

Little Brat's 141

Chapter 141: Two Pieces of Candy

Her heart throbbed for a moment. She stared at the picture and did not reply.

Lu Huaiyu should not have an interest in fashion, so why had he sent the picture to her?

‘What is he...’

[This one would look better on you than the last one.]

Lu Huaiyu had added a text message beneath the picture.

It felt strange. When he saw the dress, he could already picture Ning Li wearing it.

Ning Li was quiet and obedient most of the time but whenever he saw her charming crystal clear eyes, he could feel the roughness behind the silence.

It was quiet but loud; it was calm but chaotic.

There were two different temperaments within her. It sounded conflicting, yet it matched her well.

It felt exactly like the dress on Tang Wei.

Ning Li sighed a breath of relief. She replied after a few minutes.

[It’s beautiful.]

G&S had promised to never reveal her information and they should be keeping their promise.

Moreover, the designer of an extravagant brand would not have too much in common with Lu Huaiyu so he would probably forget about this soon.

Lu Huaiyu had a look at the time. It was a little past 10:00 p.m.

[Are your results coming out tomorrow?]

[Yeah.]

[Sleep early. If you get good results tomorrow, you will get some presents from me.]

Ning Li chuckled.

[A piece of candy again? I'll have to think about it.]

Cheng Xiyue looked at Lu Huaiyu. He noticed the warm and kind look on his handsome face. He could not help but sigh.

"Sigh. I guess everyone is different."

Who would have thought that the proud and arrogant Lu Huaiyu would be tamed by a girl?

Lu Huaiyu looked at him.

Cheng Xiyue put his hands up and surrendered.

"Let's go."

He tapped on the Send button before grabbing his coat.

Cheng Xiyue followed him out of the shooting range.

“What were you talking about with Little Ning Li? You look happy.”

Lu Huaiyu did not reply.

On the other end, Ning Li received Lu Huaiyu’s reply.

[Two pieces of candy then.]

A good student with good results should be rewarded.

A good student with poor results should be consoled.

If one piece of candy is not enough, have two pieces then.

...

Beep.

A beep came from Ning Li’s laptop.

Ning Li came to her senses and looked at the message again. She felt like something was pressuring her.

She turned her phone off and looked at her laptop.

A green light lit up on the black window that she left open.

She moved her cursor to the window and a bunch of numbers and alphabets appeared from the top right corner.

NO1.

22:17

M17.

60s.

45.8.

Another beep later, more numbers and alphabets followed.

The second batch of numbers appeared in the same pattern but the numbers were a little different.

In the next half an hour, 45 sets of numbers and alphabets appeared.

Ning Li then tapped on her keyboard and the green light disappeared.

She keyed in all the data into the database before concealing it.

Her laptop was not powerful enough to read the data so the only thing she could do was write them down.

After that, she shut her laptop and went out.

...

Ye Ci was in her room talking to Cheng Xiangxiang through the phone.

G&S show had left everyone excited and Cheng Xiangxiang was one of them.

“Lil Ci, did you see the dress on Tang Wei? It’s so beautiful! I wonder if I can get my mom to buy that dress for me for my 18th birthday.”

Cheng Xiangxiang was daydreaming.

“I’m sure it’s kinda hard. That dress would cost at least 7 figures,” said Ye Ci who was combing her hair.

More importantly, G&S custom-made dresses were not sold simply.

The normal dresses that they sold were already expensive, let alone this kind of custom-made one.

On top of that, that dress was the first of the 12 dresses from the Flower & Moon series, the first series that G&S would introduce to the Chinese market.

G&S would have to go through serious assessments to determine whether the buyer of the first dress was qualified to own it.

Cheng Xiangxiang sighed.

“I knew it. That’s why I’m jealous. I think only someone like Xu Yini could buy the dress.”

Ye Ci reacted differently when she heard Xu Yini’s name.

“I guess so. I saw on Weibo that she was also there at the show.”

“Yeah, she was sitting in the first row.”

Cheng Xiangxiang was jealous.

The Cheng family was considered a wealthy family in Yunzhou but paled in comparison when compared to the Xu family.

Besides, among the younger generation, only Cheng Xiyue had achieved something. His cousins, like Cheng Xiangxiang, had not done anything memorable or contributed to the family.

As for Xu Yini, she was the only daughter of the Xu Family.

Both families were incomparable.

“She’s beautiful, she’s rich and she’s famous... I guess she’s a perfect match for Second Master Lu.”

Ye Ci’s heart skipped a beat when she heard Lu Huaiyu’s name.

She could tell that Xu Yini had feelings for Lu Huaiyu at Old Master Cheng’s birthday dinner.

Even though Lu Huaiyu had always been cold, Xu Yini was one of the handfuls of girls who could match Lu Huaiyu in terms of status and wealth.

“I heard G&S had originally planned to make her the brand ambassador but it had ended up in Tang Wei’s hand instead,” Ye Ci asked curiously.

“Who knows? I thought it would be her as well.”

"I guess she would be quite disappointed in missing this opportunity. The Flower & Moon series is amazing. She must be feeling terrible."

"I know right. Tang Wei got lucky this time. But given Xu Yini's background and connections, I don't think it will affect her badly. It's just G&S. There are still many other extravagant brands that she could work with."

Ye Ci was in a bad mood. She hung up the phone after chatting a while longer.

She heard footsteps on the stairs outside and she knew it was Ning Li.

It was already 11:00 p.m. so she could not have gone to the art exhibition.

She thought of asking Ning Li but Ning Li's cold attitude deterred her. She knew she would not get anything from Ning Li and she might have to endure Ning Li's cold shoulder.

Ye Ci did not want to make a fool of herself.

She studied English for a while before finally going to sleep.

...

Monday.

Results for the midterm would be released today and the class had been restless since morning.

"God please give me at least 120 points in Mathematics!"

"I heard it's a combined midterm, so it's gonna be tough. I just hope I did better than last time."

“Sigh. The poem in literature, I had memorized before the exam but I forgot everything when I went in. I came out regretting it but it was then that I remembered everything again. Damn it.”

Everyone was worried about their results.

Ning Li entered from the back door and sat down in her seat.

Many students noticed her arrival.

Ever since Ning Li had gotten first place in the monthly test, she had made a name for herself. Everyone looked forward to her performance this time as well.

“Ning Li, how did you do during the midterm?”

Chapter 142: Is It Not Enough To Move You?

Someone curious asked.

After spending some time with Ning Li, they would find her quite approachable.

As long as no one offended her, she would not do anything extreme. She barely even talked or argued with other people.

She would also help other people with their homework from time to time. It was quite a rare quality for a third-year high-schooler.

Everyone’s schedule was similarly packed and all the students should be spending time on themselves rather than other people.

Helping other people with their homework was a waste of time. One might even get overtaken in future exam rankings or even the entrance exam itself.

Therefore, many of the students tended to keep their knowledge to themselves. They would either shake their heads and say no, or simply explain the question with a vague answer.

Ning Li was different. If the student who asked for her help could not understand it the first time, she would go on to explain it a second time and even provide several answers as references.

She was an extremely rare person.

Therefore, many of the students in class looked at her differently.

They had been scared of her at first but were impressed by her outstanding results and generosity, and it had only been just a little over a month that they had known her.

Ning Li said, "I did okay."

Okay? Okay again?

Lin Zhouyang's face twitched.

"I remember the last time you said you did okay, you got 737..."

Everyone else was speechless.

They should not have asked Ning Li that question in the first place.

It was then that Pei Song came over.

Lin Zhouyang moved closer and asked, "Brother Pei, are you confident that you will be able to reclaim your throne?"

Ning Li's arrival had dethroned him from first place, which meant that he needed to study harder this time just to regain his rightful place.

Pei Song did not answer.

Ren Qian tapped Lin Zhouyang's shoulder and said heavily, "Whether it's first or second, Brother Pei is always good. If you have the time to be worried, why don't you worry about yourself? Can you even be in the top 50 this time?"

Lin Zhouyang himself usually did great in other subjects except for English. It was because of English that he was always ranked as one of the lowest in class.

"Oh, we called you for a game yesterday but you didn't show up. Where did you go?"

Lin Zhouyang looked away awkwardly.

No one knew he had gone to the art exhibition with Ye Ci yesterday.

He glanced at Ye Ci but she was studying. It looked like she had not heard the conversation, or maybe she had heard it and did not care.

Lin Zhouyang's awkward feeling died down a little bit.

Ye Ci did not seem to realize that yesterday had been their first outing together alone.

Ye Ci had not even looked at the paintings at the art exhibition. She had gone upstairs to greet the artists and teachers. The next thing he knew, she had gone home because she claimed she was feeling unwell.

Maybe Lin Zhouyang was overthinking. He looked away and jokingly punched Ren Qian.

“I’m not as free as you people! I finally got some time to sleep. Why would I go out and sweat with you bunch of testosterone?”

Ye Ci did not react to what she heard at all.

It was then that Sun Huihui came in.

The class went silent upon her arrival.

Everyone knew Sun Huihui had tried to trap someone in the janitor’s room but had fallen into her own trap in the end.

Many students had started to despise her for that.

She had gone with the cheapest way to get revenge. No matter who she had tried to trap, it must have been one of her classmates. If it was one of her classmates, she could have tried to solve the conflict by talking to the person instead of potentially hurting that particular classmate.

All the other students stayed away from her. They believed that if they offended her, she might take revenge on them using similar ways.

It was safer for them to keep their distance.

The other girls who used to be close with Sun Huihui looked at her differently as well. They kept their distance and did not greet her like usual.

Sun Huihui noticed the difference as she stepped into class.

She tightened her lips and reacted bitterly. She quietly walked to her seat.

Ye Ci wanted to talk to Sun Huihui, but Cheng Xiangxiang tugged at her arm with a look.

Cheng Xiangxiang seemed to be trying to say, "Everyone despises Sun Huihui for what she did, so why would you want to talk to her now?"

Sun Huihui sat behind Ye Ci and Cheng Xiangxiang.

When she sat down, Ye Ci hesitated for a moment before ultimately turning around.

"Huihui, you look rather pale. Are you feeling okay?"

Sun Huihui was having a fever.

She had been locked in the janitor's room for a whole night and scolded terribly by her mother after her schemes had been exposed.

The pressure on her had increased, which then made her fall ill since that night.

There were even two puncture wounds on the back of her hand from receiving injections.

She looked at Ye Ci gratefully and answered with a slightly hoarse voice, "I'm feeling better already."

"Great."

Ye Ci nodded and turned around.

Sun Huihui could not help but glare at Ning Li.

Even though she had no evidence to prove that Ning Li had been the one who pushed her in, she had to have been the one!

If not for Ning Li, she would not have ended up like this.

She had already been in Second High for a few years, but this was the first time she had been isolated and hated by others.

Ning Li had beautifully cut ties with the incident as if she had nothing to do with Sun Huihui being locked up.

Sun Huihui was certain Ning Li was the one who locked her in the janitor's room.

The more she thought about it, the worse she felt.

As though she noticed Sun Huihui's glare, Ning Li looked up.

Her gaze was as cold and sharp as ever and a single glance caused Sun Huihui to flinch.

Her cold gaze reminded Sun Huihui of that night, the sour memories floated into her mind.

Loneliness, fear, and despair.

The emotions rose in her heart and caused her to quiver.

She quickly looked away nervously.

...

"Ning Li, did you watch the live show from G&S yesterday? The designer was awesome!"

He Xiaochen exclaimed with both her hands curled up in excitement.

Ning Li looked at her with a slight surprise.

“Are you interested in fashion as well?”

He Xiaochen was a role model student. She studied hard and worked hard for her exams.

Ning Li had not expected her to be interested in such a fancy show.

He Xiaochen said, “Of course! I’m a Rose!”

Rose was the name given to Tang Wei’s fans.

“You like Tang Wei?”

“Yeah!”

Ning Li looked her up and down.

“You don’t strike me as one.”

He Xiaochen chuckled.

“I’m just an amateur fan. I don’t really follow her but I’ll buy the things that she endorses. Unfortunately, Tang Wei wasn’t that popular before the show and she barely has any endorsement. But now with G&S’s show, her popularity has risen to the next level!”

It was great news for the Roses.

He Xiaochen was excited but when she mentioned G&S, she sighed like a deflated balloon.

“Unfortunately the dresses of G&S are too expensive. I can’t afford them.”

Ning Li smiled. “Just do what you can. Tang Wei got the chance to stand on the stage because she deserves it.”

He Xiaochen nodded.

“Many people asked about the designer but G&S did not reveal a thing. Not even the netizens could find anything about this mysterious designer. I really want to meet her and kneel down at her feet! Sigh, I wonder what kind of godly hands must she have to sew a beautiful dress like that.

Ning Li, you don’t look excited at all. Isn’t Flower & Moon captivating enough for you? You’re not moved by the astonishing designs?”

Ning Li went silent for a moment before she said, “It’s okay, I guess.”

Chapter 143: Praise Me Please

He Xiaochen could tell Ning Li was completely uninterested.

“Okay. You are already beautiful. If you wore that dress, I’m afraid my eyes would get overwhelmed.”

He Xiaochen then took out her phone and stared at a picture of Tang Wei in that dress.

Ning Li rubbed the area between her brows helplessly.

...

“This just in!”

A boy hurriedly came into the class, looking excited.

“8 out of the top 10 students in the combined midterm are in our school and they are all from our class!”

Second High was the best public high school in Yunzhou and the first class was the best of the best.

The school had been outstanding in all other previous combined exams as well. However, no other school achievements had been as astounding as being able to secure 8 out of the top 10 spots.

“And, I heard that the first and the second places in all of Yunzhou are the first and second places in our school!”

When the class heard the boy’s announcement, they turned towards a certain direction in class.

The situation somehow felt familiar.

Lin Zhouyang asked, “Who got first and second place?”

The boy shook his head. “I don’t know yet but the results are coming out later.”

Even though the boy had not named the first and the second places, everyone already knew who they were.

A while later, the announcement was posted on the notice board downstairs.

There were three extra columns at the back.

The first one was the class ranking, the second one was the year ranking and the last one was the city ranking.

A large number of students gathered around the notice board.

“Hurry! See who got first place! I’m placing my bet on Brother Pei!”

“I think it’s Ning Li again! She got a perfect score in general science! She’s no longer human, she’s God!”

“Stop pushing! I’m trying to have a look!”

Those who were in front were pushing each other as they tried to get a look at the names.

“The first place is Ning Li!”

The crowd gasped.

“Again?”

“Does it mean Brother Pei got second place again!? Noooo!”

The guy who got a clear look at the ranking read out the scores.

“141, 150, 150, 300... A total of 741! No.1 in class, year, and city!”

The group fell into a strange silence when they heard the score.

The score was inhuman!

It felt like God was trying to punish them, mere humans, with ridiculous scores.

“WTF? I’ve seen such a ridiculous score before! I’m done!”

“If you don’t know, ask. Do you think she would get bored with her perfect score?”

“I don’t know if she would get bored but I know I am.”

“What about Pei Song? How much did he score?”

“2nd place, Pei Song. Let me see... 139, 149, 150, 297, total 735. No.2 in class, year and also the city.”

Another ridiculous score that discouraged everyone.

“The 3rd place is He Xiaochen, 717. No.3 in class, year, and city as well.”

“They are just one placement apart but it’s a difference of 20 points.”

The difference was considered huge.

The news got back to the first class right away.

Ren Qian saw his score and sighed. He had gotten 4th place in his year but 5th place in the city.

He had not expected He Xiaochen to overtake him this time.

‘Is it because she’s been sitting beside Ning Li and somehow got her divine knowledge?’

He glanced at Pei Song but the man did not seem overly concerned about getting only No.2.

In fact, 735 was Pei Song's highest score ever.

Ning Li was just ridiculous.

"Brother Pei, I remember you two were only 6 points apart from each other during the monthly test, right? What a coincidence," Ren Qian smiled.

Lin Zhouyang saw his 2 digit English score. He had mixed feelings because the two inhuman Gods behind him got a full score in English.

"Which retard spread rumors about Brother Pei and Ning Li being in a relationship?"

If they were in a relationship, how could they possibly score so high?

Could it be that a genius multiplied by another genius equaled two ridiculous high scores?

Soon, the whole class got their results.

He Xiaochen was happy with her third place.

'I got third place! I'm one step closer to my goddess!'

She even took a picture with her result paper and said, "I'm going to send this to my parents. They will be so happy!"

Ning Li thought of something and looked at her. "Xiaochen, please lend me your paper when you are done."

"Ah, okay."

He Xiaochen took a picture before she gave it to Ning Li.

Ning Li also took a picture of the paper.

“I didn’t know you cared about placement, Ning Li. I thought you were already so good and getting No.1 is a piece of cake for you,” He Xiaochen joked.

Ning Li had shocked everyone when she got first place during the monthly test but she had barely reacted to her achievement.

He Xiaochen believed that Ning Li had absolute confidence in herself.

Whether or not she looked at the results, she would always get first place.

Therefore, He Xiaochen found it surprising when Ning Li took a picture of her result.

Ning Li grunted softly in reply.

Pei Song glanced at her and noticed that she had sent the picture to someone.

It was definitely not her mother, so it must be someone else.

He looked away before he went out of class.

...

“Lil Ci, what’s your result?”

Cheng Xiangxiang had been traumatized by her previous results, so she dared not look at her results for the time being.

Ye Ci said, "I'm going to have a look now. Do you want me to look at yours?"

Cheng Xiangxiang nodded nervously.

Ye Ci consoled her. "Don't worry, you will do better than last time."

Cheng Xiangxiang chuckled helplessly. "I'm not you."

Ye Ci smiled and went out to take the result paper.

When she got the paper, she started to look for her name.

As she moved down the list, the smile on her face faded.

She was looking at the class result, which was arranged according to the class placement.

She did not see her name in the top 10, not even the top 20.

Chapter 144: Ask If You Don't Understand

She continued down the list and finally saw her name in 45th place.

Ye Ci. 125, 121, 140, 266, a total of 652. Class 23rd, year 40th.

She looked at the column in disbelief. She thought she had seen it wrongly.

She had always been top 5 in class and top 10 in year since her first and second year.

She had thought that she had simply missed the mark the last time and done poorly but this time, her results had surprised her even more. She had fallen out of the top 20 and done even worse than the monthly exam.

She did not even have to look at the city placement.

All the others who scored 700 and above were only a few points apart from each other. Her score was in the 600 range and the competition was fiercer than the 700 range.

A lot of them might have the same score or a difference of only 1 point.

This must be the worst attempt in her entire life.

The shock came suddenly and hit Ye Ci hard. She felt chills run down her spine.

Cheng Xiangxiang noticed Ye Ci was frozen to her spot, from being stunned. She even noticed the fear and shock on the girl's face.

She asked curiously, "Lil Ci, what's wrong?"

Ye Ci recovered from her shock. She wanted to smile and say she was fine but her lips froze and she could not smile.

A strange feeling came over Cheng Xiangxiang and Ye Ci's reaction scared her.

"What's wrong? Is it because of my result?"

She moved closer and started to look for her name on the list.

She started from the bottom, hence she was able to find her name quickly.

She got 43rd place in class. She got the last place in class, similar to the previous monthly exam but fortunately, she had passed Mathematics.

Cheng Xiangxiang breathed a sigh of relief.

“Thank god. The paper was so hard, I think the teacher will spare me this time. Lil Ci, how about you?”

When she saw Ye Ci’s name on the list, she too was shocked.

She finally understood why Ye Ci was stunned.

Ye Ci’s placement was probably her worst attempt in any exams.

Cheng Xiangxiang did not know what to say. She wanted to console her friend but could not find the appropriate words.

It was then that someone else came over to have a look.

“Ye Ci, can I have the paper?”

Ye Ci gave the paper away and sat back down in silence.

Cheng Xiangxiang did not know how to react as well.

She carefully glanced at Ye Ci and said softly, “Lil Ci, are you okay? Do you think there’s a problem with your score? Why don’t we go to the teacher’s office and check it out?”

Ye Ci did not move at all. She had actually had a bad feeling during the exam. She had failed to answer many of the questions and had not been sure of the answers that she wrote.

She had known that she would not score too high but she had hoped to be lucky.

Never had she thought that she would get such a poor score.

"It's okay," she said without looking.

It would only embarrass her more.

Cheng Xiangxiang was at a loss for words.

She herself was not an excellent student to begin with. Whenever she did badly in her exams, other than being scolded by the teacher and her parents, she barely cared about her scores.

Ye Ci was different. She had been under-performing since the monthly exam and she had done even worse this time. She must be devastated.

"Lil Ci, don't dwell on it. It's just the way it is, there will always be times where you will miss the mark."

Ye Ci stared at her book but her eyes were out of focus.

Even if she missed the mark, she should not have missed it this far. She knew something was wrong with her studies.

The competitive Physics class was pressuring her and it had distracted her a lot.

If this continued...

However, when Zhou Fei had asked her to think about it carefully, she insisted on staying.

If she dropped out now, it would not look good on her.

How high had Ning Li scored?

<ol start="741">

89 points higher than herself.

Her arms and legs were cold but her face was red as if she had been slapped on the face.

The others in the class had noticed Ye Ci's poor performance this time and the ridiculous fall in placement. There was already small talk among the students.

"I saw that Ye Ci got only 23rd in class. What's wrong? She's not performing as usual."

"Really? She used to be the top scorer, what caused the drop?"

"This isn't the first time. She did poorly the last time as well but this time... On the contrary, Ning Li is really stable with her performance."

Lin Zhouyang kicked the chair of the boy who had said that.

The boy glanced at him for a moment and kept quiet.

Ye Ci tightened her lips.

...

The results for the other subjects came back one after another.

During the afternoon's self-learning class, Geng Haifan called Ye Ci to the teacher's office.

"Ye Ci, your results are less than ideal this time," Geng Haifan said.

More precisely, Ye Ci was the only one in class who had shown a drastic fall in her results.

Not only Geng Haifan, but the other teachers were also shocked at her performance as well.

Therefore, Geng Haifan became the first teacher to call her to the teacher's office.

"Can you tell me what happened?"

Ye Ci was considered a bright student, even by first class standards. The drastic fall of her results worried Geng Haifan because he was in charge of the first class.

Ye Ci looked down slightly. "I'm sorry, Mr. Geng, I... I'm not performing well recently."

Geng Haifan asked, "Are there any difficulties with your family?"

Ye Ci shook her head.

If it was not her family and she had been performing decently in class, what had caused the fall?

Ye Ci had always been stable with her scores but she had done poorly in both the monthly test and midterms. If this continued, she would only plunge deeper into the abyss.

Geng Haifan sighed. He knew the result had shocked Ye Ci as well.

“I know you are busy with the competitive Physics class. It’s a lot of pressure. If you cannot handle it, go home and talk to your family and see what suits you best.”

He was being euphemistic but Ye Ci knew what he was trying to say. He wanted her to drop out of the competitive Physics class.

She felt discouraged. Everyone seemed to look down on her. No one believed that she could maintain both her studies and the competition. Even her teacher wanted her to drop out.

Why had no one told Ning Li to drop out? Why her alone?

Could it be that Ning Li was better than her?

If it was true, she would never drop out of the competitive Physics class.

“Thank you, Mr. Geng, I know what to do.”

Geng Haifan said, “I remember that you are also trying to go to Xijing University right?”

Ye Ci was slightly surprised. “Also?”

“Yeah, Ning Li is also aiming to go to Xijing University,” Geng Haifan said with a smile.

Ye Ci reacted bitterly.

“Actually, given your previous performance, there’s a high chance that you will get accepted. You have a solid foundation as well. You need to summarize what you are good at and adjust your condition. You can still catch up, it’s not too late.”

Given her current score, she would never get into Xijing University.

Ye Ci nodded. "Thank you, Mr. Geng, I understand."

Knock, knock.

The sound of knocking came from the door.

Geng Haifan looked at the entrance and smiled brightly.

"Oh, Ning Li. Come in. I have something to talk to you about."

Ning Li came in and stood beside Ye Ci.

Geng Haifan looked at the two of them before he said, "Ye Ci's result fell drastically this time. I'm thinking that since the two of you are living together, if Ye Ci is facing some problems in her studies, maybe you can help her a bit. What do you think about that?"

Chapter 145: Doesn't Seem Welcoming

After meeting Su Yuan a few times, Geng Haifan could tell that the mother treated both her daughters differently.

He would no longer contact Su Yuan about Ning Li anymore, but Ye Ci was different.

Ever since Ning Li had transferred to Second High, Ye Ci had been offering a helping hand to her sister.

Even though he had heard the rumors that the sisters were not close out of the public eye, it was to be expected since they had not spent much time together.

Recently, Geng Haifan had noticed that many students had approached Ning Li to ask for her help. Ning Li would then patiently help them with their homework.

If Ning Li could help other students, she could definitely help Ye Ci, her sister.

They were family after all, even if it was just in name.

Moreover, Ye Ci had a strong foundation, and teaching her would not take up too much of Ning Li's time.

Maybe the girls would become closer if they spent more time together.

Geng Haifan believed it was a good idea, and did not notice the change of expression on Ye Ci's face when she heard the suggestion.

Ning Li raised her brow slightly when she heard the suggestion as well, and glanced over at Ye Ci.

Ye Ci had never felt so embarrassed before.

She had never thought that she would be standing in the same office as Ning Li and that Geng Haifan would ask Ning Li to tutor her.

Ning Li smiled and said, "Sure."

Ye Ci curled her fists tightly. She felt like a rock had just dropped onto her chest and suffocated her.

The tone of Ning Li's voice sounded soft but in Ye Ci's ears, it was full of mockery and ridicule.

She took a deep breath and smiled stiffly.

“Mr. Geng, Sister Ning Li is quite busy. I don’t think it’s appropriate to take up that much of her time. What if—”

Geng Haifan smiled and stopped her. “It’s okay. Ye Ci, you don’t need to feel bad about it. Ning Li said yes, didn’t she? Besides, Ning Li will only need to spare a little of her time. It won’t affect her much.”

Geng Haifan was confident because of Ning Li’s results.

If Ning Li could pass the monthly test and midterm exam with flying colors, most of the homework and extra-curricular activities would not add much usefulness to her anymore.

She was also attending the competitive Physics class while maintaining her usual studies, both of which she handled skillfully and with ease.

If not for Ning Li’s result, Geng Haifan would not have suggested this idea.

Ye Ci felt embarrassed and scared.

Geng Haifan might not think his words were inappropriate but to Ye Ci, it was the worst news.

He had indirectly told Ye Ci to drop out of the competitive Physics class, yet he asked Ning Li to spare some time to tutor her instead.

The difference in treatment showed clearly that Geng Haifan did not look at the girls evenly.

Ye Ci had always been the smartest girl since she was young. She had excelled at everything until Ning Li’s arrival.

She paled in comparison since then.

The feeling was terrible.

“Then it’s settled. You girls can arrange your time among yourselves.”

Geng Haifan then looked at Ye Ci. “Missing the mark once or twice doesn’t mean anything. Go home, adjust your schedule and continue to work hard. You can do better next time. You can go back to class now.”

Ye Ci turned around and left without saying a word.

The atmosphere in the office had almost suffocated her.

She went out and took a deep breath immediately.

Back in the office, Geng Haifan said to Ning Li, “Ning Li, you did great this time. The school would like you to make a speech under the flag next Monday. What do you think?”

Ye Ci heard it and it made her feel even more terrible. She quickly left the teacher’s office.

...

“A speech?”

“Yeah. The school has been planning this since the monthly test but it was delayed due to various circumstances. The timing is perfect now, so it’s up to you whether or not you want to do it.”

Geng Haifan awkwardly cleared his throat halfway.

The circumstances that he was referring to was the incident where Ning Li had been suspected of cheating.

First of all, Ning Li had still been a new transfer student back then and her files had shown that her results had been below average.

It was not unusual that everyone had suspected her when she got first place.

Second of all, it had been because of the uncanny similarities with Duan Xu's paper, so the school had treated that incident seriously.

Although the incident had been solved, the speech had been put aside due to various circumstances.

It was not until Ning Li had placed first in the midterm that the school brought it up again.

Ning Li had once again proven her capabilities.

Getting first place citywide with a high score of 741 was more than enough to clear any doubts.

Ning Li knew it as well but was not overly concerned.

The school had its own problems as well.

She nodded and said, "Okay."

Geng Haifan was happy with the answer. He had thought that Ning Li was a cold person and would not say yes, but now it seemed like the girl was actually an easy-going person.

"Great. Please prepare the speech. It should only be about 5 to 10 minutes long."

...

Ning Li's phone buzzed just as she made her exit.

The buzz surprised her. She took her phone out and saw that Ji Shu was calling her.

She frowned. The delight in her heart faded instantly.

She went to the corner of the stairs and answered the phone.

“Yes?”

Ji Shu sounded extremely excited when the call came through. When he heard Ning Li’s slightly irritated tone, he was stunned.

He looked curiously at his phone.

‘Uh... Did I somehow make her mad without realizing it? She doesn’t sound welcoming at all...’

Fortunately, his excitement replaced his doubts.

“Sister Lili! You are really clairvoyant! LY came to me today and made me a better offer than FN!”

Ning Li’s eyes narrowed.

This day had finally arrived.

“Oh, really?”

Chapter 146: She Can Do Whatever She Wants

Ji Shu clicked his tongue.

“Sister Lili, your reaction is a little cold, isn’t it?”

Ji Shu had been jumping around in excitement when he got the news and the first person he had called was Ning Li.

In contrast, Ning Li’s calmness made him seem like a little boy.

Ning Li smiled. It was indeed good news but she had already known it from the start, hence the mild reaction.

“You’re worth it.”

Ji Shu felt better already. He forgot about the cold reception and said, “Thank God I listened to you and didn’t sign with FN back then. I would have missed this chance otherwise.”

At first, when Ning Li had told him to not sign FN, he had gotten depressed for a month. However, after that, he had gotten a call from LY.

“Are the terms satisfying?” Ning Li asked.

Ji Shu had not signed with LY in her past life, so she did not know what terms LY offered.

“The pay is double what FN offered and the limitations are a little less. Other than training and racing, I’m basically a free spirit. During the first year, I can start racing within the country. Once I pass the evaluation, I’ll be able to join the national races.”

LY had a ton of resources. It was considered one of the best, if not the best, racing clubs in the country. FN paled in comparison.

Given Ji Shu's talent and capabilities, LY's support would be a huge boost in confidence and his future would be bright.

"Great."

Ning Li did not really care about the terms LY offered. She had told Ji Shu to go with LY, not because of the better offer but because LY was much more reliable than FN.

Ji Shu was a good guy, unbridled but kind. He should not be caught up in a mess such as in his past life.

He should be racing on the tracks, not spending his life behind bars.

"But Sister Lili, they have a special request," Ji Shu said as he cleared his throat.

"They want to meet you in person."

Ning Li raised an eyebrow. "Meet me?"

"Yeah. They saw the clip of you racing in Xiaosong Hill and when they found out that I knew you, they wanted me to ask if you were interested in joining them. They want to sign you on too. What do you say?"

Ning Li reacted with little interest. "I can't."

"Why?"

"I don't have the time."

Ning Li was succinct with her answer. She glanced at the calendar that she hung on the wall. "There are 7 more months until the entrance exam."

Ji Shu was silent. The answer was so righteous that it made him speechless.

He was older than Ning Li and had barely passed his entrance exam back then. He had managed to get himself into a local university and majored in business administration.

However, he was not interested in studying and had spent most of his time racing.

He was the only son of the Ji family and his parents were open-minded folks. As long as he stayed away from trouble, he could do whatever he wanted.

The entrance exam was not important to him. It was just like any other test or exam in school.

Ning Li was different.

“Ah, right. You got first place in school during the last exam, right?”

Ning Li paused before correcting him. “To be precise, I placed first in school during the monthly test before the midterm. In the midterm exam, I placed first in the whole of Yunzhou, since it’s a combined paper among all schools.”

Ji Shu was baffled.

Ning Li’s new official racers were unlike underground racers.

Official racers had a lot more restrictions and demanded a lot more time and energy.

Before this, she had raced out of interest and to kill some time. If she signed with LY as well, she would not be as free.

She did not have the time as well.

Ji Shu found it regrettable. He had been in this circle for a long time and Ning Li was the only racer who had impressed him.

She was ridiculously talented in racing and if she had to give it up because of school, it would be a waste of talent.

He decided to give it one last push.

“Sister Lili, are you sure? Why don’t you meet with them first to discuss it? If it’s not suitable, you can reject them later.”

Ji Shu believed LY was being sincere.

Ning Li smiled and shook her head.

“It’s okay.”

The bell rang.

“It’s time for class. Bye.”

Ning Li hung up the phone before Ji Shu could say a word. She then went back to class.

Ji Shu was left speechless when Ning Li hung up on him.

“You’ve got first place in the entire city! What does class even mean to you now? You could stop going to class and I bet it won’t affect your results at all!”

He then made another class.

...

“No?”

Gu Siyang was surprised.

“Ji Shu didn’t tell her the terms?”

“No. I heard from Ji Shu that the moment he mentioned it, she rejected it before Ji Shu could tell her the terms.”

A middle-aged man in his 30s stood in front of Gu Siyang in formal wear, looking respectful.

He was Cheng Feng, the manager of LY.

He was the one who drafted all the contracts for LY.

Gu Siyang was astonished.

“Really? Doesn’t she know what LY stands for in the racing world? Wait, she’s a racer herself. Of course she knows what LY stands for... Then why would she reject us so resolutely?”

Cheng Feng was helpless as well.

“She said she’s busy preparing for her entrance exam. She doesn’t have the time.”

Gu Siyang was silenced.

Cheng Feng arranged his words and added, "Sir, why don't I meet her myself and try to convince her?"

Everyone knew Gu Siyang loved cars but only a handful of people knew that he was one of the three major shareholders of LY.

From a certain perspective, he could be considered as LY's boss.

He was rich and well-connected but his racing skills were not remarkable. He would have gone down to the tracks if he could race.

"Never mind." Gu Siyang waved his hand.

"I'll go myself."

Ever since he had seen Ning Li's racing clip in Xiaosong Hill, he had not been able to forget about her.

He was sure that Ning Li was a genius racer.

If he could get her under LY and train her, she would be the best of the best!

He did not want to let go of such a rare opportunity.

Cheng Feng was a little surprised. "You...You're going to meet her yourself? Is it... appropriate?"

He was surprised to find his boss so interested in a girl.

Gu Siyang had made up his mind.

“Of course, why not? I’m here in Yunzhou as well. I could just go there right now.”

“Where are you going?”

Gu Tinglan had heard what the boy said when he entered the house.

Cheng Feng turned around. “Dr. Gu.”

Gu Tinglan rarely used his true identity outside, so even Cheng Feng and the others called him Dr. Gu instead of as a master.

Gu Siyang reacted nervously and sat up straighter when his uncle came in.

“Uncle, do you remember the racing clip I showed you last time?”

Gu Tinglan nodded.

“I want to sign her up under LY but she rejected me, so I was thinking of meeting her myself.”

Gu Tinglan frowned. “She’s a third-year high-schooler. Do you think she has the time and energy to race?”

Gu Siyang had not expected his uncle to disagree with him. He said meekly, “Then... did you know she placed first in the entire city during the midterm?”

“Huh?”

Gu Tinglan had not heard of Ning Li’s results. The news was quite surprising but he found it amusing.

“She’s good.”

Gu Siyang was silent for a while. "That's not the point. Uncle, if she can get first place in the entire city, she can spare some time to race. It won't be a problem. Besides..."

Gu Tinglan said evenly, "She does whatever she wants and it's none of your business."

Chapter 147: Reply

Gu Siyang widened his eyes in shock.

"Uncle, are you my uncle or hers? What's with the bias? You're saying that she can do whatever she wants and that I shouldn't be nosy in her business.

If you could have been this helpful in front of my dad, I would be in a much better situation than I am now."

Gu Tinglan looked at his nephew. "He's your dad."

What he wanted to say was that as a father, the man had every right to lecture this little rascal.

Of course, as the kind and approachable Dr. Gu, he would never say this out loud, but his nephew understood his meaning through his sharp gaze.

"I... really want her in LY. Given her talent, it's wasteful if she gives it up just like that. Besides, LY can offer her great terms. Maybe she will have a change of heart." Gu Siyang was slightly deterred but he was still unwilling to give up just yet.

Gu Tinglan laughed.

Given Ning Li's personality, if she had rejected the offer, it meant that she had already made up her mind.

No matter how alluring the offer was, she would never be persuaded.

However, Gu Siyang was persistent as well. He had to taste failure himself to understand when to stop.

“Whatever. Just try not to disturb her studies. If she rejects you outright, try not to cling to her as well. It’s shameful, and you’ll need to know when to stop.”

Gu Siyang said confidently, “I’m sincere! It’s not being clingy if I’m sincere! Besides, given her results, I wouldn’t be much of a disturbance either.”

All the younger generations of the Gu family studied abroad and had never endured the tortures of the education system within the country.

However, Gu Siyang had started to understand the harshness of local education ever since his return.

What was it like to be in first place in the entire city?

It was no longer just about working hard, it was about talent and intelligence.

“It’s for her to determine if you’re a disturbance or not, not what you do. I’m just reminding you that Lu Huaiyu cares a lot about her results. Even if you disturbed her, she probably wouldn’t be mad at you. However, Lu Huaiyu is a different story.”

Gu Siyang frowned in confusion.

He had heard that Lu Huaiyu cared a lot about the girl.

Considering the girl’s background, he had believed that it was normal because the girl was a lovable person.

Otherwise, his uncle would not be this biased.

However...

"I've heard that the people who are the most concerned about a child's results are usually the parents. Lu Huaiyu is not her real brother, so why the concern? Is he hoping for her to repay him once she gets into a good university?"

Gu Tinglan silently smiled.

Lu Huaiyu cared about more than just her results.

...

After Ning Li had sent Lu Huaiyu the results, she had not received any replies.

She checked her phone occasionally, but still nothing.

He Xiaochen asked curiously, "Ning Li, who are you waiting for?"

Ning Li put her phone into the desk. "No one."

"Is it your second brother?"

Ning Li paused. She wanted to deny it but she realized it was not necessary.

It seemed like she was being obvious.

He Xiaochen giggled. "My my. He came for your parent-teacher meeting and he must care a lot about you. I'm sure he'll be happy when he sees your results this time."

Ning Li's own mother did not care about her results. Otherwise, she would have come for Ning Li's parent-teacher meeting instead of taking Ye Ci to the hospital.

Therefore, it was normal that Ning Li was closer to her second brother.

Ning Li's heart beat stronger. "Really?"

She had not been overly concerned at first but when she heard that He Xiaochen had sent her results to her parents to make them happy, she had instinctively taken a picture of her results as well.

She had already known she would get first place, so even though others were jealous of her, she barely reacted to the achievement.

However, if Lu Huaiyu knew about it, he would be happy, right?"

"Of course!" He Xiaochen nodded strongly.

"No parents or guardians would be unhappy about their child's amazing achievement. Think about it, first place in the whole city!"

Ning Li slightly frowned. She realized her actions were that of a little girl asking for her parents' attention after getting good results.

She also realized that she did not have that kind of relationship with Lu Huaiyu.

She took her phone out. She stared at the picture that she had sent and somehow started to regret her decision.

'It feels... childish...'

She wanted to delete it but it had already been sent out some time ago.

“Ning Li, can you lend me your general science paper?”

A boy came to her and asked for help.

Ning Li put her phone away and handed him the papers.

The boy was happy. “Thank you!”

The most beautiful girl in school was not only smart but kind!

Ren Qian glared at the boy.

The boy usually asked Pei Song to lend him the papers but now he asked Ning Li instead.

Pei Song and Ning Li were just 3 points apart from each other in general science but that was not the point.

He sighed. “Look at him, tsk tsk.”

Ever since Ning Li had transferred to Second High, she had replaced Ye Ci’s position as the most beautiful girl in school.

The love letters that she had been receiving could fill an entire sack.

Some of them were from other classes and other years.

Some of them stood outside as they observed her, while some of them even brazenly confessed to her in person.

However, no one had succeeded because Ning Li had rejected all of them.

As time went by, only a few continued to persist while most of them had given up on the outrageous thought of dating the smartest and most beautiful girl in school.

Ning Li's results were the best and no one could even come close.

Her results alone would deter many guys.

If they were no match for her, then they were no match for her and it would never change.

Therefore, many of them had changed their tactics.

If Ning Li concentrated on her studies, they would follow her in terms of studies instead of wasting time courting her.

Those who had confessed had not even managed to get a glance or a word from her but those who asked her for papers or help on their homework got to talk to her.

He Xiaochen overheard Ren Qian.

"Ren Qian, what do you mean? Going for beautiful girls is nothing wrong!"

Ren Qian had not expected to step on He Xiaochen's landmine. He raised his hands and surrendered, "Nope, I'm just expressing my emotions. There are a ton of people who prefer the outside more than the inside, and I'm just a tiny speck of dust in this huge society. I am unworthy of being here."

He Xiaochen nodded.

"Great, at least you know your place."

Ning Li gripped her pen and dotted it on the paper.

It was rare for Lu Huaiyu to not reply to her immediately. Had something happened?

She shook her head to discard the thoughts from her head and continued studying.

...

After Su Yuan had found out about Ning Li's results, she had come to the school before the night self-learning class.

She had spoken to Geng Haifan at the office for a while.

There was no competitive Physics class today, so she brought Ye Ci and Ning Li home after coming out of the office.

Ning Li had not wanted to follow but Geng Haifan's words had changed her mind.

On the way back, everyone kept quiet in the car. It remained that way until the car had arrived at the garage. Su Yuan then said to Ye Ci, "Lil Ci, come with me."

Ning Li got out and wanted to return to her room.

Su Yuan stopped her right away. "Ning Li, you too."

Chapter 148: Blush

Ye Ci was not in the mood. She remained silent but followed Su Yuan.

Ning Li carried her bag and glanced at her watch before deciding to follow Su Yuan as well.

...

The study room on the second floor.

Ye Ming was not home yet, so only Su Yuan and her daughters were there.

Ye Ci sat there with a straight back, looking nervous.

Meanwhile, Ning Li lounged on the couch lazily.

Su Yuan glanced at Ye Ci and sighed.

“Lil Ci, you did poorly in your midterm. May I know why?”

Ye Ci shook her head.

“I just happened to miss the mark this time, that’s all.”

Su Yuan did not believe her.

She had been the girl’s stepmother for many years now. Other than the resistance that she had felt during the early years, Ye Ci had always been an obedient girl.

She had not needed to worry about Ye Ci’s studies before.

Ye Ci doing poorly in the midterm was not normal.

“Lil Ci, if you are facing any problems, you can tell me. If it’s the pressure, talk to me. I can share the burden with you,” Su Yuan said softly.

“Is it because of Lil Cheng...”

“It’s not because of Lil Cheng.”

Ye Ci stopped Su Yuan and forced a smile on her face.

Despite her saying so, Su Yuan felt bad for the girl.

“It’s my fault. You are in your last year of high school. You are already busy with the competitive Physics class and yet I still asked you to tutor Lil Cheng.”

Ye Ci claimed it was not Ye Cheng’s fault but Su Yuan knew that the boy had taken up a lot of her time and energy.

She had thought Ye Ci could handle the burden but she was wrong.

“Mom, please don’t. He has nothing to do with this,” Ye Ci said as she shook her head.

Su Yuan did not argue with her on this.

The sister and brother pair had always been close, Ye Ci would never blame Ye Cheng for her poor results.

However, Ye Ci would have to bear the consequences.

“I’m looking for a new tutor for Lil Cheng so you can focus on your studies now.”

Su Yun then glanced over at Ning Li with a conflicted look.

She knew how Ning Li had fared in the midterm.

She had been shocked and dubious when Ning Li had gotten first place in the monthly test because she had seen the girl's files before she came to Yunzhou.

However she looked at it, Ning Li did not look like a straight-A student.

However, Ning Li had done it a second time and placed first in the whole city.

Judging from Geng Haifan's reaction, it was not difficult for Su Yuan to tell that Second High was treating Ning Li as one of its best students.

Ning Li's results were real, which caused her to have mixed feelings.

Was she happy?

All this only proved that the girl lied to her before.

Was she proud?

Ning Li had lived with her grandmother before she moved in and everyone knew it.

Even though Ning Li was doing great in her studies now, Su Yuan would not be able to claim the credit. People might even call her heartless for abandoning such a good daughter.

The better Ning Li was, the harsher the situation was for Su Yuan. Su Yuan had abandoned her daughter without a second thought back then. No matter how she or anyone else looked at it, it had been a huge mistake.

Su Yuan knew it was inappropriate for her to think like that, but she could not help it.

Ye Ci was the girl that she had raised but Ning Li's arrival had outshone Ye Ci in every single aspect.

It felt like the effort that Su Yuan had spent on Ye Ci was nothing more than a joke.

"Ning Li, Mr. Geng told me today that you've agreed to help Lil Ci with her homework?" she asked.

The moment she asked the question, the room fell silent.

Ye Ci curled her fists tightly. She felt insulted again.

Ning Li nonchalantly played with her phone. She looked at her mother when she heard the question before glancing over at Ye Ci. She noticed that Ye Ci was looking tense, so she smiled.

"Ah, right. Yes."

Ning Li nodded.

Su Yuan sighed a breath of relief.

Ning Li did not want to tutor Ye Cheng but she had agreed to help Ye Ci.

It was strange but as long as it could help Ye Ci with her studies, it was worth a try.

"If you agree, why don't you start today—"

"Mom," Ye Ci said suddenly. She sounded a little stiff.

“We can take it slowly. It’s not appropriate for me to disturb Sister Ning Li’s studies. I’ll try to rearrange my schedule to fit Sister Ning Li’s timetable. You don’t have to worry about it.”

As though she suddenly noticed that her tone was a little inappropriate, she took a breath and said, “I’m a little tired today. I want to have a rest.”

Su Yuan patted the girl’s head.

“Okay, the midterm is over now. Go have a good rest.”

Ye Ci nodded.

“Thank you, mom.”

Ning Li got up. She raised a brow at the two of them and said, “Let’s take a rain check then.”

She was fine with the time. It would be up to Ye Ci as to whether or not she would deign to lower herself and acknowledge that she was not as good as Ning Li.

Then, Ning Li left the room.

...

Back in her room, Ning Li’s phone buzzed as soon as she put her bag down.

She had a look and noticed that it was a video call from Lu Huaiyu.

When she remembered that he had not replied to her message all day, she hesitated slightly before answering it.

The video was blurry and it was difficult for Ning Li to see it clearly.

She moved the phone closer to her face.

The camera shook for a moment before a beautiful collarbone entered Ning Li's sight.

The camera moved up all of a sudden. The man's Adam's apple and defined jawline were visible.

A drop of water trickled down his jaw and fell off the tip of his chin.

Ning Li blushed.

Chapter 149: Close

Lu Huaiyu moved his phone further away to finally reveal his full face.

It looked like he was in his own room and had just come out from a bath. His hair was wet, messy, and swept across his forehead.

The lights cast a glow on his body, making his fair skin glow. His pronounced facial features cast sharp shadows across his face and granted him a sense of mystery.

He was in his pajamas but he had not buttoned up completely. His collarbones were showing and a part of his flat, strong chest was exposed.

A drop of water trickled down his chest and wet the edge of his pajamas.

Ning Li had not expected to see such a steamy scene on her phone. She was momentarily stunned before embarrassment came over her and turned her face as red as an apple.

“I went out without charging my phone today, so it died halfway. I saw your message the moment I came back...”

Lu Huaiyu sounded exhausted and a little hoarse.

His voice was extremely seductive, especially at night.

He then squinted his eyes and raised a brow. “What’s wrong, Lili? Your face looks red.”

Ning Li regained her senses and moved away from the phone. “Huh? No, I’m fine.”

She tried to look calm.

Lu Huaiyu tilted his head. He was displeased when she moved away from the phone.

The distance had been just fine just now. It had allowed him to see the girl’s cute and fair face with a dash of pink up close. Her charming, round eyes were as clear as the surface of a lake, the slightest movement causing it to look as if it was rippling gently.

What had she been looking at when she had been up close?

Lu Huaiyu chuckled. “Ah, it’s fine now. I probably saw wrongly.”

For some reason, Ning Li felt hot again.

She moved her phone a little further away, believing that Lu Huaiyu would not be able to see the bashful look on her clearly from that distance.

Lu Huaiyu observed her background.

“You’re not in school?”

“We don’t have class today, so I came home early.”

“I saw your results, first place again. I’m impressed.”

Ning Li felt strange.

When she had sent her results to Lu Huaiyu, she had done it without thinking too much about it. Her thought was that since the man cared about her results, he might be happy when he found out that she had done well in her exams.

Now, she felt like a little girl who had aced her exam and excitedly wanted a pat from her big brother. The feeling was even stronger now than it had been when she had been at school, especially at hearing his words.

She felt like a child asking for attention from her big brother.

After a slight pause, she said, “It’s okay.”

If all Ning Li did was just okay, the rest of the high-schoolers in Yunzhou could just quit completely.

“Being humble is a virtue but don’t overdo it, little girl,” he said jokingly.

Ning Li pouted. “I’m not a little girl.”

Although her body was almost 18, her soul was already in her 20s.

Although Lu Huaiyu was still older than her, it felt peculiar.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her strangely, he had not expected this reaction from her.

“Are you not happy to get first place?”

“No, it’s just that...”

Ning Li felt the change of emotion on her face. She quickly looked down, wanting to discard her messy thoughts.

She looked at the camera again when she recovered.

“You didn’t reply to my message, so I thought that you might have something more important to deal with.”

Lu Huaiyu nodded. “My brother was in Yunzhou today, so I went out to meet him.”

Ning Li was surprised. She asked, “Your brother?”

“Yeah, my elder brother.”

Lu Huaiyu took a sip from the glass of water beside his bed.

He turned his face to the side and lifted his chin. His defined jawline looked perfect and the movement of his Adam’s apple was captivating.

Ning Li was stunned. She forced herself to look away.

She felt strange today. Why was she so captivated by Lu Huaiyu’s looks?

Lu Huaiyu did not notice her reaction. He put his glass down and said, "Yeah, it's been a while since we met, so I kinda forgot my phone."

Ning Li nodded.

Lu Huaiyu only had one elder brother, Lu Yuxiao.

After graduating from military school, Lu Yuxiao had enrolled in the army and had always kept a low profile even though he bore the name of Lu.

Lu Huaiyu had been in Yunzhou for almost a year due to his condition. He rarely went back to Jingcheng, so the brothers had not been able to meet.

It did not register in her mind that Lu Huaiyu was telling her about what he had done today.

"Have you finished the book that I lent you the other day?" Lu Huaiyu asked.

"Yeah."

"You're fast."

Lu Huaiyu was surprised. The book was thick and there were a lot of unfamiliar terms in it. It would take a normal person around a month or so to finish it.

Ning Li had to go to school and attend the competitive Physics class, yet she still had the time to finish the book in such a short time.

"Do you want the book back? I'll deliver it to your house when I'm free," Ning Li asked.

"No need. I'm coming to you tomorrow afternoon. You can give it back to me then."

“Tomorrow afternoon? Why?”

Lu Huaiyu nodded. “Consider it a celebration for getting first place in your midterm.”

The reason had sounded farfetched at first but it made sense.

She had no class tomorrow and she was allowed to leave the school for lunch.

After a pause, Ning Li nodded. “Okay.”

Lu Huaiyu looked at the time. “I have to go now.”

Ning Li noticed some documents on the tea table beside him. She surmised that he must have work to do, so she nodded.

Lu Huaiyu tapped on the screen.

For a moment, Ning Li felt as if Lu Huaiyu was reaching out to her and tapping on her face.

She subtly moved the phone away.

Lu Huaiyu then put the phone down and got up.

However, the screen remained connected with the camera, showing from an awkward angle.

Ning Li squinted her eyes at the screen. It seemed like Lu Huaiyu had not hung up the phone at all.

She took another look and saw that the screen was showing the edge of the tea table that was beside the bed.

“Second...”

Right before she could call out to him, Lu Huaiyu came onto the screen again.

Not realizing that his phone was still connected, he moved to retrieve the documents on the tea table.

The camera was slanted, enabling Ning Li to see his long legs.

Lu Huaiyu then sat down on the couch with the documents in his hand.

Even though he was wearing his pajamas, it did not conceal his perfect body.

It was a normal pair of pajamas but on him, it looked more like custom-made clothes from a famous designer.

“Huh?”

Ning Li suddenly realized the pajamas looked a little familiar.

She had only gotten to see a part of it earlier and had not realized it.

Now, as she got a complete look at the pajamas, she found it familiar.

“Wait... Aren’t those the pajamas that I wore when I was in his mansion the other night?!”

Ning Li was stunned.

“Lu Huaiyu is wearing the pajamas that I wore before?!”

Chapter 150: Damn it!

Right away, she blushed again. Her face felt like it was burning hot as she stared at the pajamas.

Her face was even redder than before.

At the start of the call, she had accidentally seen the slightly wet Lu Huaiyu. He had on his pajamas, even though it was not buttoned fully.

Other than that naughty drop of water that had aroused her imagination, she had not really seen anything.

However, the situation was different now.

Ning Li put a hand on her face. She knew her face was as red as an apple even without looking in the mirror.

The shock was swiftly replaced by intense embarrassment.

She nervously moved to hang up the call but accidentally kicked the edge of her bed instead.

Thud.

The frame of her bed was made out of wood so the sound of the thud was loud and heavy.

Lu Huaiyu heard the thud as well. He looked at his phone.

He got up, the camera only showing his lower body.

Ning Li wanted to hang up but noticed Lu Huaiyu's long legs coming closer, making his pajamas appear even clearer.

She took a deep breath and tried to pull herself together.

Lu Huaiyu bent over and took a look at his phone.

"Did I not hang up?"

As he bent over, his loose pajamas exposed his wide and firm chest.

His attractive body came into Ning Li's sight without warning and caused her thoughts to blank out.

A moment later, Lu Huaiyu picked up his phone.

His handsome face appeared on the screen again, his deep and attractive eyes staring straight into the camera.

Both his chest and his eyes were branded into Ning Li's eyes.

The aura of blue blood that shone from his eyes was strong but his chest was also extremely seductive.

Both conflicting images merged together perfectly, forming an irresistible scene. It caused a feeling of calm but liveliness at the same time.

"Lili?" Lu Huaiyu said.

“Did I not hang up just now?”

Ning Li nodded stiffly.

“You could have hung up from your side,” Lu Huaiyu said with a scoff. His gaze was as calm and lazy as ever.

Ning Li did not answer. She took a deep breath and asked, “Second brother, the pajamas on you look a little familiar...”

Lu Huaiyu looked at his chest, the smile on his face remaining.

“Oh, this? Yeah, it’s the one I lent you the other day.”

He admitted it easily.

Ning Li did not know how to react to his honesty.

After a slight pause, she said, “Then why are you still wearing it?”

Lu Huaiyu found her question amusing. He grinned and said, “These are my pajamas. Why can’t I wear them?”

That was not the point! The point was that she had worn it before!

If it had been just a coat or a jacket, it would be fine but it was a pair of pajamas!

“But...”

“I thought you already washed it.”

She had washed it with her own hands and had even gone to Yunding Fenghua to return it.

Lu Huaiyu sounded so reasonable that Ning Li could not find the words to refute him.

She was dying to ask him why he had to wear this particular set of pajamas, but she did not dare to.

He had already made it clear that these were his pajamas, so why would it be a problem for him to wear them?

Besides, Lu Huaiyu was being frank and honest. If she was the one who hesitated and acted strangely, it would only look as if she was the one who was overthinking things.

‘Just let it be. Just let it be. Just let it be.’

Ning Li had to hypnotize herself in her head.

She feigned calmness and said, “It’s okay, I’m just asking. I still have work to do. I have to go.”

Before Lu Huaiyu could say a word, she hung up the phone.

Lu Huaiyu was left speechless staring at the screen.

“Little girl overthinking again.”

...

Ning Li put her phone on silent and went to do her homework.

With half a glass of water and a box of biscuits by her side, she finished a general science paper and a Mathematics paper.

In between that, she also memorized a long English essay.

Two hours later, she went to the bathroom to have a quick shower before bed.

As she was choosing her pajamas, she purposely ignored the pajamas that shared the same color as Lu Huaiyu's pajamas. She took a white one from her closet instead.

11.30 p.m.

She was on her bed, ready to sleep.

The moment she closed her eyes, the image of Lu Huaiyu's chest and eyes appeared in her mind unbidden.

The water droplet that had trickled down his jawline, his wide chest as he bent over, the pajamas that he wore; a countless number of images appeared in her head.

Frustrated, she got up.

"Damn it!"

"Why did he tell me about his brother? If he hadn't seen his phone, he could have replied tomorrow instead. Why did he call me just now? Why did it have to be a video call!?"

She got out of bed and continued studying.

...

On the second morning at school, He Xiaochen approached Ning Li with a worried look and asked, "Hey Ning Li, did you have a rough night?"

Ning Li grunted and took her things out from her bag.

A student was collecting the homework and walked past Ning Li.

Ning Li placed her homework on the stack of books in his hand.

"Homework."

The boy was shocked.

Ning Li rarely wrote out her homework because it was easy. Today, not only had she finished it but had also done extra today.

He Xiaochen was shocked.

"Ning Li! What's wrong!?"

Ning Li said evenly, "I had too much free time."

She laid her head down on the table, using her jersey as a pillow.

"Let me sleep for a while."