

Little Brat's 121

Chapter 121: Why Are You Here

Ning Li looked up towards the second floor.

Ye Ci disappeared into her room.

Ning Li smiled and said, "If I remember correctly, that was Ye Ci's responsibility. If it isn't affecting her studies, just let her continue."

Su Yuan's words were stuck in her throat. She did not know how best to continue the conversation.

She could not just come out and say that Ning Li had it better than Ye Ci because of her results.

If she said that, she would be indirectly acknowledging that Ning Li was better than Ye Ci.

Su Yuan rephrased her words and said, "Lil Ci has her own things to do. Besides, you are quite free and Lil Cheng is also your little brother. Spend more time with him and maybe you can get him to like you."

Ning Li pondered Su Yuan's words and found them amusing. She even burst out in laughter.

"I don't think that's necessary. That boy said his only sister is Ye Ci and I don't need to make him like me."

Su Yuan started to feel anxious. "Lil Cheng is still a young boy. He was just being impulsive back then. You are 7 years older than he is. How could you be so calculative with a little boy?"

"It's not that I want to be calculative. I'm rejecting this for his own good. He dislikes me. If I tutor him, are you sure he will listen to me?" The smile on Ning Li's face faded slightly.

“You don’t have to worry about that. I’ve talked to him about this matter. Besides, you are his sister, his real sister. If he doesn’t listen to you, you can just set him straight.”

Su Yuan tried to be as convincing as possible.

Ning Li silently scoffed.

She did not want to handle the troublesome boy.

Su Yuan’s words might sound promising now but if something really happened, the woman would surely stand with Ye Cheng.

Ning Li would never forget that she was in the Ye family.

Ye Cheng had been pampered and spoiled for the past 10 years and would only listen to his father, Ye Ming. The boy never really took anyone seriously. He was a very egocentric person.

Even if Ning Li devoted herself to tutoring Ye Cheng, she could not stop the boy if he chose not to learn or even ruin the session.

She did not have time for the spoiled brat.

“I think it would be better if you found someone else for the job. I can’t do it.”

Ning Li then walked away.

Su Yuan did not expect Ning Li to reject her request so quickly. There were no grounds for any further negotiation.

“Ning Li! Ning Li!”

Ning Li had started walking upstairs when she suddenly paused and turned around.

She said, "If you really want me to tutor that boy, sure. I'll do it as long as you talk to my teacher and apply for leave on my behalf. Or better yet, you can talk to Mr. Zhou. If he's okay with it, I'll drop out of the competitive Physics class just to tutor Ye Cheng."

Su Yuan was shocked and furious at the same time.

Ning Li was doing this on purpose.

Ever since she had gotten first place in the monthly test, Geng Haifan and the other teachers, especially Zhou Fei, had taken notice of her and thought highly of her.

Ning Li had always been Zhou Fei's favorite student.

The teachers would probably strongly object if they knew that she wanted Ning Li to disregard her studies just to tutor Ye Cheng.

"If you can't then... I guess it won't happen."

Ning Li then returned to her room without looking at Su Yuan.

...

Ye Ci saw Ning Li shutting her door just as she came out of her room.

She went downstairs.

"Mom, did Sister Ning Li not want to do it? It's fine, I can continue with it."

Su Yuan patted the girl's head.

“It's okay. You don't need to worry about this. You guys are having your midterm soon, right? Just concentrate on your studies.”

Ye Ci nodded.

...

The students of Second High waited for three days but no announcement or notice was released by the school regarding Ning Li and Pei Song's alleged relationship.

Both of them had always had a clean reputation. Other than the picture that had already been deleted, the other students had observed them for a few days and realized that there really was nothing between them.

The rumors of them being in a relationship ended just like that.

Soon, the mid-term test arrived.

It was a combined exam amongst all the schools of the city, so it was a lot harder than the monthly test.

Other than an extra invigilator in every exam venue, there was also a group of inspectors patrolling outside the venues.

Ning Li grabbed her things and went into the first exam venue.

When she arrived at the venue, it became quiet.

All the students in the first exam venue were the best of the best and everyone knew each other.

Ning Li was the only 'newcomer'.

She walked to the first table on the left and she saw her exam ticket pasted on it.

Examinee No. 0001.

She sat down.

After 5 minutes, Pei Song came in and saw that his assigned seat was behind Ning Li.

Examinee No.0002.

It was his first time being seated in second place. The other students stared at him but he turned a blind eye to their curious gaze.

He pulled the chair out and sat down.

He glanced at the girl in front of him.

She was dressed in the school uniform with her hair tied into a ponytail.

The tip of her ponytail swayed around her fair neck, creating a subtle curve.

Pei Song looked away.

...

Meanwhile, at the Aqua Front Hotel back in Jing Cheng, Xu Yini came out from the elevator.

She wore a khaki-colored trench coat and cropped pants paired with black heels. She wore a pair of glasses on her delicate face to go with her wavy permed hair. When matched with her fiery red lips, it made her stand out and gave her an enchanting presence.

Mei Li was beside her, whispering, "... the folks from G&S internal management are having a meeting on the 6th floor. The meeting is to determine the model for the opening show. I have news that Tang Wei and Zhang Xintong are on their way."

Both girls were also shortlisted as candidates.

However, Xu Yini did not look at them as serious contenders.

She was determined to get the position.

"The position is more or less mine already. I wonder why they are bothering to come at all."

Xu Yini chuckled.

Just then, a familiar figure appeared in front.

It was Edmond.

Xu Yini smiled and walked over to him.

Before she could utter a word, Edmond said in shock, "Ms. Xu? What are you doing here?"

Chapter 122: The Rumored Person

Xu Yini herself was surprised.

“Edmond, I thought that the announcement for the selected candidate would be announced later?”

She had come to Aqua Front extra early, yet Edmond found her arrival surprising.

Edmond clapped his hands in realization.

“Ah?! Did I forget to tell you? The decision has already been made.”

Xu Yini’s heart sank and her smile became awkward.

“Huh?”

Edmond shrugged helplessly.

“We selected Ms. Tang Wei for the position. I’m sorry, Ms. Xu.”

The smile on Xu Yini’s face froze.

Mei Li was shocked as well.

“But... Mr. Edmond, I thought you preferred Yini for the role?”

If Xu Yini was not the chosen one, then why had Edmond been so enthusiastic in their previous meetings?

Had it all been an act? However, he did not look like a deceitful person at all.

If G&S had already decided on the final candidate, why had they spent so much time on Xu Yini in the first place?

“Actually, we initially preferred Ms. Yini. She stood out among all the other contestants during the first voting. However, during the second voting, we realized that Ms. Yini would not be suitable for our upcoming theme, so—”

Xu Yini found it ridiculous.

“Edmond, I remember that you told me that the theme for the upcoming show had already been decided a long time ago.”

If Xu Yini did not fit the theme, she should have been notified or realized that something was not right. Why had they waited until the second voting?

There were three more days till the official press conference.

Confused, Edmond blinked helplessly.

“Ms. Yini, I think there’s something that you missed. This press conference is not just an announcement for the autumn and winter show. It is also to announce the winner of the G&S international design competition.

The winning designer has already signed a contract with us and we have already received the design drafts. We plan to use the designs to launch a series of new collections from this year onwards. It will last for a year or so, and we will be heavily investing in the debut in the Chinese market.

The model for the opening show will also be the first brand ambassador for our company in the Chinese market.

Unfortunately, after some serious consideration, we all agreed that Ms. Yini's image isn't the right fit for the theme."

The first design draft of the winning designer had high compatibility. Back then, several celebrities and models had fit the design well.

On top of that, Edmond had favored Xu Yini, hence the early bias.

However, after G&S received the remaining design drafts, they realized the first one had just been the start of many.

The winning designer had participated in the competition with only the first piece of the draft. It was already an astonishing work, but it was just a small part of a bigger puzzle. The puzzle would only be completed with all the pieces.

The uniqueness of the design was rare and it astonished everyone from the internal management.

They hoped to bring the beauty of the designs to life and were aware that they needed to be meticulous with every detail.

It was for that reason that they had to reevaluate their candidates because the brand ambassador would be the face of their future collection.

After some serious consideration, they had decided that Tang Wei was the one that matched the theme perfectly.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Yini."

Personally, Edmond preferred Xu Yini, but he understood the priorities and responsibilities of his position. His preference was insignificant compared to the overall decision of the whole of G&S.

Since Edmond had already made it clear, Xu Yini knew she had lost her chance.

She took a deep breath and swiftly adjusted the look on her face. She curved her lips into a smile.

“It’s okay, I understand. The designs come first, right? Besides, I’m sure we will have a chance to work together in the future, right?”

Edmond opened his arms and hugged the girl.

“Oh, of course! I personally hope that we can work with you in the future. Your beauty should be displayed on the center stage.”

Xu Yini was not particularly happy about the praise.

It was just common flattery. It did not make up for the brand ambassador title that she had just lost.

It was safe to say that G&S would not be having another similar position or collaboration in the foreseeable future.

Xu Yini left.

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In the car, Xu Yini looked gloomy.

Ever since her debut, she had never run into any problems before. She had always had a countless number of invites lined up for her attention.

It was the first time that she had put in so much effort into a role just to find out that her efforts still fell short in the end.

Aside from the defeat, she also felt embarrassed.

There had been rumors in her circle saying that she would get the final offer and she had believed it.

With everything down the drain, how would people look at her now?

Qinqin, her assistant, sat beside her quietly.

It was Mei Li who broke the ice.

“Yini, it’s just a brand ambassador position. Besides, you are at the peak of your career. There are many other endorsements we can get for you. This is just one of many. There might be a better offer waiting for you in the future.”

Xi Yini scoffed.

Mei Li’s words were meant for a rookie in the industry. It was not Xi Yini’s first day in showbiz. She was no longer the ignorant girl that she once was.

“It seems like G&S thought highly of that winning designer. They’ve even decided to use the designs to debut in the Chinese market. Mei, do you have any information on that designer?” Xu Yini asked.

Mei Li shook her head. “G&S kept it confidential. Till now, no one knows anything about this mysterious designer. I think we will just have to wait for the press conference.”

“Fine. Maybe we will meet the designer then,” Xu Yini said after some thought.

...

Two days flew by in the blink of an eye.

The last paper of the midterm, English, was finally over.

Ning Li started to pack her things as the other students in the class compared answers with one another.

“Hey, what did you guys write on the 5th question?”

“A?”

“Me too.

“I chose C!”

“Pei Song, what about you?!”

Pei Song answered without even looking, “B”

“NOOOO!”

“I’m finished!”

“Me too!”

“Wait, I have to ask Ning Li! Ning Li, what answer did you choose?”

Ning Li zipped her bag and stood up. “B.”

The others cried in grief.

They were okay with one genius choosing B but two geniuses that chose the same answer? It was almost certain that the correct answer for that question was B.

“Ah! Whatever! It’s over anyway! It’s a holiday tomorrow, let’s just enjoy it first!”

“I’ve invited Duan Xu and his guys for a basketball match. Wanna come?”

“Me too!”

“Brother Pei, are you coming?”

The school gave the students a short break after the final paper and the teachers were quite lenient to the students during this grace period. The students even got access to the basketball court and fields.

He Xiaochen came over.

“Ning Li, they are going to the basketball court. Are you going to watch?”

Ning Li looked at the time.

“I’m on janitor duty today, I’ll pass.”

She was not interested in watching boys run around with a ball.

He Xiaochen put her hands together and begged. “Come on! You don’t always get chances like this! No matter how hard you study, you still have to relax at times!”

“You go ahead then, I’ll drop by after I have finished with my janitor duty.”

He Xiaochen nodded vigorously.

“I’ll wait for you at the basketball court!”

Pei Song zipped up his jersey and nodded at the boys.

“Let’s go.”

Chapter 123: She’s Not Here Yet

After the midterm exam, the students came out of their classes and left the building.

Everyone was excited and happy now that they finally got an opportunity to relax after being under so much stress lately.

Someone had mentioned that Duan Xu and his basketball team would be having a warm-up match for the upcoming competition. That, coupled with the fact that Pei Song would also be there, had attracted many spectators.

A crowd had already gathered at the basketball court.

Most of the spectators at the front were girls and they were excited and shy as they watched the sweaty handsome boys.

It was autumn so the evening air was still rather chilly but Duan Xu still only put on a thin basketball jersey.

At 190 cm, Duan Xu had a towering and fit physique. When the wind blew, his sweaty shirt stuck to his body, showing off its perfect contours.

“Hey, cap! Pei Song is here.”

“He’s the rumored boyfriend of your lifesaver cum goddess!”

One of the boys said with a touch of ridicule.

Duan Xu turned around. “Stop with your nonsense! My lifesaver did not acknowledge anything! She is fully dedicated to studying and only matters regarding her studies, get it?!”

“Yeah, if there really is something between them, then why isn’t Ning Li here?” said another boy as he looked around for Ning Li. He looked quite disappointed when he could not spot Ning Li in the crowd.

Surely the most beautiful girl in the school would not be hard to miss.

Even though the boys did not know her personally, getting a glance or two of her was satisfying enough.

Duan Xu rolled his eyes at them and approached Pei Song with the basketball.

“5 on 5?”

Pei Song took off his jersey, revealing a white T-shirt.

“Sure.”

Many of the girls looked at them with sparkling eyes.

“Ahhhh! Duan Xu is so handsome!”

“Pei Song is my Jesus!”

“Hey, did you guys know? There was a rumor saying that Duan Xu liked Ning Li but Ning Li had been caught together with Pei Song... tsk. I guess that’s what happens when you are beautiful. She’s only been here for a little more than a month and the two most handsome guys in the school are already fighting for her.”

Someone was jealous.

Her words silenced some of the other girls and caused some confusion.

“Hey, what are you guys talking about?”

He Xiaochen came over and looked at the girl who ridiculed Ning Li.

“I sit beside Ning Li and I know everything about her. You know that’s not true, right?”

The girl had not anticipated He Xiaochen’s arrival. She was slightly embarrassed.

She stepped back to avoid He Xiaochen’s gaze and said awkwardly, “I-I didn’t say anything wrong! Everyone knows about the rumors, right?”

“You mean the part where you said that the two most handsome guys are fighting for Ning Li, right? Hmm, I wonder if I should ask my class monitor about it.”

He Xiaochen turned to Pei Song and shouted, “Class monitor—”

The girl grabbed her arm and stopped her. “Hey, stop it!”

Pei Song passed the ball and glanced over at He Xiaochen and the other girl. His gaze was cold.

The girl started to feel nervous. It would be embarrassing and awkward if Pei Song heard what she had said.

Moreover, Duan Xu was also present.

He Xiaochen waved her hands, "Go get him!"

The girl sighed a breath of relief.

He Xiaochen then turned to the girl. "Girl, you should choose a better place when you want to talk bad about someone. But there is one thing that I agree with you about and that's Ning Li.

She's only been here for a month yet she got first place in the monthly test. Crazy right?"

The girl reacted bitterly and left.

He Xiaochen grinned and focused on the match.

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After almost everyone had left the building, Ning Li and several other students stayed behind to clean up.

"Ning Li."

Sun Huihui came over.

"I've cleared almost everything. I have to leave now as my friend is waiting for me. Can you please help me take these back to the janitor's room?"

Ning Li stared at her for a moment. Her gaze was so calm and her eyes were so clear that it felt like she could stare into one's soul.

Sun Huihui faltered. “Uh, if you are busy then—”

“Sure,” Ning Li said.

“Put them there. I’ll return them later.”

Sun Huihui was delighted.

“Okay, you should go home after you have finished your tasks.”

Ning Li did not answer.

Sun Huihui then exited the class and left with her friends.

10 minutes later, Ning Li left the class with her bag and the cleaning supplies.

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The janitor’s room was located in the office in front of the administration building.

When she entered, she saw the teacher who was in charge of the office.

“Sir, I’m from the first class and I’m here to return these things.”

The teacher, who seemed distracted, pointed at the janitor’s room.

“Ah, okay, just put them in that room.”

Ning Li nodded. She had a glance at the surveillance camera in the corridor before going in.

She put the things down. When she turned around and tried to turn the doorknob, she found it locked.

The door did not budge at all. Someone must have locked her in from the outside.

She smirked.

“Still the same trick. It’s getting a little boring, to be honest.”

The janitor’s room was located in a secluded corner. Other than the teacher, no one else would come to this place at this time.

Once locked inside, one would have to spend a night in the janitor’s room.

She turned around to the window and had a look outside.

She could see the red and white sidewalk down below from the second floor where the janitor’s room was located.

The view from the window was quite high up.

Ning Li took a few steps back and warmed up her ankles. She then opened the window and jumped out.

...

Time flew by quickly. The basketball match was reaching its climax.

The boys moved so quickly that it caused a breeze as they shuttled across the basketball court.

Passionate cheers filled the entire court.

Duan Xu was drenched in sweat after all that running. He lifted his basketball jersey to wipe his face, exposing his taut abs.

“Aaaah!”

The girls screamed at the sight.

The boys in his team also laughed at him.

“Duan Xu, your goddess is not here. What are you trying to show off?”

Duan Xu raised a brow and grinned. “I’m handsome and I know it. No need to be jealous.”

On the other hand, Pei Song snatched the ball from another boy, strode to the hoop, and jumped to make a shot.

He scored!

The girls cheered loudly.

“Pei Song! Pei Song!”

Duan Xu glanced at Pei Song and then said loudly to his teammates, “What are you doing? Stop your nonsense and focus! We are going to lose if you keep talking bullsh*t! Block him!”

Pei Song glanced at the spectators after making the shot.

“Ah! Is Pei Song looking at us?”

“Yes! He’s definitely looking at us! Come on girls, put on your best look!”

“He is so handsome!”

Pei Song looked away.

He Xiaochen took her phone out to look at the time.

“What’s taking Ning Li so long?”

...

“Hmm? It’s quiet inside.”

Sun Huihui placed her ear against the door to the janitor’s room but could not hear a single sound.

“Strange, she came in here just now...”

After a slight hesitation, she took the key and opened the door.

“Ning—”

Suddenly, she felt a strong force push her from behind and she fell inside the janitor’s room.

She staggered a few steps forward before regaining her balance. Just as she was about to turn around, the door was locked from the outside.

Sun Huihui anxiously turned around and heard the click from the doorknob.

She was now trapped inside.

Chapter 124: I'm Not Feeling Well

Sun Huihui was stunned. She was trapped inside the janitor's room without any idea who had caused it!

More importantly, her bag had been stripped off as she was pushed. She was now left with nothing! She could not even make contact with the outside world.

She banged the door and screamed, "Let me out!"

No one answered.

"Anyone? I'm trapped in here!"

Sun Huihui felt frustrated. No matter how hard she screamed, there was no response from the outside.

Suddenly, a thought came to her and she started to look around the room.

However, other than herself, there was no one else in the tiny room, not even Ning Li!

Sun Huihui was almost certain that the one who had pushed her in and locked her up was Ning Li.

The strange thing was that she had seen Ning Li walk into the room and she had locked the door herself.

How had Ning Li escaped?

She noticed the unlocked window and it caused her heart to skip a beat. She looked outside but saw no one down below.

Had Ning Li jumped out of the window?

The second floor was by no means high but it was not a safe height either. She could not believe Ning Li had simply jumped out like that.

She put her hands on the frame and tried to push herself out but failed. She was so scared that her hands were shaking.

She did not dare jump out of the window.

...

At the same time in a corner just around the stairs, two girls were whispering to each other as they looked up the stairs.

“She should be locked in right?”

“Almost, I think. Is it okay for us to do this?”

“What’s the matter? The surveillance camera has been blocked since morning. It won’t record anything. Besides, Huihui wanted to teach Ning Li a lesson for defaming Pei Song’s name.”

“I guess you’re right. Pei Song has never been involved in a scandal with another girl. It was Ning Li’s arrival that changed things. I think she must have asked someone else to take that picture on purpose just for attention. She even wanted to take Pei Song’s coat. What a b*tch! Know your place, b*tch!”

As the two girls were whispering, the teacher came back.

“Huh? What are you girls doing here?”

These students should have already left the building.

One of the girls went up to the teacher.

“Mr. Su, we realized that the study equipment that our class got the other day doesn’t match the list. We came here to verify it with you.”

The teacher paused. “It’s on my computer. Is it urgent? I have to check all the rooms first before I can print it out for you.”

It was his duty to check all the rooms, including the janitor’s room, before clocking off.

The other girl smiled. “Mr. Su, you mean the janitor’s room, right? Why don’t I check it for you?”

“It’s not—”

“It’s almost time to clock out, Mr. Su. If we don’t get it today, we will have to wait until Monday. Please, Mr. Su.”

The teacher thought about it.

“Fine. You, come with me. You, go upstairs and make sure no one is left behind.”

“Okay, thank you, Mr. Su.”

One of the girls followed the teacher as he left while the other one went upstairs.

The girl who went upstairs simply turned the corner and continued to wait.

A while later, when she heard footsteps coming out of the office, she walked down the stairs, pretending to have checked the rooms.

She smiled at the teacher and said, “Mr. Su, no one is left behind.

“Okay, good. You girls better get going, don’t linger anymore.”

Mr. Su glanced upstairs and then urged the girls to leave.

The girls thanked him and left happily.

After they left, Ning Li came down from the other end of the stairs.

She stared coldly at the other two girls before walking in the opposite direction.

After leaving the office, the two girls stopped under a tree.

“Where’s Huihui?” one of the girls asked.

The other girl’s phone suddenly buzzed.

She took it out to have a look and noticed that there was a message from Sun Huihui.

“Huihui said she came down and didn’t see us anywhere, so she went home.”

“Really? Okay, let’s get going then.”

The girl glanced one last time at the building before covering her evil grin with her hand.

“Not everyone can experience being locked up in the janitor’s room for a whole night. You better enjoy it, b*tch.”

...

Basketball court.

When Ning Li arrived, the second half of the match had already started after the halftime break.

He Xiaochen saw Ning Li and waved at her.

“Ning Li, here!”

The others looked at her as well when they heard He Xiaochen calling her.

“What took you so long? The first half of the match was amazing!”

Ning Li grinned. “The second half should be interesting as well. We won’t know who the winner is until the last minute.”

“I guess you’re right.”

He Xiaochen pointed at the scoreboard.

“It’s 43 to 49 now, with Duan Xu’s team leading. That’s understandable though since they are the school representatives. It’s as if our class monitor is carrying four useless lumps alone. It’s amazing that he was even able to make the score come this close.”

It was then that Ren Qian reached the base of the hoop, where he jumped and dunked the ball in.

When he landed on his feet, he glanced at He Xiaochen. His bangs were already drenched in sweat.

He then slowly jogged along the sideline and when he walked past He Xiaochen and Ning Li, he slowed down on purpose.

“My lady boss, I’m the one who scored one-third of the current points. I know Brother Pei is better but I’m not that useless, right? You’re just being biased.”

He Xiaochen shooed him away.

“Go away! I’m trying to look at my handsome boys.”

Ren Qian was speechless. In He Xiaochen’s eyes, he was not considered a handsome guy.

Duan Xu noticed Ning Li’s arrival and he was delighted. He passed the ball to his teammate and called someone.

“Four, take my place!”

One of the boys in the audience answered him. “Right!”

They high-fived and swapped positions.

Duan Xu stepped out of the court to get a bottle of water before heading over to Ning Li.

He smiled at the girl beside her and said, “Excuse me, may I?”

The girl blushed and stepped aside.

Duan Xu took the spot and twisted the bottle cap open.

His little action attracted a lot of attention from his surroundings but he turned a blind eye to all of them.

He drained the bottle of water to the last drop before crushing it with his hands.

He raised his arms and accurately tossed the crushed plastic bottle into the trash can.

He excitedly turned to Ning Li and said, “Hey, Ms. Genius, how was your midterm?”

Ning Li nodded. “Okay, I guess.”

“Really? I didn’t do well.”

Duan Xu sighed, with a bitter look on his face.

Ever since he had been caught cheating, it had been arranged for him to take the midterm in the last class.

There were two invigilators walking around him in shifts throughout the entire exam and their eyes were glued to him.

Even the inspectors outside the exam venue came in three times, just to keep an eye on him.

Duan Xu probably just had the worst exam experience in his life.

Chapter 125: The Lu Huaiyu That She Remembers

Ning Li thought about what he said and suddenly an image of the situation popped into her head.

“It’s better than the last time.”

Duan Xu reacted bitterly. Her words reminded him of the fear of getting a perfect score in Mathematics and General Science.

“Yes, you’re right!”

If he got another chance, he would never copy Ning Li’s answers again.

Duan Xu was an easy-going person but he spent most of his time with boys. Therefore, when the crowd noticed that he was happily talking to Ning Li, they were surprised.

He Xiaochen reacted cautiously when she noticed Duan Xu. She held on to Ning Li’s arm and stared carefully at Duan Xu.

“The match hasn’t ended, yet you swapped yourself out? What if you lose?”

Duan Xu smiled happily. “Lose? I don’t want to boast but the guys from your class are no match for us.”

Pei Song and Ren Qian were decent players but after the first half, the second half of the match required more stamina from the players. The both of them were barely even holding on.

Duan Xu had swapped out because the others in his team could fill his spot easily.

If either Pei Song or Ren Qian had swapped out, their entire team would crumble.

“Ms. Genius, what kind of study materials do you usually use? Could you recommend a few for me?”

Ning Li looked at him in surprise. “You’re going to study?”

Given Duan Xu's active personality, asking him to sit down quietly and study would be the greatest torture.

He had not even brought a pencil to the monthly test, yet now he was asking for study materials?

Duan Xu looked at her curiously. "What's wrong with that?"

His father had promised that if he could learn a thing or two from Ning Li and get a better result this time, he would not be held responsible for the things he had done.

He had been sponging off his friends for two weeks now. If he continued to neglect his studies, he would eventually starve to death.

Having the same study materials as the genius would be the first of many steps towards his improvement.

Ning Li nodded after some thought. "Sure."

She proceeded to name a long list of names of books that she used.

The smile on Duan Xu's face slowly faded.

"... And that's about it," Ning Li said calmly.

Duan Xu regretted his decision immediately. He should not have asked Ning Li at all.

Woah!

At that moment, the crowd cheered in shock.

Duan Xu and Ning Li looked towards the court and saw Pei Song passing three guys before dunking the ball.

Both teams were already close in terms of points and his beautiful shot allowed his team to overtake Duan Xu's team for the first time.

His wide back was drenched in sweat, causing his shirt to stick on his body. The perfect lines of the young man's body were clearly defined.

Duan Xu was a little surprised. "It's already the second half but he's still going strong—"

"Block him!"

Two guys went up to Pei Song to block him.

Pei Song was trapped. He glanced around quickly before locking his gaze in a certain direction.

He swiftly stepped back and signaled Ren Qian.

"Brother Pei!"

Ren Qian was running on the sidelines. He performed a feint and passed the ball to Pei Song.

Pei Song had retreated to the center court. He caught the ball but did not run. Instead, he dribbled the ball for a moment before locking his eyes on the hoop.

Everyone immediately realized what he was trying to do and gasped in shock.

"No way, he's going to shoot from that distance?"

“It’s too far away, he’s going to miss!”

Pei Song leaned forward with his hands holding the ball. As he jumped, he raised his hand to shoot.

The ball drew a perfect arch in the air before going into the hoop with precision.

The ball fell onto the ground.

After a short stunned silence, the entire court burst out in cheers.

Frustrated, Duan Xu rubbed his buzz-cut head and strode onto the court.

“What are you guys doing? The both of you can’t stop him? Swap!”

Both guys felt bad about their poor performance as well.

Pei Song might not be part of the basketball team but he was a good player.

It was only that he lacked the interest to play seriously. He would only play a few games occasionally.

No one had expected him to put on his best game today.

Duan Xu’s team had gotten careless and allowed Pei Song to overtake them.

Pei Song’s perfect comeback boosted the confidence of his team.

Fortunately, Duan Xu came back into the court and his outstanding performance chased the points back.

Both sides played as hard as they could and the match became even more exciting.

The match finally ended when the loud whistle sounded. Both teams ended up in a draw.

The spectators had enjoyed it a lot and many of them stayed back to savor the excitement a little longer.

On the way back, many of them were still talking about the match.

The sun set in the west.

Ning Li and He Xiaochen left together.

“Our class monitor was so freaking cool today! I’ve watched him play before but he was different today!”

He Xiaochen was impressed and excited.

She looked at Ning Li but did not see any excitement from her. Ning Li did not seem interested at all.

“Ning Li? Don’t you think so? Ning Li?”

“Huh?” Ning Li looked at He Xiaochen blankly.

He Xiaochen pouted. “I’m talking to you about our handsome class monitor but your mind is drifting off already?”

What could be more interesting than a handsome guy?

Ning Li smiled. “Something else came to my mind.”

She remembered that Lu Huaiyu was also good at basketball, or more precisely, the young Lu Huaiyu.

When they met each other, Lu Huaiyu had almost stopped playing basketball and she had never seen him play it before.

She paused, standing there blankly for a moment before turning around.

The setting sun had painted the entire court and field an orange color.

As most of the students had gone home, there were only a few players left on the basketball court.

The lively and cheerful atmosphere was gone and replaced by silence.

She took her phone out and snapped a picture.

Ren Qian, who was still on the court, noticed Ning Li and said, "Huh? What's Ning Li doing?"

Pei Song turned around at the same moment that Ning Li snapped the picture.

Chapter 126: He Is Quite Meticulous

"Let's go."

Ning Li put her phone away and left with He Xiaochen.

Ren Qian turned to Pei Song.

The look on Pei Song's face reminded him of what had happened on the court earlier and he started to wonder whether his thoughts were true.

...

The janitor's room.

As the minutes turned into hours, the sky outside turned dark.

At first, Sun Huihui felt anxious. She knocked on the door as hard and loudly as possible, trying to create attention but no one came to her rescue.

She was relentless at first but she gradually grew tired when her screams and knocks produced no results.

It was quiet, so quiet that all she could hear was her own breathing.

It also quickly became dark. She tried to turn on the light but the switch did not respond.

Eventually, she remembered that she had cut the fuse to the janitor's room earlier because she had wanted Ning Li to suffer more.

However, in the end, she was the one that had ended up trapped inside the dark and quiet janitor's room instead.

Sun Huihui felt scared.

This particular office was located in a secluded corner of the campus and the janitor's room itself was inside the office.

It was already late, so she had to assume that everyone had already left.

She paced around in circles anxiously for some time before finally curling up in the corner. Her eyes started tearing up before finally breaking down completely in tears.

She had only intended on scaring Ning Li as a warning to the girl to stay away from Pei Song. She had not expected to end up falling into her own trap.

It was a cold autumn night. The girl shivered in a corner as icy cold tears trickled down her cheeks.

Ning Li must have jumped out of the window, but Sun Huihui was not brave enough to take the same leap of faith.

After a long while, she fell asleep leaning against the closet.

...

Click!

The sound of the door being unlocked from the outside woke Sun Huihui up.

She opened her eyes and saw Mr. Su, the teacher who was in charge of this particular office and janitor's room.

The morning sun shone through the window.

Sun Huihui bolted up but did not realize that her legs had gone numb after curling up the whole night.

She lost her balance and fell onto the cleaning tools.

Crank!

The buckets and broom fell and scattered across the floor.

Mr. Su was startled by the sudden noise. “Who’s that?”

Sun Huihui cried, “Mr. Su!”

Mr. Su came over and found the student beside the closet.

Her eyes were red and she was still wearing her uniform. It looked like she had been put through the mill and based on the timing, she must have spent the night locked up in here.

“Who are you? Which class are you from? Why are you here?”

Sun Huihui broke down in tears.

“I’m from the third-year first class! Mr. Su, someone locked me in here last night!”

Mr. Su was shocked. He looked serious because locking someone up was no joke.

“Who locked you up in here?”

Sun Huihui wiped her tears and said meekly, “Ning Li! It was her!”

...

Third-year first class.

It was still early, so the class was having a self-study session.

Other students usually had breaks after the midterms but not the third-year students, especially the students from the first class.

The Chemistry and Biology teachers had told the class that they would be giving an extra lesson today.

Rather than teaching the students new things during the extra lesson, the teachers were there to help the students solve any problems that they faced in their studies. No one would want to miss a rare opportunity like this.

Those who could make it had come to class.

Cheng Xiangxiang glanced at the seat behind her and had a strange feeling.

"Is Sun Huihui not coming today?"

"Maybe."

Ye Ci was solving a chemistry question.

Cheng Xiangxiang pouted.

"That's rare. She's much more hardworking than I am and even I came. Where's that girl?"

It was then that a teacher came in and asked for Ning Li.

"Ning Li, a word please."

Everyone in the class looked at her.

The man was none other than Mr. Su, the teacher in charge of the rear office.

What was happening with Ning Li again?

Ning Li closed her book and got up.

“Yes, Mr. Su? Is anything the matter?”

Mr. Su sighed and said, “Let’s go to the discipline teacher’s office.

...

After Ning Li’s exit, the quiet class became nervous.

“What happened? Why is Ning Li called to the office again?”

“The results for the midterm shouldn’t be out today...”

“What are you guys thinking? Didn’t you guys notice Sun Huihui is not here? When I walked past the discipline office earlier, I heard that she had been locked up in the janitor’s room last night! Maybe that’s why Mr. Su called Ning Li out.”

Ye Ci’s hand froze for a moment.

Those words surprised not only Ye Ci but everyone in the class.

“No way. I never knew Sun Huihui had any beef with Ning Li. Why would Ning Li do that?”

“I know, right? Besides, even if she really dislikes Sun Huihui, there are a million ways to get back at her. Why lock her up?”

“How would I know? We will soon find out whether it is true or false.”

Ren Qian mumbled, “No way...”

For some reason, he turned around to look at Pei Song.

He noticed Pei Song had zipped his school jersey and leaned back slightly in his chair, with a gloomy expression on his face.

...

Ning Li followed Mr. Su to the discipline office.

Sun Quan was also there.

A student being locked up for a whole night was a serious matter. It was considered a crime and the school had to treat this matter with the utmost seriousness.

He had not anticipated that Ning Li would be involved again.

The moment Ning Li stepped in, she was met with Sun Huihui’s glare.

“Mr. Sun, Mr. Su! It’s her! It was Ning Li who locked me up yesterday!”

Sun Quan said, “Sun Huihui, calm down. The school will get to the bottom of this and do you justice.”

He then looked at Ning Li.

“Ning Li, Sun Huihui was found locked up in the janitor’s room last night. Tell me, was it you?”

Ning Li looked momentarily surprised before shaking her head. “No. I didn’t know what had happened.”

“You liar!”

Sun Huihui became anxious.

If the teachers were not around, she would have slapped Ning Li.

Ning Li barely reacted.

“I was on janitor’s duty yesterday. Sun Huihui had asked me to return the cleaning tools for her. After I put them back, I went to the basketball court to watch the boys play. As for what happened to her... I don’t know anything.”

“There’s a surveillance camera in the corridor. If you don’t believe me, you can pull up the surveillance footage.”

Sun Quan frowned. “Unfortunately, the surveillance camera has been blocked.

Since yesterday afternoon, the surveillance camera had recorded nothing except for a black screen.

The malfunctioned surveillance camera had increased the difficulty of this case and was also evidence that someone plotted this act. This had not been an accident.

That was the reason the school was treating this matter seriously.

“Sun Huihui’s bag had also been tossed among the flowers and her phone had been used to send a message to her family, saying she was going to be at a sleepover at a friend’s house.”

If not for the message, her family would have known that she was missing.

“Oh? Too bad then. It’s unfortunate that the surveillance camera was blocked. I can see that whoever is behind this is quite meticulous, don’t you think so, Sun Huihui?”

Ning Li spoke evenly and slowly as she looked at Sun Huihui.

Sun Huihui’s heart skipped a beat.

Ning Li added, “Besides, I remember that Mr. Su usually checks all the rooms before he leaves. Didn’t Mr. Su find her yesterday?”

Chapter 127: Where’s The Evidence

Mr. Su felt guilty and blamed himself for his negligence.

“I... Some students came to me yesterday and asked me for a list. I was in a hurry, so I didn’t go upstairs myself. I asked the other girl to check the rooms for me...”

“Oh, so are you saying that girl did not notice Sun Huihui as well?”

Ning Li looked at Sun Huihui.

“Mr. Su usually checks the place around the same time just before sunset. When you were locked up, didn’t you try to scream for help? Surely someone would have noticed you, right?”

Sun Huihui was speechless.

She had screamed as loud as possible, but...

She had involved both girls because she had wanted them to work with her just so she could trap Ning Li.

Who would have thought that she would be the one who would end up trapped inside the janitor's room instead?

After hearing Ning Li's theory, Sun Quan and Mr. Su noticed something fishy.

A weak girl like Sun Huihui would surely have screamed for help if she had been locked up.

Even if she did not have her bag or phone with her, she could have knocked on the door or screamed. The girl that had checked the rooms would definitely have noticed something.

"I... I screamed for a while but didn't get any response, so I thought no one would be coming and I stopped..."

Sun Huihui's voice grew softer as she explained.

She then clenched her teeth and shouted, "But I saw the person who pushed me in! It was you! How could I be wrong?"

Ning Li raised a brow. "Oh? Did you see me with your own eyes?"

"Yes!"

Sun Huihui felt a moment of guilt but after being locked up the whole night, all she wanted was to vent her anger and grievances at Ning Li.

Other than Ning Li, who else could it have been?

She was certain that it was Ning Li who had locked her up inside. Even though she had not gotten a clear look, she strongly believed it.

Ning Li was not overly concerned about her accusation.

“This is merely your one-sided argument. We can’t just take your word for it. If you are so certain that it was me who locked you up, then do you have any evidence to prove it?”

Sun Huihui had nothing. The surveillance camera had been blocked and the two girls had been there to make sure Ning Li did not have a chance to escape.

Who would have thought...

“Well, if you don’t have any evidence, let me present mine.”

Ning Li looked at the teachers and said, “I was at the basketball court yesterday evening, watching the match between Duan Xu and Pei Song. There was a crowd there and all of them can confirm that I was there. I don’t even have the time or the interest to lock her up. Moreover, I barely talk to Sun Huihui, even in class. Why would I want to lock her up for a night?”

The last part of her explanation was the part that baffled the teachers.

Ever since Ning Li had transferred here, she had been involved in multiple cases. However, after a thorough investigation, the school realized she had just been trying to defend herself or fight back.

Someone else always wronged her first and Ning Li simply counterattacked. That had been the cause of every incident until now.

It appeared to be that Ning Li was only guilty of being a stubborn girl who disliked being mistreated. She never really showed any hostility or intention to harm others.

Moreover, she grew up in a complicated family, which explained her stubborn attitude.

Her father had gone to jail and her mother had abandoned her. She had been left with her old grandmother when she was young. If she did not learn how to protect herself, she would always be the target of harassment and bullying her entire life.

Ning Li was busy with the competitive Physics class and the normal third-year curriculum. Why would she distract herself by playing a prank on Sun Huihui?

“Mr. Su, why don’t you ask those two girls to come here so we can find out the truth?” Ning Li said.

Sun Huihui was terrified.

If those girls were called to the office, the truth would surely be exposed.

She had been locked in a dark and cold janitor’s room and all the grievances she felt had transformed into hate for Ning Li.

Therefore, upon her release, her mind had been filled only with the thought of taking revenge on Ning Li.

However, she now realized that it would be too difficult because she was the one who had started this first.

Once the teachers found out that she had been the mastermind, things would be worse for her than just being locked up in a room for a night.

“I-I don’t think that’s necessary. I think I must have missed her when she came up,” Sun Huihui said, trying to feign a calm look.

Mr. Su shook his head. “It’s better to find out the truth.”

He had not noticed anything unusual yesterday but after thinking about it further, everything seemed just a little too coincidental.

There was a high chance that someone had set this up.

The girls might know who had locked Sun Huihui inside.

Sun Quan nodded and agreed. "Go get the girls. If it's just a coincidence, then that will be the end of this case. If not..."

This was a serious matter.

If the consequences were not severe, it might just remain as a prank between classmates. If something worse had happened, it would have been considered a malicious act.

No one knew what could have happened to the girl in the middle of the night.

Fortunately, Sun Huihui had not been hurt. The school would not have been able to handle the consequences and responsibility otherwise.

Mr. Su was about to walk out, but Sun Huihui bolted up nervously.

"Mr. Su, I think—"

Clink!

Something fell out from her pocket and the clear sound captured everyone's attention.

It was a key.

Sun Huihui's heart skipped a beat. It was the key to the janitor's room!

There were originally two keys and both were usually in Mr. Su's possession.

Sun Huihui had stolen one of the keys when Mr. Su was not around yesterday.

Since the key was usually hooked together with a collection of other keys, no one would notice the missing key without closer inspection.

She had planned to return the key after locking Ning Li inside, but things had taken an unexpected turn and she had totally forgotten about the key.

Anxious, she was about to pick it up but Ning Li moved faster than her.

Ning Li had a look at the key and noticed a series of numbers on it.

She handed it to Mr. Su.

"Mr. Su, is this the key to the janitor's office?"

Mr. Su inspected the key more closely and was shocked.

When he looked at Sun Huihui, the sympathetic gaze was now replaced by a serious glare.

"Sun Huihui, please explain this."

...

Ning Li returned to class alone while Sun Huihui was detained at the discipline office.

The class was curious as to why Ning Li had returned alone but no one dared to ask why.

All they could do was whisper to one another and speculate on what had happened.

Ning Li turned a blind eye to them.

He Xiaochen asked softly, "Ning Li, had Sun Huihui really been locked up for a whole night?"

Ning Li nodded.

"She thought that you were responsible for it? What nonsense! You were with us yesterday!"

He Xiaochen found it unbelievable.

She then caught sight of Pei Song from her peripheral vision.

Pei Song's face wore a bland expression as usual.

He Xiaochen wrote something in her book and pushed it over to Ning Li.

Ning Li took a look.

'Ning Li, do you think Sun Huihui did this because of Pei Song?'

Other than Pei Song, He Xiaochen could not think of any other reason that Sun Huihui would accuse Ning Li.

Besides, even if Ning Li and Pei Song were together, it was none of Sun Huihui's business. She was no one to Pei Song.

Ning Li shook her head.

She knew why Sun Huihui had done it but she did not care.

Chapter 128: How Am I Supposed To Do This Alone?

This whole janitor's room incident must have been the aftermath of Ning Li and Pei Song's relationship incident.

However, this would be a heavy lesson for Sun Huihui to learn.

He Xiaochen noticed the blank look on Ning Li's face. She knew Ning Li was not affected by it, so she quickly discarded the thoughts from her mind as well.

"Hey, Ning Li, can you help me with this? The formula for the electrolytes cell."

...

Sun Huihui did not come back to class, even by the afternoon.

Someone went to the office to look for her and found out that she had developed a fever after having been locked in the janitor's room for a whole night.

The school had called her parents and sent her home.

"Huh? She went home just like that? What about her parents? Didn't they say anything?"

Lin Zhouyang was rather surprised.

"I remember during sports day, Sun Huihui had accidentally fallen and her mother came to the school with an attitude. She almost went to war with the teachers."

Sun Huihui got locked up for a whole night and fell ill because of it, yet her mother had not caused a scene?

The boy who had come back from the office with the news said, "Of course something happened! I heard that Sun Huihui herself caused all of this. She had planned to lock someone else up but got trapped inside instead. So, she really had it coming and her mother was too embarrassed to cause a scene.

"Really? Who did she plan to lock up?"

"Who knows? The surveillance camera didn't capture anything and she refused to say anything. The school is already being merciful by not holding her responsible. What else could she do?"

Ye Ci suddenly said, "We are not involved and we don't know the details. Since we don't know the truth, let's not talk about her like that."

There was an awkward silence from the few guys that were there.

They had almost forgotten that Ye Ci was Sun Huihui's friend.

Lin Zhouyang cleared his throat awkwardly.

"Ye Ci is right. Maybe there is something there that we don't know about. Besides, she ended up locked up instead so it's kind of a sad situation for her..."

The other boy scoffed. "She was going to lock someone else up first. Are we gonna blame that lucky person for not being locked up instead?"

Lin Zhouyang was speechless. He glanced carefully at Ye Ci.

He shared the same thought as the other boy, but Sun Huihui was Ye Ci's friend. Some misfortune had fallen on Sun Huihui and as her friend, Ye Ci was just trying to defend her. There was nothing wrong with that at all.

Ye Ci looked quite displeased. She looked away and started to put her things away.

Thinking quickly, he approached Ye Ci with eyes that sparkled with hope.

"Hey, Ye Ci, I heard that there will be an art exhibition tomorrow in the city. Are you going?"

Ye Ci paused. "It depends on my schedule."

Ever since she had gotten second place in the Huatsing Cup, she had lost interest in painting and was always busy lately.

The schedule for a third-year student was packed and she was falling behind in the competitive Physics class, which doubled her pressure.

She had no mood for painting lately.

"Ah, I see. I heard that Mr. Yu Pingchuan's artwork will be on display there, so I thought you might be interested. I thought you liked painting."

Lin Zhouyang's words made Ye Ci's already bad mood even worse.

She took a deep breath and forced a smile on her face. "I'll go if I have the time."

...

“Tomorrow? I might not be able to go.”

Ning Li spoke into the phone as she walked out of the school.

Yu Pingchuan was on the other end of the phone and he was displeased with Ning Li’s answer.

“Tomorrow is a Sunday. I thought students don’t study on Sundays. Besides, I know that you just finished your midterms two days ago. Don’t tell me you are busy.”

Ning Li helplessly rubbed the area between her brows.

“Mr. Yu, I really do have something else to do.”

The press conference for G&S was also being held tomorrow. Ning Li had no plans to attend but after George had seen the drafts that she had sent over, he had decided to spend more time presenting and promoting her work.

Therefore, she had to constantly stay in contact with G&S lately to sort out the details.

Yu Pingchuan sighed and compromised.

“Fine. It’s fine if you don’t want to come but the next time we meet, you owe me a painting.”

He raised his voice and added, “Remember, a new painting, not something you did a long time ago!”

Ever since Ning Li had made the last-minute change to the painting during the Huatsing Cup, Yu Pingchuan had been looking forward to seeing a full painting from her. He knew the girl had something in her.

However, Ning Li had procrastinated as long as she could, so Yu Pingchuan took this chance to get the upper hand.

Ning Li was forced to agree.

“Okay, okay, you said it.”

Yu Pingchuan happily hung up the phone.

Ning Li had never really stopped painting but most of the time she only painted casually now. However, her casual paintings could not be accepted as complete works.

...

Yunding Fenghua.

The curtains at the window were tightly shut.

The sheets on the bed formed the shape of a person.

Lu Huaiyu frowned as he slept. He seemed to be having a hard time sleeping.

Countless images flashed in his mind and irritating noises filled his ears.

Suddenly, he opened his eyes. Something beneath his abyssal gaze was moving.

He sat up and blinked several times. His forehead was covered in sweat.

A moment later, he reached out for his phone that was beside his bed.

It showed a missed call from Cheng Xiyue paintings about 10 minutes ago.

The phone rang. It was ChengXiyue again.

Lu Huaiyu looked displeased.

“What?”

Cheng Xiyue was aghast at his abrupt tone. He looked at his watch and asked carefully, “Don’t tell me you just woke up?”

Lu Huaiyu did not answer, which made Cheng Xiyue more anxious.

He asked, “Wait, I thought you had changed your Sunday schedule since last week?”

He would not have called the man otherwise.

Lu Huaiyu frowned. “How am I supposed to do this alone?”

Chapter 129: Having A Death Wish?

Cheng Xiyue was a little puzzled.

Adjusting his body clock and schedule should be his own business. Of course it should be something that Lu Huaiyu had to do himself.

What did he mean he was not able to do it himself?

Then, just as the question escaped Cheng Xiyue’s mouth, the picture of a cup of coffee suddenly came to his mind.

The white porcelain cup, the reflective spoon beside it...

Cheng Xiyue shut his eyes. "Don't tell me you have to rely on Little Ning Li to help you adjust to your schedule."

The girl was just a 17-year-old student who was busy with her exams and competition!

Aside from the fact that she might not even agree, would she even have the time to do it?

Lu Huaiyu got up. He unbuttoned the top of his pajama shirt, revealing his pronounced collar bone.

Swoosh!

He slid the curtains open.

Evening had already come and the orange sunset had painted the land the same color. Clouds overlapped each other, forming the most beautiful shapes in the sky.

He stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window. The sunset surrounded him in an extra glow which gave him an otherworldly look and only added to his handsome looks.

He raised a brow at Cheng Xiyue's words but did not say a word.

"Let's forget about that. I called you to discuss something else. Gu Tinglan is coming back from Jingcheng today. He said he wanted to have dinner, but since you've only just woken up, I think—"

"Where?"

Cheng Xiyue choked on his words. He could not comprehend the quick reaction.

“You want to go?”

Usually, Lu Huaiyu’s temper was at its worst when he had just woken up.

Something must have happened to the man which caused him to be this easy-going.

Lu Huaiyu grinned.

“Of course I’ll go.”

He was quite interested in Gu Tinglan’s trip to Jingcheng.

...

They had dinner at the Japanese restaurant which was located on the highest floor of HG.

Gu Tinglan and Gu Siyang were already waiting in the room.

Gu Siyang looked around the restaurant, intrigued. He said, “Uncle, I’ve never come to Yunzhou before but it seems like quite a fine place now.”

He opened the menu to have a quick look.

“This restaurant alone could rival the few famous ones in Jingcheng.”

Gu Tinglan poured himself a cup of sake.

“The chef of this restaurant is from Japan. Lu Huaiyu hired him a year ago.”

He had hired the Japanese chef because he had wanted to rehabilitate in Yunzhou.

Gu Siyang clicked his tongue in disdain.

This would be his first time meeting the infamous Lu Huaiyu even though he had heard the name a million times before.

The Gu family had separated a part of their business for development in other countries. Even the mansion in Jingcheng had only been bought recently.

Gu Siyang might be the next rising entrepreneur in Jingcheng, but he had never crossed paths with Lu Huaiyu or had the chance to meet the man before.

This time, he had his uncle to thank for the opportunity.

Gu Siyang tapped on a video that his friend had sent him.

Gu Tinglan was annoyed by the noise from the video.

“What are you watching? Seems interesting.”

Gu Siyang answered without looking, “It’s nothing. It’s just a video of a car race. It was in Xiaosong Hill in Yunzhou. It’s quite famous.”

Gu Tinglan knew what the boy was watching based on the name alone.

Gu Siyang loved cars. The reason he had insisted on coming to Yunzhou was mostly because of Xiaosong Hill.

Gu Tinglan unintentionally glanced at the phone. He could not get a clear look but was able to hear the cheers and screams.

He lost interest in it until Gu Siyang gasped in shock.

“Damn, that girl is really something!”

The mention of a girl piqued Gu Tinglan’s interest.

Gu Siyang had always been an arrogant boy and he rarely praised people, let alone a mere girl.

“It’s probably the first time I’ve ever heard you praise someone.”

“Look at this, uncle! This girl is really something else!”

Gu Siyang excitedly passed his phone to Gu Tinglan.

“It’s such a shame that she’s not a racer.”

Gu Tinglan had a quick glance.

The video had been taken at night and a sports car could be seen drifting along the mountain path. As it arrived at its destination, the crowd cheered loudly.

The person who took the video had managed to stand close to the scene and zoom in so that the two figures inside the car were visible.

Gu Tinglan widened his eyes in shock.

“What do you think, uncle? It’s great—Huh?”

Gu Tinglan snatched the boy's phone away and stared at it.

The crowd was cheering when the racer won the race.

The passenger door opened and a tall, imposing figure came out.

It was Lu Huaiyu and the driver was Ning Li.

"Uncle? Uncle, what are you looking at?" Gu Siyang was baffled.

He had thought that his uncle had no interest in racing.

The video ended.

Gu Tinglan paused for a moment before returning the phone. He said, "That's Ning Li, the girl you saw at the airport."

Gu Siyang was astonished. He tapped on the video again and slid it to the end.

Ning Li came out of the car and unintentionally glanced towards the camera.

Even though half of her body was covered by the car, he could still tell it was her.

"Damn, it is..." Gu Siyang was out of words.

"But... I thought you said that she's only a 17-year-old high school student. Why is she racing in Xiaosong Hill?"

Based on what his uncle had told him, Ning Li was a good student. Even though he had only caught a glimpse of her from afar, he could tell that Ning Li was an obedient girl.

He had not expected her to be this powerful behind the wheel.

“When was the video taken?” Gu Tinglan asked.

Gu Siyang had a look and said, “Around a month ago. I heard that she won 5 million that night and broke the record. No one else has been able to break her record until now.”

It was the rumors that piqued his interest and gave him the urge to come to Yunzhou.

A month ago.

Gu Tinglan had just arrived at Yunzhou back then and was not close to either of them.

Moreover, Xiaosong Hill was the place for underground racing, which was something he had never had any interest in before. It was not unusual for him to not have known anything about Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu then.

“What’s wrong, uncle? Is there anything wrong with the video?”

“Nope, it’s nothing.”

Gu Tinglan reverted to his elegant and kind demeanor. After thinking a while, he chuckled in amusement.

Lu Huaiyu had really put his life on the line back then.

The door suddenly opened.

Cheng Xiyue came in, followed by Lu Huaiyu.

“Hey, Dr. Gu, you guys are early.” Cheng Xiyue said.

Gu Tinglan welcomed them with a smile. “We just arrived a while ago. Siyang, this is Master Cheng and this... is Second Master Lu.”

Gu Siyang was around the same age as Lu Huaiyu, but Lu Huaiyu’s unique presence completely intimidated Gu Siyang.

On top of that, the boy referred to Gu Tinglan as uncle, and Gu Tinglan was considered a peer to Cheng Xiyue and Lu Huaiyu.

Gu Tinglan looked at Lu Huaiyu. “I thought you wouldn’t show up today, Second Master Lu.”

Cheng Xiyue felt the same way.

‘Look! Even Dr. Gu said the same thing!’

Lu Huaiyu sat down and grinned.

“I just had to come. I wasn’t able to host you when you went to Jingcheng, and I felt embarrassed. This time, I am here to welcome you back.”

“How was your trip to Jingcheng? Busy, I suppose?”

Chapter 130: You Really Think She Doesn’t Know Anything?

Gu Tinglan took a sip of sake.

"It's okay."

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

"I heard Dr. Gu made a last minute decision to go back there. I suppose you went back due to some urgent matters? If you somehow run into a similar situation again, please do let me know. If I'm able, I would be more than happy to help."

Cheng Xiyue looked at Lu Huaiyu suspiciously.

He thought he had heard wrongly.

Judging from Lu Huaiyu's tone, it sounded as if he was offering to lend Gu Tinglan his private jet.

Even he had not had the chance to sit in Lu Huaiyu's private jet yet!

"Thank you for your kind offer, Second Master Lu, but I don't think you need to go through such a hassle for me. Such trips can sometimes be quite interesting." Gu Tinglan said calmly.

"Oh, is that so?" Lu Huaiyu raised his brow.

Up till that point, Gu Tinglan had already guessed the reason Lu Huaiyu had come to this dinner.

He looked at Lu Huaiyu with a sincere smile.

"Yes, I met Ning Li at the airport. Why do you ask? Did she not tell you about her trip?"

Lu Huaiyu scoffed subtly.

Gu Tinglan was asking the obvious.

Gu Tinglan had actually called him once during the trip. It had obviously been a test for Lu Huaiyu.

If Lu Huaiyu had known about Ning Li's trip, he would not have reacted so transparently during the call.

Cheng Xiyue suddenly felt pressured.

It seemed like Lu Huaiyu had not come here merely for dinner.

He cleared his throat and said, "Okay, let's skip the small talk for now and order. Siyang, order whatever catches your eyes. Second Master Lu here is paying tonight."

Gu Siyang also noticed that something was off. He quickly hid his face behind the menu.

Lu Huaiyu said, "It looks like you and Ning Li are getting along well."

Gu Tinglan nodded. "Ning Li said she would take me around Lincheng next time. I think that would be great."

Lu Huaiyu glared at the man silently.

Cheng Xiyue wanted to dig a hole and bury his head inside.

'Gosh! If you want to step on Lu Huaiyu's tail, could you pick a better time and place, Gu Tinglan? At least let me finish dinner!'

The atmosphere in the room had started to feel uncomfortable.

In the end, Cheng Xiyue took a deep breath and said, "Siyang, it's your first time here. Why don't you give the lobster a try? You can choose your own lobster here. Why don't you come with me to have a look?"

Delighted, Gu Siyang looked at Cheng Xiyue as if the man was his savior.

"Okay!"

The two of them quickly left the room to choose their lobsters.

Lu Huaiyu was left alone in the room with Gu Tinglan.

Gu Siyang had left his phone on the table, so Gu Tinglan pushed it over to Lu Huaiyu after tapping on the play button.

Lu Huaiyu looked at the video and realized that it was that night at Xiaosong Hill.

"What's wrong with it?" he asked.

Gu Tinglan smiled. "Second master, since we are considered as familiar acquaintances, let me give you a kind reminder: don't cross the line."

Before this, he had thought that Ning Li had stabilized Lu Huaiyu's condition.

Now, he believed that it was getting dangerous for the man.

Lu Huaiyu had gotten into the race with Ning Li at Xiaosong Hill.

Lu Huaiyu stared at Gu Tinglan.

"I'm fine now. I know what I am doing."

Gu Tinglan tapped his fingers on the table.

"But Ning Li doesn't."

Lu Huaiyu's gaze turned cold.

Gu Tinglan continued, "To be frank, I think Ning Li is a good girl and I think you should be honest with her."

Lu Huaiyu went silent for a while before he chuckled.

"No."

"She doesn't share the same thoughts as you guys."

"Do you really think she doesn't know anything?"

...

8:00 p.m.

Ning Li returned to the Ye family home.

Just as she stepped into the house, there was the sound of something breaking in the room on the first floor.

Then, the door opened and a middle-aged woman dashed out.

She looked furious and embarrassed.

Su Yuan had been preparing fruits in the kitchen. When she heard the noise, she rushed out in a hurry.

“What’s wrong, Ms. Bai?”

The woman took a deep breath to calm herself down. “Mrs. Ye, I’m sorry. I am not able to teach your son. I’ll return the full deposit to you later. You can find someone else who fits the job better.”

Ye Cheng came out and grimaced. The little brat was as arrogant as ever.

Su Yuan felt nervous. “B-But Ms. Bai, it’s only been 15 minutes...”

“It’s more than enough.”

The woman was trying to respect Su Yuan, but the brat was too much to handle.

Her life would be in danger if she stayed for another minute.

“I’ll see myself out!”

The woman then picked up her bag and left without giving Su Yuan a chance to persuade her otherwise.

Ning Li stepped aside to allow the woman to leave.

Su Yuan was furious. Her hands were shaking as she glared at the brat.

“Ye Cheng! What have you done?”

The brat would be out of control if this continued.

Ye Cheng was not afraid of his mother, an unconcerned look on his face.

Ning Li was not interested in the farce and went upstairs.

Su Yuan glanced at her and for some reason, she felt embarrassed.

She strode to her son and poked his head strongly.

“When will you learn to control your temper? From whom did you learn this attitude?”

Ye Cheng rolled his eyes.

“Someone else didn’t come back for a whole night and yet, nothing happened. What am I compared to her?”

Su Yuan bellowed, “Don’t you dare learn from her! You are not the same as her!”

...

Ning Li turned a blind eye to everything and returned to her room.

She turned on her laptop and saw that she had received an email from G&S.

She clicked on it.