

Little Brat's 151

Chapter 151: Lunch Date

The teachers usually used the morning classes to discuss and talk about the homework.

Meanwhile, Ning Li slept in her seat.

A few teachers noticed her sleeping in class but everyone turned a blind eye.

She slept until the last class of the morning. When the bell rang, He Xiaochen nudged her.

“Ning Li, class is over. It’s time for lunch.”

Ning Li slowly woke up and pulled the jersey off her head.

She felt a little more refreshed. She had a look at the clock above the writing board.

It was already noon.

“Mhmm.” As she got up to go to the cafeteria with He Xiaochen, her phone lit up.

She unintentionally glanced at the screen and froze.

It was a message from Lu Huaiyu.

[I’m outside your school.”]

‘Huh? Why is he here? Oh right, the lunch date... I almost forgot about it.’

It was not usually a big deal because it was not their first time going out on a lunch date together. However, today she found it embarrassing after what had happened last night.

She felt as if she could no longer eat lunch with Lu Huaiyu like a normal person.

Ning Li froze to the spot.

He Xiaochen noticed and asked, "Ning Li, what's wrong?"

Ning Li put on her jersey. "Nothing. I'm sorry, but I have to go. I can't have lunch with you."

"Huh? You're going out? Alone?"

"No... I have a... friend."

"Oh, okay. Have fun, I'll be going to the cafeteria then."

He Xiaochen then went off without any further questions.

Ning Li went out and headed to the school entrance.

She noticed the familiar figure standing at the entrance from afar.

White shirt and black coat on the towering figure.

As though sensing her presence, he turned around to her.

They locked eyes and Ning Li blushed.

She took a deep breath and walked over.

It was lunchtime, so many students were moving in and out of the school. Many of them were staring at her.

Ning Li turned a blind eye to them and strode over to Lu Huaiyu.

“Second brother.”

Lu Huaiyu glanced at her eyes. He noticed the dark circles beneath her eyes and the slightly reddish eyes.

“Had a rough night?”

Ning Li paused. “I had a lot of homework to do last night.”

Lu Huaiyu nodded. He smiled and said, “Second High really lives up to its reputation. The midterm is over, yet they are not holding back on the homework.”

“Yeah...”

The girl looked away, feeling embarrassed. Lu Huaiyu grinned, he did not expose her on the spot.

He felt bad for her because she had not gotten enough sleep. If he made her mad, he would have to cheer her up.

He gestured with his chin. “Let’s go have lunch.”

Ning Li was surprised. “W-Where?”

“There’s a food street behind your school, right? Let’s go there.”

Lu Huaiyu said lazily, as he put his hands into his pocket.

Surprised, Ning Li asked, “The food street?”

She looked him up and down.

His outfit alone, excluding the watch, cost more or less 6 figures, yet he wanted to have street food?”

“What’s wrong? Can’t I have street food?” Lu Huaiyu raised a brow.

“I won’t take a lot of your time either.”

Ning Li thought about it. Before this, Lu Huaiyu had never cared about whether or not their date interfered with Ning Li’s time or classes.

Just the other day, he had even applied for leave on her behalf.

However, since Lu Huaiyu had already made up his mind, she simply nodded.

“Sure.”

...

The both of them went around the corner to the famous food street of Second High.

The street was not wide by any means but was filled with restaurants and stalls on both sides.

There were many students garbed in Second High uniforms walking around. Even students from Seven High could be seen there.

The fragrance of the food was enticing and the place was extremely lively.

Lu Huaiyu and Ning Li drew a lot of attention.

Ning Li was famous in Second High. Coupled with Lu Huaiyu's extraordinary presence, the duo stood out from the rest. It was hard for anyone to ignore them.

The street was rather crowded, so they were forced to walk close to each other.

She was so close to him that she grazed his coat a few times as they walked.

It was subtle and silent but she could feel her shoulder touching him.

Ning Li tried to tighten her jersey but the jersey had a loose design, so it was not working.

Lu Huaiyu did not seem to notice anything. He asked, "Which stall do you recommend?"

Ning Li said, "I've only been here a few times and tried three to four stalls, but everything was nice."

"The clay pot stall ahead and the beef noodles are good. Oh, and the steamed dumplings that we just passed by are nice as well."

Ning Li barely paid attention to the food but she had come here a few times with He Xiaochen who was a foodie.

He Xiaochen knew every local delicacy within a 5 km radius around the school.

She could rival Lin Zhouyang in terms of food hunting.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her. "Which one do you want?"

Before she could say a word, a few students walked past her. One of the girls tripped and the bowl of oden spilled in Ning Li's direction.

Ning Li's instinct was to avoid it but before she could react, she felt a tight grip on her arm as Lu Huaiyu pulled her to the side, avoiding the hot soup from the oden.

The food spilled onto the floor, the soup still steaming hot.

The students were stunned. The girl who had spilled the bowl of oden looked at Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu nervously, her face turning red.

"I'm sorry! I didn't mean it!"

Lu Huaiyu glared at her.

Ning Li tugged on his sleeve and said, "Second brother, I'm fine. Let's not do this."

The girl looked nervous and helpless.

Ning Li looked at her and said, "It's okay."

It had been an accident and the girl had even lost her bowl of oden.

Lu Huaiyu stopped glaring.

"Let's go."

As they walked away, Ning Li realized he was still holding her arm.

She was wearing the autumn uniform, so she only had a single layer of jersey on her.

Even through the jersey, Lu Huaiyu's hand enveloped her whole arm.

She felt the strong grip of his hand and the warmth of his palm.

She tried to break free. "Second brother, second brother..."

Lu Huaiyu turned around. At a glance, he knew what she wanted to say.

He paused for a moment before letting go.

"Stay close," he said.

Ning Li felt that they were already close enough but Lu Huaiyu was worried that other accidents might happen again.

She sighed and moved closer to him.

A while later, they arrived at a stall. Lu Huaiyu gestured with his chin, "Let's try this one."

Ning Li had a look at the signage. It was the same stall that she had come to with He Xiaochen the other day.

"Sure."

The two of them went in and sat opposite each other.

“Second brother, what do you want?” Ning Li passed him the menu.

Lu Huaiyu made the easiest decision of his life. “I’ll have whatever you are having.”

He saved both of them the trouble.

After placing the order, Ning Li looked at Lu Huaiyu.

Chapter 152: A Couple

The man’s looks matched his body perfectly. The laidback and nonchalant aura complemented his noble presence.

He did not fit in with the noisy street at all.

Before this, Ning Li could never have ever imagined having lunch with Lu Huaiyu in such a place.

The beef noodles were served.

Lu Huaiyu took a pair of wooden chopsticks and rubbed the little splinters away before handing them over to Ning Li.

Ning Li paused for a second before accepting the chopsticks.

“Thank you.”

Lu Huaiyu washed the cups with the hot water provided, then filled the cup with water before giving it to her.

He did everything smoothly as if it was something he did all the time.

Ning Li looked at him.

His eyes were focused on the cups and bowls. His black hair draped softly across his forehead, covering his eyebrows.

His eyelashes were long, so long that they cast shadows under his eyelids.

He was a proud man, but also had the genuine temperament of a gentleman.

A thought entered her mind.

Lu Huaiyu could win hearts easily with the slightest show of kindness. There was nothing that he was not able to get in this world.

Ning Li brushed her thoughts aside and ate her noodles.

...

After lunch, Lu Huaiyu paid the bill before they left the place.

Ning Li asked, "Second brother, are you going back now?"

Lu Huaiyu stood at the entrance and looked around.

"I'm not in a hurry. You still have an hour until your next class, am I right?"

He then pointed towards a particular direction.

“Do you wanna have ice cream?”

Ning Li looked in the direction that he pointed.

“I’m fine. Did you want some?”

Lu Huaiyu grinned.

“I saw that you posted it on your social media the other day and it looked nice.”

Ning Li thought of the post that He Xiaochen had posted.

‘Dear Ning Li...’

Her heart raced uncontrollably.

She had been overthinking since last night. If this continued, things would go out of hand fast.

It was just ice cream. Since Lu Huaiyu had come all the way here to the food street, the least she could do was accompany him to get one.

She searched her pockets and said, “Let me buy you one.”

Lu Huaiyu was slightly surprised. He went silent for a moment before he smiled.

“Okay.”

...

The dessert shop's decor was cute. The place had been designed with a warm color tone. It was not big by any means, only three tables had been set up for dine-ins. Accompanying the tables were several cute and cartoonish chairs.

Many of the students had already returned to school after lunch, so the shop was not that crowded.

Only two out of three tables had customers.

Ning Li asked, "Second brother, which flavor do you want?"

Lu Huaiyu scanned through the menu.

"The original flavor."

Ning Li nodded. "Hi, I would like one original and one mango."

The ice-creams were served after a minute.

Ning Li handed the original flavor to Lu Huaiyu.

As Lu Huaiyu took the ice cream from her, he accidentally touched her hand.

It was so electrical that it somehow made her fingers feel numb.

She looked over at Lu Huaiyu but he was looking at an empty table.

"Let's go sit down."

Ning Li held the ice cream with her other hand and put her slightly numb one in her pocket.

She followed Lu Huaiyu inside.

...

The other girls in the shop had noticed Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu as they came in. When they sat down, the whispers and gossip started.

“Woah, look at that! He’s so handsome! Is he a new teacher at Second High?”

“He doesn’t look like a teacher and the girl beside him is wearing a Second High uniform. She looks familiar... Hey, that’s Ning Li!”

“Ning Li? The one who placed first in the city?!”

“I’m sure that’s her! The most beautiful girl in Second High! Who is that man? Is he... her boyfriend? The guy even helped her with that piece of tissue. He looks so sweet and kind!”

Ning Li had only wanted to wipe the table with a tissue, but Lu Huaiyu had beat her to it. She felt embarrassed and nervous at the same time.

The girls at the other table were from Seven High and it was not unusual for them to misunderstand Ning Li.

However, the gossip slowly got out of hand.

Lu Huaiyu was not her boyfriend and they did not look like a couple!

Lu Huaiyu reacted calmly as if he did not hear the gossip.

Ning Li wanted to explain but the girls were only talking among themselves. Walking over to correct them felt inappropriate.

Fortunately, the girls left after they finished eating.

Ning Li sighed a breath of relief.

“Second brother, I’ll go take some spoons. Hold on.”

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

Ning Li went to the counter and took two spoons. As she turned around, she unintentionally glanced at the last table.

The table had one boy and one girl, both students from Second High as well.

The both of them had ordered two cups of milk tea with an opened book on the table.

The boy was sitting beside the girl, pointing at the book, and whispering something into her ears. It looked like he was teaching her something.

The girl listened before realizing something. She then uttered a number to the boy.

The boy nodded and the girl smiled. She had gotten it correct.

The boy suddenly lowered his head and kissed the girl on the cheek.

The girl blushed and jokingly punched him. She then nervously looked around.

The boy held her hands and put them inside his jersey's pockets.

Ning Li quickly turned away.

Just as she turned around, she bumped into someone.

Lu Huaiyu had been standing behind her without her knowledge, so he steadied her by holding on to her arms.

A soft chuckle came from the man. "What are you looking at? You looked so deep in thought."

Ning Li thought of the kiss. She took a step back and cleared her throat awkwardly.

"N-Nothing."

Lu Huaiyu glanced over at the table.

The boy and girl had chosen the furthest seat in order to be more inconspicuous. They thought no one had seen their interaction.

Unfortunately, it was too eye-catching.

It was clear that the boy liked the girl so much that he could not hide it.

Lu Huaiyu glanced at Ning Li and smiled.

She was not the one being kissed, so why the bashful reaction?

If it had really been her...

He turned around and tapped on the counter.

“Excuse me, can I have a glass of ice water?”

Ning Li looked at him curiously.

Lu Huaiyu reacted calmly and said, “The ice cream is a little too sweet.”

“Oh.”

Lu Huaiyu was not really a fan of sweet stuff.

Ning Li returned to the table.

It was then that someone else came into the shop.

He looked around before spotting Ning Li. His eyes sparkled as he strode over.

Ning Li felt the presence of someone else standing in front of her.

She looked up at the man.

The man smiled and got himself a chair.

“Ning Li? Hi, I’m Gu Siyang.”

The name rang a bell.

If she remembered correctly, this man was Gu Tinglan's relative.

"You might not know me but you must know my uncle, Gu Tinglan. We kinda met each other at the airport the other day. I was the one who fetched him back then but I didn't get the chance to say hi."

Ning Li nodded. "Hi."

Gu Siyang smiled.

"So, I'm here today to—"

Before he could finish, he felt chills on the back of his neck.

He turned around stiffly and saw a familiar face.

"Second Master Lu?!"

Lu Huaiyu looked at him coldly.

"Young Master Gu, you are in my seat."

Gu Siyang got up and moved to the other chair.

He said with a chuckle, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Here, here."

Lu Huaiyu glared at him coldly and walked over to sit beside Ning Li.

Gu Siyang was speechless.

'Strange. The last time I saw him, he seemed to be quite a nice guy. What's with his cold attitude today? He doesn't seem welcoming at all.'

The shop's tables were cute but rather short. With Lu Huaiyu's height, it felt awkward and a little crowded as he sat beside Ning Li.

The both of them sat next to each other.

Lu Huaiyu simply put his hands on the table. Ning Li was already feeling uncomfortable.

The man did not mind at all. He looked at Gu Siyang and asked, "Are you here for Ning Li?"

Gu Siyang nodded. "Yes. I came here today just for her. I had thought of meeting her during lunchtime so that I wouldn't disturb her. However, when I went to the school, I found that she had gone out so I followed you guys here."

Many students had witnessed Ning Li leaving with Lu Huaiyu so it had not been difficult for Gu Siyang to find out where she had gone.

However, that was not the point. The point was the purpose of Gu Siyang's visit.

If Lu Huaiyu remembered correctly, Ning Li had not met Gu Siyang before. Judging by the boy's reaction, it confirmed that this would be their first meeting.

Lu Huaiyu nodded. "Mhmm."

Gu Siyang sat down and glanced at the ice cream on the table.

"Second master, your ice cream looks delicious."

Lu Huaiyu had always been a picky eater. The fact that he could sit down with the ice cream was proof of the quality of its taste.

He turned to the counter. "Hi, I would like a caramel ice cream please."

Lu Huaiyu reacted even more coldly than before.

Gu Siyang noticed the glare, so he gave an ardent smile and said, "Second Master Lu, I'm here today on behalf of LY."

"LY?" Ning Li was surprised.

It was then Gu Siyang that remembered that he had come for Ning Li, not Lu Huaiyu. However, when the man had sat down, he had instinctively talked to him instead.

He nodded and looked at Ning Li.

"I believe Ji Shu told you about the offer? At first, I thought that since you guys are close, he could ask for your opinion but..."

Ning Li had rejected Ji Shu's offer which had forced Gu Siyang to meet her himself.

Gu Siyang put on a serious look.

"I saw the video of you racing at Xiaosong Hill and I could see that you are talented with a lot of potential. The management of LY also shares the same thought, so here I am. I am here to tell you about LY's stand and to show you our sincerity. If you say yes, the terms would be yours to determine."

Gu Siyang was being sincere.

Given LY's status, it was every racers' dream to be accepted by them, but only a handful were able to realize their dreams.

In Ning Li's case, LY had virtually lowered themselves and offered Ning Li a blank cheque.

If this got out, many people would be jealous of Ning Li.

Ning Li looked at him. She did not reply immediately. Instead, she asked something that concerned her.

"May I know what your position in LY is?"

Gu Siyang blinked and smiled. "I have some shares in LY."

He was a well-known playboy to most, but he kept a low profile about his involvement in LY.

Only a handful of people knew that he was a shareholder in LY.

Telling Ning Li the secret was also a show of his sincerity.

Ning Li was surprised. "I see..."

She knew LY had three major shareholders and she had had contact with the other two before. She had never met the last one before and had no idea who it was.

She had not expected it to be Gu Siyang.

After some thought, it made sense. Only the Gu family had what it took to be involved with LY.

Gu Siyang looked at her with an intrigued gaze.

Ning Li shook her head. "I'm sorry, I am not planning to be a racer."

Gu Siyang widened his eyes in shock.

He believed he was being sincere. Not only had he revealed his identity, but he had also even allowed Ning Li to name the terms.

What else could be more attractive than that?

Why would Ning Li reject the offer so quickly?

With a nonchalant look on her face and the calmness in her eyes, she looked like she was merely rejecting someone distributing fliers on the street.

Perhaps she had no idea what Gu Siyang's promise meant, or how much it weighed.

Gu Siyang was astonished.

Ning Li added, "I'm in the Physics competition and the entrance exam is in a few months. Thank you, Mr. Gu, but I can't take the offer."

She sounded firm and calm.

Gu Siyang was not a spoiled brat. As a part of the Gu family, he had received the best education since he had been young.

His negotiation skills were not to be doubted. It was he who had boosted LY to its current status.

However, he was helpless against Ning Li. He felt like his efforts meant nothing to her.

He could tell from Ning Li's eyes that she knew what the promise meant and that she understood what she had just turned down.

Despite knowing of the potentially bright future, she had turned it down without a second thought.

"Is the entrance exam and the Physics competition that important? Ning Li, I know you are good at your studies. If you want, you could apply to the best university in any other country. Why the persistence?"

Gu Siyang was baffled.

There were a million paths that she could take, but she insisted on taking the most orthodox one.

Ning Li grinned. "It's actually quite important to me."

Maybe to others, it was merely a way of life. However, to her, both the competition and the entrance exam were regrets from her past life.

She had not completed either of them, so now, she wanted to make it up to herself.

It meant more to her than just passing with flying colors or getting first place.

She wanted to walk this path again with her own strength and wash away the stains on her life.

Lu Huaiyu contemplated her with a meaningful look.

He had known from the start that Ning Li was an opinionated person.

She loved astrophysics and wanted to go to Xijing University. Even when she was isolated and misunderstood by the Ye family, she did not try to argue because she knew she was not part of that family.

She had never placed any hope on empty promises. Instead, she tended to cherish everything about herself.

She knew her own likes and dislikes.

Therefore, she had always been resolute and determined in all of her decisions. It felt as if she had planned everything in advance.

Gu Siyang had thought Ning Li would be persuaded.

Ning Li's talent was unquestionable and joining LY was the biggest dream for any racer out there.

However, Ning Li had decided to become a student instead of a racer.

"If you insist, then I have nothing else to say. I respect your decision." Gu Siyang sighed.

The ice cream was served. He shoved a big spoonful into his mouth.

Ning Li smiled. "Thank you."

Gu Siyang had a spoonful of his ice cream when he suddenly had a thought.

"Wait!"

Chapter 154: Milk Candy

He looked at Ning Li with bright eyes.

“If you are busy with the entrance exam, why don’t you think about it after the exam? I can wait until you are finished with your exams and competition. What do you say?”

Ning Li realized then that Gu Siyang was a very persistent person.

However, his suggestion did sound feasible.

“I heard LY only signs a few racers a year. If you give me the slot now, what will happen if you meet someone better next year?”

“We’ll just sign everyone!” Gu Siyang smiled brightly.

“What LY lacks is not money, it’s you!”

Lu Huaiyu stared at him.

Chills ran down Gu Siyang’s spine again.

He crossed his arms and looked around suspiciously.

‘What was wrong with the temperature in this place? Was the aircon faulty?’

Ning Li considered his suggestion. She did not say yes but did not reject him either.

LY was making a big concession for her and that was something that rarely happened.

By next year, it would be possible for her to spare some time to join LY, but...

Gu Siyang looked at her.

“Ning Li, do you have any other concerns? I spot some hesitation in your eyes.”

Lu Huaiyu had a sip of water. He had a hunch about Ning Li’s concerns.

Ning Haizhou’s accident was a hurdle for her. On top of that, there was also that incident...

He closed his eyes and cast the chaotic thoughts from his mind.

Ning Li then said, “I’m sorry. I can’t give you an immediate answer. Let’s wait until I finish my exams. If you are still interested, we can talk then.”

It was not the answer Gu Siyang was hoping for but at least there was still some room to turn this around. It was better than a resolute rejection.

He knew when to stop.

“Great. It’s settled then. There’s only one thing that I want you to know: whenever you do make up your mind, please consider LY as your first choice.”

He did not want any other racing clubs to snatch up his Goddess of Victory.

He put his hands together and said, “Please? For the sake of my uncle?”

Lu Huaiyu scoffed.

He had no idea that Gu Tinglan had already talked to Ning Li about this.

Gu Siyang snuck a peek at Lu Huaiyu.

‘What is he laughing at? Me? Do I look bad for being this persistent?? Wait, it shouldn’t be...’

Before he had come, Gu Tinglan had advised him to not be overly persistent. Thus, he had been holding himself back since then.

Ning Li nodded. “Okay.”

Her answer pulled Gu Siyang back from his thoughts.

He bolted up happily and said, “Thank you! Thank you! I really hope we can work together in the future! This is on me today!”

Before Ning Li could say a word, he went to the counter to pay for everything.

Ning Li was speechless.

Lu Huaiyu put his glass down on the table.

Thud!

He glanced at his watch.

“It’s time for class.”

Ning Li looked at the watch and said, “Yeah.”

“Let’s go back.”

Lu Huaiyu got up and walked to the exit.

Just as the two of them reached the exit, Gu Siyang finished settling the bill. He turned around and saw them leaving.

“Eh? Are you going back to class? Oh, then let’s talk another day—”

Lu Huaiyu suddenly said, “I remember something that I left out during our meeting the other day. Since you are here today, let’s walk together.”

Gu Siyang was stunned for a moment.

‘The other day? Unfinished business? I don’t remember... Did I forget? Or is it something related to uncle?’

He glanced at the pair and said, “Sure.”

...

Lu Huaiyu and Gu Siyang sent Ning Li back to school.

After she disappeared from Lu Huaiyu’s sight, Lu Huaiyu turned to Gu Siyang.

Gu Siyang smiled as he said, “Second master, what is it that you want to talk about? Something that you left out the other day?”

Lu Huaiyu grinned. “I bet LY has earned a lot for you over the past few years. Am I right?”

Gu Siyang laughed and waved his hands. “I’m just fooling around. I’m no match for you, second master.”

He was not being humble, he was just stating the truth.

While he was still in Jingcheng, he had literally always run onto Lu Huaiyu's turf.

He was shocked when he found out that Lu Huaiyu had countless properties in the capital.

He did not even go to the same places repeatedly, yet everywhere he went, Lu Huaiyu had property there.

Lu Huaiyu said, "I have a little business proposal for you."

...

Ning Li reached her classroom 10 minutes before the next class.

She reached into her pocket for her phone to put it in the desk but found something else there instead.

She paused for a moment before taking it out.

A piece of milk candy.

'Is this from Lu Huaiyu? But when? I didn't even know...'

She tried to recall when Lu Huaiyu could have slipped the candy in.

Back at the dessert shop, she had taken her jersey off for a while as she was ordering at the counter.

He must have slipped it inside then.

“Oh, Ning Li, did you bring candy back?”

He Xiaochen was rather surprised.

“Do you like this flavor?”

Ning Li looked at the round milky candy. She nodded. “Yes, I like it.”

A piece of paper was placed on her desk.

She looked up and saw Pei Song beside her with a stack of papers.

He must have just come back from outside.

“A mock paper from Mr. Zhou.”

Pei Song was as succinct as ever, with a cold expression on his face.

The preliminary for the Physics competition was around the corner and things got tense during the competitive Physics class.

Ning Li nodded. She put away the candy and took the paper.

Pei Song had a glimpse of the candy that she had kept away.

“You’re welcome.”

He then distributed the papers to the rest of the students who were in the competitive Physics class.

Chapter 155: Great

Ye Ci also got the paper from Pei Song.

Her face twitched uncontrollably when she saw the questions on the paper.

“Mr. Zhou said he would talk about this paper tomorrow night,” Pei Song said.

“Okay.”

It would mean Ye Ci had to finish the paper before tomorrow night.

She took a deep breath and looked at the rest of the paper. She soon realized that this paper was much harder than those that she had done before.

The first question required a lot of calculation.

As she scanned through the paper, a bad feeling arose from her heart.

She would need at least 3 hours to finish the paper. More importantly, there were a few questions that she could not understand.

The thought of her midterm results almost gave her a headache.

Cheng Xiangxiang noticed the bitter look on her face. She asked, “What’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?”

Ye Ci forced a smile. “I’m okay.”

The preliminary competition was around the corner and she could not drop out of the competitive Physics class now.

She turned around to Ning Li.

...

Competitive Physics class.

After Zhou Feng had explained everything on the paper, he tapped on the writing board.

“The preliminary competition is next week and will be held across the entire province. The venue will be our own school, so all the other participants will come here. If you manage to get a prize in the preliminary round, you might be able to get extra credit for your entrance exam. You guys know what you need to do.”

The students were excited at the news.

“After the preliminary round, the top 5 students will be selected to represent our province to join the national finals. The selected students will be sent to the training camp in Jingcheng for two weeks. The finals will be held in March of next year.”

Zhou Fei scanned the whole class and stopped in a particular direction.

He said with a smile, “If any of you manages to get the gold or silver prize in the finals, you will have the privilege of choosing the best universities in the country.”

The students were more excited than ever.

This was the ultimate prize that every student in the class was aiming for.

They studied hard just for that letter from the university.

In other words, joining the competition was a shortcut but not everyone would receive it.

Only they themselves knew how difficult it was.

“That’s all for today. Go home and study what I taught today. It might come out during the preliminary round. Class dismissed.”

...

Ning Li carried her bag and went out.

Ye Ci clenched her teeth before going after her.

“Sister Ning Li, I have a problem with one of the questions. Could you help me with it when we get home?”

They were at the entrance of the classroom and Ning Li had not even stepped out of class.

The other students were packing up their stuff but when they overheard Ye Ci, everyone looked at them.

It was strange for Ye Ci to take the initiative and ask Ning Li for help.

They might both be sisters in name and even living under the same roof, but after spending some time with the two of them, everyone knew that they were more like enemies than sisters.

At first, Ye Ci had tried to be a caring little sister but Ning Li had not accepted her kind gestures.

However, everyone gradually noticed something was wrong with Ye Ci as well.

Ever since she had hinted that Ning Li had not wanted to lend her study notes, many people had hated Ning Li for it. They had even called her selfish.

In the end, it was revealed that Ning Li had never even taken notes for anything.

Moreover, Ye Ci had not even asked for it.

The others had misunderstood Ning Li and even mocked her behind her back, but Ye Ci had not even tried to defend her sister.

Henceforth, the other students then changed their opinions of both Ning Li and Ye Ci.

Ye Ci knew what had happened, so she tried not to talk to Ning Li about school or homework.

So, what has happened now? What had gotten into Ye Ci?

Ning Li looked at Ye Ci.

Ye Ci showed the same smile with a hint of caution, she was afraid that Ning Li would reject her.

She always looked beautiful and pure with an extremely alluring smile, which gave her an innocent and harmless appearance. It was a smile that no one could say no to.

Ning Li had seen this smile of hers a countless number of times in her past life.

Ye Ci always showed up with the same smile.

“Sister Ning Li, I don’t understand this.”

“Sister Ning Li, I didn’t mean to take your things.”

“Sister Ning Li, I didn’t mean to do it, please forgive me. If people found out about me, I’d be finished!”

...

In the end, she was the one who had gotten expelled for cheating in her exam.

Her titles had been taken away from her, her efforts left in ruins and she had gotten locked up in the end.

She was the one whose life had truly ended.

Ye Ci never once left the spotlight.

The pure and innocent image was never tainted, not even with the slightest stain.

Ye Ci felt nervous when she saw Ning Li’s stare. For some reason, she even started to feel fearful.

Ning Li’s charming eyes were as clear as ice and it sent chills down Ye Ci’s spine. It felt as if she was able to see through Ye Ci’s thoughts.

As Ye Ci’s heart started pounding, Ning Li curved her lips into a smile.

“Sure.”

Ye Ci was stunned. She had not expected Ning Li to agree to it so easily.

She had thought that she would put Ning Li in a difficult position by asking her in front of the rest of the class.

She knew Ning Li had never really liked her.

She knew Ning Li had only agreed to teach her because of Geng Haifan.

If Ning Li rejected her, everyone would know how selfish her sister was. Even if Ning Li said yes, it would still be a reluctant answer.

Regardless of which, she would be able to put Ning Li in a difficult situation.

However, she had not expected Ning Li to react so calmly as if teaching her was no big deal.

The others had not expected Ning Li's answer either.

Ning Li then added nonchalantly, "Oh, I've already asked Mr. Zhou for all three of your papers. I've made a summary of all the mistakes you made and the blindspots that tripped you up. I'll bring them to you later."

The class was silenced.

Ye Ci's smile froze on her face.

"Mr. Geng made it clear. He wanted me to help you so that you can do better in your next exam," Ning Li said evenly.

The other students looked at Ye Ci.

They knew Ye Ci's results had been poor in her midterm. Now it seemed as if the cause was because of the competitive Physics class.

If this class was a burden, why did she insist on continuing?

Given her previous results, as long as she could maintain her performance, she could still ace the midterm. Why had she joined the competitive Physics class?

And now, she wanted Ning Li to tutor her in such detail?

Ye Ci felt as if she had been slapped in the face.

Ning Li had said she would tutor Ye Ci but every word that came out from her mouth had only reminded everyone of Ye Ci's poor results.

The more Ye Ci tried, the more incapable she looked.

However, she had started this first and Ning Li's answer was flawless.

Thus, she endured the insult and forced a smile on her face.

"Thank you, Sister Ning Li."

Chapter 156: I Am Going To Give The Ye Family A Gift

At night, when the two girls returned to the mansion, Ning Li handed Ye Ci a notebook.

Ye Ci opened it to see a summary of 10 questions and the mistakes that she had made. All her weak spots were clearly stated.

Attached below the summary were the answers and steps.

Although the steps looked rather unusual because they skipped some of the unnecessary steps, they were a lot clearer than Zhou Fei's explanation.

If she could spend some time memorizing the tips, she would be able to solve most of the questions.

Ye Ci furrowed her brows as she looked through the notebook.

‘What was Ning Li’s intention here?’

Knock, knock.

Su Yuan came in with freshly cut fruits.

“Lil Ci, how’s your studying going? Come, take a break.”

Ye Ci smiled and shook her head. “I’m okay, mom.”

Su Yuan put the plate of fruits down. She glanced at the notebook in her daughter’s hand and was surprised.

“Whose notes are these? It’s so beautifully written.”

The smile on Ye Ci’s face faded a bit but she quickly recovered from it.

“Oh, this is from Sister Ning Li.”

Su Yuan was also embarrassed for a moment.

All these years, Su Yuan had been the one inspecting Ye Ci’s homework and exam papers. She was the one who signed the report cards after exams, so she had known based on the writing that the notebook was not Ye Ci’s.

However, she had not expected it to be from Ning Li.

She realized that Ning Li had never shown her any of her homework or results ever since her arrival. Ning Li's writing was not recognizable to her at all.

Ye Ci said softly, "It's nice."

Su Yuan tucked her hair behind her ear awkwardly and asked, "Why is her notebook here?"

Ye Ci paused. "This is the notebook that Sister Ning Li prepared for me."

The mixed feelings in her grew as she told her mother. It felt like she was admitting to her own inferiority.

She felt terrible but it was a fact.

Even if she kept it a secret, Su Yuan would find out sooner or later.

It would be better for her to be honest in front of her mother.

Su Yuan was shocked. "Ning Li?"

She then remembered that she had asked Ning Li to help Ye Ci before. Geng Haifan had also told her that Ning Li had agreed to help Ye Ci.

She had not really put high hopes in it because of Ning Li's attitude, but now...

The shock was soon replaced by delight.

No matter what, Ning Li's results were undeniably good.

If she was willing to help, Ye Ci would surely benefit from it.

“Great. I was worried that she would not help but it seems like everything’s better now.”

Su Yuan patted Ye Ci’s head emotionally.

“Ning Li and I have had some misunderstandings and she bears a grudge. I’m sorry that it has affected you, but now it seems like with time, things are getting better. We are family, after all. Am I right, Lil Ci?”

Ye Ci felt as if a sharp thorn had poked her in the heart.

She and Ye Cheng were considered half-siblings even though they had different mothers, but what was Ning Li to her?

Ning Li had a useless father whose hands were tainted with blood. Like father, like daughter, Ning Li herself was not entirely a good person either.

Ye Ci suddenly hugged Su Yuan and nuzzled up against her shoulder.

“Thank you mom, I promise I’ll do better in the next exam.”

Su Yuan felt tickled by her.

“It’s okay, Lil Ci. You’re so grown up now, yet you’re still so ‘sticky’ with your mom. You go ahead and continue with your studies, I’ll leave you be.”

Ye Ci looked at Su Yuan and said, “Mom, I would like to have tomato brisket tomorrow.”

Aunt Zhao was the family’s cook so Su Yuan rarely went into the kitchen, but since Ye Ci had asked for it, she could not reject the request.

Su Yuan's thoughts about Ning Li faded after Ye Ci had asked to be pampered. She patted Ye Ci's head before leaving the room.

Ye Ci then looked at the notebook.

If she had had other options, she would never have accepted the notebook from Ning Li. However, she really wanted to do well in the Physics competition and prove to others that she was as good as Ning Li.

Therefore, even though she hated it, she had to read the notes.

...

The next morning, Ye Ming joined his family for breakfast, which was rare considering how busy he usually was.

Both Ye Ci and Ye Cheng were happy.

"Dad, you've been busy lately. It's been a while since we've had a meal together."

Ye Ci sounded like she was blaming her father for neglecting her but it was merely an indulgent tone.

Ye Ming smiled happily and said, "Work has been a little busy at the company lately. I'm sorry that I've neglected you for so long. When I'm done with work, I promise you I will spend some time together."

Su Yuan was in a great mood today as well.

She felt that Ning Li had changed somehow and Ye Ci could return to her best form soon.

Other than Ye Cheng, whose results were still worrying, everything else was great.

Ye Cheng tended to behave himself in front of his father.

This breakfast was the most peaceful one she had had in months.

She refilled Ye Ming's bowl with porridge and asked, "Are you still working on the Qinghe Bridge project?"

Ning Li's hands froze when she heard the name Qinghe Bridge.

Ye Ming nodded.

"Yeah. That place is good. If we can develop it properly, it will have great potential in the future."

Qinghe Bridge was located in the suburbs of Yunzhou. It was undeveloped natural land and its geographical location was connected to at least three neighboring cities.

Transportation there was convenient, with a superior location.

Ye Ming planned to develop it into a resort village.

Su Yuan asked, "If you say so, it will be fine. But I heard the Ji family plans to get the place as well."

As a matter of fact, not only the Ye family but other wealthy organizations, including the Ji family, also had their eyes on the natural land.

Bidding for the land would start soon and whoever got the land would surely make a huge profit.

The competition was fierce but Ye Ming was determined to get it.

“The Ji family is short on funds lately, so they are basically out of the game.”

Ye Ming sounded resolute with a hint of disdain.

Ning Li finished her porridge quietly.

...

At school, the morning self-learning session started as usual.

Ning Li went to the toilet and messaged Null.

[The bidding for Qinghe Bridge will start this Friday. Try to get a hold of the Ji family’s bidding price and leak it to the Ye family.]

Null replied almost instantly. [Did Ji Shu make you angry?]

The bidding for Qinghe Bridge was the hottest topic among the upper social circle of Yunzhou. He had heard that the Ji family and the Ye family were fighting for that land.

Ning Li’s order was rather confusing. If she leaked the price to the Ye family, the Ji family would be out of the game before it had even ended.

[Is the Ye family that good to you? Besides, this is classified business information. How can I get my hands on the information?]

[You don’t need to investigate, I have it all with me.]

[You mean you are going to investigate it yourself? Wait, what are you trying to do?]

Ning Li grinned.

[I want to give the Ye family a huge present.]

The Ye family must get the project in Qinghe Bridge.

Chapter 157: Unfortunate

Null finally realized what was happening.

[Is there a problem with the land?]

Ning Li's answer was vague.

[You will know soon.]

It was not just a problem, it was a disaster.

Qinghe Bridge was situated at the intersection of three cities. Its geographical location was perfect.

If the Ye family could build a resort village there, they would make a huge profit.

However, that would only happen if the Ye family could finish the project and open it to the public.

However, the reality was that underneath the land where Qinghe Bridge was situated, there was an ancient tomb buried in it.

It was not just one tomb though, but a widely connected group of tombs.

The tombs belonged to ancient royalty, so it was huge.

The discovery of the tombs would fill the void of history and would be vital to archeological development.

Therefore, the government would order for the project to cease.

If that happened, all the initial investment in the land would go down the drain. No objections would be accepted because it was a government order.

In her past life, the Ji family had gotten the project.

She did not even have to investigate because she already knew the bidding price from the Ji family.

It was because of this issue that the Ji family had suffered a huge financial setback. That had given Ye Ming a huge opportunity to take advantage of the situation. He even forced the Ji family into a dead-end later.

Ning Li had always been a person who repaid the slightest favor with all she had.

The Ye family was 'kind' to her, so she ought to do her best to help the Ye family profit.

It would be a waste if the Ye family could not get the Qinghe Bridge project.

Null did not press on the topic.

[Ok. But do you want to inform Ji Shu about this?]

The Ji family was involved after all.

Ning Li sighed.

[No. He just signed with LY. Let's keep him out of this.]

Even if the Ji family lost the bidding, they would only lose one project. It would not do any actual damage to the family. At most, they would only suffer a small financial loss for the next few months.

A few months later when the tomb would be discovered, they would be the ones laughing at the Ye family.

[Ok. I heard LY wants to sign you but you rejected it?]

[I'm busy with my entrance exam.]

A flawless reason indeed.

Null replied briefly, [As long as you are happy. Shrug.]

Ning Li put her phone away. Just when she was about to go out, she heard a familiar voice.

"Huihui, are you just going to let this go?"

Ning Li paused. She could tell that the voice belonged to one of the two girls who had tried to trap her in the janitor's room with Sun Huihui.

Frustrated, Sun Huihui said, "What else can I do? It's done! Should I trick Ning Li into going into the janitor's room again? Why would she believe me again?"

"But you... You got locked up for a night and almost got punished by the school. Look at her now..."

Sun Huihui scoffed. "She's in the spotlight now! First place in the city! Even the school looks at her differently now! They know Ning Li locked me up in the janitor's room, yet I'm the one who is suffering, while she continues to roam free!"

She felt aggrieved and was rather unwilling to let this matter go. She was angry and frustrated but there was nothing else she could do.

"The girl with the good score is always right. The school is just going to cover it up for her. What can I do?" she said.

The girl sighed. "I know, right? She tried to push someone down the rail, yet the school pretends that nothing happened. She's a scary one. I heard that she's giving a speech at the assembly next Monday."

Sun Huihui made a noise as if she was retching. "Her? Giving a speech under the flag?"

"Forget about it. It's just not your day."

Sun Huihui clenched her teeth. She had been fine before her friend mentioned Ning Li but now, she was all riled up.

It was because of this that she had almost been punished by the school and had been scolded by her mother at home.

She even lost her status in the class. It was torturous, especially for a girl like her.

Suddenly, she thought of something and said, "Oh right, Lil Xuan, I remember you know some guys outside of school, right?"

The girl known as Lil Xuan said, "Yeah, what's up?"

Some thoughts later, Sun Huihui said, "Can you do me a favor?"

The two of them talked for a while before leaving the toilet.

The toilet was peaceful again. After a while, Ning Li came out.

She looked at her phone.

“Those girls can really talk...”

She raised a brow and went back to class.

...

Friday arrived in the blink of an eye.

At night, Ning Li received a call from Ji Shu after dinner.

She went to a quiet corner and answered the phone.

Before she could say a word, Ji Shu’s excitement surprised her.

“Sister Lili, I’ve finally signed with LY! The contract is sealed!”

He had been busy verifying the contract and negotiating the terms with LY for the past few days. He had also gotten a lawyer to oversee things and make sure things were progressing legally.

Even though he was generally an unbridled person and disliked being chained down, he was thorough when he was serious, hence the delay in the signing.

Ning Li chuckled. “Really? Congratulations.”

Even through the phone, she could feel Ji Shu's overflowing excitement.

It was his dream and he had realized it.

Ji Shu happily talked to Ning Li about a few things.

Ning Li listened and then asked, "Do your parents know about this?"

Ji Shu shrugged. "They know but they lost the bidding for a project today, so they are not feeling too happy right now."

His parents disliked him racing but he liked it. Since they were unable to convince him otherwise, they had compromised.

They did not understand what signing with LY meant. They simply took it as just another one of their son's frivolous ideas.

To them, the project of Qinghe Bridge was more important than Ji Shu signing to LY.

Ning Li smiled. "Oh, I see... Too bad."

Chapter 158: It Should Be A Happy Day

Ji Shu was not really concerned.

He was not interested in his family business. It was just one project. Even if his parents missed one, there would be another.

There was no end to earning money.

He would rather spend his time and effort on the things he liked.

“Sister Lili, let’s have a celebration dinner tonight, at Ignite. Will you come?”

Ignite was a bar that Ji Shu owned with several of his friends. He would have gatherings there from time to time.

Ning Li had been in Lincheng before this, so he never really invited her to any gatherings.

Even after she had come to Yunzhou, she was usually busy with her school work. Her aim was to be the best, so Ji Shu tried not to disturb her.

He could not hold back his excitement today, so he tried his luck.

Ning Li looked up to the sky outside the window.

Yunzhou’s night sky in the autumn was dark and quiet with glittering stars garnishing the darkness.

She smiled. “Sure, but no drinks.”

Ji Shu was surprised. He snapped his fingers and said, “Don’t worry, Sister Lili! Those rascals are scared of you now. They will never try to drink with you anymore! Just promise you will show up! Where do you want me to pick you up from later?”

He cleared his throat and continued, “It’s been a while since those rascals have seen you. They miss you.”

Ning Li knew who he was referring to.

“Sure. Just drive your car and we can go there together.”

She looked happy.

“Yeah, it should be a great night today.”

...

There was no competitive Physics class that night, so Ning Li spent the night studying in class like everyone else.

The class was quiet, only the flipping of pages and writing could be heard.

He Xiaochen was listening to an English passage with her earphones as she took notes.

Ning Li was reading the book that she had borrowed from Lu Huaiyu.

She had actually finished it a long time ago but had not had a chance to return it yet.

There were a few passages that she liked, so she had read the book a few more times.

Halfway through the book, she sighed.

She should have borrowed the original version as well.

This book that she was reading was a Chinese version and although the translations were quite accurate, it was still slightly off compared to the original text.

She should be more careful next time.

...

Sun Huihui had a quick glance at Ning Li.

She breathed a sigh of relief when she saw that Ning Li was studying.

She tapped on Ye Ci's chair.

Ye Ci turned around and asked, "What's wrong, Huihui?"

"Lil Ci, can I... borrow your English notes?"

Ye Ci nodded.

Among all the subjects, English and literature were considered the easiest to Ye Ci.

Ye Ci's handwriting was beautiful, so many students regularly asked to borrow her English notes to make photocopies.

She took her notebook out from the desk and gave it to Sun Huihui.

"Here."

Sun Huihui accepted it with two hands.

"Thank you. I'll photocopy it at the printing shop later and give it back to you."

"It's okay, you can take your time."

“No, no, there’s an English class tomorrow. Why don’t you accompany me to the printing shop later? It won’t take long,” Sun Huihui insisted.

Ye Ci turned her down. “It’s okay. My driver is coming to pick me up later. I’m going back with Sister Ning Li.”

Sun Huihui pouted.

“Then... you can just tell her to wait for you in the car. It’s just a short walk. I’m sure she can walk to the car herself.”

Ye Ci suddenly realized something.

She looked at Sun Huihui and noticed something unusual in the girl’s sparkling gaze.

She had a hunch about what the girl was trying to do.

A moment later, she smiled. “Okay, I’ll go to the printing shop with you. I think Sister Ning Li won’t mind.”

Sun Huihui breathed a sigh of relief. She smiled and said, “Thank you, Lil Ci.”

When Ye Ci turned around, Cheng Xiangxiang glanced over at Sun Huihui before writing on a piece of paper and handing it to Ye Ci.

[Lil Ci, no one wants to talk to her now. Why are you being so kind to her?]

Sun Huihui had been one of her friends but after what happened, the girl had been isolated.

She came from an average family. Even though she had a decent lifestyle compared to most normal folks, the difference between her compared to Ye Ci or Cheng Xiangxiang was like heaven and earth.

Cheng Xiangxiang had never really accepted Sun Huihui into her friend circle. If they could have clicked, they would have talked more. However, they had never had a real connection, especially after the incident that had ruined the girl's reputation.

Everyone had distanced themselves from her.

However, Ye Ci still chose to talk to her and lend her the English notes.

Ye Ci smiled without answering.

Cheng Xiangxiang rolled her eyes.

[You are being too nice to Ning Li and to Sun Huihui! None of them will appreciate your kindness!]

Ye Ci paused for a moment, she then whispered, "Sister Ning Li is kind to me now. Look, she even wrote notes for me."

She then showed Cheng Xiangxiang the notes that she had put inside her desk.

Cheng Xiangxiang did not want to see it. She would not understand it anyway.

"Who knows what's going on in her mind? Maybe she wrote the wrong answers to mislead you and make you fail!"

Ye Ci tugged on Cheng Xiangxiang's arm.

"Shh, she didn't."

At first, she had had the same concerns so she had done some research about the answers. She then realized that the notes that Ning Li had given her were all correct and precise.

She still had an uneasy feeling, but since she could not determine the cause, she simply put it aside.

Since she already got the notes, it would be a waste if she did not use them to her own advantage and the insults she endured would be in vain.

Cheng Xiangxiang thought Ye Ci was being too kind. If she continued to be this kind to Ning Li, she might end up being overwhelmed by Ning Li without realizing it.

“Fine. I’ll follow you guys later.”

She did not trust Sun Huihui either, so she felt she had to tag along to protect her friend.

Ye Ci smiled and nodded. It would be great if Cheng Xiangxiang could come along.

...

After the night of self-learning class, the students left the classroom.

Ye Ci went to Ning Li with her bag.

“Sister Ning Li, Xiangxiang and I are going to the printing shop with Huihui. I might be late, so please tell Uncle Zhao.”

Ning Li glanced at Sun Huihui.

Sun Huihui was looking at her as well.

When she noticed Ning Li's gaze, she nervously looked away and pretended to keep her things.

Ning Li nodded.

"Sure."

...

Ning Li exited the school and walked to the right.

The area around the gate was crowded after school, so no private cars were allowed to park there.

Parents and drivers would have to park in the next street for pickup.

After a while, Ning Li could sense that someone was following her.

She was still walking among other students, yet she noticed an unusual presence.

She continued on as if nothing was amiss.

Then, she quickly turned into a secluded alleyway.

Beside the school was a residential area and there were many tiny and secluded alleyways.

Some of the students would go this way because it was faster but fewer during the night.

Halfway through the alleyway, Ning Li stopped.

Chapter 159: Nicely Shot

The footsteps behind her stopped as well.

“Ning Li?”

Someone scornfully called out her name.

Ning Li turned around and saw three guys and two girls.

All of them were in their 20s and seemed to be part of a gang.

The guys had tattoos on them and the two girls wore heavy makeup and provocative clothing.

When the guys saw Ning Li’s face, they reacted in surprise.

From the back, all they could see was that she was tall and slender even though she wore a loose jersey. With a clearer look at her face, the guys were stunned by her beauty.

The other two girls reacted bitterly.

The girl on the left had on a studded leather jacket and a cigarette in her hand.

She said, “You’re Ning Li? Do you know why we are here?”

Ning Li said calmly, “To teach me a lesson?”

The group was stunned by Ning Li’s straightforwardness.

“You’re quite bright.”

Ning Li said, "Before we start, at least tell me who I offended this time."

The guy in the center scoffed.

"Don't you know who you offended?"

Ning Li tilted her head. "I'm sorry, I lost count. I don't know which unlucky bastard it is this time, so please let me know. At least I'll know who's trying to take revenge on me."

The group was stunned once again.

They had not expected Ning Li to be this arrogant.

"If you can't remember, that's on you. But as guys, we don't usually hit girls. I'll let these two take care of you."

The girl with the studded leather jacket scoffed.

"I just did my nails today. It would be a waste to slap her with this."

She looked at Ning Li and turned on her phone camera.

"How about this? You kneel and slap yourself 10 times, say you are sorry, and then we can let you go. How about that?"

The small group ridiculed her.

"Miaomiao, you are always the brightest one."

Ning Li scoffed. "That's it?"

She then pulled her bag off her shoulder and held it in her hand.

The others laughed at her.

“What are you going to do with that, little girl? Are you going to fight us? Look at you, I don’t think that’s a good idea.”

Ning Li smiled. “Oh don’t get me wrong, I’m not going to fight you.”

She then turned around and called out loudly, “Are you guys done?”

The guys and girls in the gang were stunned once more.

A few young men suddenly entered from the other end of the alleyway.

“Hahaha, Sister Lili. We were just getting to the good part. Can’t we enjoy it a little longer?”

A few guys appeared wearing trendy clothes, unlike those who had stopped Ning Li. It was obvious that they were from wealthy families.

The guy in the center wore a pair of black pants and a denim jacket. He was a handsome guy who was tall and slender, with tousled grayish-silver hair.

He strutted with a confidence that complemented his wild and unbridled presence.

He smiled as he came closer. The other guys excitedly came forward and greeted Ning Li happily.

“Sister Lili!”

“Sister Lili!”

“Sister Lili!”

Ji Shu aimed a kick at his friends.

“Can’t you rascals speak properly? Are you asking for a beating?”

The guys jokingly avoided his kick.

“Come on, it’s been a while since we saw Sister Lili.”

Ning Li was surprised by their passionate entrance. “Calm down, guys.”

They laughed and joked around.

The scene stunned the guys and girls who had stopped Ning Li.

“What’s going on here? Did you call for help?”

The girl known as Miaomiao seemed surprised.

Those guys were not from any gang but based on their looks and attire, they were obviously from wealthy and powerful backgrounds.

A few lowly street gangsters could not afford to mess with them.

They had thought Ning Li was new in Yunzhou and would not have any connections, but Ji Shu’s arrival had proved them wrong.

Ji Shu ran a hand through his hair and strutted closer.

“Kneeling and 10 slaps sounds like child’s play.”

He was looking at the girl but directing his question to Ning Li.

Ning Li walked to the side. She put her bag down on the stairs and sat down.

“It’s okay. She just had her nails done, let’s not waste it.”

“Okay.”

Ji Shu cracked his fingers.

He then took his phone out and started recording.

“What a coincidence, we don’t hit women either. Why don’t you guys do it yourself? Come on, we are in a hurry.”

Ji Shu’s arrogance surprised them.

The guy in the center bellowed, “What the f*ck are you doing? Do you know who I am?”

Ji Shu glanced at him.

“I don’t want you to hurt Sister Lili’s ears with your filthy words, so you can save it. Of course, if you insist on saying it, I can escort you to the police station.”

He grinned menacingly.

“You can choose any police station in Yunzhou.”

It was then that the gang realized that Ji Shu was not just anyone.

The girl who had been quiet covered her mouth in shock.

“You’re... Ji Shu?”

Ji Shu looked at his watch.

“You guys have 3 minutes left.”

He admitted his identity indirectly.

The gang members reacted bitterly.

If they were to fight Ji Shu head-on, they would surely lose because Ji Shu and his friends outnumbered them.

Moreover, they could not afford to mess with Ji Shu either.

“10...”

Ning Li suddenly started counting down.

“9...”

The girl who had remained quiet so far knelt down and slapped herself.

"I'm sorry, Master Ji, Ning Li."

"7..."

The others also followed suit.

Everyone knelt down and started slapping themselves.

"3..."

"2..."

"1..."

They finally stopped once the countdown was over.

Ning Li walked over to the girl and took her phone.

The girl hesitated slightly but did not dare fight back.

Ning Li tapped on the video that she had recorded earlier.

She then used her phone to record the video.

She then gave the phone back and grinned.

"Nicely shot."

Chapter 160: Tell Her To Apologize

They did not understand why Ning Li would comment on the video of herself.

However, with Ji Shu beside her, they did not dare ask questions.

They knew that the wealthy young men were here because of Ning Li. They even treated her like some sort of leader.

She did not even have to lift a finger. All she needed to do was give the order and they would be beaten up or taken to the police station.

The girl, known as Miaomiao, and the guy in the center regretted being here. Their faces were red after having slapped themselves and they were still afraid of Ning Li.

If they had known that Ning Li knew Ji Shu, they would never have agreed to bully her.

It was too late to regret it now.

Ning Li went to pick up her bag.

One of Ji Shu's friends came over with an eager smile.

"Sister Lili, let me help you with your bag."

Ning Li stepped aside and dodged his hand.

"It's okay, I can carry my own bag."

Ji Shu laughed out loud.

“Who do you think you are? Not everyone is qualified to carry Sister Lili’s bag!”

He then spun his car keys with his hand.

“Sister Lili, shall we? My car is over there.”

Ning Li nodded. She then turned to the gang members and said, “Oh, please tell the one who sent you that I am thankful for this present. Also, tell the one beside her that I have a gathering tonight and that I’ll be late. Tell her she doesn’t need to wait for me.”

The gang members were shocked.

Judging from her tone, Ning Li already knew who had sent them.

Ning Li then left with Ji Shu and his friends.

The young men joked and chatted happily behind her.

“Sister Lili, Ji Shu is really terrible. You’ve been in Yunzhou for so long but this is the first time he has asked you out.”

“I know, right? We tried to ask you out before but he stopped us! We must make him pay for it today!”

“Sister Lili, how could you forget about us when you went racing in Xiaosong Hill?”

“Why would she ask you guys out? You guys are nothing but an obstacle to her studies! Do you know that Sister Lili got first place in the whole city this time? You, you, and you, do you even know how to spell the word ‘first’?”

“If you don’t, then just look at her!”

...

The group disappeared after they turned the corner.

The guys and girls in the gang finally got up when they could no longer hear the jokes and footsteps.

Miaomiao got up first and yelled at the guy in the center.

“You got me into this mess! That’s Ji Shu!”

Ji Shu alone was already a huge problem to them, let alone his friends.

They knew that they had just offended not only Ning Li but Ji Shu as well.

The rest of them reacted bitterly as well.

“Brother Yi, you called us here because you said you want to help your sister teach someone a lesson. You did not say that person was Ning Li.”

The guy known as Yi looked gloomy.

He was a well-known gangster around the area and there were always people asking for his ‘help’ to settle complicated relationships.

This time, he had gotten a request from the 'sister' that he knew online. He had agreed without a second thought but the whole thing had turned out to be less than satisfying.

"That's enough. I'm the one who dragged you guys into this. I'm—"

"Brother Yi, you should not be apologizing. It's your little sister's fault!"

Miaomiao pulled her broken nail off and scoffed. "Why don't you call her and her little friend over so that they can apologize to us?"

...

Ji Shu had not driven his sports car today because of the number of passengers. He had driven a black SUV instead.

He got into the driver's seat while Ning Li got into the passenger seat. The rest of the boys got into the rear seats.

Ji Shu started the car and asked, "Sister Lili, what's wrong with those people back there? I thought you were busy studying? Why would some street gangsters stop you on the way home?"

Ning Li rubbed her chin. "Maybe they have nothing better to do."

One of the boys in the rear seat clicked his tongue.

"What a bunch of idiots. If they have nothing to do, they could have just stayed at home. I'm surprised that Sister Lili did not beat them up after hearing what they said."

If Ning Li had decided to teach them a lesson herself, it would have involved more than just slaps for Miaomiao and her friends.

Ning Li smiled. "They are not worth it."

The last time she had fought Meng Jiang herself was because she had beef with that guy in her previous life. As for these street-level gangsters, they were not worthy.

The boys laughed out loud.

"I know, right? Sister Lili's hands should be used for holding steering wheels, not beating up street thugs."

These guys were close with Ji Shu and also fellow racing enthusiasts.

They were acquainted with Ning Li because of Ji Shu.

After losing the race to Ning Li the first time, Ji Shu had become deeply convinced of her talent. His friends had laughed at him for losing the race and said they had wanted to meet this racing goddess to find out what had truly convinced Ji Shu.

Therefore, they had gone to Lincheng together just to race Ning Li. However, every single one of them had lost to her.

After that, the group treated Ning Li as their leader.

However, since not all of them were from Yunzhou, they had not had the time to meet Ning Li ever since she had moved here.

The group had gotten together today because they wanted to celebrate Ji Shu's signing with LY and Ning Li's appearance had been a surprise.

"I didn't think the good students of Second High would resolve things using such a cheap method."

Ji Shu had grasped the bigger picture of what had happened back there but was unable to determine who the mastermind was. He looked at her.

“Are you going to just let this go? Those b*stards—”

Ning Li shook her phone.

“No way I’m letting them go, but we are here to celebrate you signing with LY, so you don’t have to worry about this. I can deal with them myself.”

Ji Shu smiled at Ning Li’s assurance. “Great!”

...

The printing shop

Sun Huihui returned the notebook to Ye Ci.

“Okay, it’s done. Thank you, Lil Ci.”

“You’re welcome.”

Cheng Xiangxiang urged Ye Ci, “Lil Ci, we should go.”

It had only been a simple trip to the printing shop but Sun Huihui had delayed Ye Ci further by asking her several questions about their homework.

Ye Ci looked at Sun Huihui.

Sun Huihui subtly looked at her phone.

She was meant to get a message when the matter was settled but for some reason, she still had not received anything.

Given the time, they should have finished the job by now.

She kept her phone and nodded. "I'm going in the same direction as you. Why don't we walk together?"