

Little Brat's 261

Chapter 261: Take Your Time to Write

Everyone else in the classroom started to do the questions.

The surrounding area was so quiet that Ye Ci could even hear the sound of her heart beating nervously.

Her palms were also sweaty.

For a moment, she took a deep breath and tried to calm her mind.

This exam could not be avoided, so she could only try her best.

She then picked up her pen and looked at the first question.

It was a question on thermal energy conversion.

Ye Ci stared at the question for a while and worked it out on her draft paper.

Zhou Fei had taught this type of problem in class before, but it was tough because the values in this problem were very tricky and required a lot of calculation.

After a while, Ye Ci's answer was a negative number.

This was obviously incorrect.

She frowned and went back to check the steps, not knowing where the problem was.

After looking back and forth twice and redoing the problem, she finally wrote out the answer.

She was relieved and subconsciously looked up at the wall clock above the blackboard, only to realize that ten minutes had passed.

'This is only the first sub-problem!'

Ye Ci's lips turned a little pale.

The first fifteen questions on this paper were all fill-in-the-blanks.

There were ten other long questions at the back.

These fill-in-the-blank questions took up a very high percentage of marks.

If she simply filled in the blanks, it would be equivalent to abandoning this paper.

Based on her current speed, Ye Ci might not even be able to do the first long question within two hours.

The classroom was well heated, but Ye Ci felt extremely cold as she sat here.

She looked to the side, but everyone was writing with their heads down. The person on her right seemed to have finished several questions.

It seemed that she was the only one who was still stuck on the first problem.

Li Guangyuan glanced at her.

Ye Ci hurriedly lowered her head and began to look at the second question.

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Time always seemed to be stretched out during an exam.

Suddenly, the sound of paper flipping rang out in the quiet classroom.

It was a subtle sound, but now, it stood out.

Some people could not help but look in the direction of where the sound had come from.

In the corner of the last row of the classroom, Ning Li had already flipped to the second page and started writing.

Many people were secretly surprised.

'Is she...already done with the first page?!'

Ye Ci also noticed this.

Somehow, she could guess that it was Ning Li without turning around.

She looked at her own paper.

The first page had fifteen fill-in-the-blank questions and three long questions.

She had only made it to the sixth fill-in-the-blank question, yet Ning Li had already started the second page.

Ye Ci felt like there was a fire burning in her chest which made her feel anxious and helpless.

'I know this question... How did I do it before?'

Ye Ci would panic when she was nervous and then feel horrible because she could not solve any problems.

It was a vicious cycle.

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Gradually, other people in the classroom also started on the second page.

The two boys next to Ye Ci also turned over their papers.

Ye Ci was the only one that was slow. She had not even made it to the first long question yet.

Seeing that everyone was writing fast, Ye Ci simply gave up on the remaining few fill-in-the-blanks and turned to the long question.

After looking through the question, she still could not figure out how to solve it, so she wrote out a few formulas that she had memorized for kinematics.

"Mr. Li." The boy sitting on her right suddenly raised his hand. "I've run out of draft paper. Can I please get another one?"

"Sure."

Li Guangyuan walked over with a new stack of draft paper and gave one to the boy.

"Thanks, Mr. Li."

The boy took it and continued to write vigorously.

Li Guangyuan did a half-turn and his glance unintentionally swept over Ye Ci's paper.

Ye Ci's heart clenched. 'My first page is still mostly blank!'

She quickly turned the paper over and pretended to start writing on the second page.

Li Guangyuan did not notice her abnormality and moved away after just a glance. He looked at the class and asked, "Who else needs more draft paper?"

A few more students raised their hands.

Ye Ci hesitated and followed suit.

Her draft paper was indeed quite full, but it was filled with a lot of her previous miscalculations.

Li Guangyuan handed out the draft papers one by one, then walked around the classroom again before finally returning to take a seat at the front.

He looked at his phone and reminded the class.

"There's still one hour left!"

Once the students heard this, the sound of writing in the classroom sped up a lot.

So far, Ye Ci had barely even solved two long questions.

She had looked through the rest and did not know how to solve them.

At this rate, even if she was given a few more hours, she would still not be able to solve them.

Suddenly, someone at the back of the classroom stood up and walked towards the podium.

Everyone subconsciously turned around.

It was Ning Li.

She held her paper in her hand.

Everyone was stunned seeing her like this,

'She's going to turn in her paper early!'

She had actually finished all these questions at this difficulty level, ahead of time.

Li Guangyuan was also surprised and sat upright.

Ning Li came to the front. "Mr. Li, I'm done."

The classroom was dead silent.

'OMG... Seriously?!'

Li Guangyuan asked skeptically, "Are you sure you want to turn it in now? There's still plenty of time, so you can check your answers."

Ning Li shook her head.

"I've checked them."

'Twice.'

Li Guangyuan took her paper and scanned it.

It really was done.

Moreover, it seemed that she answered it well.

Out of the three questions that he had seen at least, the answers were all correct.

Li Guangyuan understood at once. When he looked at Ning Li again, his expression became more gentle.

"Okay, put the paper here. By the way, please hand in your draft paper as well."

"Okay."

Ning Li went back to her seat to get the draft paper and came back to hand it over to Li Guangyuan.

Li Guangyuan took a casual glance at her paper and was immediately stunned.

'Why is this student's draft paper so clean? Even if she knew the answers to these questions, there were a lot of calculations, so how did she do it?'

He looked up at Ning Li with some disbelief.

Ning Li looked calm. "Mr. Li, is there a problem?"

Li Guangyuan was momentarily stunned before recovering himself.

"Oh, no...you can leave first."

Ning Li packed her backpack.

Just as she was about to leave, Li Guangyuan suddenly called out to her.

"By the way, you're from Yunzhou Second High School...Ning Li, right?"

Her face was so recognizable that it was hard to forget.

Ning Li nodded her head.

Only then did Li Guangyuan wave his hand. "Alright, go ahead then."

Ning Li then walked out of the classroom.

Li Guangyuan watched her leave and looked at her paper again.

The three teachers had come up with these questions together, so he was very clear about the answers.

After a quick sweep, Li Guangyuan carefully folded the paper and put it into his folder.

He then looked at the other students in the classroom again.

"There are still fifty minutes left. No need to rush, take your time!"

Chapter 262: Ranking

Everyone heard this and felt very frustrated.

‘No need to rush? Take our time?! Ning Li has already turned in her paper, so how can we not be in a hurry?!’

Even if there were still 50 minutes left, some questions were so difficult that they could not solve them even if they had more time.

Ning Li handing in her paper earlier deeply motivated the other students that were present. They all lowered their heads to write quickly.

Ye Ci froze in place. She felt like she was sitting on needles.

She had not even finished a quarter of the paper, but Ning Li had finished the entire test.

Ye Ci looked towards the door and only saw the closed classroom door.

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Ning Li had already gone out.

Ye Ci forced herself to retract her gaze and put her attention back on the paper.

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After Ning Li left the classroom, she casually strolled around the campus because she did not have her phone with her.

Capital First High's campus was huge. They even had several old buildings with a long history.

There was a man-made lake in the northwest corner of the teaching building.

It was so cold here in winter that ice had formed on the lake, and two black swans were walking slowly on it.

Ning Li then sat down on the bench next to it.

It was a rare moment of peace.

She gently let out a breath, which formed a puff of white mist.

'When Lu Huaiyu was studying here, this must have been the kind of scenery that he saw during winter, right?'

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Compared to Ning Li's relaxed and calm attitude, the others in the auditorium were under pressure.

Everyone had originally had the intention of competing with each other in the first test.

Who knew that Ning Li would be so unpredictable and hand in her paper early?

The rest of the students also became anxious and wrote swiftly.

After a while, someone else got up to turn in their paper.

This time, it was Pei Song.

After Pei Song, there was another tall and buff boy who handed in his paper.

Li Guangyuan put their papers aside. "There are still fifteen minutes until the end of the exam."

Song Mengtang looked at her own paper.

Actually, she had already finished writing it. However, there was only so much time left, so it did not make much difference if she turned in her paper early or not.

She had always taken a very steady path and rarely turned in her paper early.

Song Mengtang recalculated the two questions she was unsure about.

Ring!

The bell rang.

Li Guangyuan stood up.

"Okay, the exam is over! Everyone, stop writing immediately and turn in your paper!"

Cao Jingxuan quickly wrote down the last number before she put away her pen.

Li Guangyuan came down from the podium and put away the papers and draft papers.

"Your paper will be marked before noon and will be covered in class at 2:00 pm."

After saying that, he left with the folder.

The classroom suddenly became noisy after he left.

“Exam in the morning and our results will be out by noon?! They will go through it in the afternoon too... Clearly they already arranged this beforehand!”

“I’m done for. I didn’t answer two of the big questions!”

“The ones who could finish the paper are crazy, especially those three who turned in their papers early... Are they even human?”

“Hey, for the third last question on atomic mass decay, how much did you get?”

“Don’t ask me... Ask Ning Li and those few...”

“I just want to ask who came up with these questions! I’ve only heard of an SSD image sensor but I haven’t seen one!”

“The professor at Xijing University seems to be studying semiconductors. Maybe he came up with the questions?”

Ye Ci silently packed her things.

“Phew! I almost didn’t finish writing!”

Cao Jingxuan let out a long breath. She looked back at Ye Ci and asked, “How do you feel about the exam this time?”

Ye Ci was stunned and forced a smile. "I didn't do too well."

"Me too! The topics covered in this paper were a bit off. I've never reviewed so many of them..."

Cao Jingxuan shrugged, seemingly a little helpless and a little envious.

"Hey, but your sister seems to have done very well! She was the first to turn in her paper..."

The classroom was noisy, so Cao Jingxuan did not intentionally lower her voice. Thus, many people around her heard it.

"Jingxuan, what did you just say? Ning Li is Ye Ci's sister?"

Although they were from the same high school and were even from the same class, they had different last names and did not look alike, so how could they be sisters?

Cao Jingxuan nodded. "Yeah, Ye Ci told me yesterday."

Everyone looked at Ye Ci with eyes filled with curiosity and a little suspicion.

Although they had only been there for two days, everyone could tell that Ye Ci and Ning Li did not have a close relationship. Neither of them talked much.

Sisters would not behave like this, right?

Ye Ci lowered her eyes. "We're a reorganized family."

Everyone understood.

"Then, do you guys usually live together?"

Ye Ci nodded gently.

A girl sighed and said, “No wonder you both got in! How can the rest of us compare to two geniuses?”

She said this from the bottom of her heart.

That was because most people had not managed to finish the paper. Ning Li had not only finished it, she even turned in her paper early.

They had to admit that this gap was too big.

When Ye Ci heard this, she just felt suffocated.

She forced a smile.

“I can’t compare with Sister Ning Li. She’s very smart.”

The girl was not convinced.

“Ye Ci, don’t be so modest. After all, you’re also fifth in M Province!”

M Province was a large province that was notorious for producing geniuses in the college entrance exams.

Many of them were arrogant like Song Mengtang, but that was because she was one of the top students.

There were still others who were not as good as Ye Ci.

Ye Ci pursed her lips and did not speak.

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At 2:00 pm, Li Guangyuan walked in when the bell rang.

He still had this morning's folder with him, but there was an extra sheet of paper in his hand.

Li Guangyuan stood at the podium and looked around.

Everyone quieted down.

"The results of this morning's test are out. I'll announce them according to the ranking."

As he said that, his eyes fell on Ye Ci.

Chapter 263: First and First

Ye Ci's body stiffened. Her heart seemed to have stopped beating at this moment.

She knew that Li Guangyuan was looking at her, but she did not dare to meet his eyes and subconsciously lowered her head.

Even so, Li Guangyuan's gaze still fell on her shoulders with a substantial weight, suffocating her.

The paper she had done was a mess, so much so that she had felt anxious until now.

It felt like a knife was hanging over her head and would fall at any time.

Li Guangyuan frowned slightly and silently shook his head.

He then looked at the form and could not help but smile.

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“First place, Ning Li. Full marks.”

After a short period of dead silence, the large auditorium was abuzz.

Everyone turned around and looked at Ning Li, who was still sitting in the corner of the last row, with a look of shock that could not be concealed.

“A perfect score?! Really?!”

“Three teachers marked the paper, so surely it can’t be wrong, but how did she manage to get full marks?!”

“I remember one of the big questions and three of the fill-in-the-blank questions were not in the syllabus, yet she got them all?”

“I’m impressed! She turned it in an hour early and still managed to get a perfect score? No one can possibly beat that...”

Since Ning Li had handed in her paper early, everyone had guessed that she would be able to do well in the exam. However, no one had expected that she would actually get a perfect score!

This small test was for the winter camp instructors to segregate them based on their standards.

They were the most outstanding group selected from various provinces and cities, and the difference between their preliminary scores was not big.

To separate such a group, the teachers had no choice but to make the questions more difficult.

Some had gotten full marks because they coincidentally knew all of the topics that were tested, and some had gotten full marks only because there were only so many marks in that paper.

In addition, the three teachers also wanted to kill the arrogance of these students so that they could study well in the next two weeks.

Who could have guessed that Ning Li would get a perfect score?

Li Guangyuan and the other two teachers had taken Ning Li's paper and studied it all morning, making sure that there was indeed no place to deduct points. Only then had they given her full marks with caution.

He looked up at Ning Li and complimented her. "Good job on the exam."

The others did not know this, but Cao Jingxuan and a few students from Capital First High were quite familiar with Li Guangyuan.

As the Head of the Physics Team of Capital First High who had been leading competitions all year round, Li Guangyuan had seen his fair share of talented students.

He looked like a gentle person, but he had very high standards. Those who could get his attention and praise were really few and far between.

Li Guangyuan must really admire Ning Li to praise her in front of so many people.

Even when Cao Jingxuan had been selected for this winter camp after getting first place in her province, she had only gotten a “keep up the good work” from him.

Ning Li looked very calm beneath everyone’s gaze.

Her pretty face looked so calm, as if it did not matter to her whether she got a perfect score on the test or not.

This was a huge blow to the others.

Everyone had come to participate in the final competition. Since this was an examination, someone ought to be the first.

However, getting a full score was the maximum competitiveness, which made others feel left behind.

Li Guangyuan continued to read out the results.

“Second place, Pei Song. 146 marks.”

Hearing this name, the crowd was in a frenzy again and turned to look at Pei Song.

Some people murmured, “No way! First and second place are both from Yunzhou Second High School!”

The full score was 150 marks. With Pei Song’s score, he probably only got one fill-in-the-blank question wrong.

“Tan Ruiqun, 146 marks. Tied for second place.” Li Guangyuan read immediately after.

This was the tall and buff boy who had turned in his paper after Pei Song for the exam. He had gotten first place in C Province.

The three people who had turned in their papers early had the best scores.

Tan Ruiqun did not seem to be surprised by his score. Instead, he looked at Ning Li a few more times.

In all the physics exams over the years, he had never taken second place.

He had not expected to be overpowered by a girl this time.

Although he and Pei Song were tied, Pei Song had handed in the paper earlier than him, so he still felt like he had lost by a little.

Some people looked at Ye Ci and whispered.

“Yunzhou Second High accounted for two out of the first three places, so Ye Ci should be next, right?”

Hearing this, Ye Ci stiffened.

“I don’t think it’s likely. Although she’s also from Yunzhou Second High, she only got fifth place in their province for the preliminary round. How can she be in the top few with that kind of standard?”

“No one knows for sure! Maybe she just didn’t do so well in the preliminary round, so she got fifth place. Don’t forget, she lives with Ning Li every day. Ning Li got first place, so Ye Ci shouldn’t be far behind, right?”

“That’s right... If that’s really the case, then Yunzhou Second High is really amazing!”

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Li Guangyuan continued to read aloud.

“Fourth, Liang Rong. 132 marks.”

A tall, thin boy with black-framed glasses turned his pen and grunted.

He had also been first in his province.

Being in fourth place was considered an outstanding achievement, but it was quite a big difference in score with the rank above him.

This made him very unhappy.

The next ranking came out in turn.

Li Guangyuan went further down the list. The difficulty of the paper became more obvious.

A fill-in-the-blank question was worth four points and a long question was worth around eight to twelve points.

Any mistake would greatly pull down their scores and seemed like a steep drop compared with the top few.

Cao Jingxuan was placed sixth. She was one of the few students from Capital First High and was the best one among them in this small test.

Li Guangyuan felt a bit regretful.

Capital First High was the home base of this training, but the four students from his own school had not even made it into the top five.

They were all very outstanding, but there were always brighter students.

Song Mengtang came in seventh.

She was not very satisfied with her ranking.

After all, since the very beginning, she had always benchmarked herself against Tan Ruiqun and Ning Li.

Although the difference in ranking between them was not much, the score difference was relatively large.

Cao Jingxuan leaned over to Ye Ci's side and said with a smile, "Ye Ci, if you're also in the top ten, then the four people in our dorm would have made it into the list!"

Ye Ci froze and smiled faintly. "I don't think I'll get into the top ten."

Her hand under the table was already clenched tight.

Soon, the top ten names were read out, and Ye Ci's name was indeed not included.

Ning Li, Cao Jingxuan, and Song Mengtang were the only three girls in the top ten.

Cao Jingxuan blinked and sat back down.

Out of fifty-two students in their class, the ones who could land an offer with the top universities in China would not be more than twenty people.

In particular, only the top ten would have a chance at Xijing University.

The names were read one by one.

However, Ye Ci's name never appeared.

There were fewer people left as time passed.

Li Guangyuan had already gotten to 51st place.

"51st place, Li Peng. 78 marks."

Ye Ci's face turned pale.

By now, she was the only one left in the class who had not been called.

Li Guangyuan gave her a look.

"52nd, Ye Ci. 41 marks."

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Chapter 264: Is This Score Even a Fraction of Ning Li's?

A low, calm voice rang out in the classroom.

Each and every word was very clear.

"52nd place, Ye Ci. 41 marks."

Not only was Ye Ci in last place, but even her score was 37 points less than the person in 51st place!

Ye Ci's mind suddenly went blank and her ears buzzed.

Everyone in the class was stunned and turned their heads in unison as they looked at Ye Ci incredulously.

The level of shock was not lower than when they heard Ning Li had gotten a perfect score.

The air in the classroom seemed to have frozen, and it was so quiet that a pin drop could be heard.

It was natural for someone to come in last, but no one had expected that Ye Ci would take first place from the bottom, and with such an absurd score at that!

41?

Was she not in fifth place in M Province?

Ye Ci was from Yunzhou Second High School with Ning Li and Pei Song, who had come in first and second respectively.

How did Ye Ci get last place?

Her score was not even a fraction of those two people.

Setting aside Ning Li and Pei Song, Ge Yu and Wei Mingming who were from the same province had also come in 19th and 31st places respectively.

Ye Ci was too far behind.

The countless eyes around Ye Ci fell on her, which made her feel like an alien.

Ye Ci had never felt so humiliated after so many years.

She knew that she had not done well, but she had not expected that it would actually be this bad.

At this moment, all she wanted was to find a hole in the ground to burrow in.

Li Guangyuan put down the results sheet.

In fact, when the teachers had marked Ye Ci's paper, they were also in disbelief. They were worried that it was a miscalculation and had re-examined the paper.

However, the fact was that she had really scored only 41 points.

There was also not really much room for a marking error because her paper was mostly blank.

Li Guangyuan coughed and said, "Some of you may not be very comfortable with the new environment since you've only just arrived and didn't test well. The results of this test are just for reference. For the next two weeks of classes, I hope you will adjust your mindset as soon as possible."

This was meant for Ye Ci.

It was a little overstretched and stiff.

Not adapting to the environment could not have such a big impact on one's results, right?

How had she gotten fifth place in the province for the preliminary round?

Many students gave Ye Ci a dubious look.

Everyone here only looked at the results.

How the hell had she gotten so few marks?

Li Guangyuan distributed their papers.

Ye Ci got her paper and saw the bright red 41 marks on it.

A girl sitting next to Ye Ci subconsciously swept a glance at her.

Ye Ci bit her lip and leaned to the front so that her arm was blocking most of her paper.

The girl shrugged her shoulders and turned to talk to a boy on her other side. Her voice was not very loud but with a touch of mockery.

“What’s there to cover when nothing has been written?”

Ye Ci heard this clearly and felt like she had been slapped hard in the face twice. Her cheeks felt hot and painful.

A strong sense of shame surged in her heart, but she could not say a word.

Li Guangyuan knocked on the blackboard.

“Everyone got the first fill-in-the-blank right, so we’ll skip to the second one.

He swept a glance at Ye Ci and continued, “For those who didn’t get this question, please listen well!”

Ye Ci kept her head down and took out a pen from her bag.

Li Guangyuan turned around and wrote on the board.

Ye Ci took a deep breath before she forced herself to look up.

She mechanically took notes, but nothing was actually registering in her brain. She just felt so numb.

Ye Ci remained in this state until the end of the class.

When the bell rang, Li Guangyuan picked up a cup and took a sip of tea to moisten his throat.

“That’s all for now. Everyone, take a ten-minute break!”

With that, he walked out.

The classroom soon became very lively. Students gathered in groups and started to discuss the topics.

“How did you solve the fourth question?”

“I just wrote one solution. Did Mr. Li say that there were two more?”

“Same... Should we ask Ning Li?”

There were a few voices around.

When Ning Li’s name was mentioned, their tones were different.

A few people got up and ended up going to Ning Li together.

“Ning Li, could you lend us your paper?”

The boy who stood at the front and spoke was Ge Yu.

His ears were red and he was visibly embarrassed and shy.

Ning Li seemed to have a rather cold personality. After she had arrived, she hardly ever spoke in the group chat and had only said a simple hello when they met.

Ge Yu was not familiar with her, but since they were from the same province and had met briefly yesterday, he had worked up the courage to come over.

However, they also did not dare to have too much hope.

After all, they were all in competition. It would be reasonable for Ning Li not to share her answers willingly.

However, they soon found that they had worried unnecessarily because Ning Li merely nodded and handed over her paper.

“Here.”

Ge Yu and his group were shocked and pleasantly surprised. He hurriedly thanked her.

“Thank you! We’ll return it to you immediately after taking a look at it!”

The whole class was very lively. Only Ye Ci’s area was desolate.

What could they possibly discuss with someone in last place?

Ye Ci remained in her seat without moving.

Since no one had come to her, it was not appropriate for her to look for others.

There were a few people who were gossiping.

“Yunzhou Second High is really good. Both their students snagged the first two places in the winter camp!”

“Didn’t someone say that Ye Ci and Ning Li are in the same family? Even if it’s a reorganized family, this gap is a little too big, right?”

“Haha! I’m actually not interested in Ning Li’s paper. I’d rather see Ye Ci’s! I really can’t figure out how she managed to get this score...”

“By the way, you guys know that all the test scores during the winter camp will be summarized at the end and shared with each school, right? They’ll include the comprehensive assessment as well. According to the usual practice, top universities like Xijing University will look at these results before confirming the student.”

“41 points... I guess Xijing University will just reject this, right?”

Chapter 265: Apply for Investigation

Someone laughed.

“Xijing University? Her? That’s a bit of a stretch!”

Even the second-tier colleges would reconsider this kind of score, let alone Xijing University.

“Right... This score is really weird... How could she have gotten fifth place in M province with this kind of level?”

The surrounding area instantly became quiet for a while when someone said this.

Everyone here was a genius, so everyone could hear the meaning behind these words.

This silence made Ye Ci feel suffocated.

Ye Ci knew that she was not good enough, so she dared not slack off and had done a variety of practice questions and papers.

However, the scene that she had dreaded the most had still happened, and in such an embarrassing way at that!

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In the past, when there had been rumors in Second High, Ye Ci could still pretend not to have heard anything, but it was different now.

These results would be recorded and handed over to their high school. It would also affect her application for the top universities when they audited her performance.

Ye Ci clutched the piece of paper and felt like shredding it to pieces!

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Li Guangyuan soon returned to the class.

He picked the key points and went through the content quickly.

It was easy to miss a key topic with just a slight misfocus.

Ye Ci was in a very bad mood, so after listening for a long time, all she felt was dizzy.

Li Guangyuan said, "We'll skip this electromagnetic field question because only two students got this wrong. Please borrow someone else's paper and study this yourself in the evening study session."

With that, he turned to the next page.

Other students also flipped their papers.

Ye Ci looked at it and saw that she had only written two formulas for this question.

She was one of the two who had gotten it wrong.

No, it was not even counted as a mistake because she had not written much at all.

Ye Ci did not know how the time passed the whole afternoon.

It was only when the bell rang and Li Guangyuan announced the end of class that she drifted back to her senses.

Many students were starting to pack their things up and prepared to go to dinner.

Ye Ci just sat there, feeling exhausted.

She slumped down at her desk.

Li Guangyuan walked to the classroom door and turned to look at her, before frowning slightly.

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Yunzhou.

At 6:30 pm, Zhou Fei got up from bed and was about to order some takeout.

Before he could place the order, he received a call from Li Guangyuan.

“Hello? Mr. Li?”

Zhou Fei quickly answered it.

In the past, when he had been studying at Capital First High, he had been in Li Guangyuan’s class for the physics competition and had been considered his favorite student.

“Zhou Fei.” Li Guangyuan said frankly, “The three representatives from your school are all your students, right?”

“Yes, why?”

Zhou Fei was a bit surprised.

He knew that Li Guangyuan would be one of the teachers for this winter camp, so to avoid suspicion, he had not contacted Li Guangyuan beforehand and had only asked Sun Qingyi to take care of his students.

Based on what he knew of Li Guangyuan, he would not have paid attention to these.

Zhou Fei had not expected that Li Guangyuan would take the initiative to make a call regarding Ning Li, Pei Song, and Ye Ci.

“Umm...I just want to ask you something.” Li Guangyuan deliberated on his words.

“You’ve taught Ye Ci before, right? What do you think about her level?”

Zhou Fei was teaching in Yunzhou Second High and was responsible for the physics competition there, so he would be clear about his students’ performance.

The moment Zhou Fei heard Li Guangyuan’s words, he had a bad intuition and furrowed his eyebrows.

“Ye Ci? I can only say that she’s average. Why did you suddenly ask this?”

Li Guangyuan was silent for a while before he said in a deep voice, “Ye Ci’s score on today’s test was not as good as it should be, so I wanted to ask you about her situation.”

Zhou Fei’s brow furrowed even tighter.

How poorly had Ye Ci done in the test that Li Guangyuan felt the need to make this call?

“You know that these test results will be sent as feedback to your school, so I just wanted to tell you in advance to see if there’s any mistake in the middle...”

Li Guangyuan said this euphemistically, but Zhou Fei was very smart.

He immediately realized that it might be more serious than he had expected.

After a moment, Zhou Fei asked slowly, “Mr. Li, what do you mean by that?”

"I came up with the questions on today's test with Mr. Zhu and them a few days ago. The topics were a little different from the previous preliminary round. Ye Ci...didn't answer a lot of them."

Li Guangyuan's voice suddenly became more serious.

"To be precise, she only solved the questions that had been the same as in the preliminary round."

If not for those few questions, Ye Ci might not even have scored 41 marks!

These students who participated in the physics competition were all very talented in physics, but they all had their own strengths and weaknesses.

Some were good at electromagnetics, while some were good at mechanics.

However, no one was like Ye Ci.

Ye Ci only seemed to be able to do the questions that had been tested in the preliminary round.

"Zhou Fei, I know your ability. You've trained Ning Li and Pei Song too, so I believe that you don't have a problem teaching the content. However, regarding Ye Ci, you should see where the problem lies. It's also best to communicate with your school as soon as possible."

Zhou Fei already understood what Li Guangyuan meant.

In fact, when Ye Ci had gotten fifth place in the province, Zhou Fei already had his suspicions. However, there had been little evidence at that time, and he could not do anything based on just his feelings.

He had not expected that it would come to this.

“Okay, I’ll apply for an investigation with the school as soon as possible.”

Li Guangyuan gave a faint “mm”.

He had only made this courtesy call for Zhou Fei’s sake.

Otherwise, Li Guangyuan would have already sent Ye Ci’s results to the province.

“You’d better get this done as soon as possible.”

Chapter 266: I Like Someone Called Lu Huaiyu

Evening self-study period.

Li Guangyuan gave each person a copy of the class materials.

“This is the course content for the next three days, so please look through it yourselves first.”

After getting the materials and flipping through them, many students secretly cried bitterly.

“So much in three days?!”

“Can we even finish this in time?”

“There are so many questions at the back...”

Li Guangyuan smiled and said, “These materials will be tested three days later in the evening self-study period, and your results for that test will be counted towards your final marks.”

Once these words came out, the room suddenly quieted down.

Many students immediately focused on studying the materials.

Ye Ci had also received her own copy.

She only flipped through two pages of the new material before she put it aside and looked at the paper she had previously been studying.

Although Li Guangyuan had already gone through it, Ye Ci had not finished studying it.

Li Guangyuan had skipped some topics, and he had only given the final answer without the steps for some other questions.

Ye Ci looked at the paper and felt an oncoming headache.

Li Guangyuan looked at her and saw that Ye Ci was still studying the previous paper, so he could guess her current situation.

He secretly shook his head.

Based on Ye Ci's current progress, she would never be able to keep up.

Not to mention, she was already the worst-performing student in the earlier test.

After some thought, Li Guangyuan walked to Ning Li and gently knocked on her desk. He lowered his voice and said, "Ning Li, where's your test paper from this morning? Could you lend it to Ye Ci?"

Ning Li glanced to the front.

Ye Ci had been in her seat since the afternoon class had ended.

She had not asked anyone for their papers as a reference.

Although Li Guangyuan had doubts about Ye Ci's grades, everything was still undecided and Ye Ci was still a student in the winter camp, so he still had a duty to take care of her.

Ning Li nodded and handed her paper to him.

Li Guangyuan admired Ning Li even more for this.

He had seen many smart students, but not everyone would be willing to share their papers with others, especially in this training where everyone was considered a rival.

Li Guangyuan had heard that someone had asked Ning Li for her paper as a reference this afternoon, and she had lent it to them.

This was a very rare attitude in this competitive environment.

...

Ye Ci was staring at her own paper in a daze when she suddenly felt something next to her.

She was stunned and saw another person's paper.

The handwriting was neat, tidy, and beautiful.

"This is Ning Li's. You should refer to it," Li Guangyuan said.

Ye Ci instantly understood what was going on. Her lips were slightly pursed.

“Thank you, Mr. Li.”

Li Guangyuan shook his head and turned to go to the podium.

Ye Ci once again looked at the paper.

Name: Ning Li.

Total score: 150.

The full score that was written in bright red ink and Ning Li’s name stung Ye Ci’s eyes to the core.

The two papers next to each other created a stark contrast.

There had never been a moment that so frankly and blatantly showed the large gap between them.

...

Ning Li sat in the last row, casually looking over the new materials.

She looked ahead.

Li Guangyuan had left after handing her paper to Ye Ci.

Although Ning Li could only see Ye Ci’s back, she could still see her stiffness.

A few people next to Ning Li also seemed to have noticed this and looked at Ye Ci with various different expressions.

Ye Ci only lowered her head and transcribed the solutions.

Ning Li had one hand on her cheek as she raised her eyebrows slightly and turned another page.

Without tutoring and exhaustively explaining the solutions step by step to Ye Ci like she had done in her previous life, Ning Li had a lot more free time.

Ning Li glanced at the wall and inadvertently saw a familiar name.

She was startled and focused her gaze.

Someone had written a sentence on the white wall with a ballpoint pen.

[I like someone called Lu Huaiyu.]

The handwriting was neat and straight, and it was easy to tell that it had been written by a girl.

There was also a date underneath, but it had not been signed.

It had been written a few years ago.

Further below, there were a few other sentences as well.

[I like him too!]

[Me too.]

[Me too!!]

[I like him too...]

The handwriting for all of them was different, with different thicknesses, colors, and strokes, so they were obviously written by different people.

However, they were all saying the same thing.

Ning Li stared at it for a while before she withdrew her gaze.

Her thoughts drifted a little far away and she spun the pen between her fingers unconsciously.

At one point, she stopped spinning the pen. The tip of her pen landed on the paper as she wrote one letter.

I.

Ning Li paused, looked at the letter, then turned the page.

A moment later, she flipped back to that page and folded down a small corner on that page.

...

It was 10:00 pm when the evening study period ended.

Li Guangyuan returned everyone's phone and left.

The students packed up their things and went back to the dorms.

Cao Jingxuan came next to Ye Ci and handed over a bag.

“Ye Ci, I noticed that you haven’t eaten dinner, so I brought you some bread and cookies. Please have some!”

Cao Jingxuan sounded as if she did not have any prejudice against Ye Ci for having the worst score in the test today. She was still generous and friendly.

Ye Ci smiled at her. “Jingxuan, thank you, but I don’t have an appetite...”

“You still have to eat though! Our course is very intense, so you need some food for your brain.”

Cao Jingxuan insisted on giving it to Ye Ci.

Ye Ci could not refuse, so she had to take it.

“Thanks.”

However, just as Ye Ci touched the bag, a mocking voice came from the side.

“She probably doesn’t have much use for her brain though, right?”

Ye Ci’s expression stiffened and she was incredibly embarrassed.

She did not know if she should still accept the bag with the snacks or throw it away.

Cao Jingxuan looked at the girl who spoke and frowned slightly. “We’re all classmates. Why do you have to say such harsh things?”

The girl who spoke mockingly was sitting next to Ye Ci.

She was ranked 15th. She was not the best, but she was still much better than Ye Ci.

Obviously, she looked down on Ye Ci.

"I'm just telling the truth, am I not?" The girl shrugged. "She didn't write three-quarters of that paper, which means she didn't use her brain at all, so food probably won't do her brain any good."

"You..."

Cao Jingxuan was about to retort when she was pulled back by Ye Ci.

Ye Ci lowered her head and her lips were pale.

"Forget it. Let's go back."

Before, Ye Ci would not have endured this, but she no longer had the confidence after going through that paper that was now in her backpack.

After all, this was not Yunzhou.

Cao Jingxuan turned to the girl and said, "Anyone can fail an exam. Can you guarantee that you'll do well every time?"

That girl laughed. "Even if I don't do well, at least I know that I won't get 41 out of 150 marks!"

Dead silence.

There were still quite a lot of people around them that looked over, but no one said anything.

Ye Ci whispered.

“Let’s go.” She then lowered her head and hurriedly left.

Cao Jingxuan looked behind her and saw Ning Li packing her backpack as if she had not even noticed the situation over here.

She turned around and followed after Ye Ci.

When they got to the stairs, Cao Jingxuan could not help but ask, “Ye Ci, isn’t Ning Li your sister? Why is she just watching silently when someone else bullied you?”

Chapter 267: Capital First High Is Very Good

Ye Ci paused in her footsteps and continued to walk downstairs.

“Well...it’s my fault that I didn’t do well in the test.”

“But she should’ve said something about it at least.” Cao Jingxuan followed Ye Ci. “She got first place in class, so if she spoke out, Zhang Yan wouldn’t go so overboard just now.”

First place in class.

Ye Ci heard this and felt stifled.

She and Ning Li were not on good terms, so Ning Li probably felt good when Ye Ci was being humiliated. Why would Ning Li speak up for Ye Ci then?

Ye Ci said softly, “Sister Ning Li never likes to get involved in these matters, and I don’t want to bother her.”

Cao Jingxuan looked at Ye Ci’s expression and suddenly understood something.

She could tell since yesterday that Ning Li and Ye Ci did not have a good relationship.

Ye Ci was still polite and attentive to Ning Li, but Ning Li was very cold towards Ye Ci.

Looking at what had happened today, their situation seemed even worse than Cao Jingxuan expected.

'Reorganized family...' Cao Jingxuan thought and wisely changed the topic. She comforted Ye Ci by saying, "Forget it then. Just rest well tonight and adjust your mental state. I'm sure you can catch up soon."

Ye Ci forced a smile. "I hope so."

...

By the time they got back to the dormitory and washed up, it was already 10:30 pm.

Everyone only had this short time before bed to look at their phone.

Song Mengtang had turned on the small desk lamp and was studying the new materials.

Ye Ci took out her phone, looked at Song Mengtang, then went out to make a call.

Su Yuan answered quickly.

"Hello? Lil Ci? Why did you call so late?"

Su Yuan knew that the winter camp was a fully closed-off training and that Ye Ci could only get her phone at night, but she had not expected that it would be so late.

“Well, the evening study period ended at 10:00 pm. I just got back to the dorm.”

Su Yuan was heartbroken and said, “That’s tiring... Are you adapting well on your first day?”

Ye Ci’s eyes were red as she stammered.

“M-Mom...”

Su Yuan instantly heard the abnormality in Ye Ci’s voice and quickly asked, “What’s wrong? Please talk to Mommy...”

Ye Ci huffed a little and forced back her tears.

“Nothing, I just...I just miss you and dad...and Lil Cheng.”

Su Yuan was relieved at this.

“We all miss you, too! There are 13 days left until this winter camp is over. Hang in there a little longer, okay?”

Su Yuan thought that Ye Ci was simply homesick because this was the first time she was away on her own. Su Yuan never could have imagined Ye Ci’s situation today.

Ye Ci could not bring herself to tell Su Yuan about the day’s events either.

“If you encounter any problems, remember to tell your teachers in time, okay? By the way, where’s Ning Li?”

Ye Ci said, “Sister Ning Li is in the room. I came outside to make this call.”

Su Yuan was not in a good mood.

Ye Ci was not in a good mental state, and it sounded like Ning Li had not helped Ye Ci at all.

Before the girls had left for the Capital, Su Yuan had specifically urged Ning Li to take care of Ye Ci, but it had probably gone in one ear and out the other.

If Ning Li was nicer to Ye Ci, why would Ye Ci still cry because she was homesick?

“Mom, do you want me to put Ning Li on the phone?” Ye Ci sniffled and asked.

“There’s no need.” Su Yuan quickly refused.

Ning Li did not even take the initiative to call her, so why bother?

It was already hard enough for Su Yuan and Ning Li to communicate face to face, let alone over the phone.

“Lil Ci, don’t cry... How about this... All of us will go to the Capital and pick you up when your winter camp is over, okay?”

Ye Ci refused in a soft voice. “That’s too much trouble...”

“How can this be called trouble? It’s settled then. I’ll talk to your dad later. Lil Cheng has always wanted to go to the Capital too.”

Su Yuan’s tone was firm, so Ye Ci agreed.

“Thanks, Mom.”

...

Ning Li was going through some practice questions at her desk when her phone lit up.

It was a message from Lu Huai Yu.

[How was your first day of winter camp?]

Ning Li thought about it for a moment.

[It was good. Capital First High is big and beautiful.]

Lu Huaiyu looked at this message and raised his eyebrows slightly.

[You seem to have a good impression of First High School?]

[Mhmm.]

Ning Li hesitated and added. [Classes are in Building 3, Room 501.]

Lu Huaiyu knew where it was.

[That auditorium used to be used for public classes.]

He had been there before.

Ning Li suddenly recalled the graffiti that she had seen on the wall and wanted to say something, but she stopped herself.

[I'm going to bed now. Goodnight, Second Brother!]

Lu Huaiyu knew that Ning Li was pressed for time and quickly ended the conversation.

[Goodnight.]

...

Since Zhou Fei had received Li Guangyuan's call, he had been very busy making calls.

It was not until after midnight that he finally took a long breath and laid down on the bed.

He looked at his phone and saw several people asking him to come online to form a team.

Zhou Fei had a headache and refused all of them.

He was certainly not in the mood to play games at the moment.

Ye Ci was a student of Yunzhou Second High School and was considered his student.

If the investigation found something wrong with Ye Ci, it would not only affect Ye Ci herself but also him and Second High.

Once there was a deeper investigation, it might also implicate more people.

All he could do now was to get to the bottom of this as soon as possible so that he would have time to make decisions.

Zhou Fei rubbed his temples in annoyance.

Had he known that this would happen, he would have already applied for a review when Ye Ci's results had come out. At the very least, he should have tested her level before sending her to the Capital.

However, the school had been overjoyed by the good news at the time and did not care.

Zhou Fei had also overlooked this because it was close to the senior year final exams.

Who could have known that this would happen...

Zhou Fei lifted the blanket over his head and slept with his face covered.

...

The three days passed by in a flash. Soon, the students took their first official exam of the winter camp.

While handing out the papers, Li Guangyuan said, "The scope of this exam is the content of the past three days of lectures. The exam duration is still two hours. I hope that everyone can settle their minds and take the test properly."

Li Guangyuan then swept a glance at Ye Ci.

The previous test that they had taken was just a small one that tested their foundations. This exam was to test the students' learning abilities.

In the past, some students that had come in with average grades at the beginning eventually came out on top because of their fast learning skills and strong receptivity.

Ye Ci lowered her head.

The classroom was quiet, and the only sound was the friction between pen and paper.

Ye Ci looked at the paper in her hand.

There were only ten long questions on it.

It was indeed the content from the lectures from the past three days, but all of these topics had been somewhat modified.

The answers that Ye Ci had memorized by rote were simply useless.

Chapter 268: Do You Want to Make a Phone Call?

The classroom was very quiet as everyone kept their heads down and did the questions on the paper.

An hour later, Ning Li got up and handed in her paper.

With the previous experience, everyone had already expected and accepted it this time.

Ning Li seemed like she was out to take the gold medal for the national finals, so they could not compare to her.

After a silent sigh, most people continued writing their own papers.

Ye Ci looked up and saw that Ning Li was already carrying her bag, ready to leave.

She looked back down at her mostly blank paper and suddenly felt a vague pain in her stomach that felt like cramps.

Ye Ci slumped on the table from the pain.

Li Guangyuan noticed her abnormality and quickly came over.

“Ye Ci, what’s wrong?”

Her lips were pale as she shook her head.

“Nothing, Mr. Li...it’s just...a little stomachache...”

Li Guangyuan saw that she was really suffering and felt worried.

“Do you want to go to the hospital for a checkup?”

Since it was the school holidays, the infirmary was not open.

Ye Ci forced herself to sit upright. Her left hand was still pressed on her belly.

“No, it’s not necessary... It’ll be fine after a while...”

Li Guangyuan frowned.

Her condition looked quite serious.

Various schools all over the country had sent these students to Capital First High for intensive training, so they had the responsibility to take care of the safety and wellbeing of these students.

‘What if something goes wrong?’

“Don’t be stubborn. I’ll get Sun Qingyi to take you to the hospital now.”

Li Guangyuan went to the door and saw that Ning Li had already walked some distance away, so he shouted, "Ning Li, please come back for a moment!"

Ning Li turned back.

Li Guangyuan pointed to the classroom.

"Ye Ci is not feeling well. Will you accompany her to the hospital?"

He asked Ning Li because she had already handed in her paper. On the other hand, she was a girl and she knew Ye Ci.

They were both from another province and were unfamiliar with the Capital, so it would be much better if Ye Ci had someone to accompany her.

Ning Li smiled, raised her eyebrows slightly, and walked back.

She glanced into the classroom.

"Sure."

Li Guangyuan gave Sun Qingyi a call.

Sun Qingyi was also one of the people in charge of this intensive training camp and he was now at the school.

The other students in the classroom also noticed the situation and looked towards Ye Ci.

Cao Jingxuan turned around and looked worried.

“Ye Ci, does your stomach hurt?”

Ye Ci laid her head on the table and nodded slightly when she heard this.

Li Guangyuan said, “Ning Li, Sun Qingyi will be here soon, so please help Ye Ci to pack up and go downstairs. He will pick you both up.”

Ning Li walked to Ye Ci and glanced at her paper.

Ye Ci wanted to say something but stopped.

Li Guangyuan also realized something. After some thought, he said, “You don’t need to finish the paper. Just hand in what you have. Your health is more important right now.”

Ye Ci still seemed hesitant.

“But...didn’t you say that the results of this test will be included in the final audit assessment?”

“We’ll talk about that later. What matters now is your health.”

Li Guangyuan waved his hand.

“Special circumstances require special attention.”

Only then did Ye Ci reluctantly stand up.

“I’ll turn it in for you.” Ning Li took Ye Ci’s paper, lowered her eyes, and faintly swept a glance.

Although there was no expression on her face, for some reason, Ye Ci still felt a wave of silent mockery.

Ye Ci pursed her lips, feeling the urge to take her paper back from Ning Li. However, it would be weird to do so in front of so many people.

Ning Li turned around and put Ye Ci's paper on the podium, then brought her bag and phone over.

Ye Ci took over her backpack.

"I'll take it myself."

Ning Li let go of her bag.

Ye Ci had not brought much, only a folder, a pencil case, and a water bottle.

Li Guangyuan answered another phone call and rushed them.

"Sun Qingyi's here, so go straight downstairs. Xijing University First Hospital is not far from here, just a ten-minute drive away. Ning Li, take care of Ye Ci and call me immediately if anything happens.

Ning Li nodded.

...

The two of them went downstairs and saw Sun Qingyi already waiting in the car.

Ning Li went to the passenger side, and Ye Ci sat alone in the backseat.

Ye Ci's body was slightly curled up with one hand pressing her belly.

Sun Qingyi looked at her and comforted her. "Don't worry, we'll be at Xijing University First Hospital soon."

Ye Ci nodded gently and was a little out of breath.

"Thank you, Mr. Sun."

"It's my job," Sun Qingyi said, then hesitantly asked. "By the way, do you want to call your family?"

Ye Ci shook her head. "There's no need for that yet."

Sun Qingyi was a little hesitant.

Yunzhou was very far from the Capital. Even if they called Ye Ci's family now, they could not come over immediately.

After all, Ye Ci was sick, so no matter what, they should always inform her family in time.

Ning Li was on her phone and said in a light voice, "It's better to call. If you feel uncomfortable, I'll call."

Sun Qingyi froze for a moment. Only then did he realize that Ning Li and Ye Ci seemed to be from the same family.

He did not know much about the situation in Yunzhou, but everyone had been talking about Ning Li and Ye Ci's special relationship in the past few days.

Sun Qingyi agreed to Ning Li's suggestion.

"Right, then you should make the call, Ning Li. Tell them the situation clearly..."

“Sister Ning Li!” Ye Ci suddenly called out to her in an anxious voice.

“H-How about...later...after the checkup? If it isn’t serious, then we don’t have to worry Mom and Dad.”

Ning Li stared at Ye Ci through the rearview mirror for a few seconds before she said, “Okay, later then.”

Chapter 269: Lu Huaiyu

Xijing University First Hospital.

It was already after 9:00 pm, but Xijing University First Hospital was still crowded, and the emergency department was brightly lit.

Sun Qingyi took Ye Ci to the emergency room.

Ning Li went with her.

The doctor on duty asked Ye Ci a few questions and did some simple tests.

“Irregular diet has caused your gastroenteritis. Let’s get you an IV drip first.”

Hearing the doctor’s words, Sun Qingyi was relieved.

“That’s good.”

Gastroenteritis was mild and would get better after a few days of taking medication.

The doctor wrote a prescription.

“You can get the medication from the pharmacy downstairs.”

Ning Li took the prescription and went downstairs to get the medicine.

Xijing University First Hospital was one of the top three comprehensive hospitals in the country that had a great reputation. Countless patients also came from abroad for medical tourism.

The beds were so full that even the corridor was full of patients.

Ning Li took the medicine and was about to go back when someone suddenly called out to her from behind.

“Ning Li?”

She turned around and looked back.

It was Gu Siyang.

“It’s really you! I thought I was mistaken!”

Seeing that it was really Ning Li, Gu Siyang quickly walked over excitedly.

“Why are you here? Aren’t you in winter camp? Didn’t you say before that it was a completely closed-off training?”

Gu Siyang glanced at the medicine Ning Li was holding. “Are you sick?”

Ning Li said.

“Not me. This is for someone else.”

Gu Siyang sighed in relief. "Oh okay, that's good... That's good!"

He was still waiting for Ning Li to finish the competition and college entrance exams smoothly so that she could sign a contract with him.

It would be bad if she was sick.

Ning Li glanced behind him.

Gu Siyang was followed by a few other boys around his age that seemed like his friends.

"Why are you here?" Ning Li asked.

The Gu family should have a family doctor in the Capital. Even if they needed to go to the hospital, according to Gu Siyang's character, he would have chosen a private hospital instead of coming to Xijing University First Hospital, especially at this hour.

Gu Siyang scratched his head in embarrassment.

"My friend had acute appendicitis, so I sent him here. He just went into the operating room, so I was just waiting outside and didn't expect to see you."

Ning Li could smell a faint scent of alcohol from him and saw that a part of his sleeve was wet.

Gu Siyang probably did not drink and had only spilled wine on his body.

Just then, the few boys who were at the back also came over.

They were stunned by Ning Li's face.

One of them smiled and asked, “Hey, Siyang, who’s this girl? Are you not going to introduce us?”

It did not make sense that they did not know that Gu Siyang was acquainted with such a beautiful lady.

“Get lost!”

Gu Siyang was scornful. “Are you guys even worthy? You guys had better know your place!”

Hearing his serious tone, the few of them looked at each other.

This was the first time they had seen Young Master Gu being so protective of anyone, but it did not seem like a romantic gesture.

Another boy sized Ning Li up and murmured, “This girl looks a little familiar... Wait a sec! Are you the Xiaosong Hill girl?”

Hearing “Xiaosong Hill”, the others also reacted instantly.

They had all watched the video of that race.

Ning Li was identical to the girl in the video.

She nodded and said, “Hello, I’m Ning Li.”

Gu Siyang took a step forward and blocked Ning Li’s view. He aimed a warning glance at his friends.

“What are you guys looking at? Go back!”

‘How can these rookies have thoughts about Ning Li?’

It was obvious that Gu Siyang was the leader of this small group. Seeing that he was so protective, the few guys understood and cooperatively left.

“Okay, okay! Have fun chatting then!”

“Hey girl, let’s race sometime.”

Gu Siyang snickered. “Wait till you can outrun me first!”

His standard was comparable to these guys.

With that kind of level, how could they even compete with Ning Li?

After getting rid of these guys, Gu Siyang looked at Ning Li.

“They’re just like this. Don’t mind them.”

Ning Li smiled and said, “Alright.”

Gu Siyang saw that she really did not care and smiled again.

“If I remember correctly, your winter camp is going to end in ten days, right? Do you want to come to our training base then?”

Ning Li did not immediately agree.

“Has Ji Shu arrived already?”

“Yes! He arrived the day before yesterday!”

After Gu Siyang had returned to the capital, he had not been to the base in person, but he had always been very well informed about the situation there.

Ning Li nodded.

“We’ll see when the camp is over.”

Gu Siyang was happy to hear her say so.

“Okay then, go ahead with what you have to do. I guess I still have to stay here for a while, so you can just look for me if you need something.”

Ning Li answered and turned to go upstairs.

...

Sun Qingyi was sitting with Ye Ci in the corridor with an IV bag hanging by her side.

Ning Li put the medicine into Ye Ci’s backpack.

Ye Ci’s face was very pale as she said softly, “Sister Ning Li, thank you...”

Ning Li said in a light voice, “No problem. Are you going to call or should I help you?”

Ye Ci had almost forgotten about this, so she said, “I’ll make the call myself.”

She took out her phone from her pocket and called Su Yuan.

Su Yuan was worried when she heard that Ye Ci had gastroenteritis and even wanted to go to the Capital, but Ye Ci persuaded her not to.

Finally, Su Yuan only dismissed the idea after talking with Sun Qingyi for a while to confirm that it was not a serious problem.

The phone call had been very long.

Ning Li stood aside and felt annoyed listening to it.

She gestured to Sun Qingyi and turned to walk in the direction of the bathroom.

...

The hallway was filled with the pungent smell of disinfectant.

Ning Li was expressionless when she entered the bathroom and stood in front of the sink.

She turned on the tap and washed her face with cold water.

Winter nights in the Capital were very cold and the bone-chilling coldness made her shiver.

Ning Li looked up and saw her pale lips in the mirror.

She was actually very reluctant to step foot inside a hospital.

The white walls, long corridors, and the pungent smell were like a nightmare that she could not wake up from, constantly haunting and tormenting her.

Ning Li braced herself on the counter and took a deep breath before she went out.

However, after taking a few steps out, there was a sudden commotion in the corridor.

Several nurses ran in one direction and seemed to be chasing a patient.

It was a young woman in her early twenties wearing a hospital gown with disheveled hair, with a pale and weak face.

The woman seemed agitated and ran outside with bare feet.

“Bed 8! Bring her back! Sedate her!”

A nurse shouted sharply.

Several people swarmed around the woman.

The woman was still shouting, but she could not fight these people.

With a single injection, the woman gradually stopped struggling.

This commotion finally subsided.

Many people in the corridor were watching.

Ning Li was actually still some distance away from there.

She stood behind the crowd, feeling very cold.

Ning Li took out her phone and dialed a number with slightly trembling hands.

The other party quickly answered with a low, pleasant voice that carried a bit of surprise.

“Lili?”

Ning Li’s throat tightened. “Lu Huaiyu.”

Chapter 270: Because of Him

Lu Huaiyu heard that Ning Li’s voice was a little off.

Ning Li rarely called his name. The only time she had ever called him by his name was the night she was drunk, but Ning Li did not seem drunk at this moment.

His brows knitted slightly and he stood up.

“What’s wrong?”

A gentle, deep voice came from the phone and reverberated in Ning Li’s eardrums with a reassuring rhythm.

Ning Li held her breath. The anxiety that filled her heart was slowly suppressed.

She clutched her phone tightly and closed her eyes.

“Lu Huaiyu.”

Her voice was dry as she clenched her teeth.

"I...nothing...I just wanted to...listen to your voice."

Ning Li wanted to hear his voice to make sure that the nightmares had dissipated and to make sure that he was there.

Her tone was a little different from usual.

It was very soft, as if she was exhausted and trying to hold on to something in a panic.

There were doctors, patients, and visitors coming and going in the hallway.

Lu Huaiyu heard the noisy and confusing sounds coming from the other end of the phone.

He asked in a deep voice, "Where are you now?"

Ning Li moved to the side and leaned against the cold wall.

"Xijing University First Hospital."

Lu Huaiyu took his jacket and walked outside as he asked, "Are you sick?"

Ning Li shook her head. Thinking that he could not see her, she said, "No, Ye Ci has gastroenteritis, so I came with her."

"Gastroenteritis?"

"Mm."

Listening to his voice, the stuffiness in her chest that made it hard for her to breathe greatly dissipated.

Ning Li took a deep breath. The cold air finally cleared her head a bit.

Afterward, Ning Li heard the sound of a door closing. Lu Huaiyu seemed to be heading out.

“Wait for me,” he said.

She froze for a bit.

‘He...he’s coming over?’

It was almost 10:00 pm. Even if he took a plane, he probably would not get here soon.

“There’s no need for such trouble. We’re leaving soon. I just...”

‘I just wanted to call you for a little while...’

Yunzhou was very far from the Capital, so by the time Lu Huaiyu got here, they would have already gone back to Capital First High.

Not to mention, it was so late.

“It’s no trouble,” Lu Huaihe said, “I’m in the Capital.”

More importantly, her matters were never considered a trouble to him.

Ning Li was stunned.

‘Lu Huaiyu’s back in the Capital? When did he come back? Why didn’t I know about it?’

Seemingly sensing her thoughts, Lu Huaiyu said, "I came back two days ago, but since you're in camp, I didn't tell you."

Lu Huaiyu had not wanted to disturb her classes and only planned to tell her after her winter camp was over.

He had not expected this to happen today.

Ning Li was still a bit unresponsive. She seemed to hear Lu Huaiyu talking to someone.

"Uncle Fang, drive to Xijing University First Hospital."

'He's really in the Capital and he's coming over.'

Ning Li was stunned. Her throat felt as if it was blocked by something and she could not say a word.

Fang Qingyun drove the car out and gauged Lu Huaiyu's complexion. He asked with concern, "Second Young Master, are you not feeling well? Do you want to call Dr. Yan?"

"There's no need."

Lu Huaiyu pulled open the car door and sat in the backseat. His voice was unprecedentedly light and gentle. "I'll be there soon."

Only then did Fang Qingyun notice that Lu Huaiyu was still on the phone.

This sentence was clearly directed to the person on the other end of the phone.

In all his years working for the Lu family, Fang Qingyun had never heard Lu Huaiyu treat anyone like this.

Thinking about the previous situation, his eyes widened slightly.

‘That’s probably the girl that Second Young Master likes! She’s in the Capital?’

Fang Qingyun immediately started the car and drove towards Xijing University First Hospital.

Hearing no sound from Ning Li after a while, Lu Huaiyu called out to her. “Lili?”

Fang Qingyun looked at the rearview mirror.

‘Lili? So that’s the girl’s name?’

Ning Li answered in a soft voice.

She looked up and found that the light overhead was a little blinding.

A few nurses passed by and they were talking about what had just happened.

“That patient from Bed 8 just now was too scary. She made such a commotion!”

“Luckily Dandan was right next to her and reacted in time. But that patient was really strong! It took several people to hold her down.”

“She should be asleep by now, right?”

A nurse looked back and shook her head helplessly.

“This isn’t the first time that this has happened. She’s manic so it’s difficult to control her when she’s in one of her episodes. She even scratched someone last time. We’ll monitor her condition tomorrow. If she’s still resistant, we’ll have to use Valium again.”

“Alright.”

They walked away as they talked.

Ning Li lowered her head and moved her lips. Her body seemed to get colder.

“Lu Huaiyu, please don’t hang up the phone, okay?”

Lu Huaiyu paused for a moment.

“Okay.”

...

“Have you eaten dinner? Should I bring you some?”

“I’ve eaten.”

“Is the winter camp training tough?”

“It’s alright.”

“Who are your instructors?”

“Mr. Li and them...”

“Are you having a good time at Capital First High?”

“Yeah.”

“I’ll show you around sometime.”

It was mostly Lu Huaiyu asking questions while Ning Li gave simple answers.

She seemed very tired, but she still answered all of his questions obediently.

It was a casual conversation about all topics, and Lu Huaiyu was extremely patient.

Fang Qingyun was driving and listening. He could not help but smile and sigh lightly.

‘Huh, I can’t believe our proud and nonchalant Second Young Master has this side to him! Old Master complained that his grandson was dull and did not know how to coax girls, but if this isn’t considered as making an effort to chase the girl, then I really don’t know what is...’

...

The distance between the Lu mansion and Xijing University First Hospital was not too far.

Twenty minutes later, Lu Huaiyu got out of the car and went to the emergency department.

When he got to the third floor, he saw Ning Li standing at the end of the corridor.

She was leaning against the wall with her head lowered, so he could not see her expression clearly.

People were walking around the corridor, but she looked so lonely standing there by herself.

“Lili.”

Hearing his voice, Ning Li lifted her head.

Lu Huaiyu sighed with relief, but his heart tightened when he saw her slightly pale face.

He walked towards her and stood in front of her. His brows were slightly furrowed.

“Have you been waiting for a long time?”

He asked and leaned down slightly to look into her eyes.

His voice rang out in front of her and from the phone at the same time.

Only then did Ning Li realize that she had not hung up yet.

She shook her head and disconnected the call.

The call duration was 27 minutes and 13 seconds.

This was how long he had taken to come to her.

She could smell his familiar refreshing scent of cedar, and his handsome and elegant face was right in front of her eyes.

It almost felt like a dream.

In fact, Ning Li had not expected him to come.

She had only wanted to call him and listen to his voice.

Ning Li had thought that she might feel better that way.

After knowing that he was coming, Ning Li found it very difficult to endure the anxiety she had felt even for a minute.

She seemed to have turned into a very fragile person because of Lu Huaiyu.