sitting behind his desk, reading some files.

The assistant knocked on the door and walked in.

"Mr. Shi Yang, the event you were supposed to attend today has been canceled."

Shi Yang did not even look up. He only said, "Hmm."

Recently, the National Art Association had been very busy. As the Vice President, it was even more so for him.

Hence, some of the less important activities were canceled.

However, Shi Yang was not concerned about that.

The assistant asked again, "Also, your horse was sent to the Huayue Racecourse in the Capital yesterday."

It was a high-end private equestrian club and was a very suitable place where owners could put their horses to be cared for. However, it was very expensive.

Shi Yang said indifferently, "I know."

There was no emotion in his voice.

"Won't... you be going to take a look?" the assistant asked hesitantly.

After all, he had spent a lot of money to buy it, and now it had suddenly been delivered to the Capital. He had thought Shi Yang would plan to go there soon.

Shi Yang raised his eyes and glanced at him.

The assistant suddenly felt a chill in his heart and quickly said, "I'm... I'm sorry! Mr. Shi Yang, I didn't mean anything by that!"

It was up to Shi Yang whether to go or not. He was just an assistant. What right did he have to say anything?

Shi Yang withdrew his gaze and said calmly, "There's no hurry."

He had no interest in the horse, but...

When the assistant heard that he was not angry, his heart finally relaxed a little.

"Yes, yes!"

Just then, there was a commotion outside.

Shi Yang frowned slightly.

The assistant quickly said, "I'll go and see what's going on!"

As he spoke, he opened the door and saw a few people in the corridor, walking over.

Shi Yang was the vice-president of the National Art Association and a master of Chinese art, so the offices next to him were all related to Chinese art.

At this moment, there were a few people walking over to the door of the office that was diagonally opposite.

The person walking in front was a woman in her forties. She had taken good care of herself and was very elegant.

It was the owner of the office diagonally across from him, Li Zhi, who was also very famous in the field of traditional Chinese painting.

Shen Li was standing beside her.

There was a young and handsome man behind her who seemed to be a college student.

However, he exuded a slight ruffian aura from head to toe, and the commotion from before seemed to have come from him.

Li Zhi smiled and greeted him, "Assistant Song."

Song Miao hurriedly said, "Teacher Li."

Li Zhi looked behind the half-closed door. "Is Teacher Shi Yang still busy?"

"Yes," Song Miao replied.

Shi Yang heard the conversation outside the door, but he did not pay much attention to it. He continued to read the materials in his hand.

Suddenly, a familiar voice sounded out.

"My friend spoke a little too loudly just now. I hope he didn't disturb Teacher Shi Yang?"

Shi Yang paused and looked up.

Song Miao was standing by the door, so he could not see what was going on outside, but he knew that Shen Li had arrived.

Shen Li's question made Song Miao feel a little awkward.

That was why he had come over to see what was going on. After all, the people in the National Art Association knew that Shi Yang's office was there so they would usually pay attention to him.

Who would have known that it would be Shen Li and the boy next to her... Had she said that he was her friend?

He forced a smile and said, "No..."

"No, he didn't."

Song Miao had just opened his mouth when a gentle voice came from behind him.

He was shocked and subconsciously turned around. He saw Shi Yang walking over.

Shi Yang nodded to Li Zhi, then looked at Shen Li and said with a faint smile, "I was just saying that the voice sounded familiar."

"Mr. Shi Yang." Shen Li nodded politely and said to Wei Songzhe, "This is Mr. Shi Yang. I'm sure you have heard of him."

Wei Songzhe revealed a bright smile.

"I've heard of him! I've seen him once from afar in school!"

Shi Yang sized him up.

"This is..."

"This is my friend, Wei Songze. He's also a student at Xijing Art School." Shen Li explained.

Shi Yang understood and said, "I remember that Elder Yu didn't come to the art association today?"

"We're not here to look for Senior Brother." Shen Li smiled. "I'm here to ask Teacher Li for some help in looking at a painting."

Shi Yang noticed that Wei Songze was carrying a picture frame.

Wei Songze scratched his head in embarrassment.

"I have a friend who recently drew a painting and wanted to send it over to the National Art Association to get their help in auctioning it. It wasn't easy to make an appointment with Teacher Li, but my friend hasn't been feeling well these few days and has been hospitalized. So, he asked me to make the trip and send this painting over for Teacher Li to take a look."

This was a necessary process for a painting to be auctioned off by the National Art Association.

Shi Yang smiled.

"I see."

Shen Li was probably the one who had pulled the strings to arrange for the appointment.

Li Zhi was also very famous in the painting world, so it was not easy to ask for her help to look at the painting.

However, Shen Li was Mei Yanqing's last disciple, so she was more senior than Li Zhi.

Of course, Li Zhi had to show her respect.

Li Zhi pushed open the office door.

“Ah Li, Ah Wei, please come in. ”

Wei Songze moved closer to Shen Li and whispered, “I didn’t expect to meet Teacher Shi Yang here!”

His voice seemed to be very loud. Even though he had lowered his voice, his words were still clearly heard by everyone present.

The shock and admiration in his words were even more obvious.

That was normal. Many people had the same reaction when they saw Shi Yang.

Shen Li stared at him. Wei Songze finally realized that he was being too boisterous and coughed awkwardly.

“It isn’t... I mean, Mr. Shi Xiang my classmate’s idol...”

Li Zhi saw this and laughed.

“Actually, Mr. Shi Yang is a very nice person. You don’t have to be so nervous. Since your classmate is Teacher Shi Yang’s fan and he’s here, why don’t you ask him to come and take a look?”

Shi Yang was gentle and refined, and he had a good relationship with them, so Li Zhi naturally suggested this.

Shen Li hesitated, “This... isn’t very suitable, right? Won’t it take up too much of Teacher Shi Yang’s time?”

Wei Songze had initially been very excited, but when he heard what Shen Li said, he also became scared.

“Yeah... maybe we should forget it?”

Shi Yang smiled.

“I just need to look at a painting. What’s there to delay?”

Li Zhi waved her hand as she spoke, “I told you Teacher Shi Yang is a good person. He doesn’t put on airs at all. Lil Wei, bring the painting in.”

“Ah? Oh! Alright!”

Wei Songze reacted quickly. He immediately entered the office and put down the painting.

Song Miao looked at Shi Yang, asking for his opinion.

Shi Yang had already walked in.

Wei Songze took out the painting.

Shi Yang looked at the painting and suddenly froze!

Wei Songze said with a smile, “This painting is of a mountain stream in spring. I’ll have to trouble both of you teachers to help me take a good look.”

Chapter 1187 After All, She Liked Him So Much

The hill was black in color, and there was a faint hint of spring green.

There were large patches of camellias in full bloom. The white and red colors intertwined, looking gorgeous and lively.

The exuberant aura of spring seemed to want to break through the thin layer of rice paper and rush toward him.

It was truly an outstanding painting.

Wei Songze continued to explain, "My classmate said that he went to Xi Hill in April this year and saw the beautiful scenery there, so he specially drew this."

Li Zhi smiled and nodded.

"The scenery of Xi Hill is indeed outstanding, and this painting is also good. A lot of ink was used for the hill scenery, but the camellias look lively, so the blank space is just right. Although the technique is still a little green, it's very spiritual. The artist will have a bright future if he polishes himself more in the future."

It was a very high evaluation for her to say such words.

Wei Songze chuckled, "If he knew that you said that, he would be so happy!"

Shen Li looked at Shi Yang and suddenly asked, "What do you think, Teacher Shi Yang?"

Shi Yang's eyebrows twitched, and he immediately came back to his senses.

The stiffness from the moment he saw the painting quickly disappeared. When he raised his eyes again, his expression had returned to normal, and there was nothing wrong with it.

He smiled and nodded.

"It's not bad. Teacher Li and I have the same opinion."

It was even rarer to get Shi Yang's praise.

Wei Songze was even happier.

“Really? Then I’ll have to go back and tell him that you praised his painting!”

Shi Yang had a smile on his face. He looked as gentle and elegant as ever.

However, at this moment, a clear voice sounded out, “I think there’s a part in this painting that could be drawn better.”

The entire office was silent for a few seconds.

Li Zhi looked at Shen Li and asked curiously, “Oh? What do you mean, Ah Li?”

Shi Yang also looked over.

Shen Li pointed at the painting,

“The camellias in this painting are dense and scattered. The handling is a little sloppy, especially the intertwining of the branches and leaves. On the whole, although the flowers are blooming in a lively manner, they appear to be a little messy.”

There was a look of pleasant surprise on Li Zhi’s face.

“I didn’t expect Ah Li to have studied Chinese paintings before.

Being able to give such an accurate and objective comment, was enough to prove that she really understood it.

What she had said just now was just a general critique. Since Shen Li was the one who had arranged for the appointment and the artist was still a student, she had focused on the merits and gave an encouraging comment.

She had planned to point out these shortcomings when she had the opportunity, but she had not expected Shen Li to mention it first.

Shi Yang seemed to be a little surprised as well. He looked at her face from behind his glasses, sizing her up.

Shen Li shook her head.

"I can't say that I've studied it. It's just that there have been more Chinese paintings produced recently. Also... this painting is of camellias."

At this point, her red lips curved slightly, and she whispered, "This was my mother's favorite flower."

Shi Yang subconsciously clenched his fists.

Of course, Li Zhi knew that Shen Li was talking about Gu Tingyin.

After all, Gu Tingyin had also been a disciple of a famous family back then, and she had been extremely talented. She had already distinguished herself at a young age.

If it had not been for what had happened... she would have been a master of Chinese painting by now.

She was also clear about Shen Li's background, so when she heard her mention it, she felt sorry for her.

"Is that so?"

Shen Li looked up, her dark peach blossom-shaped eyes curved into a beautiful arc.

“That’s right. My mom’s graduation work at Xijing Art School was of camellias.”

“Oh? In that case, your mother really likes camellia.”

“Yes.” Shen Li nodded. “When she and dad got married, they even planted a camellia tree in the yard of their house in Bai City.

When Li Zhi heard this, she could not help but sigh.

“No wonder you know so much about camellia... Your parents must be very close.”

Hearing this, Shen Li was silent for a moment before she smiled and nodded. Her expression was pure and serious.

“Yes, everyone says so. My father still often buys camellias at home, and there are many paintings that were left behind by my mother. In addition to traditional Chinese paintings, she also likes to draw comics. I can see her brushwork everywhere in my father’s book collection.”

As if she had thought of something funny, and the corners of her lips curled up into a playful arc.

“Actually, she was the one who bought those books, but she couldn’t understand most of them, so she tossed them all to my father.”

The young girl’s little thoughts were hidden in those books, but they were already so obvious without even opening them.

The whole world knew that she could not hide her feelings, and it almost seemed to be overflowing.

Li Zhi was both envious and sad.

Even though she was not familiar with Shen Zhijin and Gu Tingyin, anyone who heard this story would be moved.

She said, "Then your mother must have been very happy when she married him."

Shen Li gently nodded.

"Yeah, after all, she liked him so much."

After she finished speaking, she looked at Shi Yang and saw that he had his eyes slightly lowered, as if he was lost in thought.

"Teacher Shi Yang?"

She called out.

Shi Yang reacted for a moment before looking up.

Shen Li said with an apologetic tone,

"I'm sorry, I seem to have said too much about my family. Also, regarding the evaluation of this painting, it's actually just my personal opinion. In Chinese painting, both you and Teacher Li are more professional. I hope you don't mind that I was showing off in front of you both."

She spoke in an exceptionally sincere tone of voice.

Shi Yang looked at her quietly.

When she smiled, they looked very similar, but her eyes... He did not like them.

“How can that be?”

He heard his calm and gentle voice.

“Well said.”

Chapter 1188 Your Wishes Are the Most Important at Any Time

“Sister Li, how was my performance today?”

As soon as the car drove out through the gates of the National Art Association, Wei Songze, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, could not hold himself back.

“With such acting skills, it’s a pity that you’re not a movie star!”

Shen Li, who was driving, laughed.

“Well, it’s pretty good. After all, I myself have relied on this trick to get out of things many times in the past.”

Wei Songze clicked his tongue.

“Sister Li, I just did you a favor, can’t you show me just a little appreciation? You have to know that in order to find a painting according to your standards, I had to greet all my brothers at the National Art Association.”

Her request for the painting was very specific, and it had taken him a lot of effort.

Shen Li nodded, “I know. I owe you a favor for this.”

“Sister Li! Don’t do that!”

Wei Songze had just been joking with her,

“Sister Li, you’ve helped me so many times in the past. Isn’t this what I should do?”

“It’s two different things. I still have to thank you for this.”

“Oh—”

Wei Songze tilted his head, touched his chin, and looked at her thoughtfully,

“Sister Li, you seem to care a lot about this matter!”

They had known each other for a very long time, so he knew Shen Li all too well.

It was definitely not a small matter for her to go to such great lengths.

But he just could not figure out what was going on.

“It can’t be just to let Shi Yang see that painting, right?”

The painting was good, but it had nothing to do with her, did it?

Besides, with her status, out of so many people in the National Art Association, who would not give her face?

There was no need for her to do all this for something as simple as just critiquing a painting.

Shen Li raised her eyebrows.

“Then what? What else could it be?”

Wasn’t this the conclusion of today’s show?

Of course, Wei Songzhe knew that it was not that simple. He thought for a while and mumbled, “I don’t know if it was my imagination, but when Shi Yang was looking at the painting, he seemed a little lost in thought.”

Of course, it was not just his imagination.

Even a carefree person like Wei Songze could tell that Shi Yang had lost his composure.

It was because she had brought the painting with her, and also because she had mentioned Shen Zhijin and Gu Tingyin.

Based on Shi Yang’s usual personality and style, he would be extremely serious when he was helping others with critiquing paintings. He would not have been as distracted as he had been today.

The hunch in Shen Li’s heart became clearer.

Her lips twitched, but there was no smile on her face. She said lightly, “Who knows what he was thinking?”

...

Shi Yang went back to his office, sat down behind his desk, and picked up the materials he had been reading.

It was as if the little episode earlier had no effect on him at all.

Song Miao glanced at him quickly, his mouth having gone dry.

He had been with Shi Yang for many years, so he could more or less figure out his emotions.

His instinct told him not to provoke Shi Yang at this moment.

Even though he did not know what had happened to make Shi Yang's mood so bad while he was looking at the painting.

He bent down and asked carefully, "Mr. Shi Yang, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

"Yes."

Shi Yang did not raise his head, merely replying with one word.

However, Song Miao heaved a sigh of relief and turned to leave.

"Wait."

Shi Yang stopped him again.

"Mr. Shi Yang," Song Miao turned around immediately. "Is there anything else you need?"

Shi Yang asked, "What's the situation like at the Yu family?"

"The Yu family?"

Song Miao had not expected him to ask this. He was momentarily stunned before he reacted.

"I heard that the situation is not very good. The joint investigation team has already entered the Yu family, and it is estimated that the Yu family will not be able to escape this time."

Harming the interests of the country was crossing the line.

Moreover, the Yu family was currently in internal strife. Both sides had completely shed all pretenses of cordiality. Yu Ming was aiming to perish together, so no one would gain an advantage.

"I know. After that, if there's any news on the Yu family, report to me immediately."

Song Miao did not understand.

Shouldn't the National Art Association be the thing he was most worried about now? Why was the Yu family suddenly involved now?

Of course, he did not dare to ask.

"Alright," he said.

He bowed and left.

Click.

The door closed, and the office fell into silence again.

Shi Yang took off his gold-rimmed glasses and pinched the bridge of his nose.

A moment later, he opened his eyes, and the gentle look on his face disappeared.

He had already known that her personality and shrewdness were really hard to like.

After all, her existence had been a mistake from the beginning.

...

That evening, Shen Zhijin returned from his business trip.

This time, he had gone to the headquarters of the Fino Laboratory in Bai City.

Since last year, he had spent more time in China because he had led the collaborative research project between Xijing University and Fino Laboratory.

After he had acknowledged Shen Li, he had shifted his focus to China.

When he was in the Capital, he would try his best to come home and have dinner with her every day. When he was on a business trip, he would always finish his work and come back as soon as possible.

He just wanted to spend more time with her.

Shen Li had prepared a sumptuous dinner for them both.

During the meal, Shen Zhijin suddenly thought of something.

“Tangtang, your mid-term examination results should be coming out soon, I believe?”

Shen Li nodded.

“It should be tomorrow.”

Shen Zhijin thought for a moment.

“By the end of your second year, you should have enough credits to graduate. Do you have any plans after that?”

Shen Li’s eyes curved as she smiled.

“Are you still recruiting for Ph.D. students next year?”

Shen Zhijin could not help but laugh.

“Are you sure? Actually, there are a few laboratories that are already interested in you.”

There were some, both at home and abroad, and they were not inferior to Fino Laboratory.

After all, Shen Li’s resume was extremely exciting.

Shen Li asked, “Don’t you want me to stay?”

Of course, Shen Zhijin hoped that she could stay by his side the most. However, her opinion was what mattered the most.

Even he had to admit that those opportunities were very good choices for her.

He looked at Shen Li with a gentle and serious expression on his clean and elegant face.

“Tangtang, you have to know that your wishes are always the first priority to me at any time.”

Shen Li’s heart skipped a beat, and her lips curved into a smug smile.

“Then I’ll take one of your Ph.D. Slots for next year.”

Shen Zhijin looked at her and the smile between his brows stretched.

“Alright,” he said.

The phone beside him suddenly rang.

Shen Li tilted her head and took a casual look. Her eyes immediately narrowed.

[President Shen, I just received news that Old Master Yu has passed away.]

Chapter 1189 Planning

Shen Li’s eyes narrowed.

Old Master Yu had passed away much earlier than in her previous life.

Yu Cheng’s incident had probably dealt him a huge blow. After the fight between Yu Ming and Yu Feng, Yu Ming had reported on his own company like a madman, which was a fatal blow to him.

The Yu family had been under investigation recently, and everyone knew that the business would definitely be liquidated this time.

There were two things that Old Master Yu had cared about the most in his life: one was the family’s inheritance, while the other was the continuation of the Yu family’s glory.

Now that Yu Cheng was incapacitated, the Yu Corporation was on the verge of collapse.

It was no wonder that he could not survive such a series of blows.

[I understand.]

The Yu family was already in a precarious situation, and this matter would only accelerate the collapse of the Yu family.

The rich and powerful family that had once ruled Haicheng had fallen just like that.

For so many years, the Yu family had used their power to bully the weak and tried to use their power to cover up all the crimes they had committed. In the end, they had ended up like this. It could only be said that this was retribution.

...

Fenghu Peninsula.

It was already late at night, but the lights in the studio were still on.

Shi Yang sat there quietly, scrolling through his phone.

The news of Old Master Yu's death was overwhelming, and the Internet was embroiled in a heated discussion.

He did not need to think to know that this was the most chaotic time for the Yu family.

If it had been in the past, this matter concerning Old Master Yu would definitely have been a big deal, but now... Everyone wanted to cut off all ties with the Yu family, so who would want to make trouble at this time?

He made a call.

...

Haicheng, the Yu family.

Yu Yu was in her bedroom, hugging her knees as she sat on the bed, her eyes unfocused.

The light from the bedside lamp shone on her face, which was pale.

Her sunken eye sockets and bloodshot eyes showed just how much torture she had been through.

Although she was still alive, living like this felt worse than death.

Wailing and crying could be heard faintly from outside, mixed with shrill and harsh curses. It was even more terrifying to hear in the middle of the night.

She knew that Zhou Lan, Yu Jia, and Yu Qian were crying and making a scene.

— The old man was gone.

Yu Ming and Yu Feng had already been taken away for investigation a few days ago. Now that this incident had happened, the Yu family was in even more chaos.

The Yu sisters had accused Yu Ming of harming the Yu family, while Zhou Lan retorted that Yu Feng was too ruthless and had brought it upon himself.

Many conflicts had happened in the past few days.

Today, Old Master Yu had suddenly passed away from his illness, and the conflict had erupted again. It had been going on since the afternoon.

As for Yu Yu, who would care about her?

Yu Yu's heart was filled with despair.

Just then, footsteps could be heard from outside the door.

She did not move.

Then, there was a whispered conversation.

Her eyelids twitched, and she turned her neck stiffly to look in the direction of the door.

That was because this voice seemed to be...

Click.

The door was opened and a man walked in.

He looked to be in his twenties and was quite handsome, but there was a slight gloominess in his eyes, which made people feel uncomfortable.

It was Yu Jing.

After he entered, he stood there and looked Yu Yu up and down, not hiding the ridicule and disdain in his eyes.

"It's only been a short time since we last met. Why is Second Miss Yu so haggard?"

The two of them had the same father but different mothers, so they could be considered siblings. However, over the years, their relationship was more like that of enemies.

That was because Yu Jing was an illegitimate child. He had been raised outside the family since he was young. If it was not for the fact that he was male, the Yu family would not have even acknowledged him.

On one hand, he felt that he was of the Yu family's blood and deserved to enjoy the same treatment as Yu Cheng. He felt that he was extraordinary and superior.

On the other hand, his own ability could not support his ambition. In addition, he had grown up in a special environment, which had led to a deep sense of inferiority in the depths of his heart. Jealousy and resentment continued to accumulate, gradually making him develop a gloomy and selfish personality.

It seemed that anyone in the Yu family had been able to trample on his dignity at will.

Especially Yu Yu.

The more outstanding she was, the more incompetent he had appeared to be.

All these years, Yu Yu had relied on the support of the first branch to step on his head.

Who would have thought that this day would come?

"Didn't Second Miss Yu say that as long as you were around, I could forget about taking a step into the Yu family?"

Yu Jing's voice was cold and mocking.

Yu Yu remained silent.

In her current situation, there was no point in saying anything. Yu Jing would only laugh at her.

Of course, from the day she had been locked up in here, she had already become a huge joke.

Yu Jing snorted.

If he had not seen it with his own eyes, who would have believed that the once proud Yu Yu would end up in such a state?

He laughed.

“Yu Yu, no matter what, we’re still blood-related siblings. Don’t worry, I won’t leave you alone.”

These words immediately made Yu Yu feel uneasy, and she looked at Yu Jing with a hint of vigilance.

When she was not in the throes of her addiction to drugs, she could actually still maintain some consciousness.

“What do you want to do?”

She spoke in a hoarse voice.

Yu Jing sighed.

“You know that our eldest uncle and second uncle have been detained. The old master has also passed away, and the family is in a mess. It’s not very appropriate for you to stay here at this time.”

The Yu family had suffered a great change, and Yu Jing was the one who stood up for them. After all, he was the only man left in the Yu family.

Although Yu Jia was capable, she was panicking after what had happened to Yu Feng. How could she compete with Yu Jing?

After all, Yu Jing was still the grandson of Old Master Yu.

"If outsiders see you like this, it'll be another problem, don't you think so?"

Yu Yu panicked and started to back away.

"You... what do you mean by this!"

Yu Jing smiled.

"Don't misunderstand. I've found another place for you. You can recuperate there and the people at home won't disturb you."

Yu Yu grabbed the pillow and hugged it tightly in her arms as she continued to resist.

"No! I'm not going!"

Yu Jing's face turned cold.

"Do you want everyone to know that the second miss of the Yu family was forced to take drugs by her own family? If you want to die, don't tell me you're going to drag the Yu family down with you!"

Yu Yu's mouth opened, and tears fell.

Yu Jing's expression softened.

“I’ve already said that I’m merely moving you to another place. You’ll still be well taken care of over there. I can guarantee that as long as you’re obedient and don’t cause trouble, I’ll give you everything you want. You have to know that the Yu family can’t take any more blows now. If the Yu family is done for, have you thought about what will happen to you in the future?”

Yu Yu had never thought that her position and Yu Jing’s position would be reversed like this one day.

However, she had no other choice.

From the moment she had become addicted to drugs, she no longer had any dignity to speak of.

She finally nodded.

...

After a long time, Yu Yu finally came out of her bedroom.

She got into a black car.

Yu Jing did not go with her. Besides the driver, there were two bodyguards in the car.

In the dark night, the car slowly drove away.

After driving for some distance, Yu Yu could not help but ask, “Why haven’t we arrived yet?”

Chapter 1190 Personally Asking

No one answered.

The car was dead silent.

Yu Yu frowned and looked out the window.

This road seemed to be leading towards the highway?

She felt uneasy.

“Where are we going?”

When Yu Jing told her to move to another place, she had thought that it would be to a small villa in the suburbs.

But now, it clearly wasn't!

However, no matter what she asked, the driver and bodyguard in the car did not answer.

In the current situation, even if she wanted to escape, it was too late. How could she be a match for these people?

She asked several times, but she was still unable to get any answers.

The drugs had seriously damaged her body, and she really did not have that much energy now. A deep sense of fatigue and sleepiness overwhelmed her.

She suddenly realized that something was wrong. Before she had gotten into the car, she remembered having drunk a bottle of water that Yu Jing had handed to her.

She struggled to stay awake, but in the end, she could not resist and fell asleep.

The scenery outside the window passed by quickly, and the black car sped through the night.

...

When Yu Yu woke up again, she felt sore all over.

As soon as she opened her eyes, she was blinded by the sunlight outside the window.

She turned her head and subconsciously raised her hand to cover her eyes.

“You’re awake?”

A gentle voice rang out.

Yu Yu was shocked and she immediately turned around to look!

A man in his forties was sitting on the sofa in the room. He seemed to have been waiting for a long time.

He was wearing gold-rimmed glasses. Even though he was just sitting there, he still looked elegant and handsome.

His eyes met Yu Yu’s bewildered gaze and he smiled.

“Do you want to eat something?”

This face was very familiar, she had seen it before.

Yu Yu stared at him for a long time before she mumbled uncertainly, “Shi Yang?”

“Yes, it’s me.”

Shi Yang nodded with a smile.

Yu Yu gradually came back to her senses and quickly scanned her surroundings.

This was a completely unfamiliar room!

Her heart sank when she thought of what had happened before she got into the car.

Yu Jing had said that he wanted her to rest somewhere else, but why was she at Shi Yang's place?

"Where's Yu Jing? I want to see him!"

"I'm afraid that's going to be a little difficult. He's in Haicheng now," said Shi Yang with a faint smile, "Besides, he's busy with Grandpa Yu's funeral. I don't think he'll have time to see you."

Almost immediately, Yu Yu realized something and her heart began to beat faster.

"Then where is this place?!"

"The Capital."

The Capital?

When she woke up, she found that they had sent her from Haicheng to the Capital!

Yu Yu felt as if she had been struck by lightning, and she was dumbfounded.

"How... how could this be?!"

Even if Yu Jing did not want to see her, he did not have to send her here!

There was also time...

“You’ve been on the road all night. You must be tired. Are you really not going to eat something first? ”

Shi Yang spoke gently as his gaze swept across Yu Yu’s face with a hint of sympathy and pity.

“Second Miss Yu, you must not have been doing well recently. You should take care of your health, right? ”

Yu Yu shivered.

Had Shi Yang said that... because he already knew something?

She lowered her head and looked at herself. She was still wearing the same clothes as yesterday.

However, since Yu Jing had sent her here, he probably would not have hidden her drug addiction from Shi Yang.

She forced herself to remain calm.

“I... I’m doing pretty well...”

“I heard that while you were at the Yu family home, they didn’t forbid you from contacting the outside world. Other than not being allowed to leave the room, you were still free to do other things.”

Shi Yang interrupted her.

Yu Yu's heart skipped a beat. As she looked at Shi Yang, her body tensed.

He even knew about this?

Yu Jing had completely sold her out!

"What I do is none of your business! Where's my phone?" She looked around, but could not find her phone. She could not help but panic. "I need to call Yu Jing! He doesn't have the right to treat me like this!"

"Second Miss Yu."

Shi Yang took a phone out of his pocket. It was Yu Yu's.

He smiled and said, "I'll give you your phone, it's no problem. But before that, I have something to tell you."

Yu Yu did not want to hear a word, but this was Shi Yang's territory. she knew she couldn't win against him, so she gritted her teeth and said, "

"What did he say?"

"Yu Jing sent you here because I suggested it. In exchange, I promised to give him a sum of money, enough for him to live a stable and comfortable life after the Yu family falls."

Yu Yu's face was filled with shock.

"Second Miss Yu, you don't think that the Yu family can still be saved, do you?" Shi Yang smiled faintly. "After all, Second Miss Yu used to be a core figure in the Yu Corporation. The things the Yu family has done over the years can't even compare to losing all their assets. Don't tell me that after Second Miss Yu resigned, you can't even understand such simple logic?"

“It’s not just Yu Ming and Yu Feng. Zhou Lan and Yu Jia won’t be able to escape either. Because Yu Jing and Yu Qian weren’t involved much, they’ve managed to escape. However, you should know what their capabilities are. Now that the Yu family has fallen, they won’t be able to hold on for long. As for Second Miss Yu...”

He did not need to say the rest, but Yu Yu understood.

Once the things she had done were found out, she would be dead!

Not to mention that she was already in such a state.

Shi Yang narrowed his eyes slightly, as if he was recalling something.

“It’s not the first time I’ve met Second Miss Yu, isn’t that right? I still remember that the first time was during a cocktail party. Second Miss Yu had just turned 20 years old, and she was already the vice president of Yu Media. She was really doing well.”

Yu Yu’s eyelashes fluttered.

She remembered the party that Shi Yang had mentioned.

That had been the first reception that she had attended since she was promoted to the position of Vice President of Yu Media. All the important people had gathered, and the standard was extremely high.

Shi Yang had also been invited.

During the dinner, she had received all kinds of praise from countless people.

She still remembered that feeling deeply. She had once thought that she would be successful.

In fact, for a long time after that, she had done everything well and her voice in the Yu family had become more and more powerful.

“I used to think that the Yu family’s businesses would eventually be handed over to Second Miss Yu. After all, no one was more suitable than you in every aspect. It’s a pity—”

Shi Yang looked regretful.

Yu Yu lowered her head slightly, her hands clenched tightly.

Nothing was more painful and embarrassing for her than these words.

How proud she had been back then, how lowly she was now!

Actually, if it was not for the fact that Yu Media had deliberately been set up by Shengguang Media, the second miss Yu would not be in this state.

Shi Yang weighed Yu Yu’s phone in his hand.

“I’m sure Second Miss Yu already knows who the boss of Shengguang Media is. I don’t need to say more.”

Yu Yu raised her head and looked at him.

“What are you trying to say?!”

Due to her excitement, her voice became sharp.

It was obvious that Shi Yang’s words had hit a nerve.

Seeming not to notice, Shi Yang continued, "Actually, this isn't the most important thing. After all, what happened between Yu Cheng and Xiang Yao was the real reason why Second Miss Yu ended up like this, right?"

Yu Yu raised her head abruptly!

Shi Yang stood up, walked up to her, and handed her the phone. He said softly, "Second Miss Yu, you can ask her for yourself."