

Little Brat's 201

Chapter 201: The Wine Has Such a Strong After-Effect?

Ning Li's soft cheek was pressed against Lu Huaiyu's hand, and her hot breath spilled onto his palm as she spoke.

Her voice was very soft with a faint nasal tone.

It sounded soft and bitter.

Lu Huaiyu's eyes grew more intense.

He had never seen this side of Ning Li before.

It seemed as if she had hidden all her grievances for too long until it had finally burst out.

Every word she spoke had such an undisguised dependence on him as if he had made her wait for a long, long time.

Lu Huaiyu knelt on one knee in front of Ning Li and cupped her face.

As he approached, the smell of alcohol on her became a little stronger.

'Was she...drunk?'

Lu Huaiyu's heart clenched. His actions and voice became more gentle as he coaxed her. "I'm sorry that I'm late."

Ning Li rubbed her face on his hand again like a kitten. A teardrop flowed out from one of her eyes.

She gently sniffled and leaned in closer to him.

His crisp cedar scent put her at ease.

"It's okay," Ning Li murmured, "Please take me home."

Lu Huaiyu nodded and was about to get up when Ning Li suddenly moved.

She raised her hand and gently rested it on his shoulder.

Her fair arms felt soft and boneless as they fell onto his shoulder.

Through his shirt, he could clearly feel the warmth of her hands.

In the next moment, Ning Li moved closer and buried her head in the nook of his neck.

All the torment she had experienced had made her listless. Day after day, the liquid diet was barely enough to keep her alive. She was extremely thin and had no extra strength.

Ning Li had no choice but to lean on Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu's body stiffened, and there was a rare moment of blankness in his mind.

Ning Li was in front of him as she leaned on him.

He could feel her gentle breathing, warm cheeks, and soft hair.

Her sweet perfume mixed with the smell of wine was almost intoxicating.

Lu Huaiyu had not touched any alcohol tonight except for the glass of champagne at Jinsheng hotel, but at this moment, he felt slightly drunk and his body was burning up.

The room was hot and dry.

Thinking of her soft murmurs, his chest seemed to feel congested and painful.

“Second Master Lu, it’s time to go! The car is...” Cheng Xiyue said while walking towards them.

He had just arrived at the doorway and stepped into the room when he was stunned by the scene in front of him.

A hint of shock flashed in his eyes and he stopped speaking abruptly.

Lu Huaiyu frowned and draped his suit jacket that had fallen off on Ning Li again. He then gave Cheng Xiyue a sidelong glance.

His eyes were stern as he said, “Coming.”

Cheng Xiyue’s body reacted faster than his brain and closed the door of the room immediately.

“Xiyue, why aren’t you leaving yet?” Cheng Baiqing happened to walk over and was looking at the tightly closed door strangely.

Cheng Xiyue quickly regained his composure and said, “Oh, Second Master Lu drank some wine earlier, so I’m sending him and Little Ning Li back.”

It was not the first time Cheng Xiyue had served as a driver for Lu Huaiyu, so Cheng Baiqing did not think much of it and nodded.

“Okay then, drive carefully. I’m going home first.”

“Alright.”

Cheng Baiqing left soon after.

Only after his father had disappeared down the corridor did Cheng Xiyue suddenly come back to his senses.

‘What the hell?! What was Lu Huaiyu doing in there? Was he hugging Little Ning Li?’

Cheng Xiyue gasped.

‘That man is crazy! Little Ning Li’s still underage, so even if he likes her, he can’t act on it!’

Cheng Xiyue thought about it. He could not stand by and watch his best friend slip into the abyss of sin, so he gritted his teeth and raised his hand to knock on the door.

Even if he offended Lu Huaiyu today, he would still say it to his face!

However, just as he lifted his hand, the door was opened from the inside before he could even knock on it.

Lu Huaiyu walked out, carrying Ning Li.

She was still wearing Lu Huaiyu’s jacket and was wrapped up tightly. Her small face was leaning on Lu Huaiyu’s chest.

Cheng Xiyue's hand dangled awkwardly in mid-air.

Lu Huaiyu glanced at him indifferently.

He knew very well what was going through Cheng Xiyue's mind.

"She's drunk."

Cheng Xiyue coughed softly and his eyes swept over Ning Li's face. He saw that her face was facing Lu Huaiyu, and her eyes did seem to be closed.

"Oh... Little Ning Li's drunk... No, wait. When did she drink?"

After recovering from the initial shock, Cheng Xiyue realized that Lu Huaiyu's words were very informative.

'Didn't Lu Huaiyu specifically order juice for Ning Li? How...'

"She drank a glass of champagne on the terrace by herself."

That champagne had a high alcohol content, and because she did not have a high alcohol tolerance, she had turned out like this.

Cheng Xiyue finally understood the situation and breathed a sigh of relief.

'So that's what happened... I guess I worried for nothing. I knew this guy wouldn't do such lecherous deeds.'

"The guests are all gone. Shall I send you both back?"

Lu Huaiyu nodded his head.

....

Cheng Xiyue drove away from the underground parking lot of the Grand Hyatt Hotel towards the Ye family home.

The sky was completely dark by then. Neon signboards flashed on the roadside.

The car was very quiet.

Cheng Xiyue looked in the rearview mirror and saw Ning Li quietly nestled in Lu Huaiyu's arms. Most of her face was covered by her soft black hair.

It looked like she had fallen asleep.

Thinking about the earlier situation, he spoke a little helplessly, "Does the wine have such a strong after-effect?"

Chapter 202: Take Me Home

Lu Huaiyu carried Ning Li all the way to the parking lot. When they got to the car, Lu Huaiyu had intended on putting her down, but Ning Li was clutching his shirt tightly and refused to let go.

He had no choice but to continue to carry her.

Only then did she stop fidgeting and rested quietly in his arms.

Cheng Xiyue was rendered speechless when he saw this.

Finally, he realised what had been going on earlier. Lu Huaiyu had not taken advantage of Ning Li. It was the other way around!

Lu Huaiyu lowered his eyes to look at the person in his arms.

Ning Li's eyes were closed and her breathing was even. She had really fallen asleep.

Her small hands were still subconsciously clutching his shirt at his chest, and her forehead was lightly resting against his firm and flat chest.

The tip of her nose was still slightly red and she looked very pitiful.

Even in her sleep, her eyebrows were gently knitted together.

Lu Huaiyu gently patted her shoulder and hugged her a little tighter.

Ning Li's face gently rubbed against his chest as if to confirm his existence, before gradually relaxing her frown.

Lu Huaiyu felt a knot in his throat. He took a deep breath and looked out the window.

"She can't drink anymore in future," he said.

She had become so drunk after just one glass. If she had drunk any more, who knew what the consequences would have been.

Cheng Xiyue looked at him incredulously.

"Are you going to watch over Little Ning Li every day? She drank right under your nose today. Who else is to blame but yourself?"

Lu Huaiyu frowned, but he did not refute it.

He had indeed been negligent.

He had brought her there and had only left her alone for a while, before she had run off to get a drink by herself.

Lu Huaiyu really had not expected Ning Li to have such a poor alcohol tolerance.

He also had not expected her to look like this when she was drunk.

Lu Huaiyu suddenly remembered something and asked, "Why did George come to Yunzhou?"

Cheng Xiyue already knew that George was staying at the Grand Hyatt and that he had chatted with Little Ning Li earlier.

He could hear the displeasure in Lu Huaiyu's voice and inexplicably felt a little cold.

"How would I know? He's always done as he pleased."

George was known to love having fun. However, Yunzhou probably had nothing that would attract him, so why had he suddenly come here?

Cheng Xiyue pondered a while.

"Their last launch was quite successful, so I guess he was in a good mood and decided to travel?"

No one could guess George's intentions.

“Oh, speaking of which, Little Ning Li’s dress tonight seems to be from G&S.”

Cheng Xiyue had an interest in fashion. However, he was not very familiar with G&S’s women’s line, so he did not know that Ning Li’s current dress was not one that was actually sold to the public.

Lu Huaiyu’s eyes turned cold.

He had noticed it too.

Perhaps that was why George had gone over to talk to Ning Li.

Cheng Xiyue did not know what had happened then, so naturally, he was not clear about Lu Huaiyu’s current thoughts.

In his opinion, this was just a small coincidence and not a big deal.

The more pressing matter was Little Ning Li.

Cheng Xiyue sighed and said, “Will Little Ning Li be fine?”

He had a feeling that something was off.

“Why is she so...clingy when she’s drunk?”

To be precise, she was only clingy towards Lu Huaiyu.

Earlier, Cheng Xiyue had called out to Ning Li several times, but she had barely reacted. When Lu Huaiyu coaxed her softly, she listened to him.

However, Cheng Xiyue did not mention this.

Lu Huaiyu did not answer his question either.

The car was silent again.

...

Ye Ci went home feeling defeated.

Never had she felt so humiliated in her life!

The atmosphere at the celebration banquet had been very fragile and finally ended.

Everyone joked and laughed as if nothing had happened, but Ye Ci knew that they would laugh at her the moment they left.

Half of her guests had gone to the Grand Hyatt Hotel across the street at the last minute to attend the celebration banquet that Lu Huaiyu had held for Ning Li.

This had been a brutal slap in her face!

It was not just her. Ye Ming and Su Yuan were also holding back their anger.

It had not been easy for Ye Ci to get fifth place in the provincial physics competition. They had planned to celebrate her achievement, but who would have guessed that it would turn out so badly.

The Ye family returned home looking unhappy.

As soon as Ye Ci entered the house, her first reaction was to see if Ning Li was home.

Ning Li had not returned.

Ye Ming went upstairs with a sullen face and did not bother to ask anything.

Su Yuan's chest hurt at the thought that Ning Li had completely provoked Ye Ming this time. She was frustrated and all she could do was to try to comfort him.

Ye Ci went back into her bedroom, with the intention of calling Ning Li, but she felt very embarrassed.

She went to the bay window.

From there, she could clearly see the courtyard, so she would be the first to know if Ning Li came back.

Time passed slowly. Ye Ci became more anxious as she waited.

Just as she picked up her phone, she saw headlights lighting up the road ahead.

A car then stopped outside their gate.

Ye Ci opened the window and looked outside.

She knew that the car belonged to Cheng Xiyue.

That meant that Ning Li must be inside.

She bit her lip.

...

“Little Ning Li, we’re here!”

Cheng Xiyue stopped the car and shouted as he turned back.

Ning Li did not move.

Lu Huaiyu gently shook her. “Lili, wake up.”

Ning Li slowly opened her eyes.

Lu Huaiyu said, “It’s time for you to go home.”

Ning Li subconsciously looked out the car window.

It was a familiar carved nanmu wood[1] door.

Her pupils constricted, then she curled up and looked at Lu Huaiyu.

Ning Li’s eyes were open, and the corners of her eyes were red. She clutched his shirt and spoke in a soft voice, “Lu Huaiyu, aren’t you going to take me home?”

Chapter 203: Dependence

Lu Huaiyu saw that when Ning Li looked at the Ye family home’s main door, she felt repulsed.

Ning Li tilted her face slightly and looked at him with a deep uneasiness under her eyes as if she was afraid that he would leave her behind.

Lu Huaiyu could even feel her trembling hands as she gripped onto his shirt.

He held her tighter. "Okay, I'll take you home."

After he said that, he looked at Cheng Xiyue.

"Let's go back to Yunding Fenghua."

Cheng Xiyue was a little dumbfounded. When he heard that, he was in a dilemma.

"Second Master Lu, is this...appropriate? Little Ning Li's drunk, so she's not thinking straight. You can't just follow along, right?"

Ning Li was now living with the Ye family. The last time she had secretly left home was late at night in the heavy rain. She had not wanted to go home, so she had stayed at Lu Huaiyu's house then.

Now that she was drunk, it would be better if they sent her back to the Ye house. It would be awkward if she went home with Lu Huaiyu.

Besides, they were now at the Ye family's doorstep!

"Why don't we ask someone inside to come out and pick her up?"

Ning Li was leaning into Lu Huaiyu's arms and seemed to have heard Cheng Xiyue's words.

She lowered her head slightly and did not say a word. Her fingers merely tightened as she clutched Lu Huaiyu's shirt.

Lu Huaiyu's voice grew colder. "Let's go back."

This tone of his was stern and irrefutable.

Cheng Xiyue knew that Lu Huaiyu was stubborn once he made up his mind, so he had no choice but to agree.

“Okay, I’ll give them a call later then,” Cheng Xiyue said as he glanced at the rearview mirror.

He also felt that Ning Li’s current state seemed off.

What had the Ye family done to her that made her so persistent in following Lu Huaiyu home?

Lu Huaiyu gently stroked her face with the palm of his hand and coaxed her in an extremely soft voice, “Don’t worry, just go to sleep.”

Ning Li nodded gently and finally closed her eyes again.

...

Ye Ci watched from the window, but even after some time, she did not see Ning Li get down from that car.

She could not help but frown.

The car was already parked in front of the gate, so why the delay?

‘Could it be that Lu Huaiyu was also in the car?’

That would make sense since he had even held a celebration banquet for Ning Li this evening, so it would be normal to send her home.

At the thought of this, Ye Ci felt a surge of anger.

Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu had no real relationship with each other. That celebration banquet had been so unexpected.

However, the person who had done it was Lu Huaiyu, someone who did not need to care about the opinion of others.

That was also clear after seeing the attitudes of the Ji and the Cheng families.

After today, Ye Ci would become the laughing stock of the city, once news of this spread.

Ye Ci was so annoyed that she swept all the dolls by the bay window to the ground and looked at the car again.

Even if they were saying goodbye, why was it taking so long?

Just as she was debating whether to go down, she saw the car driving away.

Ye Ci was stunned and observed carefully for a while, but found that no one was in front of the gate.

Ning Li had not come out at all!

She had left, just like that!

Ye Ci could not believe what she had just seen. When she came to her senses, she turned around and hurriedly went downstairs.

When Aunt Zhao saw her in such a hurry, she hurriedly asked, "Second Miss, what's going on?"

Ye Ci frowned and walked outside as she asked, "Did Sister Ning Li come back?"

Aunt Zhao looked around. “No.”

Ye Ci’s heart sank. She stopped in her tracks.

‘The car had already parked outside the gate, but Ning Li hadn’t emerged. Where was she going?’

There was no point in going after her at this time.

When Aunt Zhao saw her like this, she said, “Second Miss, don’t worry. It’s not the first time she’s been late.”

Ye Ci walked to the side, hesitated for a while, and called Ning Li.

...

Buzz...

Ning Li’s phone that had been placed in the suit jacket vibrated.

Lu Huaiyu looked at it and narrowed his eyes slightly before answering the call.

“Hello.” The man’s cool, low voice came through.

Ye Ci was stunned, then quickly figured out that it was Lu Huaiyu’s voice.

‘Why was he answering Ning Li’s phone?’

Ye Ci’s throat tightened. She cautiously said, “Second Master Lu? Is Sister Ning Li next to you? It’s very late and she’s not home yet, so I’m a little worried...”

“She’s with me.” Lu Huaiyu interrupted her and spoke frankly, “She’ll be staying at my place tonight and won’t be going back to your house.”

Ye Ci’s eyes widened slightly.

‘Ning Li was going home with Lu Huaiyu? But...’

“Second Master Lu, that will be too much trouble. We’re all waiting for Sister Ning Li to come home. Why don’t you ask Sister Ning Li to answer the phone...”

“She’s asleep and can’t talk now.”

The car passed over a speed bump.

Lu Huaiyu tightened his arms and pressed Ning Li’s head onto his chest.

Ye Ci could hardly believe her ears.

Ning Li was actually sleeping in the car right next to Lu Huaiyu!

“You guys don’t have to wait up.”

Ye Ci’s mind was in chaos.

‘If Ning Li had not intended on coming back in the first place, then what was the deal with the car just now? Besides, what did she have in mind when she didn’t come home and went to Lu Huaiyu’s house instead?’

“Umm...”

Before she could say anything else, Lu Huaiyu hung up the call.

He had already said what he wanted to say, so he was not bothered with continuing the conversation with Ye Ci.

Thinking of Ning Li's expression when she had looked at the Ye family's door earlier, Lu Huaiyu's eyes seemed to have turned to frost.

Cheng Xiyue had noticed it as well. He moved his lips, but in the end, he did not speak.

Experience told him that when Lu Huaiyu looked like that, it was best not to provoke him.

In consideration of Ning Li, Cheng Xiyue did not drive fast and arrived at Yunding Fenghua half an hour later.

Ning Li had not woken up yet.

Lu Huaiyu got out of the car carrying her in his arms.

Cheng Xiyue poked his head out of the car window.

"Hey, is Little Ning Li going to be okay? Take care of her!"

Lu Huaiyu used his jacket to wrap Ning Li tighter.

Cheng Xiyue then felt that he was worrying for nothing.

Lu Huaiyu treated her like a precious treasure, so there was no use in saying all these.

“You’ve been running around all day, so rest early!”

Cheng Xiyue then drove away.

...

Lu Huaiyu carried Ning Li back to the villa and came to the guest bedroom on the first floor.

It was the same one that Ning Li had slept in previously.

He opened the door, went to the bed, and put Ning Li down.

The moment her body fell onto the soft mattress, the jacket slipped off and the warm bedside light fell on her smooth and fair shoulders.

Her soft and lustrous hair spread out messily on the pillow.

Lu Huaiyu only took a glimpse before looking away. He then pulled the quilt up to cover her tightly so that only her small face could be seen.

Ning Li’s eyelashes twitched as she opened her eyes in a blur.

“W-water...”

Lu Huaiyu went to the kitchen to get some warm water. He had just returned with the mug when he saw that Ning Li had already kicked off her shoes and walked out the door with bare feet.

He frowned slightly.

The villa's floor heating had not been turned on yet, so the wooden floor was very cold, yet she had still walked out without a care.

He walked over to her and asked, "Aren't your feet cold?"

When Ning Li saw him, the corners of her lips curled up into a small arc as if she was relieved to see him.

She walked over and took his hand. Shaking her head, she muttered, "It's not cold."

Chapter 204: You Don't Remember?

Lu Huaiyu knew then that Ning Li was really drunk.

He took a deep breath and said, "Go back to bed."

As he said that, he pulled Ning Li back to the bedside.

Ning Li sat down and looked at the cup of water in his hand.

Lu Huaiyu handed her the cup, but she did not take it from him.

She merely cupped Lu Huaiyu's hand and drank from the cup.

Lu Huaiyu looked down at her messy hair intensely.

After Ning Li had her fill, she leaned back. Her red and plump lips looked glossy.

Lu Huaiyu had always thought that he had excellent self-control, but now he realized that he seemed to have overestimated himself.

He set the cup down on the bedside table and took out a set of baby blue cotton pajamas from the closet next to it.

It was women's pajamas.

He handed Ning Li the clothes.

“These are new. Sleep well.”

Ning Li nodded as she hugged the pajamas.

Lu Huaiyu turned around and was about to leave.

However, after taking one step, he felt her tugging on his sleeve.

He turned back and saw Ning Li looking at him. She seemed a bit nervous as she asked, “Where are you going?”

Lu Huaiyu stared at her for a while and slowly exhaled.

“I’ll be right next door. The door will be open, so you can call me if you need anything.”

Ning Li seemed to be relieved at this.

She then held up the pajamas in her hand.

“But, how do I change into this?”

Lu Huaiyu was dumbstruck.

Ning Li reached out to touch the back of her neck a few times, but she could not find the zipper of her dress.

She started to get a bit annoyed and her anxiousness increased when she could not find it. The corners of her eyes turned red as she felt so aggrieved that she felt like crying.

Lu Huaiyu walked up to her and held her hand.

The room had been lit with only a bedside lamp. The dim warm light cast a faint shadow on the two overlapping figures.

Ning Li sat on the edge of the bed while Lu Huaiyu knelt on one knee in front of her. His warm and strong hand held on to her anxious and fumbling hands.

He pulled her hand over to the side of her incredibly slender waist and said in a deep and hoarse voice, "Here."

The zipper of her dress was on the right side of her waist. It had been hidden well because it had been incorporated into the seams.

Ning Li's fingers fumbled around and finally touched something cold and hard.

She breathed a sigh of relief. Her eyes were glistening, which shook the man's heart and soul.

Ning Li then moved to pull it down.

Lu Huaiyu pressed her hand down to stop her.

Ning Li then lifted her eyes to look at him in confusion. "Lu Huaiyu..."

She frowned gently and could not quite understand why he would not let her get changed.

“Wearing this is not comfortable...”

Lu Huaiyu’s Adam’s apple moved. He felt as if something inside him was screaming to break free from its restraints.

He was so tense.

“I know.”

He was also uncomfortable now.

“You can change when I go out.”

He then said in a commanding tone, “You can change after I close the door. Got it?”

Ning Li nodded her head in a daze.

Only then did Lu Huaiyu get up to leave.

He was about to close the door when Ning Li said, “Don’t lock it.”

Lu Huaiyu paused for a bit and left the door open slightly.

He then leaned against the wall and tilted his head slightly.

The sound of the zipper being pulled open came from inside the room.

Lu Huaiyu's body became stiff.

Then, he could hear the rustling sound of clothes.

He ripped open the top two buttons of his shirt, closed his eyes, and was in an unprecedented state of distress.

After a while, the movement inside finally subsided.

"Lu Huaiyu?" Ning Li called out to him.

Lu Huaiyu did not move. "I'm here."

Ning Li was quiet.

After a few minutes, she shouted again, "Lu Huaiyu?"

Lu Huaiyu leaned against the wall and gently closed his eyes.

"I'm here."

After a long time, Ning Li finally fell into a deep sleep and went completely silent.

Lu Huaiyu's long legs were slightly bent. He opened his eyes and looked ahead.

The lights in the villa were turned off, so he could only see a rough outline of the villa.

His phone vibrated, so he took it out and saw that it was a message from Cheng Xiyue.

[Is Little Ning Li asleep?]

Lu Huaiyu replied. [Sleeping.]

Cheng Xiyue finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Little Ning Li was drunk, and her drunken self was quite...intriguing.

She seemed fine after all.

[Then, you should sleep early as well.]

Lu Huaiyu had not gotten his rest in the afternoon because of the party, so he was probably quite tired.

Lu Huaiyu stared at the message for a while and snorted.

‘How can I sleep like this?’

...

Ning Li slept very soundly this time and was eventually woken up by thirst.

She was dazed and confused when she opened her eyes. After sitting up, she turned her head and saw a glass of water on the bedside table, so she took it.

The warm water seeped down her throat and instantly woke her up.

She paused for a moment and looked at the cup.

It was a fine and simple cup, and did not belong to her.

Out of the corner of her eye, she thought that the quilt looked familiar.

‘This isn’t the Ye family’s house.’

She then looked up stiffly and looked around.

‘This is...Lu Huaiyu’s house! Isn’t this the same room that I slept in previously?’

A trace of uneasiness surged into her heart. Ning Li suddenly realized something and looked down at her body.

Pink and blue women’s pajamas!

Her mind instantly went blank.

‘What the hell happened last night?! How did I come to Yunding Fenghua?’

She looked at her phone and saw that it was already Sunday, 9:00 am.

‘Did I actually sleep here all night?’

However, this was not the most pressing issue.

‘Who changed my pajamas?!’

She quickly lifted the covers and got up, then she went outside.

Just before she got to the door, she bumped into someone's arms.

Lu Huaiyu held her shoulders. "You're awake?"

Ning Li raised her head. "Second Brother?"

Lu Huaiyu's eyes twitched slightly.

Ning Li spoke with difficulty, "W-why...am I here?!"

Lu Huaiyu heard this and narrowed his eyes dangerously. After a long time, he smiled.

"You don't remember?"

Chapter 205: Completely Awake

Somehow, Ning Li could sense the questioning tone in Lu Huaiyu's words.

She spoke somewhat nervously, "I-I remember that you told me to wait for you at the sitting area..."

Lu Huaiyu let out a very faint "oh".

'That means she has forgotten everything that happened after... She's forgotten how she leaned over and refused to let go of my shirt, or how timid and dependent she had been when she had asked him to bring her home. How she had almost cried because she couldn't change out of her pajamas and had to be led to her zipper... Her memory of last night has been wiped clean? Hmm, how interesting...'

Ning Li was clueless as to how she had ended up in the guest bedroom of Yunding Fenghua when all she could remember was waiting for Lu Huaiyu next to the banquet hall.

She regretted it a little.

Ning Li had only drank one glass of champagne, so why was the after-effect so strong?

Lu Huaiyu did not say anything. Ning Li felt that Lu Huaiyu's gaze seemed a little different from before, but she could not pinpoint what it was.

She pinched a corner of her pajamas, swept a glance at Lu Huaiyu, and asked tentatively, "Second Brother, I-I didn't do anything overboard last night, did I?"

Lu Huaiyu looked at her for a while before he spoke with a smile, "No."

Only then did Ning Li feel more settled. "Then...these pajamas..."

Actually, she could vaguely recall that she changed into them herself.

That was because the dress she had worn yesterday was strewn across the floor of the guest bedroom.

If "someone" had helped her, they would not have left it like that, right?

"You were drunk last night and didn't want to go back to the Ye family home, so I brought you back here."

Lu Huaiyu said lightly, then took a step back and sized her up.

"This set looks like it fits you."

His words confirmed that she had changed herself.

Ning Li followed his line of sight and took a look at herself.

The baby blue pajamas even had a pair of rabbit ears.

It matched her pair of pink carrot slippers.

After some thought, she asked, "Second Brother, whose pajamas am I wearing?"

Lu Huaiyu lived alone, so why would he have such things?

His expression was calm as he said, "There was a buy one get one free sale at the mall. The cleaning lady bought it."

'Buy one...free one?'

Ning Li felt a little incredulous.

The cleaning lady Lu Huaiyu hired actually went to the mall to buy such things during sales?

"I didn't want it initially, but after thinking about it, I kept it. Then you won't have to wear mine next time and tell me that I can't wear it after."

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows and added, "I only have a few sets of pajamas, so at this rate, it'll probably be all yours. Then, what am I to wear?"

Ning Li's face heated up.

She knew that Lu Huaiyu was only teasing her, but she still felt embarrassed.

For the moment, she did not notice that he had said "next time".

She looked at Lu Huaiyu strangely. "Second Brother, you don't seem to have slept well?"

Lu Huaiyu only let out a faint “mm”.

He had stayed outside her room almost all night, so he had not gotten much sleep.

Lu Huaiyu had heard her stirring in bed and noticed that she was about to wake up, so he had placed another cup of warm water on her bedside table.

He had not expected her to really wake up.

She had woken up completely.

“There are some clothes on the sofa in the living room. You can put those on first.”

Lu Huaiyu had brought Ning Li back last night, so besides her phone, all her things were still at the Jinsheng Hotel.

Thinking that Ning Li probably would not have any clothes to change into today, he had gotten someone to bring some over.

Ning Li casually glanced over at the sofa.

When she saw the cluster of shopping bags, she fell silent.

‘This is just...some clothes?’

She also caught a glimpse of a few familiar brands, all of which she had seen in HG previously.

“Second Brother, isn’t this a bit too much?”

Ning Li felt embarrassed.

Lu Huaiyu had already started walking towards the kitchen.

“I got someone to select some daily wear suitable for your age. It didn’t cost much.”

HG’s executives also could not have imagined that Second Master Lu would call them to ask for women’s clothes at 8:00 am on a Sunday.

Thus, HG mall, which always opened at ten, had opened two hours earlier that day.

If not for his special instructions that these clothes should be suitable for students, they would have thought that Second Master Lu was keeping a secret girlfriend.

Of course, they were all smart enough to know who this girl was since Lu Huaiyu had closed the entire floor to take the girl shopping previously.

However, they had still managed to inadvertently step on the boss’ toes this time.

Since Ning Li had chosen a dress from G&S the last time she was there, they had packed several new arrivals of G&S this time. However, they were all turned away by Second Master Lu.

Luckily, the rest of their picks were accepted.

The HG executives were confused, but they did not dare to ask more questions and only took the G&S bags that had been rejected and quickly left.

Ning Li walked over.

They were all autumn and winter wear suitable for 18 or 19-year-old girls, including sweaters and down coats, and even a wool beret.

‘How am I supposed to take these home?’

Lu Huaiyu seemed to have seen through her thoughts.

“You can take it back to your rented place or just leave it here.”

This villa was not small, so it was not a problem to put a few sets of her clothes here.

Ning Li had originally wanted to ask him to return all these, but when she heard this, she silently swallowed the words that had been on the tip of her tongue.

“What do you want to eat for breakfast?” Lu Huaiyu suddenly asked.

Ning Li turned around and saw him standing in front of the refrigerator.

She hurriedly walked over. “Second Brother, let me do it. Why don’t you rest for a bit?”

This time, Lu Huaiyu did not insist and smiled.

“Okay, then this will offset last night’s meal.”

He was talking about the party.

Ning Li paused in her movements.

That was not just a meal. Lu Huaiyu had used his contacts and spent a lot more than just money for the party.

Chapter 206: Why Did You Drink?

Ning Li looked towards Lu Huaiyu, but she saw that he had already walked towards the sofa and sat down on the single couch.

He leaned back with his head slightly raised and his eyes closed. His posture was laid back and relaxed as usual.

Even though his eyes were a bit weary, it still did not take away his nobility and elegance.

Ning Li moved around gingerly.

...

Su Yuan only learned the next morning that Ning Li did not come home the night before.

“Did she go to Second Master Lu’s house again?” Ye Ci mentioned at the dining table.

When Su Yuan heard this, she was shocked and quickly looked at Ye Ming.

His face was expressionless.

However, this was obviously not something that would make him happy.

After what had happened last night, Lu Huaiyu’s name was just a reminder of the humiliation and embarrassment the Ye family had suffered at the celebration banquet.

Su Yuan frowned, wanting to say something, but she did not know where to start.

Lu Huaiyu had been so ruthless this time. Everyone could see that he was backing Ning Li up.

Thus, Ning Li spending the night at his house did not seem out of ordinary.

Ye Ci bit on her chopsticks.

“Yesterday, Brother Xiyue’s car arrived at our gate, but for some reason, Sister Ning Li didn’t come down.”

Once she said this, the atmosphere at the dining table became even more precarious.

It was fine if Ning Li had not intended on coming back from the start, but what did that mean?

Was Ning Li doing this deliberately?

Was Ning Li trying to say that the Ye family could not accommodate her?

Su Yuan’s head felt like it would explode.

Ye Ming was furious because of yesterday’s incident, which had implicated Su Yuan as well. Thus, she had to speak and act carefully.

Ye Ci hesitated and said, “I can give Sister Ning Li another call...”

Ye Ming put down his chopsticks.

“I have some things to settle at the office, so I’ll be leaving first.”

After saying that, he got up and left.

Su Yuan's face turned pale.

Actually, Ye Ming had been relatively idle lately.

He had been busy with the Qinghe Bridge project some time back, but the dust had finally settled recently.

The reason the banquet had been so grand was to celebrate Ye Ci's achievement as well as compensate her for all the times he had not been there for her.

Ye Ming had also said that he would be at home this weekend.

Now, he had left the house, obviously using work as an excuse.

Ye Ci frowned slightly.

"Mom, it's okay. Dad's just in a bad mood."

Su Yuan sighed. "It's Mom's fault... Ning Li's attitude..."

She regretted taking in Ning Li back then.

Ning Li was underaged, so after her grandmother died, her guardianship had automatically fallen to Su Yuan.

At the time, Su Yuan had thought that it would be a very simple matter because she only had to accommodate Ning Li for a year.

This way, she would have fulfilled her obligation as a mother and would not be bad-mouthed by others.

2

Who knew that Ning Li would be so difficult to manage?

This time, Ning Li had thrown the entire Ye family's reputation down the drain. How could the Ye family still keep their heads up high after that?

However, it was too late for regrets.

They could not just throw Ning Li out at this time, right?

If word got out, the Ye family would really lose their whole reputation.

Su Yuan no longer had the appetite to eat.

She looked at Aunt Zhao. "I'll go up to rest. When Ning Li comes back, please tell her to come and see me."

"Yes, Madam."

After that, Su Yuan went upstairs by herself.

She had been furious yesterday and had not slept well the whole night, so she looked very haggard.

Ye Ci looked at her phone, feeling a little hesitant.

...

Yunding Fenghua.

Worried that Lu Huaiyu had not slept well and would not have an appetite, Ning Li made a very light breakfast.

“Second Brother, breakfast is ready.”

Ning Li set the table and served him a bowl of yam porridge.

Lu Huaiyu had just woken up when the doorbell rang.

Ning Li was a little surprised.

Lu Huaiyu lived here by himself, and it was rare for anyone to come over, not to mention this early in the morning.

He looked at his phone and said, “That should be our takeout.”

Lu Huaiyu then went over to open the door.

After a while, he came back carrying a takeout bag.

Ning Li was puzzled.

“Second Brother, did you...order breakfast?”

“No.”

Lu Huaiyu put the container on the dining table.

“Hangover soup.”

Ning Li was speechless.

Lu Huaiyu glanced at her and laughed.

“Originally, I thought that you’d really need it, but I guess it’s fine if you don’t drink it now.”

It was pointless anyway.

Ning Li silently hung her head.

‘What on earth did I do yesterday?! So much so that Lu Huaiyu ordered hangover soup for me?’

Ning Li ate a spoonful of porridge and said in a small voice, “Second Brother, I promise that I won’t simply drink again.”

Lu Huaiyu saw that she was good at admitting her mistake and nodded. “It’s good that you know your mistakes. Just don’t repeat them.”

After some thought, he added, “You’re not allowed to drink when I’m not around. If you really want a drink, give me a call.”

He rarely spoke to her in such a tone, with such irrefutable resolution.

Ning Li nodded her head. “Okay.”

She was afraid that Lu Huaiyu would misunderstand, so she defended herself, “Second Brother, I don’t really like to drink anyway...”

Lu Huaiyu casually asked, “Then, why did you drink yesterday?”

Ning Li was a little stunned.

‘Why did I drink yesterday?’

Previously, Ning Li had not thought about this, but now that Lu Huaiyu had suddenly asked her this, it came to her.

She had only drunk that glass of champagne because she was in a bad mood.

However, she should have been happy yesterday since Lu Huaiyu was clearly standing up for her and taking care of everything.

Not receiving an answer, Lu Huaiyu looked up. “Hmm?”

Ning Li met his gaze, and her heart suddenly skipped a beat.

She subconsciously averted her gaze not knowing if she was feeling guilty or something else.

“It’s... It’s because...”

“Ding dong!” The doorbell rang again.

Ning Li immediately got up as she said, “I’ll go open the door.”

Lu Huaiyu frowned slightly.

Since the hangover soup had already been delivered, who could it be at this hour?

However, Ning Li had already run over to the door and opened it.

“Who-” Her voice stopped abruptly.

A beautiful and delicate face appeared on the other side of the door.

It was Xu Yini.

Chapter 207: I Just... Don't Feel Like Replying

Xu Yini was wearing a bucket hat with a pair of sunglasses that covered half of her face. Her camel-colored coat was wrapped around her exquisite figure, revealing her slender legs.

She had actually arrived in Yunzhou last night.

Since that photo last time, Lu Huaiyu had somehow been angered. She had thought that it would blow over after she made a clarification, but Lu Huaiyu still did not reply to any of her messages.

Xu Yini gave it some time, but days had passed and Lu Huaiyu still gave her the cold shoulder.

She then realized that this was more serious than she had initially thought.

This time, she took two days off and flew to Yunzhou, intending to explain this matter to Lu Huaiyu because she could not stand this stalemate any longer.

Considering that Lu Huaiyu never replied to her messages and Cheng Xiyue refused to help her invite Lu Huaiyu, Xu Yini made up her mind to go to his house.

No matter what, she was adamant about seeing Lu Huaiyu this time.

Even if she knew that Lu Huaiyu did not like uninvited guests, Xu Yini did not care that day.

However, she had never expected that the person who opened the door would be Ning Li.

When Xu Yini saw that clean and delicate face, she was shocked. She glanced at the house number next to the door.

‘This is indeed Lu Huaiyu’s villa! But why is Ning Li here?!’

“Ms. Xu?” Ning Li quickly recovered from her surprise and greeted the woman at the door.

Only then did Xu Yini look at Ning Li.

Ning Li was wearing a loose white knit sweater and black skinny jeans that outlined her long, straight legs. Her soft hair was casually pulled up into a messy bun.

Her skin was fair and smooth like porcelain, with features that were delicate and refined. She did not wear any makeup and looked very pure.

It was such a simple outfit, but on her, it looked stunning and indescribably charming.

Xu Yini took her sunglasses off and looked at Ning Li. She spoke slowly, “Ning Li...?”

Her voice was calm as she asked this, but a huge wave had been set off in her heart.

‘It was 10:00 am on a Sunday. Why would Ning Li be in Lu Huaiyu’s house?!’

Ning Li took a step back and turned around. “Second Brother, Ms. Xu is here.”

Lu Huaiyu had heard Ning Li earlier and strode over with his long legs.

He came to the door and looked at Xu Yini with a slight frown. His voice was extremely cold and aloof, “Why are you here?”

Many knew that he stayed at Yunding Fenghua while he was in Yunzhou.

However, only very few dared to come to his door uninvited.

Xu Yini sensed his displeasure and felt her heart tighten.

“I...I have something that I want to say to you.”

Lu Huaiyu looked at Ning Li. “Go back and eat. The porridge is getting cold.”

Ning Li acquiesced and left.

Since Xu Yini had come to find Lu Huaiyu and wanted to speak to him, Ning Li’s presence was not required there.

Thus, Ning Li went back to the dining table.

Xu Yini looked at her with a deep shock in the depths of her eyes.

Ning Li was wearing a pair of pink and white slippers, not disposable slippers or any of Lu Huaiyu’s. It was the kind only a lady would wear!

As Ning Li walked, the rabbit ears on the shoes even swayed gently.

Xu Yini held her breath and could not believe her eyes. Her mind was in chaos.

If Ning Li had come over temporarily, she would not have brought her own slippers.

Without even thinking about it, Xu Yuni knew that this must have been prepared by Lu Huaiyu!

‘But... He lives by himself. Why would he buy a pair of slippers like that? Also, Lu Huaiyu just told Ning Li to go back and eat? Did this mean...breakfast?’

An absurd conjecture surfaced in her mind, which made Xu Yini lose her composure.

‘Did Ning Li spend the night here?!’

Lu Huaiyu watched Ning Li walk back, before turning back to look at Xu Yini.

He leaned against the door frame with one hand in his pocket as he spoke casually, “What is it?”

Lu Huaiyu did not have the slightest intention of inviting Xu Yini in.

Xu Yini clutched her bag tightly and tried to make her expression look normal.

She forced a smile and said, “Huaiyu, this is my first time coming to see you. Aren’t you going to invite me in?”

Lu Huaiyu was expressionless. “I didn’t invite you here.”

Xu Niyi was very embarrassed.

Lu Huaiyu looked at his watch. “I don’t have much time, so you’d better make it short.”

...

Ning Li returned to the dining table and took another spoonful of the porridge as she glanced at the door.

The both of them did not come in, and Lu Huaiyu's body blocked Xu Yini completely.

Thus, Ning Li could not see anything from where she was sitting.

'Xu Yini had come over so early in the morning. Surely it was an important matter, right? But then again, when it comes to Lu Huaiyu, there shouldn't be anything important from Xu Yini.'

The soft and sticky yam melted in Ning Li's mouth as she withdrew her gaze.

Xu Yini's feelings for Lu Huaiyu could not be more obvious.

However, Lu Huaiyu was a proud and reserved person who never cared for relationships.

Ning Li thought of George's ex-ex-ex-girlfriend who had been in love with Lu Huaiyu for three years. Yet, in the end, he did not even remember her.

There were probably more of these kinds of girls who had a crush on Lu Huaiyu.

'I wonder what kind of person Lu Huaiyu actually cares for?'

Buzz...

Ning Li's phone suddenly vibrated.

It was a text message from Ye Ci.

[Sister Ning Li, how are you? When are you coming home?]

‘Why would Ye Ci ask me this now when I slept here last night?’

Ning Li suddenly remembered something and flipped through the call logs. She then saw that Ye Ci had actually called her last night.

The call duration was 57 seconds.

However, Ning Li did not remember any of it, and she usually did not answer Ye Ci’s calls.

‘Had...Lu Huaiyu picked up the call? What had they talked about?’

Ye Ci had quite a lot of patience though.

After what happened last night, Ye Ci actually remembered to call her and even sent her messages in the morning.

Anyone who saw this would think that it was out of concern for her.

Ning Li put her phone down and ignored the message.

...

Xu Yini pursed her lips.

She had grown up being pampered by everyone and had only been repeatedly shut out by Lu Huaiyu.

If someone else had spoken to her in that tone, she would have retorted back.

However, she liked Lu Huaiyu.

Xu Yini looked around, seemingly embarrassed.

“Huaiyu, it’s not very appropriate if we just stand here and talk...”

“The security here is very tight, so you won’t get photographed. Besides, if you do get photographed, it’ll be better this way.”

Lu Huaiyu interrupted her in his nonchalant yet non-negotiable tone.

Xu Yini was a little anxious.

“I...Huaiyu, are you still mad about last time? That really was just an accident! Didn’t I already clear that up? Besides, it’s been so long...”

“What happened last time?” Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows slightly.

Xu Yini froze.

“Aren’t you ignoring me because of that photo...”

“Oh, that...” Lu Huaiyu recalled, then chuckled lightly. “You’re overthinking things. I’m not mad at you. I just...don’t feel like replying.”

Chapter 208: She Likes You Very Much

When that photo was first released by the media, Lu Huaiyu was mad, which was why he had demanded that Xu Yini make a clarification immediately and remove all related news.

However, after that, Lu Huaiyu had completely put it out of his mind.

That incident had happened so long ago.

He was a busy man and did not have time to think about such things.

Xu Yini felt Lu Huaiyu's straightforward and dry reply like a stab in her heart.

Her face turned pale.

Over the years, Lu Huaiyu had always been very cold towards her.

However, Xu Yini knew that he was like this with other women, so she had always consoled herself that way.

‘That’s just how he is... As long as I persist I might get a chance.’

After all, no one was more compatible with him than she was, right?

Now, she finally realized that she was wrong.

The pair of rabbit slippers that Ning Li was wearing kept resurfacing in her mind.

A wave of unspeakable panic rose from the depths of her heart.

...

Ning Li glanced in the direction of the door again.

She did not know what the two of them were talking about for so long.

If they had so much to say, why did Lu Huaiyu not invite Xu Yini in?

If they did not have much to talk about, then they had been standing at the door for quite a long time.

Ning Li glanced at the bowl of hangover soup and rubbed her temples.

She tried to recall what had happened last night, but unfortunately, nothing came to her mind.

Ning Li only vaguely remembered that she seemed to have a dream that was related to Lu Huaiyu, but could not remember the exact content.

Finally, the door was shut.

Ning Li looked up and saw Lu Huaiyu walking over alone.

She was curious and asked, "Second Brother, did Ms. Xu leave?"

"Mm."

Lu Huaiyu sat down across from Ning Li and without seeming to care much about Xu Yini's sudden visit.

"She just came over to tell me something and left."

Xu Niyi had been used to Lu Huaiyu's coldness over the years.

However, his attitude today had rarely been seen.

After all, Xu Yini was a spoiled princess, so how could she not lose her temper after getting rejected by Lu Huaiyu?

She could not stand listening to Lu Huaiyu's harsh words and left.

Lu Huaiyu did not think to share it with Ning Li for fear of affecting her appetite.

Ning Li glanced out of the floor-to-ceiling window and saw Xu Yini's departing back.

Even though it was just a glimpse of her back, Xu Yini was still elegant and beautiful.

Ning Li withdrew her gaze and stirred her porridge as she spoke slowly, "Second Brother, Ms. Xu seems to...like you a lot?"

Lu Huaiyu paused in his movements and lifted his eyes to look at her.

"So?"

Ning Li froze as she had not expected this reaction from him.

Lu Huaiyu tapped his finger on the table and smiled with interest.

"Yesterday, you said that you would only focus on your studies, yet you're asking me questions like this now?"

Ning Li said in a small voice, "I was only asking..."

Inexplicably, she recalled what He Xiaochen had said.

Xu Yini was indeed very beautiful with an excellent temperament. Her family background also matched his.

This kind of woman had chased Lu Huaiyu for many years, yet he was still unmoved.

Lu Huaiyu did not seem to be interested in continuing this topic.

Ning Li hesitated for a while and decided not to say anything in the end.

After all, that was between him and Xu Yini. Ning Li was in no position to ask about it.

...

After Xu Yini walked out of Yunding Fenghua, she called Cheng Xiyue.

Cheng Xiyue was very surprised to receive her call. "Yini? What's wrong?"

Xu Yini heard the grogginess in his voice that sounded like he had just woken up.

"Brother Xiyue, did I disturb your sleep?"

Cheng Xiyue was lying on his bed with his eyes closed. "No, I just woke up. Why? Do you need something from me?"

Xu Yini paused and said, "I've just been to Yunding Fenghua."

Cheng Xiyue jerked up from the bed. "What?!"

‘Then...wouldn’t she have bumped into Little Ning Li?’

“Why so suddenly?” Cheng Xiyue pondered his words. “You know that Huaiyu doesn’t like that...”

“I saw Ning Li,” Xu Yini said.

Xu Yini still could not calm herself down at the thought of what she had just seen.

Cheng Xiyue could not see Xu Yini’s expression through the phone, so that was not obvious to him.

“Ah, right...”

Cheng Xiyue chuckled.

“Ning Li was drunk last night, so it wasn’t very convenient to send her back to the Ye family. That’s why I sent her there temporarily. How is she? Is she better now?”

Xu Yini frowned. “You sent her over?”

Cheng Xiyue thought, ‘Of course, I sent her over... That’s because Little Ning Li was nestled in Huaiyu’s arms and grabbing his shirt, insisting on going home with him. Even Huaiyu agreed to it. I was just their driver...’

“Yup!”

Cheng Xiyue sounded happy, as if not he did not feel that there was anything wrong with that.

“Ning Li got first place in the provincial physics competition, so we had a gathering to celebrate.”

Cheng Xiyue did not mention that this “gathering” was a party Lu Huaiyu had specially held for Ning Li.

Xu Yini did not come to Yunzhou often and never stayed here long. If she did not inquire about it, she would not have known these things for the time being.

Even if she knew, it did not matter.

Lu Huaiyu had done it willingly, so what else could she do about it?

Xu Yini felt slightly relieved.

She had seen the Ye family’s attitude towards Ning Li the last time they had been at the Cheng’s.

‘I guess it’s normal not to go home if she’s too drunk... But why Lu Huaiyu’s house?’

...

After breakfast, Ning Li packed up, ready to leave.

Lu Huaiyu sent her to the door.

Ning Li put her slippers back when Lu Huaiyu looked at her and said, “Is there nothing else you want to ask me?”

Chapter 209: Did She Provoke You?

Ning Li certainly had a lot of things that she wanted to ask Lu Huaiyu.

For example, what happened last night?

Did she say anything that she should not have said after she got drunk?

What kind of people did Lu Huaiyu like?

Ning Li looked up at the man in front of her.

His handsome and noble face had a casual smile, as if this was no more than just small talk.

She shook her head. "No."

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows gently.

"Then, I'll get going first. Have a good rest, Second Brother!"

Ning Li said goodbye to him.

...

After Ning Li's figure completely disappeared from sight, Lu Huaiyu laughed before he closed the door behind him.

When this girl sobered up, she went back into hiding and wrapped herself up tightly once again.

'But...luckily I have all the patience in the world for her.

After passing through the first-floor guest bedroom, Lu Huaiyu stood at the door and looked inside.

The clothes that had been delivered had been sorted and placed into the closet.

However, it seemed that there were still some things missing.

Lu Huaiyu looked at it thoughtfully for a while and called Cheng Xiyue.

Cheng Xiyue had just ended the call with Xu Yini and was planning to catch up on his sleep when he was woken up by another call.

Seeing that Lu Huaiyu was the one calling him, Cheng Xiyue looked suspicious and closed his eyes in despair.

“Bro, it’s a Sunday! Can’t you let me sleep in?”

Lu Huaiyu’s tone was calm. “I didn’t sleep.”

“What does ‘you not sleeping’ have to do with me...”

Cheng Xiyue only realized that something was wrong halfway through his sentence. He then struggled to roll over.

“What did you say? You didn’t sleep? Are you having insomnia again? But how...”

‘Isn’t Little Ning Li there?’

Lu Huaiyu had been suffering from insomnia for a long time. He never got any proper rest while he was in Yunzhou.

However, his condition had become much better after meeting Ning Li.

Although Ning Li had been drunk last night, she was still quite well behaved and did not make a fuss.

“Did Little Ning Li provoke you? No, wait. Are you blaming Little Ning Li for your poor sleep?”

Lu Huaiyu snorted lightly.

‘It’d be strange if I could sleep through last night after what happened.’

“I need to buy some things. Come by this time tomorrow.”

Cheng Xi Yue said, “So...the purpose of your call is just to book your driver?”

Lu Huaiyu was too frank.

“I have to buy quite a lot of things, so it’s more convenient this way.”

Cheng Xiyue took a deep breath and suppressed the murderous intent that surged in his heart. He gritted his teeth and said word by word, “Second Master Lu, need I remind you that with your assets, you just need to make a list and send it to your personal shopper? Even if you hired a hundred people, it wouldn’t be a problem for you!”

‘Is my time not valuable?!’

Lu Huaiyu was so free because he had so many people just waiting to serve him!

“It’s settled then, I’m going to get some rest.” Lu Huaiyu hung up the call after.

‘I ought to pick it out myself if I want to buy something for my girl.’

Cheng Xiyue was speechless.

‘This won’t do! I must call Old Master Lu to ask this king to go home. I really can’t serve him anymore!’

...

Ning Li took a taxi back to the Ye family home alone.

As soon as she entered the door, she saw Ye Ci sitting in the living room.

When Ye Ci heard the door, Ye Ci turned to look at Ning Li with a smile on her face.

“Sister Ning Li, you’re back!”

She exclaimed as she scrutinized Ning Li.

Her eyes were sharp and immediately noticed that the clothes Ning Li wore were new.

‘Didn’t she stay at Lu Huaiyu’s house yesterday? These clothes...’

Ye Ci stood up and said, “Sister Ning Li, you left all your things in Jinsheng yesterday, so I brought it back for you. I was going to send it to you...”

There was indeed a bag next to Ye Ci with Ning Li’s clothes.

Ning Li heard her inquisitive tone and smiled faintly.

“Thanks, but I would’ve settled these minor things myself, so you didn’t need to worry about it.”

Ye Ci smiled. “Sister Ning Li, if it wasn’t for you, I wouldn’t have been able to do so well in the physics competition.”

Ning Li walked over and took the bag.

“Don’t thank me. It’s your own hard work, so thank yourself.”

She really did think so because she had only given Ye Ci the notes. If Ye Ci had not been willing to learn or memorize them, then it would have been useless to attend the exam.

The reason Ye Ci could make it to fifth place in the province was largely due to the notebook Ning Li gave her.

Ye Ci had never liked Ning Li, so having to read Ning Li’s notes had been humiliating for her.

However, she could remember it so well because of that.

Ye Ci frowned as she could not guess Ning Li’s intentions.

On the one hand, Ning Li was cold towards her and had even embarrassed her at yesterday’s celebration banquet.

On the other hand, Ning Li had given her those notes without reservation.

Was Ning Li not worried that Ye Ci would have overtaken her and deliberately provoked her?

Seeing that Ning Li was about to go upstairs, Ye Ci took a few steps forward and said, “Sister Ning Li, Mom’s waiting for you upstairs and asked you to talk to her when you returned.”

‘Of course, Ning Li knew what Su Yuan wanted to talk about.’

After such a scene, the Ye family had lost their reputation, so Su Yuan would certainly take it all out on her.

Too bad, Ning Li was not interested in being her punching bag.

Ning Li glanced towards Ye Ming and Su Yuan's bedroom.

"She's sleeping?"

"Mm."

"Then I won't bother her for now," Ning Li said and went straight to her room.

Ye Ci was stunned, but before she could say anything, Ning Li walked out again with her backpack.

She took a few steps forward and asked, "Sister Ning Li, you just came back. Are you going out again?"

Ning Li nodded but did not say where she was going.

While Ye Ci hesitated, Ning Li already went out the door.

"Ning..."

The door slammed shut, and Ye Ci kept quiet.

Ye Ci had not slept well all night yesterday. Every time she thought of Lu Huaiyu saying in a cool, low voice over the phone that Ning Li was right beside him and had fallen asleep, Ye Ci felt like her heart was on fire.

She could also tell that Lu Huaiyu was different when he talked to Ning Li compared to others.

Why was he so biased towards Ning Li?

...

Ning Li went out of the Ye family home and brought her bag to Heyuan District.

Just as she reached the entrance of the neighborhood, she saw a familiar figure.

Ning Li was startled.

Only after that person had walked into the neighborhood did she get out of the taxi.

Ning Li did not go over immediately and went to a boutique nearby instead.

When she came out again, she was wearing a baseball cap.

Ning Li lowered the brim of the hat so that most of her small face was hidden in the shadows.

With that, she walked into the neighborhood as she always did.

...

On Sunday noon, the neighborhood was very lively.

Many people came and went, and not many noticed Ning Li.

Ning Li went upstairs, entered the master bedroom, put her backpack down, and rummaged for a few things in the little space next to her before she took a few things to the bedroom facing north.

Soon, a small telescope was assembled.

Ning Li calibrated it and pointed the lens at the building that was opposite.

Chapter 210: Is That Something You Can Drive?

This was an old neighborhood, and the space between the front and back buildings was not far.

All it took was a low magnification telescope to get a clear view of the situation in the room across the street.

A window appeared in view.

Although it was broad daylight, the curtains were tightly drawn.

However, Ning Li did not fret and added another camera. After she set everything up, she looked over again.

At this time, her phone that was in the master bedroom next door vibrated.

She walked out of the room and locked the door behind her.

When she came to the master bedroom, she saw that she had received a message from Null.

It was a picture.

A silver-gray supercar seemed to have been involved in a violent collision, so much so that the bumper had fallen off completely and the front hood of the car was twisted and deformed.

It was pretty much scrap metal.

[You want it?]

Ning Li clicked on the picture and examined it for a while.

[In this condition, the cost of the repair would be enough to buy a new one.]

Moreover, it was obvious that this was a custom model.

It would be more expensive, so the repair would be more troublesome.

[Money's not a problem. The client only asked for it to be fixed as soon as possible.]

Ning Li took a sip of water, not feeling surprised.

Those who could afford this kind of car were certainly not short of money.

However, she was not interested.

[Didn't they stop production on this model five years ago? I'm afraid it won't be easy to repair.]

The reply came back quickly.

[You don't have to worry about this. The client will provide all the original parts. They just want to restore it to the exact condition as before.]

Null then sent her the client's offer.

Ning Li stared at the string of numbers and with hardly any hesitation, she replied.

[I'll take it.]

Although she was not short of money now, it was always nice to earn more.

[Okay, then I'll accept this order for you. Oh, I forgot to tell you. This car is now at Second Garage in Lincheng. Try to come over as soon as possible.]

Ning Li was speechless.

[What made you so sure that I would take this case?]

There were two garages in Lincheng. First Garage was for the masses and was an ordinary repair shop, but Second Garage was extremely private, and only very few people knew about it.

Taking the car to Second Garage meant that he was sure that Ning Li would take this case.

After a while, Null replied.

[You're already considering LY, so don't you want to help your future boss to repair his car?]

Ning Li froze.

'LY's boss? Had that car been sent over by Gu Siyang?'

Ning Li understood.

Null was much more well-informed than Ji Shu and knew more about this.

She had only revealed it to Null once before, but she had not expected him to take Gu Siyang's case.

[Don't worry. He doesn't know that you're the one doing the repairs.]

Currently, Gu Siyang only knew that Ning Li could race and did not know that Ning Li was responsible for a lot of the business with Null.

Ning Li thought about it for a moment.

[Thanks. There's no need to tell him this for now. I'll be there next Saturday.]

[Okay.]

...

"The car has been sent over?" In the study, Gu Tinglan sat behind the desk and asked calmly.

Gu Siyang stood in front of him, extremely nervous.

"Y-Y-Yes..."

Gu Tinglan did not say anything and only looked at him silently.

His nephew pitifully put his hands together and begged.

"Lil Uncle, it's all my fault... I just wanted to take that car out for a spin... I didn't expect..."

'I didn't expect to be so careless and end up in a car crash.'

Gu Siyang only had some small injuries, but the car was totaled!

He had not seen his uncle like this for many years.

Gu Tinglan was really mad this time!

“Lil Uncle, don’t worry! That garage has a great reputation and can definitely repair it! I...I...I won’t do this again next time...”

Gu Tinglan’s face was emotionless.

“There are so many cars at home. Why did you choose that one? Is that something you can drive?”

Gu Siyang lowered his head and did not speak.

He really had not thought much about it at the time. He had thought that driving it for a short distance would not be a big deal. Who knew...

Gu Tinglan pinched the bridge of his nose.

If not for the fact that Gu Siyang had almost been injured badly, he would never have been able to say these words to him so calmly at this moment.

“You’d better fix it fast, and not let your father know about this.”

If Gu Tingfeng knew that his son crashed the car, Gu Siyang would be beaten to death.

Gu Siyang obviously knew this very well and was extremely grateful. “Thank you, Lil Uncle! You’re still the best!”

Gu Tinglan snorted. “Don’t be too happy so soon. Your father loves that car, so he’ll probably notice the problem sooner or later.”

Gu Siyang’s face sank.

He knew his father’s temper all too well.

The only hope now was that the garage could try to restore that car to its original state.

This way, his chances of survival would be a bit higher.

Gu Tinglan closed his eyes for a while before asking, “You said the car has been sent to Lincheng?”

Gu Siyang hurriedly nodded his head.

“There’s a private garage there, and it’s very reputable in the industry.”

Not only in Lincheng, but even the underground racing cars in Yunzhou and nearby regions were usually sent there.

Gu Tinglan was not interested in these, but that car was very important, so he must personally see to it.

“Come with me to Lincheng in a few days.”

Gu Siyang knew that he wanted to see the car and quickly agreed.

...

Heyuan District.

Time passed slowly. Gradually, the sky turned dark.

Ning Li entered the last set of data, closed her laptop, and went over to the bedroom next door.

The lights of a certain room in the opposite building were already lit.

She pulled over a chair, clicked on her phone again, and studied the photo of the car for a while.

After about fifteen minutes, the light in that room went out.

Ning Li turned off her screen.

After waiting for another ten minutes, she got up and packed her things to leave.