

Little Brat's 131

Chapter 131: Staying Up Late Is Bad For Your Liver

The email was from the G&S official account and had been sent by George.

The email included the schedule for the upcoming press conference. Ning Li went through the details and double-checked her designs before she fine-tuned everything.

George might be an arrogant playboy but he was a capable one.

Originally, George was not in charge of the press conference but after he had seen Ning Li's design drafts, he had come back to the country without a second thought and taken over the project.

He then made some drastic changes to the original plans.

Other people might not be as audacious and bold as George since the press conference was just around the corner, but George was different.

He had the power and the spirit to change the plan from head to toe.

After getting Ning Li's reply, George replied almost instantly.

[Dear Ning, I went all out for you in this.]

Ning Li raised a brow.

Given George's status and wealth, even if this whole thing was screwed up beyond the point of return, it still would not affect him at all.

Out of respect, Ning Li replied courteously. [Consider this press conference a meeting gift from me.]

...

After fine-tuning all the details, midnight had already come.

Ning Li switched off her laptop and prepared to sleep. She instinctively reached out for her phone and saw a missed call notification.

It was from Lu Huaiyu and the call had been from an hour ago.

She had missed his call because she had been so busy fine-tuning the proposal and set her phone to silent mode.

However, even if it had been an hour ago, the hour was already late. Why the urgency?

Ning Li thought about it and texted him.

[Second brother, I was busy just now and set my phone to silent. Is anything the matter?]

...

Yunding Fenghua's study room.

Lu Huaiyu was sitting on the couch with a lamp beside him.

The lamp sketched the contour of his slender body and cast a shadow behind him.

He crossed his long legs and laid back lazily.

He had a book in his hand and on the first page was a sketch.

He stared at it with his deep, penetrating gaze.

His phone on the table suddenly buzzed.

He glanced at it and realized it was from Ning Li.

He knew Ning Li had been having her midterms last week, so he had barely contacted her.

He thought the girl would contact him after the midterm exams but after waiting for a whole day, all he got was mockery from Gu Tinglan.

After thinking a while, he decided to call her but she did not pick up.

He closed his book and texted her instead.

[Nothing in particular. I just had a little trouble sleeping.]

Ning Li frowned when she saw the message.

As a matter of fact, Lu Huaiyu always had trouble sleeping but he rarely mentioned it in front of her.

[Is it serious?]

Normal sleeping pills were not very effective, so he rarely took them. He preferred relying on adjusting his body clock and schedule.

[It's okay. Maybe I slept a little too much in the afternoon.]

Lu Huaiyu sounded calm but Ning Li found it strange.

The man always had naps and had never had a problem sleeping at night before, so what had caused it today?

Lu Huaiyu somehow guessed what the girl was thinking, so he sent her another message.

[It has been a week.]

He then looked at the clock.

[No, it has been a week and a day]

Ning Li calculated the time in her mind and she realized that Lu Huaiyu had been losing sleep since last Saturday.

What did he do that day?

Ning Li thought about it and realized that it was she who had done something. She had made him coffee.

The thought shocked her right away.

'Is he... What is he trying to say?'

She stared at her phone. For some reason, she could feel the heat behind the message.

[Second brother, staying up late is not good for your health. Try to sleep early.]

Lu Huaiyu was not bothered.

[I've gotten used to it. It's fine.]

It was his 8th-day of having trouble sleeping and it had been 6 days since he saw the young girl.

Ning Li replied after some time.

This time, she sent him a screenshot.

The screenshot showed a bunch of search results.

[The underlying dangers of staying up late.]

[There are many downsides to staying up late.

1. Staying up late increases the risk of heart disease, especially for middle-aged people.

2. Staying up late is bad for your liver and causes your liver function to wear down.

3. Staying up late will cause damage to your kidney and weaken its function...]

Lu Huaiyu glued his eyes to several particular words in the screenshot and his gaze became dangerous.

Middle-aged man, weakened kidney function, etc.

Ning Li did not feel anything on the other end of the phone.

[Look, staying up late is dangerous.]

Lu Huaiyu went silent for a long while before grinning.

“Hmhmp.”

He was being too kind to the girl and it had made her unscrupulous. How dare she send him this?

A while later, he replied.

[Your birthday is on 26th June, right?]

Ning Li felt strange. Why the sudden question about her birthday?

[Yeah.]

Lu Huaiyu replied almost instantly.

[You are still a minor and if you stay up late, you won't grow.]

Ning Li was speechless.

She had somehow stepped on his tail without realizing it.

Then, Lu Huaiyu called her directly.

Ning Li was shocked but after some thought, she decided to answer.

She covered herself in her blanket and answered with a muffled voice, "Hello?"

It was late. Her meek and muffled voice felt soft, like a curled-up cat tickling one's ear with its paws.

Lu Huaiyu grinned.

He was not able to see her in person and it made him a little frustrated. It had only been a few days but it felt like eons to him.

"I just remembered that you had your midterms last week. Have a good rest, good night."

Ning Li felt strange but she replied nonetheless, "Good night, second brother."

She hung up the phone.

Lu Huaiyu looked at his phone and tapped on the voice recording app.

The sweet and meek voice sounded and echoed in the silent room.

"Good night, second brother."

He got up and returned to his bedroom and he put his phone beside his pillow.

"Good night, second brother."

He smiled again.

“She really is an obedient girl.”

...

Sunday.

Sanyang Art Museum was having a combined exhibition for several artists. The fact that Yu Pingchuan’s work would also be displayed had attracted a crowd.

Lin Zhouyang arrived at the museum early in the morning and sent a message to Ye Ci while waiting at the entrance.

[Ye Ci, I’m here already. There’s a lot of people here. Are you sure you’re not coming?]

Ye Ci was doing revision work on Mathematics.

She had put a lot of effort into the competitive Physics class lately, which had caused her other subjects to fall behind.

She had felt her decline particularly after the midterm and it made her nervous.

As for the art exhibition, she did not have the time for it.

[I’m busy, I’m not going]

Lin Zhouyang scratched his head and sighed.

Even though he had liked Ye Ci for a long time, he dared not make it too obvious because he knew it would only distract her.

He knew Ye Ci liked art, so he had mustered up enough courage to invite her to the art exhibition, but he was still rejected.

He took a picture of the signage of the exhibition outside the museum.

[I heard Mr. Yu Pingchuan will be here today. It's a pity that you can't come.]

Ye Ci glanced at the picture. She then noticed something and zoomed in on the picture.

At the corner of the picture were several men walking into the museum and one of them was tall and eye-catching.

It was Lu Huaiyu.

Chapter 132: Appointment

Even though it was just a view from the side, Ye Ci knew it was Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu's laidback look and casual temperament were unique. She had never seen it on another person before.

Lu Huaiyu was at the art exhibition?

Ye Ci knew only so much about the man. She only knew that he came from a powerful and influential family and that he himself was an outstanding businessman.

Even her father, Ye Ming, had tried to win his favor during their previous meeting but failed to do so.

What could a high-schooler like her possibly do to attract his attention?

Lu Huaiyu was in Yunzhou for the time being and the only person who could approach him would be Cheng Xiyue from the Cheng family.

Cheng Xiangxiang was Cheng Xiyue's cousin and given their relationship, the girl should have had more chances to meet Lu Huaiyu, but it had not happened at all.

It was difficult for any Tom, Dick, or Harry to meet the man.

Ye Ci had not expected to see Lu Huaiyu at the art exhibition.

She had never heard of the man being an artist or a painter, so surely the only reason he had shown up at the exhibition was to admire paintings.

Ye Ci's heart pounded strongly as she stared at the picture.

She quickly replied Lin Zhouyang's message.

[I see. I'll try to finish my work as soon as possible and meet you there.]

Lin Zhouyang was over the moon. He had already been prepared to leave but Ye Ci's reply made him stay.

[Okay. I heard it would be difficult to see Mr. Yu if you miss this exhibition. I'll wait for you at the entrance.]

[Kay.]

Ye Ci gave a brief reply before she closed the books on her desk.

Her spacious room was equipped with a huge closet.

She opened the door to her closet and looked over all four of the custom-made glass cases that housed all her clothes.

There was also a crystal chandelier hanging from the ceiling, which made the closet room sparkle.

She carefully went through her clothes.

It was inappropriate to wear something too eye-catching and it would be too boring to wear something simple.

She was going to an art exhibition, so she had to pick something suitable.

She took out more than a dozen dresses from the glass cases and stood in front of the mirror, wondering which one was suitable for the occasion.

The Ye family was considered one of the wealthiest families in Yunzhou and as the family's only daughter, Ye Ci was a renowned socialite.

All the famous brands would send her a catalog every season to let her choose the newest dresses and accessories.

Her closet always had the most fashionable and latest designs of various brands.

However, she had done a lot of browsing today and still could not find a dress to her liking.

She could not afford to take too much either because she had no idea how long Lu Huaiyu would stay at the art exhibition.

If she was late, she might miss the man completely.

After some serious thought, she decided on a sleeveless black dress. The length of the dress reached her knees and the slim cut of it complimented her slender figure.

She curled her hair slightly and left the curls draping over her shoulders. She did not put on any makeup, except for some clear lipgloss.

She looked into the mirror and nodded happily.

The dress reduced her immature schoolgirl look and gave her the liveliness and youthfulness of a young lady. She looked clean and innocent.

Ye Ci ignored all the fancy branded bags in her closet and chose a silver purse that has no logo on it.

There was also a fluffy keychain on it. The cute accessory went well with her image.

After getting ready, she went downstairs.

Su Yuan was out with Ye Cheng, so only Aunt Zhao was at home.

Aunt Zhao was in awe when she saw Ye Ci.

“My gosh, miss! You look stunning, are you going out?”

Ye Ci felt great. She smiled at Aunt Zhao and said, “Yeah, I’m going to an art exhibition with my friend. It’s at the Sanyang Exhibition Center.”

It sounded like a normal outing, so Aunt Zhao was not overly concerned.

“Oh, but Zhao Hua drove the madam and Ye Cheng out earlier.”

There were two drivers in the Ye family.

One of them was Ye Ming's personal driver who drove him to all kinds of business meetings. That particular driver rarely came to the house; the other one would be Zhao Hua.

Ye Ci went straight to the door without pause.

"It's okay, I'll just call for a ride."

"Okay, please be careful out there, miss."

Aunt Zhao saw her off and mumbled, "What's so interesting about an art exhibition?"

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Lin Zhouyang waited in front of Sanyang Exhibition Center with two cups of milk tea in his hand. He was happy but nervous at the same time.

Aside from the happiness, he was nervous because this would be his first time meeting Ye Ci alone outside school.

He had not put much hope into this meeting at first but he had been surprised by Ye Ci's reply.

He had a quick glance at the time. Ye Ci should be arriving soon.

He took his phone out and mumbled something. It looked like he was memorizing something from his phone.

As a matter of fact, Lin Zhouyang was not interested in paintings and he only knew so much about paints and canvases.

If not for Ye Ci, he would never have come to the exhibition center to look at paintings. He was worried that he might look dumb in front of Ye Ci, so he had gone online to read up on some of the information regarding this exhibition, including the artists, the work on display, and the organizers.

He went through the information a few times and memorized them so that he would have more common topics with Ye Ci.

It was then that a car stopped in front of him.

Lin Zhouyang then saw Ye Ci come out from the car.

He went up to her and called her, "Ye Ci!"

Ye Ci turned to him.

Lin Zhouyang's eyes sparkled when he saw the girl.

He knew Ye Ci had dressed for the occasion because she looked prettier than usual.

The way her dress swayed as she moved made him blush. He quickly gave her a cup of milk tea.

"Roasted grass jelly, no sugar, less ice."

He had remembered Ye Ci's taste.

Ye Ci smiled softly. "Thanks but no thanks. I don't like to drink when admiring paintings."

Lin Zhouyang felt embarrassed immediately.

“Ah, okay. It’s okay, I’ll just throw it away. Here, this is the ticket.”

Ye Ci took the tickets and thanked him.

Lin Zhouyang sighed a breath of relief. He then tossed the milk teas, including his own cup, into the garbage can beside him.

“Let’s go.”

Ye Ci nodded.

The two of them then walked towards the exhibition center entrance.

Lin Zhouyang dared not stay too close to her, so he kept his distance as he followed her in.

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There were 8 different exhibition halls in the exhibition center and each had its own theme.

When they went in, the hall was already full of people.

Of course, it was common sense to keep quiet in an artistic space, so it was quiet even though there was a crowd.

Lin Zhouyang did not dare breathe heavily. He looked at all the paintings on display but he could not understand a thing.

He did not know how to admire the artistic meaning behind the strokes and colors.

A last-minute study on paintings had not helped him at all.

He had gotten nervous when Ye Ci arrived and he forgot everything he had memorized earlier.

A while later, he realized that Ye Ci was not looking at the paintings. She looked like she was looking for someone.

He whispered, "Ye Ci, are you looking for Mr. Yu? I think he's on the second floor."

Ye Ci looked at him. "Oh, really?"

"Yeah. I think he's together with some other artists. They're all from Yunzhou's Art Committee."

Lin Zhouyang knew nothing about art, he knew this particular detail because he had heard it from someone else earlier.

Ye Ci nodded. "Okay, I'll go to the second floor for a look and maybe talk to Mr. Yu for a bit. I'll be back soon. You help yourself here."

Lin Zhouyang knew he would not be useful in front of the artists, so it was inappropriate for him to follow.

He said, "Okay, go ahead."

Chapter 133: Is She Home?

When she went upstairs, she met Lin Yaohui in the corridor.

"Mr. Lin?"

Ye Ci smiled and greeted the man.

Lin Yaohui was Yu Pingchuan's assistant, he practically arranged all of Yu Pingchuan's schedules and plans.

He was in charge of liaising with the organizers and the exhibition committee on behalf of Yu Pingchuan, so he knew Ye Ci as well.

"Ah, Ye Ci, you're here too?"

Lin Yaohui was a little surprised to see her here.

Ever since the Huatsing Cup, Ye Ci had barely had any contact with the exhibition committee. She claimed that she was busy with her studies and wanted to focus on her entrance exam.

He had not expected to see her at the art exhibition today.

"Yeah, I heard Mr. Yu Pingchuan had some artwork on display here, so I thought I'd come here to have a look and learn a little something."

Lin Yaohui pointed at the first floor.

"Didn't you see it? It's in the southeast hall on the first floor."

Ye Ci was slightly surprised.

She had come here in a hurry and was not here to look at paintings, so she had not even noticed Yu Pingchuan's artwork on display.

Fortunately, she was able to recover from her surprised look.

"Thank you, Mr. Lin. I saw it earlier. I also heard that Mr. Yu is here today, so I thought of seeing and greeting him myself. I wonder if Mr. Yu is available for a meeting?"

Lin Yaohui looked a little troubled. "Ah, I see... It's not too convenient now. Mr. Yu has a guest with him."

A guest?

The people from the exhibition committee were organizers, not guests, so it must be someone else.

Ye Ci thought of a particular someone.

Could it be Lu Huaiyu?

She had a glance at the room where Lin Yaohui came out from.

The door was tightly shut. She could not see or hear anything.

She smiled and said, "If that's the case, I'll excuse myself then."

Lin Yaohui nodded. "Vice-president Zhang and the others are in B206, you can go meet them there."

"Thank you, Mr. Lin."

Lin Yaohui then went downstairs.

Ye Ci had one last glance at the tightly shut door before she went to B206.

She planned to linger on the second floor a little longer which might allow her to wait for Yu Pingchuan to finish his meeting with his 'guest'.

...

"I didn't expect to see you here."

Yu Pingchuan poured a cup of tea for himself and said with a smile.

Lu Huaiyu was sitting opposite him.

"How's the artwork here? Did you find anything interesting?" the man asked.

Lu Huaiyu grinned softly. "No."

"Hehe, you are as harsh as ever." Yu Pingchuan had expected the answer and was not overly concerned.

Lu Huaiyu was a person with high standards. None of the artworks on display today had been able to catch his attention.

"Did you get bored with the exhibitions in Jingcheng? Yunzhou is just a tiny province, I don't think there's anything here that can catch your attention."

Lu Huaiyu smiled. "I'm here to talk to you about something else."

"Go ahead."

"I wonder if you know the name Tree's Shadow."

Yu Pingchuan's hand froze for a moment. The hand that had been holding his cup of tea stopped in mid-air.

He had a quick glance at Lu Huaiyu and started wondering.

“Are you talking about that Tree’s Shadow? The mysterious person who sends paintings to me once in a while?”

“Yes.” Lu Huaiyu anticipated the look on Yu Pingchuan’s face.

“Uh...” Yu Pingchuan carefully thought of what to say.

“The paintings were sent to me anonymously. The committee doesn’t have that person’s contact or information. They just helped that person to display the artwork and sell it. The committee takes a portion of the profit as commission and that’s it.”

“So you don’t know the painter?”

“No.”

Yu Pingchuan sighed.

“Actually, Zhang Qing and the others are in charge of this. I haven’t even been in Yunzhou for two months in the past year, so I’m not sure about this. The committee tried many ways to contact the mysterious painter but all the invites were rejected.”

He then glanced at Lu Huaiyu.

“You should already know about this. I thought you were over it. Why are you asking me now?”

The others might not know about this. They simply thought that some mysterious buyer had bought the mysterious painter’s work at a ridiculously high price.

However, as president of the committee, Yu Pingchuan knew every detail behind the deal.

At first, Lu Huaiyu had expressed that he wanted to meet the painter but had been rejected.

Lu Huaiyu continued to buy the paintings but did not try to make contact with the mysterious painter any longer.

“Nothing in particular. I’m just asking.”

Lu Huaiyu did not seem disappointed at all.

Then, he suddenly thought of something and said, “Oh, there’s also one more person that I found out more about. I wonder if you have heard of the name MGYUB?”

Yu Pingchuan looked at his cup of tea and slightly blew on it.

“Who’s that? I’ve never heard of that name before.”

Lu Huaiyu saw the man’s reaction and felt that it was authentic.

He smiled. “It’s okay if you’ve never heard of this person before. It’s not someone important either.”

He got up and wanted to leave.

“I believe you have a lot of things to take care of, so I’ll be taking my leave.”

...

Ye Ci spoke with Zhang Qing and the other person for a while but she kept an eye on the door.

Just then, a familiar figure came out.

She quickly excused herself from Zhang Qing and the others before striding out.

“Second Master Lu.”

Lu Huaiyu turned around.

He did not react at all when he saw Ye Ci.

Ye Ci’s heart was pounding.

She took a deep breath and smiled. “What a coincidence. Are you here for the exhibition as well?”

Lu Huaiyu replied nonchalantly, “No.”

Ye Ci felt slightly embarrassed.

He was here at the exhibition center yet he said he was not here to look at paintings?

Then why else would he be here?

Lu Huaiyu did not have the patience to talk to her. He turned around and went downstairs.

Ye Ci tucked her hair behind her ear and ran after him.

She said, “I didn’t expect to run into you here.”

Lu Huaiyu paused all of a sudden.

Ye Ci felt nervous and her face started to turn red.

Then, Lu Huaiyu asked, "Is she at home today?"

Chapter 134: She Slept Late Yesterday

'She'?

Ye Ci knew who Lu Huaiyu was referring to even without asking.

It seemed like Lu Huaiyu only cared about her and no one else.

All of a sudden, Ye Ci's smile felt stiff.

"Are you talking about Sister Ning Li? Yeah, she's at home. I think she was still sleeping when I came out."

A slight pause later, she said, "I invited her to come with me but she turned me down. She might not be interested in paintings."

Ning Li came from Lincheng and had a poor background. Ye Ci simply assumed that she had no artistic sense at all.

Lu Huaiyu raised his brow.

Not interested?

He had seen her sketch before. Even though Ning Li had quickly kept it away and he had only caught a glimpse of it, he could tell Ning Li had good control of the strokes.

He believed Ning Li had rejected the invitation because she did not want to be with Ye Ci.

He nodded slightly. He softly grinned and said, "Sleeping? Great, she slept late yesterday."

Ye Ci was surprised.

What did Lu Huaiyu mean?

He seemed happy to find out that Ning Li was sleeping.

On top of that, how did he know that Ning Li had slept late yesterday?

Had they been talking to each other at night?

Jealousy rose from Ye Ci's heart. She gripped her purse tightly.

Lu Huaiyu could have asked Ning Li herself whether she was at home or not, but he had not. He had chosen to ask Ye Ci instead.

It felt like he had not wanted to ask Ning Li because he did not want to disturb her.

A jumble of thoughts filled Ye Ci's head and it irritated her.

All the topics that she thought of were stuck in her throat because of her messed-up mood.

Lu Huaiyu was happy with the answer. He turned around and went downstairs.

He went straight out of the exhibition center.

Ye Ci wanted to chase after him but she heard Lin Zhouyang calling her.

“Ye Ci.”

The boy had been waiting on the first floor since Ye Ci had gone up. He had come to her right away when he saw her come down.

Lin Zhouyang stood in front of her and blocked her view.

She frowned and moved away but when she looked at the exit again, Lu Huaiyu was nowhere to be found.

“Ye Ci? Ye Ci?”

Lin Zhouyang called her a few more times since she had not replied the first time.

Ye Ci looked at Lin Zhouyang. Her great mood had been ruined and she felt terrible now.

Lin Zhouyang quickly noticed something was wrong, especially when he saw the look on her face.

He carefully asked, “Uh... what’s wrong?”

She looked fine when she went upstairs. What had changed her mood?

Ye Ci swiftly adjusted her facial expression. “I’m sorry, I’m not feeling well. I’m going home now.”

“Huh? You’re feeling sick? How do you feel? Is it serious?” Lin Zhouyang got nervous.

“I’ll send you back.”

“It’s okay, I’ll just call a ride.”

Ye Ci waved her phone and smiled at him.

“I’m sorry for wasting your ticket.”

Lin Zhouyang waved his hands. “It’s okay, your health is more important. Tell me when you reach home.”

“Mhmm.”

“I’ll be leaving as well.”

He had come to the exhibition for Ye Ci and now that she wanted to leave, there was no point for him to stay behind.

Lin Zhouyang walked Ye Ci out of the exhibition and parted ways.

Half an hour later, Ye Ci reached her home.

Aunt Zhao was surprised by her early return.

“Miss, you are early today.”

It had only been less than an hour since she had gone out. That was definitely not enough time for her to fully appreciate the art exhibition.

Ye Ci looked moody.

“I felt a little unwell, so I came back early. Where’s Lil Cheng and mom?”

“They are still not back yet.”

Ye Ci glanced upstairs.

“What about Sister Ning Li? Did she go out today?”

Aunt Zhao showed contempt when she heard Ning Li’s name.

“No. She locked herself up in her room and hasn’t come out at all today. God knows what she is doing inside.”

“I got it.”

Ye Ci went up to the second floor. When she stood in front of her room, she glanced at Ning Li’s shut door again.

Lu Huaiyu’s words echoed in her ears again.

She clenched her teeth before going into her own room.

After she locked the door, the smile that she had been faking faded immediately. She tossed her purse on the bed and kicked her shoes off.

She walked to the mirror and looked at herself.

The girl in the mirror was beautiful and pure, with a slender figure.

Even though she looked extremely jealous and angry at the moment, she was still a beautiful girl with sharp facial features.

Unfortunately, Lu Huaiyu had been unmoved by her looks. The man showed about as much emotion as a still lake.

He had looked at her as if she was a tree or a stone, or an inanimate object.

She could rival Ning Li in terms of looks and she was better than Ning Li in many other things.

Why would Lu Huaiyu favor Ning Li over her?

...

Jingcheng, Huanxing Entertainment.

Xu Yini had just finished an interview. When she returned to her dressing room, Mei Li handed her an invitation card.

“G&S’s press conference is happening today at 8. It’s still being held at the same location. Are you going?”

Xu Yini accepted the invitation to have a look.

“Yeah, why would I miss it?”

Even though she had not been chosen, a press conference by G&S was unlike others. There would be many influential figures in the entertainment and fashion industries there.

It would be a good opportunity for her to widen her connections.

She might not be working with G&S this time but she still had a chance. She might even secure other resources from the press conference.

Mei Li breathed a sigh of relief and gave her a huge thumbs up.

“I knew it. You’ve never let me down.”

To Mei Li, Xu Yini might have a temper but the girl was smart.

If the girl was just a princess with a temper, she would not have survived in showbiz for long. What she needed was tactics and brains, not just a powerful background and resources.

Fortunately, Xu Yini knew what she had to do.

“Edmond has arranged for you to sit in the first row. It seems like he still remembers you.”

Xu Yini softly chuckled.

It was nothing special at all. Given her family background, she would still be invited to the first row even if she was not in showbiz.

She knew Edmond was conveying his apology indirectly.

After all, he had favored her a lot before the decision had been made, and ultimately losing her had made him feel bad.

“I’ll thank him myself later.”

She then looked at Mei Li and noticed a sense of hesitation.

“What’s wrong? Is there something else?”

“I... I have to tell you this before it’s too late. It’s great that you are sitting in the first row, but Zhang Xintong and Qi Wanwan will be beside you.”

The soft grin on Xu Yini’s face faded.

Qi Wanwan was the chief editor of Fengxiu and the most renowned female magazine in the country. She had quite the status in the fashion world and she was only in her late 30s.

Xu Yini was fine sitting beside such an influential figure, but why Zhang Xintong?

“Why Zhang Xintong?”

The disdain and contempt in her tone was brazen.

Zhang Xintong was just a model. She had gotten lucky when she secured herself some heavy sponsors and resources. She had finally made her name known in the past few years.

Her name had also been included in the G&S final selection but she had also been disqualified in the end.

Chapter 135: God Is Biased

Xu Yini looked down on Zhang Xintong.

Zhang Xintong also disliked Xu Yini because she came from a wealthy family and had enjoyed unlimited resources since birth.

They had both participated in a variety show together once before. Zhang Xintong had been friendly to her and had even posted a selfie of them together.

However, she had used photoshopped to beautify herself only and left Xu Yini unedited.

The picture had trended on social media and fans of both girls had gone to war for three days

Both girls had become enemies after that.

After losing the first battle with Zhang Xintong, Xu Yini swore she would never be nice anymore.

When she knew she was part of G&S's final selection with Zhang Xintong, she had still been fine because she had believed G&S's strict criteria would favor her. She did not think she would have to be overly concerned.

However, G&S had arranged for her to sit beside Zhang Xintong during the press conference and she could not accept that.

She could not understand the reasoning behind the arrangement.

Mei Li noticed the look on Xu Yini's face and felt conflicted.

"Only three girls made it to the final selection. With Tang Wei being chosen, G&S automatically grouped you and Zhang Xintong together. Should we try to rearrange the seating with G&S?"

Xu Yini stared at the invitation and scoffed.

"It's okay."

Why would she walk away from the challenge?

If Zhang Xintong was bold enough to sit beside her, she would also stand up to the challenge.

If she requested to change seats, other people might think she was afraid of Zhang Xintong.

“We’ll just go with this.”

...

The press conference was being held at Longhai International Exhibition Center.

Countless number of workers and staff members decorated the venue for the grand event since day one.

The venue had been fenced off to ensure the confidentiality of the event.

Edmond was on stage guiding the design teams and the models as they rehearsed one last time.

George was watching at the front of the stage.

The slight breeze fluttered his brown hair. His natural blue eyes looked like the brightest sapphire and he stood there like a masterpiece on display, capturing all the attention in the room.

“Perfect.”

He praised and clapped at the end of the rehearsal.

“Ning really should come here herself.”

Edmond had also been happy with the rehearsal, but when he heard George’s words, he could only shrug.

“If even you can’t make her stay, no one else can.”

Edmond was a veteran in this industry and he had orchestrated a ton of grand fashion shows. It had been a while since he had felt this excited.

The masterpiece from Ning Li had the magic to drive people crazy.

George squinted his eyes and grinned.

“She’s a free spirit. We can’t hope to control her. If she doesn’t want to come, then so be it.”

Edmond shook his head and sighed. “This is my first time witnessing someone reject G&S, and even you. How could there be someone who doesn’t care about anything? If she could be more serious, she would certainly have a bright future.”

Unfortunately, Ning Li lived in her own way.

George disagreed.

Some thoughts later, he grinned menacingly. “What else can do we? God is biased. Some people are born with God’s touch and they are loved and favored by God himself.”

Art and beauty demanded talent.

Some people tried tirelessly to achieve something in the artistic world but ended up with nothing.

There were also people who had been born with unique talents, talents that could help them achieve greatness without any effort.

It was unfair and unreasonable, but that was just how life worked.

“Actually, she does care about something. At least she pays attention to her studies.”

George clenched his teeth when he talked about Ning Li’s studies.

He wanted to find out what really occupied Ning Li’s time and attention.

...

Ning Li finally went out in the afternoon.

Su Yuan and the others were not around, only Ye Ci and Aunt Zhao, who were in the kitchen.

When Ye Ci saw Ning Li come down with her bag, she asked, “Sister Ning Li, it’s time for lunch. Are you going out?”

Ning Li simply grunted without looking and left the house.

Aunt Zhao scoffed.

“Miss, why do you even bother? Ever since she came to this house, she’s never told anyone whenever she goes out.

Ye Ci stirred her soup blankly and was carried away by her thoughts.

She wondered if Ning Li was going to the art exhibition.

Anyway, Lu Huaiyu had already left the exhibition.

“Forget it. Let’s eat.”

...

Ning Li arrived at her rented unit and had a simple lunch in front of a stall.

The neighborhood was a little livelier than usual since it was a Sunday.

The place always welcomed new faces due to different tenants moving in and out.

After she went inside, she went to the bedroom and took her laptop out of her bag.

A few taps later, a window popped up.

The window was black and quiet, and nothing happened.

Ning Li was not in a hurry either. She left her laptop open and continued doing the mock test papers that she brought with her.

...

After lunch, Ye Ci returned to her room.

She had planned to continue her homework and continue where she had left off earlier.

However, the thought of Lu Huaiyu and Ning Li, plus the art exhibition, made her restless.

She sat in front of her desk for half an hour without being able to absorb a single word.

It was then that Cheng Xiangxiang called her.

“Lil Ci, G&S’s autumn collection show will be live in Jingcheng later! Are you following it?”

Ye Ci was slightly surprised. “I heard of it. Why?”

“I heard that they’ve prepared a huge surprise tonight. Too bad we can’t go there, I really want to see it for myself—this is the first press conference and launch in the Chinese market! This will be good!”

Ye Ci was intrigued.

“Really?”

Cheng Xiangxian sighed before she became excited.

“Oh, and they are doing a live stream! Go check Weibo, it’s already trending.”

Chapter 136: New Designer

Ye Ci opened Weibo and saw the trending ranking.

[G&S press conference]

[G&s brand ambassador]

It was not time for the live show yet but G&S’s brand name was influential and this would be their first show in the Chinese market, so it had garnered a lot of attention.

On top of that, the company had invested a lot in marketing so it was normal for them to be trending on social media.

Half an hour ago, the official Weibo account of G&S had posted a status. They said they would be holding the show in Longhai International Exhibition Center and that they would announce their first brand ambassador of the Chinese market live.

The speculations of the mysterious ambassador were circulating among fans and interested parties.

The fan clubs of several celebrities were even arguing about who had gotten the lucky position.

The final announcement would be made later at the show. It had garnered all the attention, even from beyond the fashion industry. There were also a lot of heated discussions revolving around G&S and their show.

In the comment section of the second trending term, a large number of fan club accounts and fans were already arguing.

[GuaziDuck: According to internal sources, G&S is going to announce the brand ambassador tonight and it's going to be a new celebrity.]

This particular comment had been pinned at the top and it had received more than 10,000 replies.

[Amon77: A new celebrity? I think the most popular one should be Xu Yini.]

[700FastPancakes: I think it's her as well. She's the only one who is strong enough to secure this spot, right? The other girls are not her match in terms of popularity and resources.]

[WeiweiMyWife: I heard it was another girl. When G&S was having a rehearsal today, Xu Yini was on another shoot elsewhere. If it was her, she would have freed her time to attend the rehearsal for the show.]

[NoFishThisYear: I heard someone posted online that Xu Yini is on her way to Longhai International Exhibition Center. It's her alright!]

[OuouCarp: As expected of a rich girl. Just stretch her hand out and she could even get the moon.]

[YiniDreamyAN: Jealous much? Xu Yini's looks, popularity, and work surpassed her peers by a light year. If you have the time to be jealous, you might as well go tell your idol to study more so that they could gain more popularity!]

The heated discussion continued for quite a while.

A large number of Xu Yini's fans had heard the rumors. They believed Xu Yini had gotten the role and it fueled their confidence in the discussion.

Any other normal discussion or anyone who doubted Xu Yini was bashed mercilessly.

The fans made it look like Xu Yini was already the brand ambassador of G&S.

...

Longhai International Exhibition Center.

The venue was decorated grandly and all the guests were arriving one after another.

Xu Yini wore a champagne-colored dress with glitter. The length of her dress reached her knees and she had permed her hair slightly for the event. There was also a water drop-shaped diamond necklace around her neck.

Her makeup was meticulous, making her look innocent but sexy at the same time.

Right before she had arrived at her seat, she noticed Zhang Xintong was already there.

Xu Yini paused for a moment. She lifted her head slightly and walked over.

Zhang Xintong wore a white tube dress for the night. Her hair had been tied up neatly and her beautiful shoulder and collarbones were on display.

She was already a sweet-looking girl but the dress and makeup made her look extra charming.

“Hey, Xiyi, what a coincidence.”

Zhang Xintong widened her eyes slightly in shock. She looked at Xu Yini up and down and smiled.

“You look gorgeous today. If I don’t know any better, I would think that you are going up on stage later.”

Xu Yini reacted coldly. She walked over, sat down and crossed her leg while maintaining her smile.

“Thank you. You look great too. Is your dress from Esya? It’s the new design, right? When their PR department contacted me about their new design and indicated that they hoped to see me in this dress, I said no because I don’t like it. Now it looks like it fits you very well.”

Zhang Xintong was a television actress. She might have her own fanbase and popularity but she was lackluster when compared to Xu Yini, a movie star.

Zhang Xintong scoffed softly.

She could not understand Xu Yini’s arrogance.

Xu Yini was popular because of her family and the unlimited resources that she enjoyed. However, she claimed that she had done all the hard work and gained popularity with her own hands.

That was why Zhang Xintong disliked her.

“Really? I’m not sure about you, but I ordered this dress two months ago and flew all the way to Europe for it.”

Zhang Xintong had not borrowed this dress for the night. She had bought it herself with her own money, unlike Xu Yini who had borrowed her dress for the night.

Xu Yini put her hair up.

“Oh, I guess it cost you millions. Looks like someone in your room is kind to you.”

Zhang Xintong reacted bitterly. She knew Xu Yini was not talking about herself but was referring to her sponsor, who was a family man.

Xu Yini was obviously mocking her but she had learned how to be patient and endure insults because she was in show biz.

She smiled and ignored Xu Yini’s insults.

“I’m okay I guess. Your fans are so good to you. G&S hasn’t even announced the brand ambassador, yet they made it sound like you’ve already gotten the title.”

Xu Yini frowned. She took her phone out and went on Weibo. When she saw the discussion on the trending page, she finally knew what Zhang Xintong was talking about.

Everyone in her team thought she would get the title. Because of this, they had leaked the news to the media so that it would boost her popularity. It would also mean that it would be easier for her to get better leverage on other brands.

No one had expected it to backfire this soon.

Xu Yini had been feeling down the past two days, and her team had been so busy that they forgot to tell the fans about this, hence the groundless assumption.

“I think when the show starts and it’s not you on the stage, your fans will be so disappointed.”

Zhang Xintong shrugged helplessly.

“Such a pity.”

It wasn’t clear who she was referring to, Xu Yini’s fans or Xu Yini herself.

Xu Yini was furious but there were a lot of cameras around her. She could not do anything to ruin her image, so all she could do was look less angry.

She sent Mei Li a message and instructed her to settle it right away.

The show was starting soon and it was too late to tell her fans to take those words back.

All she could do was try to control the situation and the fan’s backlash after G&S announced the brand ambassador. She had to save herself from the embarrassment.

In fact, she had come to this press conference because she did not want other people to think of her as a coward. She also wanted to find out who the mysterious designer was.

Edmond was busy backstage and it was inappropriate for her to go to see him now, so she had to wait until the show was over.

It was then that a middle-aged woman with a white shirt and black pants came over.

She had short hair and a sharp look. The woman was Qi Wanwan.

Her arrival eased the tense situation between Xu Yini and Zhang Xintong.

She was much closer to Xu Yini than Zhang Xintong.

Xu Yini felt a lot better.

She looked at the stage and asked, "Sister Wanwan, do you know who G&S's new designer is?"

Chapter 137: Dominated The Rankings

Qi Wanwan shook her head regrettably.

"I don't know anything about the designer. I heard G&S selected this designer through a global competition. This designer should be a new name in the industry."

"A new name? Yet they gave this designer that much attention?" Xu Yini was surprised.

She had heard from Edmond that the show and the designs had gone through quite a lot of changes because of the designer.

G&S had always been a company with high standards. Countless designers from all over the world worked tirelessly to gain their recognition just to have a chance to work with them, yet only a handful of them were selected.

A new name in the industry who had come out of nowhere and had never shown any promising work had earned G&S's trust? The investment, the exposure, and the attention G&S had put on this designer was unbelievable.

"Is it..."

Xu Yini gave a meaningful glance at Qi Wanwan.

She was trying to say that the designer might have relied on connections to get the position.

Qi Wanwan chuckled.

“Yini, you might have underestimated G&S. George is the one in charge of this show and the upcoming designs. He’s a picky one, as you might already know. If the designer had relied on connections, George wouldn’t even care about this.

However, he had also put a lot of effort into this show because of the new name. He had even invested a ton of resources into the designs. All I can say is that he really likes the designer.”

Qi Wanwan had also never seen George so excited before.

“In fact, I’m looking forward to the surprise announcement later.”

Xu Yini zipped her mouth after hearing Qi Wanwan.

Qi Wanwan said, “I heard Edmond likes you but he’s in charge of the overseas market. I guess if you want to have a chance to work with G&S, you’d better get close to the new designer.”

Xu Yini smiled and nodded. “Thank you for the advice, Sister Wanwan.”

Zhang Xintong scoffed when she heard the conversation.

Building a relationship with the designer would not work.

If the designer had really favored Xu Yini, Tang Wei would not have been chosen.

Xu Yini did not seem to understand the situation.

Suddenly, all the lights in the hall were switched off. The entire hall went dark.

Then, a bright spotlight shone from above the stage.

Everyone quieted down and looked towards the stage.

The spotlight marked the start of the show.

...

At the same time, G&S's official Weibo started streaming the show live.

The screen went dark when the lights were switched off and comments immediately flooded the screen and the comment sections.

A towering figure appeared under the spotlight.

The figure took a step forward and the entire stage lit up brightly.

A countless number of sparkling LEDs shone in the dark like the milky way.

The spacious hall was silent, only the clicks from the figure's heels could be heard.

Everyone in the hall could hear it clearly.

More spotlights started to shine on her from her legs up, which slowly revealed her to the crowd.

At the hem of her dress was a gathering of black tulle symbolizing the endless darkness of the night.

As the spotlight moved up, the black color turned gray and slowly became white through a smooth but uneven gradient.

The different tones of the dress were arranged one on top of the other unevenly as if the dress had been dyed in layers. The tones intertwined and blended perfectly.

It looked like a drop of ink had fallen onto a piece of white canvas and had slowly spread.

As she walked along the runway, the hem of her dress slowly spread out. The gathers of black tulle looked like a cloud of mess but as it spread out, the combination of the gradient and the environment gave it a profound meaning.

The crowd watched silently. They dared not even breathe loudly as if they would disrupt the process with the slightest noise.

As the model walked forward, the lights shone higher.

When the lights shone on her chest, the crowd gasped in awe.

There was a huge peony flower sewn on her chest.

The scarlet red peony flower bloomed brightly and the layered petals around it gave it a striking look.

The dress was white when it reached the model's torso but the red peony flower shattered the calm and pure white with a fiery red life force.

The sewing was perfect and the blooming petals fit the model's body contour beautifully. The flower extended from her chest to her neck and wrapped around her torso perfectly.

It looked as if the peony flower had bloomed from her chest and formed a symbiotic relationship with the host.

Black and white were two contrasting tones and the two colors created a chaotic balance when they met at the model's waist.

Amidst the chaos, a blooming peony flower shattered the balance, breaking free from the darkness with the help of the light.

Everyone was astonished.

...

When the opening dress had been revealed onstage, the live stream flooded with a plethora of comments.

[Aaaah! It's so beautiful!]

[This is awesome! As expected of G&S! They started the show with a bang!]

[Tang Wei! The model is Tang Wei! Our Tang Wei! Damn, my goddess is exquisite! And she matched the dress perfectly! Who's the designer of this dress? I want to praise him!]

[How could it be Tang Wei? I thought it was Xu Yini?]

[Look at the dress! A traditional ink painting with a peony flower, it's the representation of traditional art! It's elegant and beautiful! If I remember correctly, Tang Wei came from a Chinese opera background. She is what you called an oriental beauty and she matches the dress perfectly!]

[You're right. Xu Yini is beautiful but she's more westernized. She wouldn't fit the style of the dress. Even if she was on stage with the dress, it wouldn't feel as astonishing.]

[Hahahaha! Where are the Ripples now? I thought they said Xu Yini had gotten the title? This is a huge slap in the face! Fortunately, G&S is sharp with their taste and chose Tang Wei for this. The designer of this dress is amazing!]

Xu Yini's fans went offline right away.

The livestream was flooded with praise and astonishment.

A few moments later, G&S and its related terms continued trending.

[G&S opening dress]

[Tang Wei]

[Tang Wei's dress]

[G&S's godly designer]

[Xu Yini]

The first and the second trending terms had an 'Explosive' sign behind them

The rest of the terms were also astonishing and were also labeled with the 'Hot' sign.

The moment the show started, it dominated the trending rankings.

The part where Tang Wei had walked out from the darkness with that astonishing dress was edited out and reposted quickly.

The video gained more than 100,000 views in a minute.

Someone also posted the picture of her dress without edits and it gained more than a million likes and shares.

G&S had invited many celebrities to the show, especially movie stars.

All the respective studios and management posted their beautiful pictures on social media, hoping for a little more exposure.

However, Tang Wei's appearance dominated everything.

Everything about Tang Wei and G&S on the internet became the hottest topic for the night. The views, likes, and shares exceeded 100 million in just 10 minutes.

[Tang Wei is on a killing spree! She dominated everything with her outstanding presence!]

[I like cute girls but Tang Wei has caught my heart as well. She looks like a cool beauty who could enchant the entire country. She's beautiful. Even if she caused the fall of an entire nation, it would not be her fault.]

[I think she's like a flower that has bloomed from the harshest condition. The bloody red peony represents her exquisite beauty. She's beautiful, striking, and free. She's amazing and I'm speechless!]

[Who's the designer? I want to kneel to him!]

Chapter 138: Uncanny Similarity

G&S only had several contracted designers but none of them worked in such a style.

Soon, someone found something about G&S's press conference.

[APenguin: I heard that this new designer has never been part of G&S before. This was the final contestant in the global competition that G&S had held earlier. He's a completely new name in the

industry. G&S plans to use this designer's work to venture into the Chinese market. They even invested heavily into this venture. Now it seems like they made the right decision.]

The moment the news got out, everyone got excited.

The unique design style was considered the best of the best and it was the work of a new designer!

Everyone was so impressed by the presentation.

Tang Wei's fans had dominated G&S's official Weibo's comment section. The fans thanked G&S for the opportunity and even passionately asked for the designer's name so that they could thank the designers.

Tang Wei was a rising star in show biz. It had been 2 years since her debut and she had won the Best Newcomer Award with one of her works before. Her acting was good and felt natural.

However, she had only worked in artistic films and deviated slightly from mainstream taste, so her popularity was not as high as Xu Yini.

The show tonight had boosted her name to the top. Her fans were proud, and many of them shed tears of joy.

Fans of other celebrities also cried because their respective idols had lost the title of brand ambassadors to Tang Wei, and had even lost the chance to put on such a stunning dress.

After Tang Wei's stunning entrance, the G&S autumn and winter collection show followed.

The dresses were from G&S's usual designers and they showed off G&S's signature design on the stage beautifully.

All the dresses shown on stage were stunning, but after Tang Wei's jaw-dropping entrance, the other dresses paled in comparison and the audience felt underwhelmed.

Many people were asking for the designer's name so that they could see more of his stunning work.

Strangely, G&S did not reveal a word about the designer.

At 10:00 p.m., G&S officially announced Tang Wei as their brand ambassador.

Everyone knew Tang Wei had gotten the position based on her appearance on stage. However, when G&S had officially made the announcement, the audience had been excited as well.

Both Tang Wei and G&S's popularity rose to the next level.

...

The internet was now very lively.

At the same time, those who had watched the show live in the hall also had mixed feelings.

It had been right to give the role to Tang Wei because her entrance show had been impressive.

When Xu Yini saw the dress herself, she knew why she had lost to Tang Wei but she could not hold her jealousy back as well.

She knew how much Tang Wei would benefit from this entrance show alone.

"George is as sharp as usual..." Qi Wanwan exclaimed.

No wonder George changed the plan so drastically even though they were running short of time. He had even invested heavily into the designer's work.

George, or more precisely G&S, had hit the jackpot this time.

Xu Yini looked towards the back of the stage.

If G&S thought that highly of the designer even though it was just the start of the entire collection, the designer must be something special and his future would be bright.

If she had the chance, Xu Yini would really want to meet the designer herself.

...

George had sent Ning Li an email when the show started.

Ning Li had not given George her phone number, so George could only contact her through email.

[Dear Ning, I've said it before and I'll say it again: You are a genius!]

Ning Li heard the notification and looked at her laptop.

She was not surprised by the success of the show. She simply closed the email.

She returned to the black window but there was still no word from it.

She had another glance at it before she returned to her studies.

...

George felt annoyed because he did not get a reply from Ning Li.

Edmond was right. Ning Li did not care about anything at all.

If it had been another designer, such a success would be considered a milestone in their career, unlike Ning Li who did not even comment on her own work.

George could not help himself and sent her another email.

[There will be a segment to introduce your work from 9:30 p.m. onwards. I spent a lot of effort on it, please watch it.]

Ning Li finally replied.

[Okay. I'll watch it when I finish this parabola question.]

George fell into deep thought as he stared at the reply.

'Parabola? What's that? Is it that important?'

He looked at Edmond. "Edmond, what does this mean?"

Edmond could not read Chinese, so he called another staff member who worked as a liaison with G&S.

The guy smiled and said, "That's hell to high-schoolers."

...

Shooting range.

Lu Huaiyu stood sideways and held the gun in his hand.

He aimed and pulled the trigger.

Bang!

Bull's eye!

Cheng Xiyue sat on the couch behind him, feeling bored.

He did not want to be at the shooting range with Lu Huaiyu. It was basically an insult to himself.

“Second Master Lu, are you having a problem lately? If you feel bored, why don't you switch to another hobby? Like playing cards.”

Playing cards was a lot less violent and Cheng Xiyue had a better chance to win.

Lu Huaiyu did not say a word. He swiftly switched the magazine and reloaded his gun.

Cheng Xiyue leaned back.

He took his phone out and saw something interesting.

“Hey, G&S's show looks interesting.”

The Cheng family had no involvement in the fashion industry and show biz but Cheng Xiyue had an eye for fashion.

He stared at the picture for a while before stroking his chin.

“Hey, Second Master Lu, look. This dress, the designer’s work looks a little similar to the painter that you like. The similarities are uncanny.”

Lu Huaiyu turned around.

Chapter 139: Flower and Moon

“Really, look! Just have a look for yourself.”

Cheng Xiyue waved his phone at Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu put the gun down and walked over. He took the phone from Cheng Xiyue.

The picture had been zoomed in onto the woman in the center of the stage.

There was a spotlight shining from the top, focusing on the woman.

She had on a beautiful dress. The hem of the dress was an expanse of black tulle which gradually turned white as it went up to her chest.

In front of her chest was a huge peony flower.

The lines were simple and the contrast was strong. It seemed to represent the feeling of life thriving amidst the chaos.

He stared at the picture for a while.

Cheng Xiyue noticed the look on Lu Huaiyu’s face and took pride in his taste.

“What do you think? It feels the same, right?”

Lu Huaiyu tapped on the back button and saw the picture on a blogger's Weibo.

There were also other pictures of the stage and the dress, as well as pictures of different angles of the dress.

It was G&S's opening show and the dress had stirred up a storm on the internet.

Lu Huaiyu squinted his eyes.

Many of the comments said the dress looked like a traditional ink painting but he felt the dress looked more like a pastel painting instead.

It was strong and vivid.

The designer's control over the contrast and color was perfect. The cutting and choice of fabric also perfectly complemented each other.

"It feels the same," he said.

Cheng Xiyue was shocked. "That's it?"

Based on how much Lu Huaiyu liked the mysterious painter's work, his reaction should not have been so mild.

"If you are sure, then I think you can ask G&S about the designer. Then, you will know who your mysterious painter is, once and for all."

Lu Huaiyu had always wanted to meet the painter but had been rejected every time. This would be a great chance, so why was his reaction so mild?

“I heard this designer is new and G&S had selected him, or her, from the global competition. After the show, G&S usually presents the designer and the model together on stage. The show is still going on, so maybe—”

Lu Huaiyu tossed the phone back to him.

Cheng Xiyue was stunned.

“Don’t you want to watch it?”

“The designer won’t show up,” Lu Huaiyu said.

“Huh? Why? Why are you so sure?”

Cheng Xiyue suddenly noticed something.

“Wait, so you are sure that this designer is also your mysterious painter?”

Actually, Cheng Xiyue had only come up with this excuse just to distract Lu Huaiyu. After all, the designer of a luxurious dress and a painter were different. Even though both occupations were related to art, the difference was like heaven and earth.

Lu Huaiyu had only had a few glances and he was already certain that the designer and the painter were the same person?

Lu Huaiyu did not say a word, but Cheng Xiyue did not believe him.

“This is G&S’s first show in the country. As the designer of the first dress, why would they not present him, or her, on stage?”

He was certain that if the designer appeared on stage, it would be a huge achievement for the designer and it could be considered as a milestone in the designer's career.

Who would miss this great opportunity to rise to fame?

Cheng Xiyue tapped on the livestream.

...

9:30 p.m.

The lights in the hall went dark again.

The background music changed to a traditional tune performed by a zheng, a traditional Chinese music instrument.

The zheng represented peace and zen.

The image of a full moon then rose in the background.

Crystal clear water flowed down and words started to appear in the space in the middle of the stage.

Flower & Moon.

The words were written with strong strokes and were completed within a single stroke.

The audience below the stage was in awe.

"There's a theme for this show?"

“This must be the theme set for that designer. G&S really went all out for the designer.”

“I think G&S did the right thing. The show and the design were outstanding. I heard George changed the plans and the theme a week before the show. His audacity and execution are unrivaled.”

“The designer’s talent is sharp and now with G&S supporting his work, this designer is going to have a bright future.”

Not only was the audience present in the hall in awe, but even the viewers on the internet felt the same.

G&S had two themes for the show. This Flower & Moon one was the second. It had obviously been set specially for the designer.

As the music continued, models in different dresses came onto the runway.

Everyone could tell that the dresses on the models now were from the same series as the opening dress that Tang Wei wore earlier.

The main colors were black, white, and red and every dress had strong oriental design elements.

The designs were innovative, refreshing, wild, and meaningful. The combination of all elements formed a bizarre yet perfect design.

The comments went wild.

[Woooooah! It’s so beautiful! Every dress in this series is so nice!]

[Wow, is that a dry leaf that I saw on the model’s dress? And that glitter under the light looked like a real bird!]

[That's not just a bird, it's a magpie! In addition to Tang Wei's dress, there are 12 dresses in this series and if I'm correct, the one with the magpie represents a well-known poem.]

[The poem literally talks about different elements coming together to form the most beautiful picture of the night.]

[Gosh, I think I read that poem somewhere before! And that dress with the blue dots, it looks like the sea! Is that the second part of that poem?]

[As expected of a cultured person! All I can say is WTF! This is nice.]

[Me too!]

[Me too!]

[Me too!]

...

Ning Li put her papers away and tapped on the livestream for a while.

The entire show was a success and it was not just due to the designer's hard work. Many people and staff members had to come together to make it happen.

Ning Li had only given George the design drafts, but he had been able to bring all the dresses to life in such a short time and rearrange the stage to match the theme. George had also done a lot of the heavy lifting.

George's amazing performance showed that he valued Ning Li's design and how capable G&S was.

Other smaller brands might not have been able to bring all the dresses to life even if they had a month.

This was the surprise that George had mentioned.

She had prepared the design drafts in her past life, but they had been stolen by Ye Ci.

Before she had realized it, Ye Ci had sent them to G&S and signed a contract with them.

Su Yuan then told her if she exposed Ye Ci, Ye Ci's life would be over.

She said it was only a few drafts which Ning Li could produce again, but Ye Ci only had one life, and once ruined, she could not go back anymore.

Ning Li had chosen to take a step back and kept quiet.

However, what she had gotten was not an apology. Instead, G&S had started a show just for Ye Ci a month later.

The show had made Ye Ci a famous designer but because she had not produced the drafts herself, she had not given G&S all the designs at first.

G&S's show in Ning Li's past life might have been a success but it had not been as stunning and perfect as this one.

Ning Li had decided to never give Ye Ci a chance again. The designs were her own work and she was going to take them back a little by little.

Chapter 140: Picture

G&S's show was a success and the second part that had promoted the theme, Flower & Moon, had boosted the entire event to the next level.

Of the top 20 trending terms on Weibo, 16 of them were related to the show.

From G&S to Tang Wei, to the series of 12 dresses, everything became the hottest discussion.

Countless fashion bloggers dissected the show into multiple parts and analyzed it from top to bottom.

From the designs to decoration, from drafts to reality, everything was considered perfect.

Only a genius designer deserved such attention from G&S and only an extravagant brand like G&S could have embraced such a lively and innovative design. They had also been responsible for bringing the designs to life in such a short time and they had done it perfectly.

Tang Wei's fans were the happiest.

Being G&S's brand ambassador was already an achievement and the show tonight was a major success.

She had become the face of G&S in the Chinese market and G&S obviously wanted to promote the theme Flower & Moon further. She had become the first model to ever wear the series and there would only mean more chances for collaboration.

Tang Wei had already affiliated herself with G&S's Flower & Moon series from the moment she appeared.

Everyone knew what it meant.

Xu Yini watched from below the stage, managing to control her facial expression. She smiled and clapped throughout the show but she felt terrible deep inside. Only she herself knew how bad it felt.

This opportunity that she had missed out on was much bigger than expected. Missing this opportunity would cost her a lot.

She had been fine until the Flower & Moon series had been introduced. She could no longer stay calm.

Zhang Xintong was also jealous but she felt delighted when she saw Xu Yini's face.

She had known that she had only a slim chance to stand out so she had not put her hopes into it.

Xu Yini was different. She had literally watched someone else take her chance away and it was not a good feeling.

The worse Xu Yini felt the happier Zhang Xintong was.

"I guess from tomorrow onwards, Tang Wei will shoot up to new heights, right? I'm jealous but who would have thought that she would emerge as the final victor.

It's better to keep expectations low at first because no one knows how things will end up until the last minute. Something dead might come back alive and something hopeful might end up bleak."

Zhang Xintong's mockery was obvious. It made Xu Yini's already bad mood so much worse that she almost snapped on the spot.

She glared at Zhang Xintong. Just before she snapped, Qi Wanwan tapped her on her shoulder, reminding her that cameras were rolling.

If Xu Yini was caught doing something that would harm her image, this whole thing would end badly.

"It's closing soon. Let's see who the designer is. Yini, after this, let's go have a chat with this designer."

Xu Yini curved her lips into a smile. "Sure thing, Sister Wanwan."

The stage lights shone again and the models came back. The models lined up on both sides and clapped.

Edmond came out from backstage. He was the creative director of the autumn-winter collection show, so he had to be on stage.

Everyone looked behind him, anticipating the designer's appearance but they saw no one.

The absence of the designer confused a lot of people.

After the presentation of the two different themes, the mysterious designers should have come out at the end to claim the credit.

Edmond stood on stage and said with a smile, "I know everyone is interested in the designer behind Flower & Moon but unfortunately, she's not here today. I apologize for that."

The crowd was shocked.

Even the viewers in front of their screens were stunned.

[She's not here? This is a grand show and she's not here?]

[This designer is really something else. If it was someone else, they would probably claim the credit before the show is even over!]

[There must be some reason behind this. It's okay if she doesn't show up, just tell us through Weibo.]

Edmond had known this would cause a commotion but he had not expected the reaction to be so strong.

He shrugged helplessly.

"G&S will not be unveiling anything about this designer due to our agreement. G&S will do what we can to endure our working relationship with her in the future."

“Ning, it is G&S’s honor to meet you.”

...

Ning? Who could that be?

Was it a name? Or just a nickname? Or was it a code representing something else?

Edmond had announced it on camera and it lit up everyone’s curiosity.

Everyone was curious about who the designer was. Where had she come from?

Edmond’s announcement had stated G&S’s stand on this. It was obvious that the company highly valued this designer.

G&S’s designers had always been from renowned design families and no one had gotten such a high compliment from the management before.

Countless people had tried all kinds of ways to find out who the designer was but G&S had sealed their lips tight. They could not get anything from the company’s Weibo.

Other than the name Ning, all they could tell was that the designer was Chinese.

Only a Chinese designer could have mastered the oriental elements behind Flower & Moon.

...

Cheng Xiyue clicked his tongue. He sighed and had a look at Lu Huaiyu.

“You’re right, the designer didn’t show up. So does it mean that this designer and your painter are the same person?”

Bang!

Lu Huaiyu fired the last bullet in the magazine before walking over.

He took his phone out.

The livestream was over but the discussion remained heated.

He frowned.

...

Ning Li was about to put her phone away but then she saw that she had received a message from Lu Huaiyu.

She tapped it and saw something shocking.

It was a picture. Specifically, a picture of Tang Wei wearing the stunning dress.