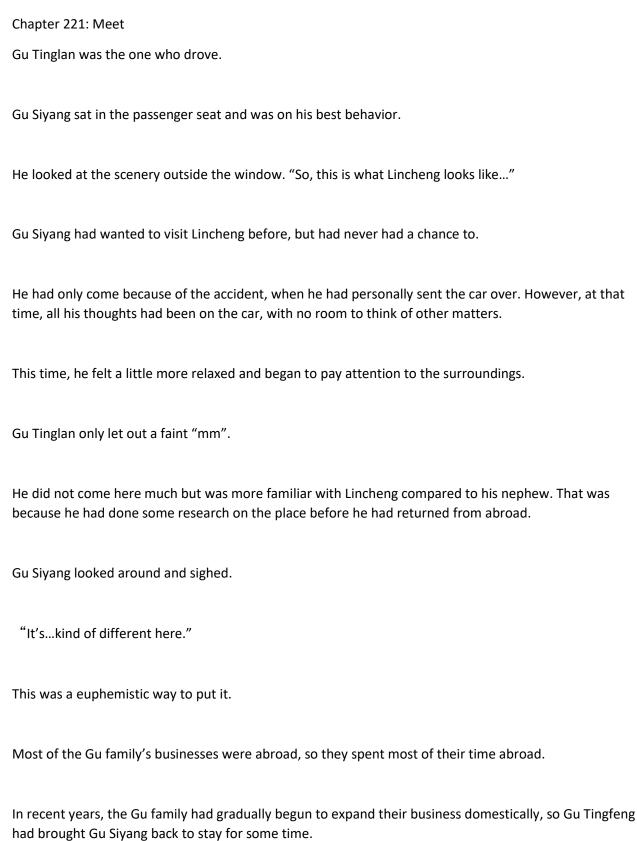
Little Brat's 221

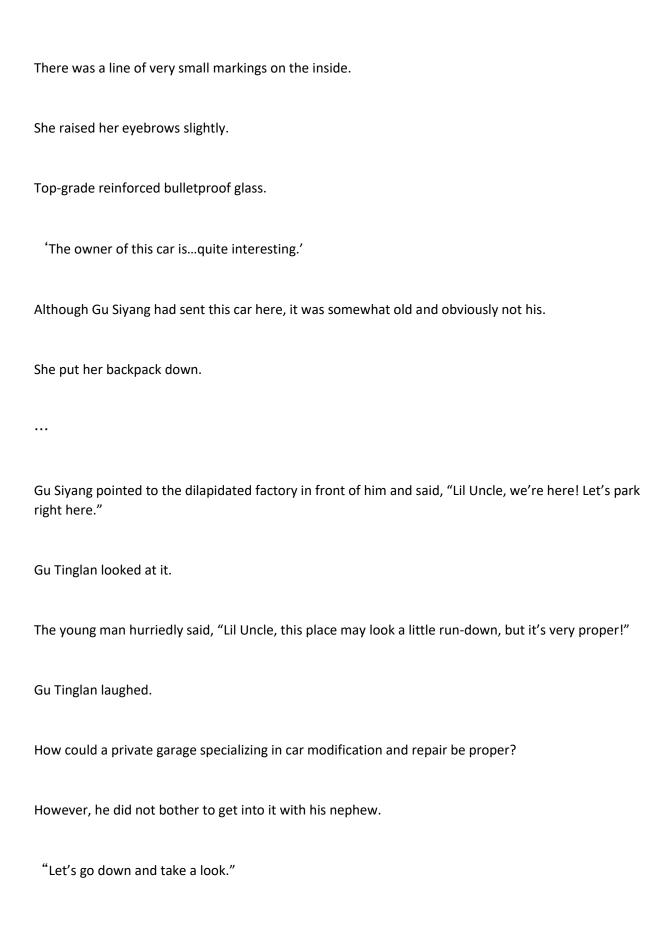


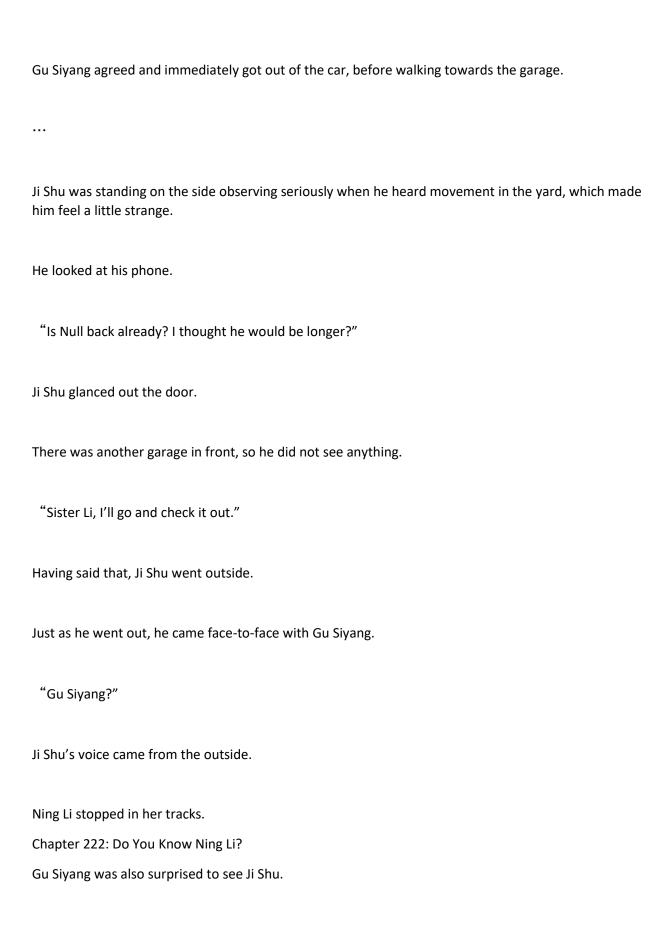
However, Gu Siyang mostly stayed in places like the Capital.
He had never had an opportunity to visit small townships like Lincheng.
Gu Tinglan said, "The scenery is quite nice."
Gu Siyang turned to look at him. After a moment's hesitation, he said, "Lil Uncle, are you really sure it's Lincheng?"
Gu Tinglan shook his head.
He had not found anything the last time he had come over.
This made him waver a bit.
However, this did not affect his impression of Lincheng.
Gu Tinglan did feel that this was a nice place.
"My original plan was to come back after I found some more clues, but thanks to you, it's ahead of schedule."
Gu Siyang shut up in defeat.
He also knew that he had made a big mistake this time, and he was now like a dog with his tail between his legs.
The only thing he wanted at the moment was for the car to be repaired as soon as possible so that if his father found out, he could still live to see another day.

He pointed ahead. "Lil Uncle, turn right at this intersection. We'll be there in another half an hour."
Ji Shu drove towards the west of the city.
The further west they were, the more historical the city looked.
Finally, they went to an abandoned repair shop in the suburbs.
This area was quite large. There were seven or eight cars parked in the yard that looked so dusty, as if they had been shelved for a long time.
There were two dilapidated metal garages further in.
Ji Shu parked the car in the yard.
Ning Li jumped out and walked towards the back of the garage.
The door was locked.
Ji Shu followed behind her.
"Null said that he's in the first garage and won't be back for another hour. Let's wait for"
Ning Li fished out a key from her pocket to open the door.
Click.



This place looked like a simple and dilapidated garage from the outside, but it was completely different on the inside.
At a glance, there were more than ten vehicles placed here.
Some looked like ordinary vans, while others were top-of-the-line race cars.
Next to them were various tools, instruments, and parts.
Suddenly, Ji Shu's eyes lit up.
"Sister Li! It's that one!"
Ning Li had already seen it.
The silver-gray supercar was parked in the innermost area of the garage.
Although she had already seen the photos, it was still quite a shock to see the car in person.
Even though the front body of the car had been distorted from the crash, the smooth and perfect curvature of the body was still breathtaking at first glance.
Ning Li walked over.
Ji Shu followed behind and stared at it. His eyes were glued to it.
"It's really stunning Just imagine driving this car"
Ning Li's gaze fell onto the car window.

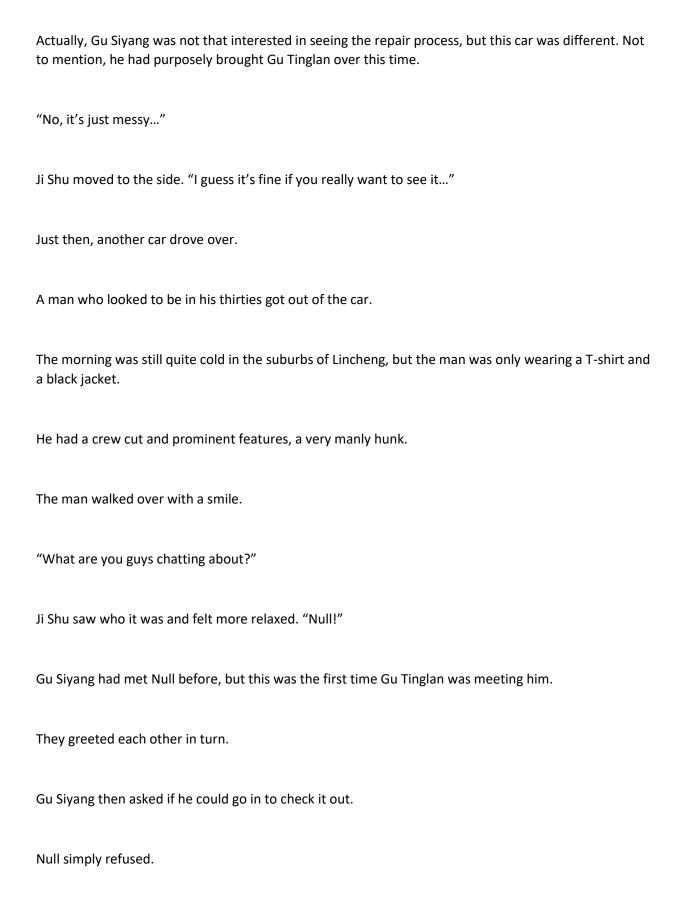






Gu Siyang did not know what to say.
He had not wanted Gu Tinglan to come over, but he had no choice.
"Yeah, it's not my car." Gu Siyang said honestly. "I accidentally crashed it, so I sent it over to be repaired."
When Ji Shu thought about it, this car was indeed not of the same era or style that Gu Siyang would like.
No wonder he was so nervous.
Ji Shu patted his shoulder.
"I told you before. With your skills, you really have to be careful on the road."
Gu Siyang's eyes widened, feeling a little bitter.
"That was just an accident"
"Everyone says so. Siyang, you should reflect on yourself."
Gu Tinglan spoke without mercy.
Gu Siyang was rendered speechless.
He would never admit it in front of Ji Shu, but it was different with his uncle.
Ji Shu was smug because it was rare to see the always proud and dashing Young Master Gu in defeat.

"Don't worry, since you sent it here, it'll definitely be fixed!" Gu Siyang looked at him suspiciously. "Don't tell me that you're the one responsible for repairing the car ... ?" He and Ji Shu had known each other for a while and even raced together a few times. Although Ji Shu was talented in racing, his car repair level was really mediocre. Ji Shu was rendered speechless by Gu Siyang's doubtful eyes. 'Am I really that substandard?!' "Don't worry, it's not me!" Besides, that car was so expensive. If he accidentally messed something up, he really could not afford to pay for it. Gu Siyang breathed a sigh of relief. "Are they repairing it inside? Shall we go over and take a look?" At the mention of this, Ji Shu paused in his footsteps and casually stopped him. He smiled and said, "It's a little busy inside, maybe later?" Gu Siyang froze. "Are you not allowing us to take a look?" Null was very famous in this underground racing circle, so it was normal that Ji Shu would know him. Knowing Ji Shu's personality, he would indeed make a trip just to see that car.







Ji Shu was stunned.
Null's hands were in his pockets as he leaned on his car door in a casual posture.
"Yeah, she's a good racer. Why do you ask?"
Ji Shu and Ning Li were close with each other. Since Ji Shu knew Null, Ning Li would be no exception, especially since Ning Li was from Lincheng.
Gu Tinglan said, "Nothing, I'm just curious about something."
Chapter 223: The Kid at Home Likes It
The few of them went to the garage in front.
There was an office inside.
The overall setup was very simple with three conspicuous desktops on the table.
However, the screen was black at the moment.
Gu Tinglan glanced at it once before withdrawing his gaze.
Null casually sat down on a chair.
"You're asking how she got involved with racing?"
Gu Tinglan sat across from him and nodded.

On the way to the garage, Gu Tinglan had already heard from his nephew that Null was a very significant person in the underground racing circle around here.
Since Ning Li also used to race, Null would certainly know something about it.
Null narrowed his eyes.
"I guess it's been a long time. She used to like driving around our garage when she was young. I saw that she was quite talented in it, so I took her along. It also allowed her to earn some pocket money. Why? Is there a problem?"
Gu Tinglan looked at him.
He could tell that Null was being frank.
However, he was more concerned about something else.
"I heard that Ning Li's father was imprisoned because of a car accident?"
When Gu Tinglan mentioned this, Null frowned.
This was Ning Li's scar.
She rarely ever mentioned it, so even more so they did not either.
'Why did Gu Tinglan suddenly ask about this?'
Looking at Null's reaction, Gu Tinglan knew what he was thinking.

Gu Tinglan smiled, in a gentle and polite manner. "Don't take it the wrong way. I don't mean anything else. It's just that I've been doing some research and studies recently. Generally speaking, this kind of situation would bring great psychological distress and trauma, which would make people subconsciously ignore and avoid the trigger. However, Ning Li's situation is somewhat special, so..." He had come into contact with many children from families with similar backgrounds. They usually shunned and hated objects that caused their misfortune. For example, cars, alcohol, and so on. When Ning Haizhou had gotten into the accident, Ning Li had only been seven years old, an age where she had already started to understand and remember things. However, she was clearly not like most people. She did not avoid cars and had even gotten involved in underground racing. Gu Tinglan had seen Ning Li's racing video on Xiaosong Hill. She was determined, persistent, and fearless. Null stroked his chin and pondered. He roughly understood why Gu Tinglan was asking this, but... "Everyone's different, so it's better if you ask her yourself."

Gu Tinglan pondered for a moment and smiled. "You're right."

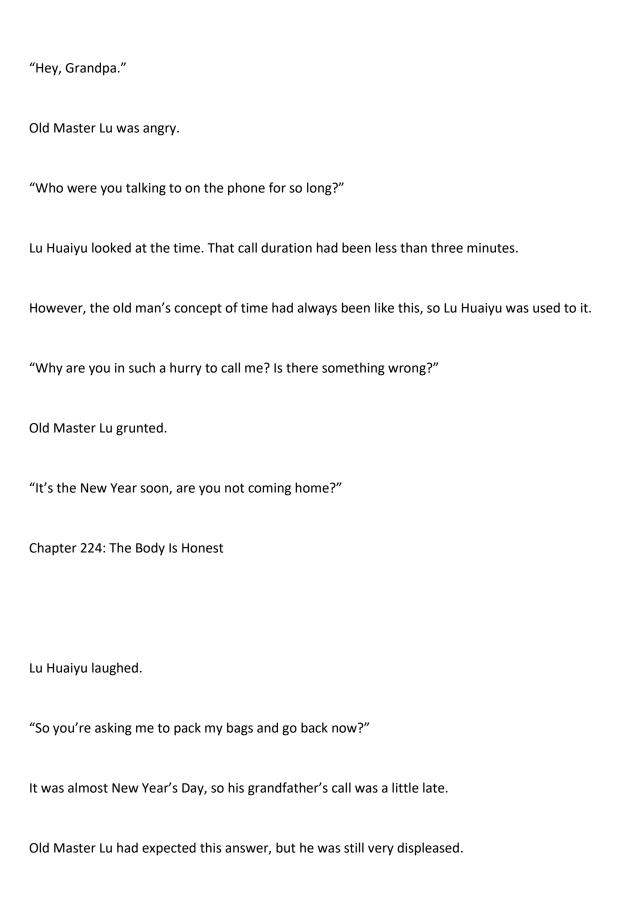
Gu Tinglan and Gu Siyang quickly left.
Seeing their car gradually disappear, Ji Shu leaned against the door feeling a little strange.
"They already know that Sister Li can race, so why is it necessary to hide that she's repairing their car?"
Null turned on the computer without raising his head.
"If you hadn't bumped into her back then and pestered her while shouting her name, do you think she would've told you?"
Ji Shu was speechless.
Back when his car had broken down, he had sent it here to be repaired and run into Ning Li.
It had been pure coincidence.
"Fine. Anyway, Sister Li is now so focused on school. I guess it'll be a lot less trouble this way."
As he said this, Ji Shu walked to the back garage.
"I'd better go and learn from her Sister Li, why are you out here?"
Before he could finish his sentence, he saw that Ning Li had already walked to the door.
She had taken off her jacket and her sleeves were pulled up. Her face and hands were also stained.

Ji Shu was dumbfounded. "Sister Li, did you just come up from under the chassis?"
Ning Li ignored him and walked straight to NULL. "Have you seen it?"
Null was staring at the screen, looking a bit serious.
Ji Shu looked at the two and felt a little puzzled.
"Uh What's wrong? Is something wrong with that car?"
Null leaned back in her chair.
The screen showed the car in three different orientations.
One of them showed very clearly that there was an extremely clear bullet mark on the inside of the driver's door where the handle was.
From the looks of it, a gun had been fired inside the car before.
However, it had been some years ago, and it had not been repaired.
Null suddenly recalled some of the details Gu Tinglan had mentioned to him earlier and looked up at Ning Li.
"Don't bother with this."
Ning Li walked to the side and opened a bottle of water.
"Alright."

This car belonged to the Gu family, and it was clear that it was very important to them.
It probably had something to do with this bullet mark.
Or rather, it was perhaps related to the owner of this car and the event that had happened.
However, this was none of her business. She was only responsible for repairing the car, so there was no need to ask too much.
Ji Shu was tormented by this tacit exchange between the two of them and walked over.
"What the hell is it? Let me see"
Null shut down the computer immediately and the screen blacked out.
Ji Shu was baffled.
Null propped his legs on the table.
"It's none of your business. Go learn from Ning Li."
Ji Shu was speechless and looked at Ning Li for help.
Ning Li thought about it for a moment. "Come over here and pass me the tools."
Ji Shu thought, 'Thanks for the humiliation'

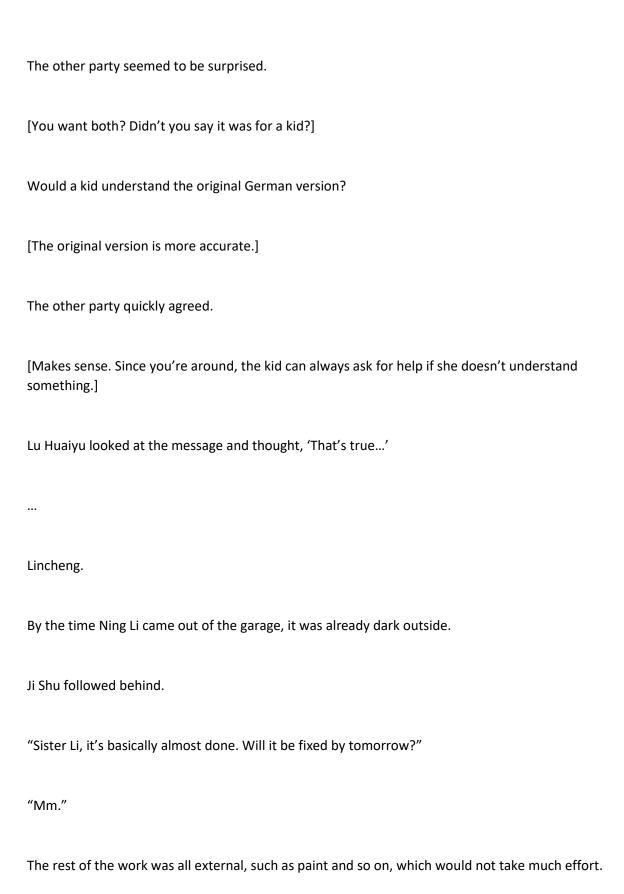
Although Ji Shu wanted to know what was going on, these two people obviously had no intention of telling him.
Ning Li took a short rest before getting up to start work again.
When she walked to the door, she looked back at Ji Shu. "Are you not coming?"
Ji Shu immediately followed. "Coming!"
It did not matter if he was kept in the dark about this. What was more important was this rare learning opportunity!
Yunding Fenghua.
The large study was on the second floor.
Lu Huaiyu was standing in front of the bookshelf picking out books.
Estimating the time, he figured that Ning Li would probably have finished reading the books that she had borrowed the last time.
She would probably come over and return them soon.
Lu Huaiyu thought about the books that she had borrowed and could already guess her preferences and progression.
After searching his bookshelves for a while, he dialed a phone number.

The person on the other side quickly picked up and sounded surprised. "Huaiyu, why are you so free to call me today?"
The corners of Lu Huaiyu's lips curved slightly.
"I want to borrow some books from you." He spoke fluent German.
He then listed a few book titles.
The other party listened for a moment, feeling puzzled.
"Haven't you read these before?"
Lu Huaiyu let out a faint "mm".
"The kid at home likes these, so I wanted to borrow them for her."
The other party laughed. "It's rare to get you to ask for a favor personally. I'll have my assistant sort it out and send it to you later. Oh, by the way, one of the books was borrowed by the doctor next door, so I guess it'll take some time before I can give it to you."
Lu Huaiyu did not mind.
"Then, thank you very much."
After hanging up the phone, Lu Huaiyu did not get to put his phone away before someone called again.
He looked at it and saw that it was a call from his grandfather.
After hesitating for a moment, Lu Huaiyu answered the call.



"You do the math How many times have you been home in the past few months? Your big brother doesn't come back because he's on a mission, but you're just staying in Yunzhou and refuse to come home. What are you trying to do?!"
The last time they had met, the old man had resorted to pretending to be sick to lure his grandson home.
Otherwise, he would not have gotten to see Lu Huaiyu.
If not for the fact that Gu Tinglan had told Old Master Lu that Lu Huaiyu's time in Yunzhou had aided in his recovery, the old man would have already forced his grandson to go back to the Capital.
This time, Old Master Lu had taken advantage of New Year's Day to make this call.
"If you're not returning on New Year's Day, then are you not planning on coming home during the Spring Festival as well?!"
The more Old Master Lu spoke, the angrier he became.
"I'll go home," Lu Huaiyu said.
"Everyone celebrates Chinese New Year together, butwaitwhat did you just say?"
Old Master Lu was shocked.
"Really?!"
Lu Huaiyu's thin lips curved slightly.
"Yeah, I'm going back in another two weeks until after Chinese New Year."

This news was such a surprise that Old Master Lu was momentarily confused. However, since Lu Huaiyu had said so, it was obvious that he was serious with his intention. The old man was instantly in a good mood. "Great! You've been in Yunzhou all year. If you don't even come back for Chinese New Year, people will think that you have a secret family there!" The old man thought, 'It's great that this child is coming back to the Capital!' Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows slightly but did not refute this statement. He had decided to go home for Chinese New Year because, on the one hand, he wanted to spend some time with his grandfather, but on the other hand... "Don't worry, Grandpa. I'll be going home soon." After finally getting a satisfactory answer from his grandson, the old man hung up the phone feeling contented. Lu Huaiyu's eyes casually swept to the bookshelf and saw two books placed side by side on it. Those were the books that Ning Li had borrowed the first time. It was a Chinese translation and the original German version. He thought about it and sent another message to the person he had called before. [Besides the Chinese version, please send the original version as well.]



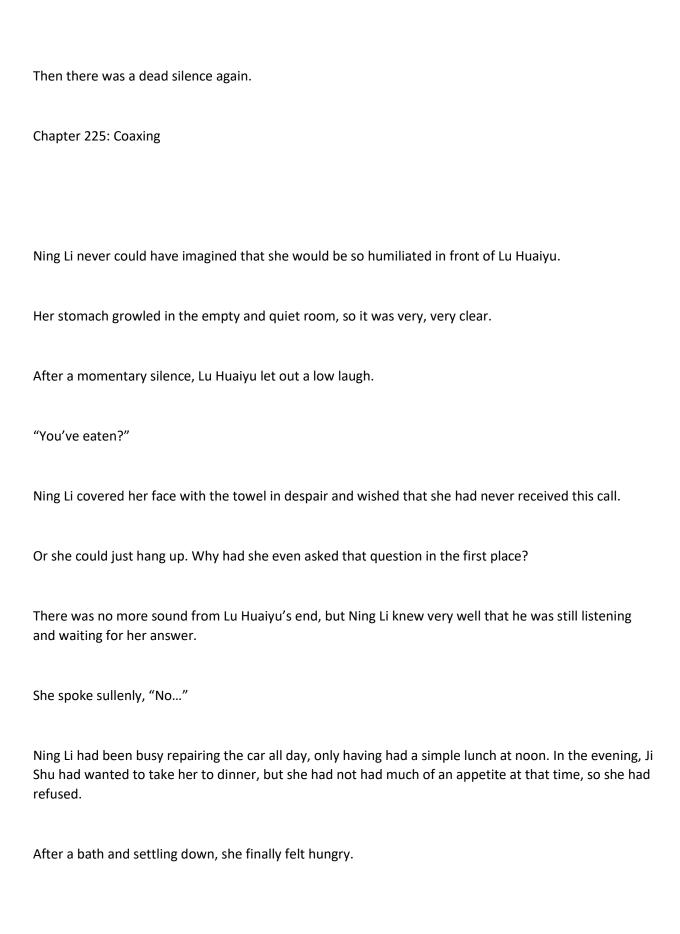
"Sister Li, where will you be sleeping tonight?"
Ning Li put on her baseball cap.
"Home."
Ji Shu froze. Only then did he react to what she meant.
She was not going back to the Ye family home, but back to the house she lived in when she was in Lincheng.
Ji Shu was a little hesitant.
"But Sister Li, you haven't been back for quite a long time. Now"
'Is it still livable there?'
Ning Li smiled and did not explain much. She just got into the passenger side of the SUV that Ji Shu had been driving before.
Null had something to do in the afternoon and had already left.
Ji Shu intended to help her book a hotel, but seeing that Ning Li had already made a decision, he got into the car.
"Then I'll send you home."

Ji Shu drove towards the old city and eventually stopped at a familiar intersection.
Ning Li got out with her backpack.
Ji Shu said, "I'll pick you up tomorrow morning then!"
Ning Li waved her hand without looking back and walked straight into the alley.
It was a Saturday evening, and the place was very lively.
A few children were running around happily, and the aroma of home-cooked food was coming from the building.
Ning Li went upstairs and stood in front of a door.
It looked very old and had some markings from being bashed.
These marks were from a long time ago.
At that time, Ning Haizhou had just gotten into an accident and gone to prison. The family of the victim who had died in the car accident had come to make a fuss many times.
Ning Li took out the key to open the door.
Snap.
The lights came on.
It was a very small house with old and simple furnishings, but it was clean.

After Ning Li had left Lincheng, she had specially hired someone who would come over regularly every month to clean and tidy up.
She put her backpack on the sofa and walked to one side.
There was a photo frame on the table and the old woman in the photo had a warm and kind smile.
"Grandma, I'm home." Ning Li whispered. "Did you miss me?"
There was no answer.
Those gentle eyes in the photo just looked back at her quietly.
Ning Li wiped the picture frame carefully and held it for a long time before putting it down.
Everything in the house was still exactly the same as when she had left.
She went to her room and pulled out a change of clothes.
When she had first gone to Yunzhou, she had only taken some of her things with her and left some here.
After working all day in the garage, she was very grimy and greasy.
She took her clothes and went to the bathroom.
Half an hour later, Ning Li came out of the bathroom, took a new towel, and lightly dried her hair.

The sky outside was already completely dark, and looking out, she could see a lit-up window across the street.
She casually picked up her phone, and only then did she see that there was a missed call from Lu Huaiyu.
It was from an hour ago.
Ning Li thought back. That should have been around the time that she had just left the garage.
She had been busy all day and felt tired as she sat in the car, so she had muted her phone and put it away.
That was why she had missed his call.
Ning Li thought about it and sent him a message.
[Sorry, Second Brother. My phone was on silent mode and I was busy, so I missed your call.]
Soon, Lu Huaiyu called her back.
She was the only one at home, so she had simply ordered takeout, sat cross-legged on the sofa, and continued to rub her hair.
"Lili?" Lu Huaiyu's voice came through.
Ning Li answered, "Second Brother, is there a reason you are looking for me?"
Lu Huaiyu chuckled. "Can't I call you if there's nothing?"

Ning Li paused for a moment as she wiped her hair.
Since the day she had watched a movie with Lu Huaiyu, she vaguely felt that something was not quite the same, but she could not pinpoint it.
Lu Huaiyu seemed to be unconcerned and nonchalant. "So busy? I seem to remember that you guys are having your final exams soon, right?"
"Yes, next week."
Lu Huaiyu thought that she had missed the call because she had been busy studying earlier.
However, she had been busy because of the car, not because of the exams.
Lu Huaiyu let out a faint "mm", then there was a short silence.
It was a little awkward.
Ning Li took the initiative to speak.
"Second Brother, have you eaten yet?"
"Yes, how about you?"
Ning Li had not actually eaten, but she still obediently replied, "Yes, I've eaten."
Growl.
Ning Li's stomach growled in response.





'Fine She's all yours It's not my place to be concerned for her.' Cheng Xiyue thought.
Lu Huaiyu continued to say, "We're in the city center. There are a few nice restaurants nearby. Do you want something lighter or something else? Xiyue's driving now, so we can send it to you on the way."
Cheng Xiyue was speechless. 'Am I just your handy driver, huh?'
Ning Li felt a little headache coming on. "It's really fine, Second Brother. Don't you still have an appointment?"
Lu Huaiyu seemed to have heard something.
"You're not at the Ye family house right now."
It was not a question, but a definite declarative statement.
"We're not far from Heyuan district."
Besides, he had the key, so it would not be much trouble.
Ning Li knew that she could not avoid this, so she took a deep breath and said honestly, "Second Brother, I'm not in Yunzhou…I'm back home in Lincheng."
Lu Huaiyu's phoenix eyes narrowed slightly.
The final exams were coming up. Why had Ning Li chosen to go back to Lincheng at this time?
"You're alone?"



Cheng Xiyua turned to look at Lu Huaiyu and lowered his voice slightly. "He's been in a pretty good mood lately, so this is a rare opportunity!"
Second Master Lu was loaded, so he was always generous, but taking the initiative to throw money at them and being passively coerced was a different matter.
"Alright, he's here, so I'll hang up first!"
Seeing Lu Huaiyu walking towards him, Cheng Xiyue quickly hung up the phone.
"So, are we delivering food to Little Ning Li?"
Lu Huaiyu said, "She's in Lincheng."
"Lincheng?" Cheng Xiyue was a little surprised.
'Why had Little Ning Li gone there without mentioning it to them?'
"Then"
Cheng Xiyue looked at Lu Huaiyu and found that he did not seem to be disappointed. Instead, he looked relaxed and seemed to be in a good mood.
'Tsk tsk' Cheng Xiyue silently gave Ning Li a thumbs up in his heart.
Knowing Lu Huaiyu, this would not have been his normal reaction if he had found out that Little Ning Li had gone back to Lincheng by herself without telling him.

Chen Xiyue did not know how Ning Li had managed to coax this Second Master Lu so well.

'It's reallya miracle'
"Let's go." Lu Huaiyu walked towards the parking lot.
Ning Li had planned to order a takeaway, but after thinking about it, she put on a jacket and went out.
It was a rare trip back here after all.
She went downstairs, walked across a street, turned a corner, and finally chose a familiar shop on the street.
Just as she was about to go in, a car suddenly pulled up behind her.
A familiar voice came from the car. "Ning Li?"
Ning Li was stunned and turned back.
Gu Siyang was waving at her from the car window.
Next to him was Gu Tinglan.
Chapter 226: Wanna Compete?
Earlier in the daytime, Ning Li and both Gu men had only been a wall apart from each other and almost met up.
Ning Li thought that she had managed to avoid them and had not expected to run into them at this hour.

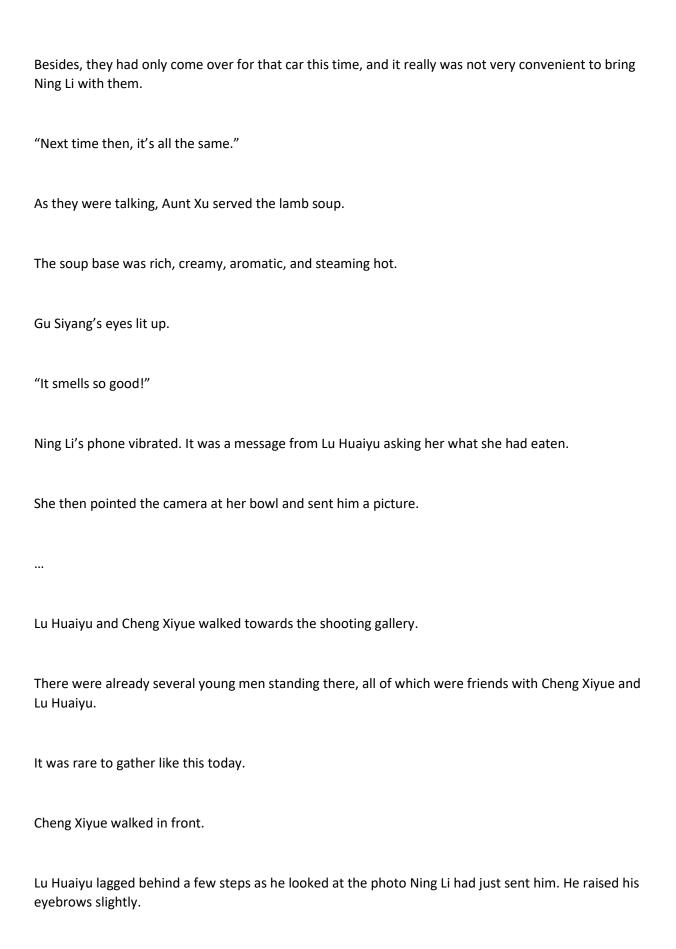
She quickly adjusted her expression and looked surprised. "Dr. Gu? Why are you here?"
Gu Siyang also found it coincidental to see Ning Li here.
He got out of the car immediately. "Lil Uncle and I came over to run some errands. What about you?"
Ning Li lifted a finger and pointed. "My home is over there. I came back to check on it."
She was originally from Lincheng anyway.
"Such a coincidence!"
Gu Siyang glanced in the direction she pointed at.
"Lil Uncle and I were just casually strolling around here. We didn't expect to run into you!"
He admired Ning Li very much, so every time he looked at her, his eyes were glowing.
Since they had met coincidentally, Gu Siyang wanted to show his good character as LY's boss so that Ning Li would have a better impression of him.
"Did you come out for dinner?"
His gaze fell on the restaurant signboard behind Ning Li.
"It just so happens that Lil Uncle and I haven't eaten yet either. Shall we eat together?"
Ning Li was speechless.

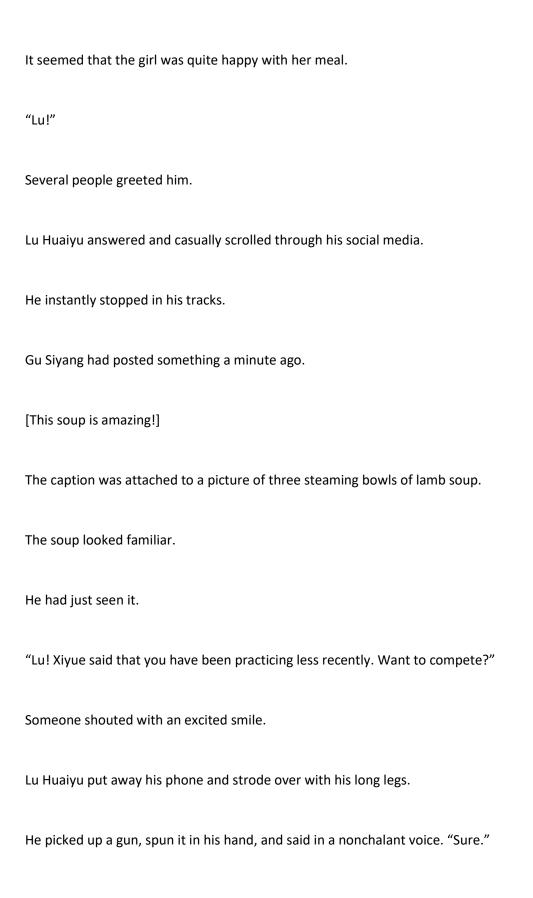




Ning Li turned back and said, "Aunt Xu, three servings of lamb soup please."
Winter in Lincheng was still quite cold, so it was good to drink this to warm their stomachs.
"Okay!"
Aunt Xu shouted at the kitchen. "Old Xu! Lili brought her friends over. Three lamb soups!"
She said a few more words to Ning Li before she went back to her work.
"Looks like the boss lady here likes you a lot." Gu Tinglan laughed.
Ning Li nodded. "Uncle Xu and Aunt Xu are very nice."
The couple also lived in this neighborhood, and they had owned this small restaurant for years.
When Ning Haizhou had first been imprisoned, their family had taken out all their savings and owed a lot of debts in order to compensate the victim's family.
Ning Li and her grandmother did not have a fixed source of income and had been short of money.
Aunt Xu and her husband could not bear to see them that way, so they would help them out from time to time.
When they ate at the restaurant, Aunt Xu would always give them a larger portion.
Gu Tinglan nodded.

Even if Ning Li did not say it, he could already guess some of it.
"I intended on asking you to be our guide around Lincheng, but you have your final exams soon, so let's forget it."
Gu Tinglan changed the topic.
Of course, he was not referring to this trip.
His original plan had been to wait until Ning Li's exams were over to ask her about this.
He had not expected that they would run into her here this time.
Ning Li smiled. "Mm, I made a last-minute decision to come back to get a few things."
This was a reasonable explanation.
Gu Tinglan knew that Ning Li did not get along with the Ye family and was not happy living there.
Earlier when Ning Li had mentioned "her home", that was the first time Gu Tinglan had ever heard the word coming from her mouth.
"I can't show you around this time because I'm heading back to Yunzhou tomorrow."
Gu Tinglan did not mind.
It was a Sunday tomorrow and Ning Li had to be at school the day after tomorrow, so of course, she had to go back.





Chapter 227: Add You on WeChat

The moment Lu Huaiyu said this, he stood with his feet roughly shoulder-width apart, raised his arms, and aimed.

His jawline was smooth and sharp and his eyes seemed to have a layer of frost that made him look cool and ascetic.

Bang!

It was a crisp and clear shot, a bullseye!

The bang echoed throughout the shooting gallery.

His friends had not expected him to move so fast and were stunned for a while.

Lu Huaiyu was not just fast. He had only raised his hands and taken a casual shot, yet he could hit the bullseye.

Song Zihang, who was the one that had wanted to compete with Lu Huaiyu, saw this and smiled, before choosing a gun.

"Whoa! Lu, you've been out of the army for so long, yet you don't seem to be rusty."

Both of them had grown up in a military family and were similar in age, so they had a good relationship.

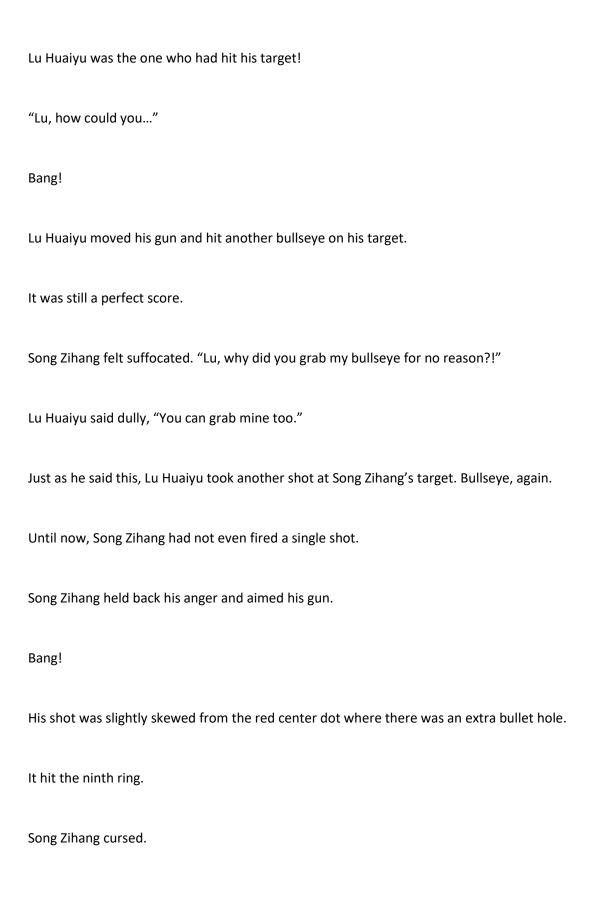
However, Song Zihang had been consistently crushed in every way by Lu Huaiyu since he was a child, so he had bitterly considered Lu Huaiyu his rival for many years.

When Old Master Lu had made Lu Huaiyu draft into the army, Song Zihang had gone as well, intending on beating Lu Huaiyu in at least one thing.

However, from the first military physical fitness test to every competition during their training, Song Zihang still lost to Lu Huaiyu over and over again.
After Lu Huaiyu left, Song Zihang had stayed back in the army.
This time, Song Zihang had just returned from a mission and was granted leave, so he came back to Yunzhou with a few brothers.
Lu Huaiyu was very talented, but the outside was not the same as the army, so Song Zihang had thought that Lu Huaiyu would have regressed in this area.
He had not expected Lu Huaiyu to be so stable and even seemed to be better than before.
Lu Huaiyu did not say anything and pulled the trigger again.
Bang!
Bullseye!
He did not stop there and kept shooting at one-second intervals, one after another.
Bang!
Bang!
Bang!
There was only one bullet hole in the target.
It was then that the group realized something was off.

"Song, why do I seem to feel amurderous aura?" Someone asked in a whisper.
Song Zihang said, "Yeah."
'I f*cking felt it too!'
He then glanced at Cheng Xiyue.
"Didn't you say that he was in a good mood?"
'This idiot Cheng Xiyue! Which eye of his saw that Lu Huaiyu was in a good mood?!'
Cheng Xiyue was speechless and innocently raised his hands in surrender.
"I swear, before coming in here, he really was in a good mood! Why would I lie to you guys?"
Cheng Xiyue swept a sidelong glance at the group.
"Who knows which one of you is an eyesore to our Second Master Lu!"
Song Zihang almost pointed his gun at Cheng Xiyue.
If it was not for the fact that their families were friends, he really wanted to end Cheng Xiyue with a single shot at this moment.
Cheng Xiyue turned to look at Song Zihang and lowered his voice. "What's wrong with you? Didn't you say that you wanted to compete with Huaiyu before coming here? Are you chickening out?"





A few people in the back watched the two compete with trepidation.
"Uh Should we still go next?"
"Are you crazy? If you go up, you're just gonna get wrecked by Lu!"
"Yeah Just let Song take one for the team'
Lu Huaiyu suddenly stopped, turned his head to the side, and looked over at the few others.
His handsome face was calm without the slightest bit of emotions.
"It's on me today, right? Come join us."
Lincheng.
Gu Siyang suddenly felt a chill at the back of his neck.
He looked around. The store was heated and there were many people, so it was very warm and lively around here.
Gu Siyang shrugged his shoulders and did not think much of it. He then lowered his head again and took a big spoonful of soup.
Delicious!
Gu Tinglan looked at Ning Li and asked. "How are you going to go back tomorrow? Do you want me to see you off?"

Gu Siyang hurriedly said, "I'll do it! I'll do it! Lil Uncle, leave this kind of thing to me…"
Gu Tinglan threw a sidelong glance at him.
Since Gu Siyang had crashed that car, he had not allowed Gu Siyang to touch a car again.
Gu Siyang shrank his neck and silently swallowed the rest of his words.
His uncle was strict and he did not know how long this ban on driving would last.
Gu Siyang was just itching to drive, but without a green light from his uncle, he dared not be rash.
If he pissed his uncle off, no one would help to defend him when his dad found out about the car.
'Sigh My life sucks!'
Gu Siyang was annoyed.
"Boss! One more bowl please!"
Ning Li shook her head. "There's no need to trouble you guys. I'll just go back by high-speed train."
Gu Tinglan suddenly said, "High-speed rail is good, but it's more convenient to drive. By the way, did you know that Ji Shu's also in Lincheng now?"
Ning Li's eyes dropped slightly.
"Really? I didn't chat with him recently because I've been busy with my final exams."







Ning Li looked at the car parked on the side of the road and politely refused.
"It's just down the street, a few minutes away, so you don't have to bother."
This car driving past her neighborhood would be quite flashy.
Although Ning Li did not care too much about what other people thought of her, it was better this way so she could have peace of mind.
Hearing Ning Li say this, they did not insist.
Both sides said their goodbyes.
The car drove away, and Ning Li watched them leave before she slowly walked home.

The shooting gallery.
A few people sat exhausted in the rest area and looked at Lu Huaiyu at the front who did not seem the slightest bit tired. They now felt as if life had lost its meaning.
"My arms are about to fall off! Is Lu not even a bit tired?"
"It's no wonder that Song was always so bitter when he talked about his time in the army with Lu. Who could compare to his stamina and precision?!"
"Damn it, Cheng Xiyue! Are you deliberately taking revenge on us or what?"

Cheng Xiyue was also worn out.
He waved his limp hand. "Shush Let me get some rest"
Cheng Xiyue had only arranged this game tonight because Lu Huaiyu had been in good spirits lately, which was very rare. He had then thought of taking advantage of this to get Lu Huaiyu to break the bank. This idea made him feel smug and happy.
In the end, although Lu Huaiyu had paid the bill, they were the ones who had suffered!
Only Song Zihang was left in front, still clenching his teeth in fortitude.
However, even so, there was little hope of turning the tide.
Finally, after Lu Huaiyu had robbed Song Zihang of his target again, Song Zihang called it quits.
"I'm done!"
'I didn't even get screwed over like this in the army!'
Bang!
Lu Huaiyu shot the last bullet, then finally stopped.
Song Zihang strode over to Cheng Xiyue in a huff and kicked him, before smiling sarcastically.
"Young Master Cheng, are you having fun watching?"
Even a fool could see that Lu Huaiyu was here to vent whatever anger was pent-up in him.

They had all been tricked by Cheng Xiyue!
Cheng Xiyue intuitively noticed the precarious situation he was in and pleaded his case.
"Didn't I also go on the field?"
'My arm's still sore!'
Song Zihang snorted, not hiding his contempt.
"With your sh*tty skills, you were the first to come down."
Among the small group, Cheng Xiyue's shooting skills were utter trash, so he had just been there for the fun of it and to give moral support, and had not stayed in the game for long.
The rest of them had been left to suffer, especially Song Zihang.
He felt that he had taken on about 80% of Lu Huaiyu's wrath and felt vexed.
Cheng Xiyue did not mind being scolded by Song Zihang for this and sympathetically patted him on the shoulder. "Well Thanks for today, bro!"
Lu Huaiyu walked over and picked up his jacket.
It looked like he was ready to leave.
Cheng Xiyue asked joyfully.

"Lu, did you want to go home? Let me take you!"
Lu Huaiyu let out a faint "mm", then picked up his phone.
Song Zihang and the rest were relieved.
'We don't want to play anymore! We need rest!'
Cheng Xiyue got up from his chair as fast as he could and made sure to send Second Master Lu home as quickly as possible.
However, just as he stood next to Lu Huaiyu, he saw that Lu Huaiyu suddenly stood still.
Cheng Xiyue subconsciously looked at his phone and could vaguely see that he was scrolling through Wechat Moments.
He shouted, "Yo, let's go!"
Lu Huaiyu suddenly laughed.
He put away his phone, stuck one hand in his pocket, and turned back.
Song Zihang suddenly felt a chill down his spine.
Lu Huaiyu said nonchalantly, "It's been a long time since we've all been together. The fighting gym's right next door. Anyone up for a sparring session?"

An hour later, Song Zihang once again dropped on the ground of the fighting arena and cursed Cheng Xiyue in his heart.

Cheng Xiyue was outside the ring and saw Song Zihang's miserable state. He then looked at the few guys next to him who had been utterly defeated and could not help but feel secretly thankful.

'Luckily... Luckily I never learned these sports... If not, I'm afraid I wouldn't have escaped this today.'

Cheng Xiyue had a short moment of silence for his friends, before taking out his phone and scrolling through Wechat Moments.

'It's really strange. Before coming here, Lu Huaiyu had been in a good mood and even talked to Little Ning Li, right? Who's the idiot that posted something to provoke Second Master Lu?!'

When Lu Huaiyu got out from the ring, his clothes were half-drenched, outlining his perfect figure, from his shoulders to his abs.

A few strands of hair at the front of his forehead were drenched in sweat, and the look in his eyes was deep.

Lu Huaiyu looked at Cheng Xiyue.

In an instant, Cheng Xiyue shuddered.

'No, no, no... If Lu Huaiyu intends on hitting me too, I'll call Little Ning Li for help!'

Fortunately, Lu Huaiyu did not have this intention.

"Let's go back." Lu Huaiyu said as he looked at the time.

Cheng Xiyue let out a long sigh of relief in his heart.





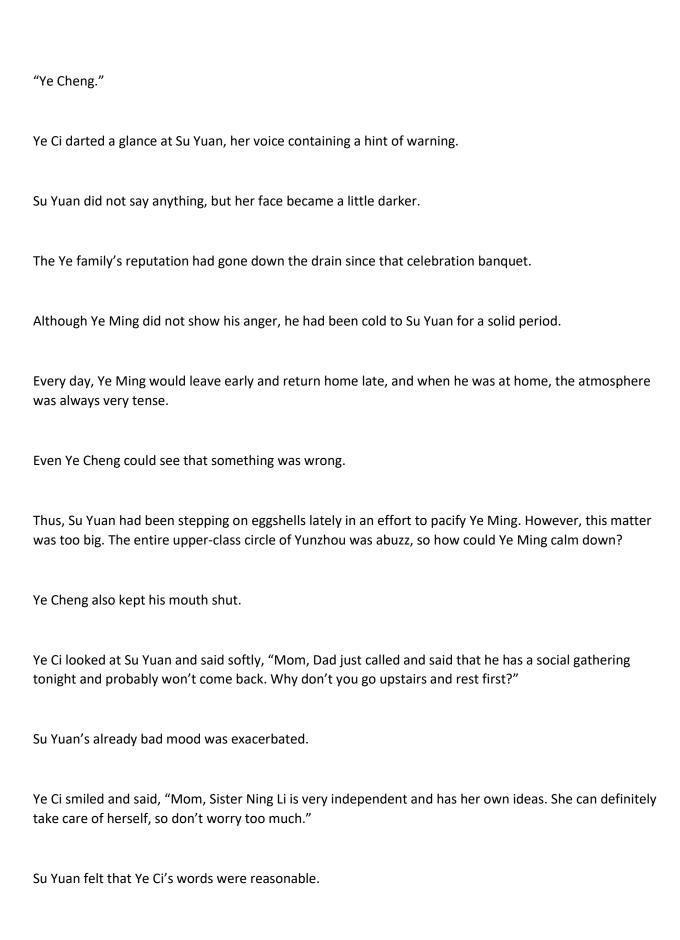
Ning Li was lying on her bed at this moment and had nestled under the quilt.
This house was very old and had no heating, so it was quite cold now at night during the winter.
Seeing his incoming call, Ning Li hesitated before answering the phone.
"Hello, Second Brother?"
Her voice sounded a bit muffled.
Lu Huaiyu paused for a moment.
"Are you already asleep?"
"No."
Ning Li pushed away the covers to expose her head.
"But almost."
Lincheng was a laidback city. The roads were basically deserted before 10:00 pm.
Everyone was at home and rested early.
Ning Li knew the meaning of his call and spoke after some deliberation.
"Second Brother, I still have something to do tomorrow. I'll probably leave in the afternoon, but I'm not sure when exactly, so I won't bother you and Brother Xiyue."



Cheng Xiyue froze slightly, then shrugged his shoulders. "Alright."
Anyway, this was not the first time he had done this.
In the past year, Lu Huaiyu had gone to Lincheng once or twice a month. Each time he had gone, he would not do anything and had spent most of his time on the road.
He had only stopped going in the past two or three months. It was not that troublesome to take the time to pick Little Ning Li up anyway.
After all, this was much better than before.
After Ning Li had hung up the phone, she wrapped herself up tightly with the quilt and soon fell into a deep sleep.

The Ye family home.
"Where's Ning Li?"
Su Yuan had gone out shopping during the day. She had bought a lot of things for Ye Ming, Ye Ci, and Ye Cheng, so she had only returned in the evening. Only then had she found out that Ning Li was not home yet.
Ye Ci helped her mother with the bags and explained, "Mom, Ning Li went out in the morning. I think she went back to Lincheng."

Su Yuan did not like to hear the word "Lincheng".
Moreover, Ning Li had lied to her once before about going back to Lincheng, so she was even more skeptical about it now.
Seeing her expression, Ye Ci knew that Su Yuan did not believe it and quickly said, "It's true. When Ning Li left in the morning, I saw her taking out the high-speed train ticket to Lincheng."
Su Yuan was still skeptical.
Ye Cheng saw his gifts and squealed with joy.
When he heard Ye Ci, he spoke as he looked at the gift box without raising his head. "Buying a ticket doesn't necessarily mean she'll go! Who knows what she's up to again?"
Ye Cheng wished that Ning Li had really gone back to Lincheng for good because he did not welcome her in this house at all.
They used to be a happy family of four, but since Ning Li's arrival, everything had been different. The whole house was a mess!
If she left and never came back, that would be the best.
Ye Ci wrinkled her eyebrows slightly and looked at Ye Cheng disapprovingly.
"Lil Cheng'
Ye Cheng spat out his tongue.
"Sister, she's not even nice to you, Mom, or me, so why do you always speak up for her? Also, this time Dad's angry because"







"I booked the high-speed train for this afternoon, so I'll head to the station after packing."

Cheng Xiyue drove his car and came to the old city. Finally, he stopped at an intersection.
There were dilapidated buildings on both sides.
He glanced to the alley on the right.
"Little Ning Li's home is there, right?"
He had come once and had a vague memory of it.
However, since it had been at night and it had been raining then, he had not seen it very clearly.
Only now could he get a clearer look.
Cheng Xiyue's car was low-profile enough. There were also a lot of cars parked haphazardly on the street nearby, so it did not attract too much attention.
The stone path was uneven, and the two sides of the building were crowded, with rusty metal bars over the windows. Some people were hanging their laundry outside.
A few women were gathered around for a chat. Someone opened the door and splashed soiled water on the ground outside. Some children were running about, laughing.
Cheng Xiyue looked at this chaotic scene with mixed feelings.

He had investigated Ning Li a long time ago and he knew quite a lot about her life growing up in Lincheng all these years.
However, when he saw this scene in person, he still felt indescribable emotions.
Little Ning Li had lived in such a place for the first seventeen years of her life.
He thought about the Ye family's villa, which was situated in one of the best neighborhoods in Yunzhou.
Every time he saw Su Yuan, she was always dressed exquisitely and nobly.
There was not one part of her body that was not well taken care of.
Anyone who saw Su Yuan could see that she had lived a life of respect and privilege.
Even though the Ye family had no relationship with Ning Li, Su Yuan was still her biological mother.
If Su Yuan had been willing, she could have reached out to Ning Li so that Ning Li would not have had to grow up in this situation.
Cheng Xiyue looked at Lu Huaiyu.
Lu Huaiyu was sitting in the passenger seat as he looked over there. His face looked calm without showing any emotion.
Cheng Xiyue sighed silently.
Even he felt sad at seeing this scene, what more would Lu Huaiyu feel?
Around that time, several people crossed the road as they walked and talked.



They did not know if Ning Li would still come back.
Lu Huaiyu shook his head. "She should be back soon. Let's wait a while."
Ning Li had just replied to his message saying that she was going home to pack her things.
She would be home soon.
Half an hour later, a cab stopped at the intersection.
Ning Li got out of the car and walked towards her house.
Across the street, she turned around without noticing Cheng Xiyue's car.
Cheng Xiyue was happy to see her.
"She's back! Let's go over there!"
Just as he said this, he changed his mind again.
"Um Forget it. Let's wait a little longer. She still has to take some time to pack her things. Lu, you can just tell her that we're here."
Lu Huaiyu nodded, took out his phone, and sent a message to Ning Li.

As soon as Ning Li entered the building, she felt that something was wrong. Although it was daytime, the building was very old. The city development did not enforce any standards of maintenance, so the hallways were very dark. She slowed down her pace and held the phone in her pocket with one hand as she clutched her backpack with the other. The hallway was very quiet. The only sound was of her footsteps as she walked up the stairs. Finally, she came to her front door. There were a few more markings of forceful entry on the door, and the doorknob seemed to have a cut on it. There was also red paint on her door that read, "A life for a life!" The pungent smell of spray paint stung her nose and stabbed her mind. Suddenly, the door opened. Lu Huaiyu waited for a while, but Ning Li still had not replied. Even if her phone was on silent, she probably would have looked at her phone once she got home. Cheng Xiyue wondered. "What's wrong with Little Ning Li? Has she still not responded?" Suddenly, the figures Lu Huaiyu had seen earlier came to mind.

His eyes were stern and he immediately pushed the car door open to get out.