

## Little Brat's 281

### Chapter 281: Flipped Through

Ning Li's voice was light as if she really felt that Ye Ci could get a good score in the final exam.

However, when Ye Ci looked into Ning Li's clear and calm eyes, she inexplicably felt humiliated.

It was at this moment that she suddenly realized that Ning Li did not even see her as a rival.

Ye Ci had relied on Ning Li's notes to get into the top five in the province and enter the winter camp.

If this had been someone else's notebook, they would certainly have been quite proud of themselves and taken some credit for it, even if they did not announce it to the world.

However, Ning Li had never commented about Ye Ci's achievement.

Ning Li seemed to be completely detached and did not care about it.

She could have used this to ease her relationship with Su Yuan and please Su Yuan, but she had not.

It was as if anything Ye Ci did would not affect her.

Ning Li was not afraid that another person would compete with her, nor was she afraid that Ye Ci would make an issue of this notebook.

That was because to Ning Li, Ye Ci simply was not qualified to be her opponent.

It was also because of this that Ning Li had unexpectedly spoken for Ye Ci.

To Ning Li, this was just a small thing that was not even worth mentioning.

When Ye Ci thought of this, her face felt hot. Anger and resentment surged in her heart.

However, these teachers were next to her and Ning Li's words were indeed crucial for her to continue staying in the camp.

Sure enough, Li Guangyuan and the others were taken aback when they heard Ning Li's words.

"Ning Li, you agree with letting her stay?"

Ning Li withdrew her gaze and smiled.

"What I mean is that this is ultimately her choice. No one can make this decision for her. I respect the teacher's opinion, but at the same time, I also respect Ye Ci's wishes."

Ning Li paused briefly.

"After all, if Ye Ci doesn't work hard on her own, even that notebook won't be of much use, will it?"

Of course, Ye Ci had only been extra attentive to that notebook because she had wanted to compete with Ning Li.

More importantly, there had only been a few questions in that notebook.

Ning Li had given Ye Ci a long time to prepare for those few questions on the preliminary round. If she had still failed, that would have been strange.

However, no one needed to know about this.

The teachers looked at each other.

Ning Li's words seemed reasonable...

After thinking about it for a while, Li Guangyuan finally said, "How about this...Ye Ci, we'll let you think this over tonight. Give us your final answer tomorrow morning."

One night should be enough for her to think clearly.

At the very least, it was enough time for her to discuss the matter with her family. However, if she did not want to do that, that would be her own decision.

As teachers, they had already done all they could.

Ye Ci breathed a sigh of relief. "Thank you, Mr. Li."

Li Guangyuan put the test papers away.

"Alright, you girls can go back."

Zhao Ping handed the two notebooks back to Ning Li.

"By the way, don't forget your notebooks."

Although one of the notebooks had been brought by Ye Ci, they belonged to Ning Li.

Ning Li took it.

Ye Ci's gaze lingered on the two notebooks for a moment, and a trace of hesitation flashed in her eyes.

The two girls walked out of the office one after another.

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By this time, the evening study period had already started.

Ning Li went back to the auditorium.

Ye Ci was a few steps behind Ning Li and finally could not help but speak. "Sister Ning Li."

Ning Li paused in her footsteps and looked back with little expression on her face.

Ye Ci took a deep breath and gathered the courage to speak. "I'm really sorry for what happened today. I didn't want to get you involved..."

Ning Li looked at her quietly.

The rest of Ye Ci's words were suddenly stuck in her throat.

When she met Ning Li's calm eyes, Ye Ci felt like she was just a joke to Ning Li.

The situation today had been so embarrassing that Ning Li probably wanted to laugh at her.

"If you have time, why don't you call your family and think about Mr. Li's proposal," Ning Li said in a light voice.

Ye Ci's lips were pursed.

She was already having a hard time. Was Ning Li deliberately using this to mock her?

“Ye Ci, Ning Li! Why aren’t you guys coming in?” Cao Jingxuan’s voice came from the back.

The evening study period was a self-study session. Cao Jingxuan had just come out to use the bathroom and had not expected to bump into the two of them.

Cao Jingxuan looked at Ye Ci somewhat strangely.

“Ye Ci, did you need to make a call?”

“No.” Ye Ci reflexively denied it, her voice sounding a bit shrill.

Cao Jingxuan froze.

Ye Ci seemed to notice that she had lost her temper a little. She calmed her voice and forced a smile.

“It’s nothing. Mr. Li asked if I wanted to call home about my gastroenteritis. I didn’t want to worry my family, so I refused. It’s not a serious matter, so it would just make them worry for nothing.”

Cao Jingxuan nodded in understanding and looked concerned.

“Yeah...but you still have to pay more attention to your health.”

The corner of Ning Li’s lips curved into a very faint smile. She turned around and went into the classroom first.

Ye Ci did not dare to look at her and only responded to Cao Jingxuan in a low voice.

“Yeah, you’re right. I’m really fine. Let’s just go in.”

Ye Ci then went into the classroom behind Ning Li.

...

However, just before arriving at her own table, Ye Ci's expression changed.

The papers on her desk had been flipped through.

At first glance, everything looked neat and tidy, but Ye Ci remembered very clearly that she had not placed her things that way before she had left.

Her exam paper was stuffed in that book.

Chapter 282: How Did You Get This Grade?

Ye Ci picked up the book.

Her exam paper was still inside, but it had obviously been flipped through because it was different from the way she had folded it earlier.

Someone had gone through her paper.

Ye Ci suppressed the rage in her heart and turned to look at a boy sitting behind her.

"Liang Rong, did you see anyone touching my stuff?"

Liang Rong was reading a book and looked up when he heard her. He pushed up his glasses on the bridge of his nose.

"No."

The classroom was very quiet with only the sound of papers being flipped and students writing.

The moment Ye Ci spoke, she immediately drew the attention of several people around her, but no one said anything.

Cao Jingxuan sat down in her seat and looked back when she heard Ye Ci. She saw the unpleasant expression on Ye Ci's face, before asking in a low voice, "Ye Ci, what's wrong?"

Ye Ci's voice carried a hint of suppressed anger.

"Someone touched my things."

"Huh? No way!"

Cao Jingxuan glanced towards the table.

'There isn't much here, so who would have touched her things?'

"Everyone has this book. Why would they touch it...? Is it possible that you are mistaken?"

"No."

Ye Ci's face was expressionless.

"I know that someone went through my book."

"Um..."

Cao Jingxuan had originally wanted to coax Ye Ci, but seeing that she was not in a good mood, Cao Jingxuan did not say much.

Ye Ci looked around and finally focused her gaze on Zhang Yanyan.

She said in a cold voice, "Zhang Yanyan, did you touch my stuff?"

Zhang Yanyan looked up and nodded without much concern.

"Oh, I accidentally knocked your book onto the floor. Sorry."

'Knocked it onto the floor? It's just been sitting here... Zhang Yanyan did it on purpose!'

Ye Ci stepped forward.

"Apologize."

Her tone was harsh.

Zhang Yanyan frowned.

"Didn't I already say that I was sorry? Besides, it was an accident. Why are you so uptight?"

Zhang Yanyan was not a pushover. The moment she heard Ye Ci's tone, she confronted her.

Both girls looked at each other, the atmosphere becoming intense.

The people in the classroom looked over at them.



Ye Ci clutched the corner of her book.

“I said, I want you to formally apologize.”

With all eyes on them, why would Zhang Yanyan bow to Ye Ci?

Zhang Yanyan let out a cold laugh.

“It’s just a book. I picked it up for you and put it back. I told you that it had been an accident, so what else do you want?”

Usually, Ye Ci would not care too much about things like this, but this time was different.

Her exam papers had been stuffed in this book, and Zhang Yanyan must have seen it.

Knowing Zhang Yanyan’s character, everyone would know that Ye Ci had only gotten 37 marks on that paper by the end of the day!

Previously, Ye Ci had been mocked by Zhang Yanyan because of her score on the previous test.

This time, there was no telling how harsh their words would be behind Ye Ci’s back.

Ye Ci had been suppressing her anger and resentment since she had come out of the office, with nowhere to vent it.

Now, with this encounter with Zhang Yanyan, she could no longer hold back.

All of her anger had been ignited by Zhang Yanyan.

Without even thinking about it, Ye Ci slammed the book in her hand onto Zhang Yanyan’s desk.

Bang!

The book landed heavily on Zhang Yanyan's desk, and everything on it fell to the floor.

"Apologize!" Ye Ci raised her voice.

Everyone was stunned.

No one had expected that the previously quiet and gentle Ye Ci would suddenly act like this.

Moreover, it was only because Zhang Yanyan had accidentally knocked a book from her table.

'Was it even worth it?'

Zhang Yanyan was dumbfounded. She had just managed to dodge the book and now felt her heart racing.

The book had almost smacked her in the face!

After feeling dazed for a brief moment, Zhang Yanyan suddenly stood up.

"Ye Ci! What are you going crazy about?!"

Seeing that the two girls were about to get into a fight, the students next to them finally reacted and hurriedly went forward to pull them apart.

"Don't fight! We're all classmates!"

“Yeah, Yanyan didn’t do it on purpose and your book looks fine, so just forget about it, okay?”

“Zhang Yanyan, it was your fault too, so why don’t you apologize...”

Zhang Yanyan raised her voice. “She started it. Why should I apologize first?”

Several students next to her hurriedly picked the things up from the floor.

A girl picked up a piece of paper and inadvertently saw the bright red score on it. Without thinking, she said, “37? Isn’t this yesterday’s paper? Whose is it?”

Ye Ci’s face instantly turned pale.

She had been so emotional earlier that she had forgotten that her exam paper was still stuck inside her book. When she had slammed her book down, her paper had flown out.

Her first reaction had been to grab the paper, but there was quite a distance between her and the girl, so it had been too late to reach over before the girl had glanced at the name on the paper.

She murmured, “Ye Ci?”

The surrounding students quickly realized what was going on and quieted down. All of them looked at Ye Ci.

Zhang Yanyan also glanced in the same direction and blurted out, “37? This is the paper that won’t be counted towards Ye Ci’s final grade, right?”

Dead silence.

Everyone had done the same paper, so they all knew the level of difficulty.

They had thought that the teacher had not marked Ye Ci's paper, but it turned out that he had.

Ye Ci had only done half of it before she went to the hospital, so getting a low score was normal, but... 37?

'That's too low... If that was the case, even if Ye Ci had finished the paper, her marks would not have been much higher...'

Ye Ci felt the blood rush to her head. Her face flushed red, although her lips were very pale.

At this moment, all Ye Ci could feel was that her last bit of dignity had been ripped from her body.

Everyone's eyes around her were as sharp as knives.

Zhang Yanyan was the first to react. She laughed and said, "Ye Ci, were you so angry just now because you were worried that we would find out about your score?"

Ye Ci clenched her fists so tightly that her nails dug into her palms. She gritted her teeth and said, "Zhang Yanyan, why are you still pretending?!"

"What reason would I have to pretend?" Zhang Yanyan tucked her hair behind her ear and sized up Ye Ci. She snorted and continued, "I accidentally knocked over your book. Your paper fell out, but I folded it back and put it away without looking at it. Although I don't like you, I wouldn't stoop so low as to peek at your things."

Zhang Yanyan spoke frankly, but Ye Ci did not believe a word she said.

"Do you think I'll believe you just because you say so? I know what you said about me after the previous test!"

Zhang Yanyan folded her arms and laughed.

“Yeah, that’s because I let you hear it on purpose. I’m not actually prejudiced against people with bad grades. I’m just wondering how you managed to do so badly on the test when you got fifth place in M Province. If you care that much, I can apologize. However, before that happens, why don’t you explain to us how you got this grade?”

## Chapter 283: Busy Line

Zhang Yanyan’s words were extremely blunt.

Many people looked at each other with blank faces.

The classroom fell into an awkward, almost suffocating silence.

Everyone here was participating in the physics competition, so they all knew what Zhang Yanyan meant by this.

There was something fishy about Ye Ci’s preliminary round results.

In fact, Zhang Yanyan was not the only one who had doubts about this.

Everyone had spent all this time around each other, so they all knew each other’s level.

Obviously, Ye Ci was an anomaly in this winter camp.

Everyone was suspicious about her performance, but no one had been as direct as to say it.

If it had not been for Ye Ci’s attitude, Zhang Yanyan would not have put her on the spot.

Ye Ci gritted her teeth and quickly walked forward to grab her paper from the other girl's hand.

The girl was startled as she was caught off guard, but Ye Ci did not care.

She merely returned to her seat with a cold face and slammed her things on the table.

"Of course the preliminary round's results were due to my own efforts. If you don't believe me, feel free to ask Mr. Li and the other teachers. If I ever hear that any of you falsely accuse me without evidence again, I won't let you get away with it!"

Ye Ci was very righteous and sounded as if she had been wronged.

Everything had already been made clear in the office earlier.

Anyhow, she had not cheated.

It had been her own achievement.

Zhang Yanyan scoffed. "All I did was casually ask how you got this grade. Why are you so worked up?"

'Is she feeling guilty?'

"Besides, I'm not interested in your business. I'm here to participate in the national finals, not to talk to you, so I don't care if you actually learned anything or if you get 37 or 41 marks."

Zhang Yanyan was a straightforward person, and her words were unforgiving.

She looked down on Ye Ci, and since Ye Ci had caused this scene, Zhang Yanyan did not want to be polite to Ye Ci anymore.

Her words were sharp and extremely sarcastic.

Ye Ci was about to speak when they heard footsteps approaching.

All of them immediately returned to their seats with a tacit understanding.

Zhao Ping pushed open the door and swept a glance at the crowd. "What's wrong?"

He had heard a bit of a commotion while he was in the corridor earlier.

Cao Jingxuan immediately said, "Mr. Zhao, it's nothing."

It was not good to make a big deal out of this kind of thing, so Ye Ci kept her mouth shut.

Zhao Ping knew that there would be a little friction between students at times, but as long as it was not excessive and they could solve it themselves, the teachers would not interfere too much.

He looked at Ye Ci and Zhang Yanyan.

Their voices had been the loudest earlier, but he did not expose them and only nodded and said, "That's fine. Don't forget what you're all here for. Please continue studying."

After saying that, he turned around and closed the door to leave.

Zhang Yanyan glanced at Ye Ci with unconcealed mockery on her face.

Ye Ci took a pencil out from her pencil case with the intention of doing some practice questions.

However, she used so much force that the tip of her pencil broke off.

Ye Ci closed her eyes and replaced it.

...

Even though this issue was not that big, everyone knew that Ye Ci had gotten 37 marks in the last exam by now.

Moreover, judging from her little episode today, there was quite a big difference in the way she had presented herself compared to previously.

This led to a subtle change in many people's impression of Ye Ci.

Some students remembered the relationship between Ning Li and Ye Ci, so they turned back to look at Ning Li.

Ning Li sat in the corner of the classroom and looked over her notes without an expression on her face.

It seemed like she did not care about Ye Ci.

Actually, Ning Li just seemed unconcerned about everything besides studying.

Ning Li was indifferent to this situation. After all, they were merely a reorganized family, and there was no blood relationship between Ning Li and Ye Ci, so no one expected much from Ning Li.

...

The evening study period ended, so everyone went back to the dorms.



Ye Ci left a little faster than usual.

Cao Jingxuan had originally wanted to follow her, but when Ye Ci said she was going to make a phone call, Cao Jingxuan stopped in her tracks.

Ning Li packed her bag and walked out of the classroom.

She looked down at her phone.

Yu Pingchuan had sent her a few messages saying that he would return to the Capital in two weeks' time. He told Ning Li to stay in the Capital for a few more days to wait for him.

Ning Li agreed.

In fact, she had accounted for this.

Even if Yu Pingchuan had not messaged her, she would still have stayed in the Capital for a while longer.

Besides that, there was also a missed call from an unfamiliar number as well as a text message.

[Sister Li, I'm back.]

It had been sent at 3:00 pm.

Although there was no signature, Ning Li knew who it was.

By now, she had already walked to the first floor.

She looked at the text message and hesitated for a moment before walking in the opposite direction of the dormitory.

Pei Song glanced at her and quickly withdrew his gaze.

Ning Li walked to a quiet location, sat down on a bench, and made a phone call.

Beep...

After just one ring, the phone was answered.

The clear and gentle voice of a young man came from the other end of the call. "Sister Li."

...

Lu Mansion.

Lu Huaiyu was playing chess with his grandfather as he urged him to get some rest. He then put away the chess pieces into the jar one by one.

His phone was right next to him.

After he finished collecting the white chess pieces, his phone was still silent.

Lu Huaiyu looked at the time.

Ning Li's evening study period should have been over by now.

He picked up the phone and dialed a number.

Beep...

“I’m sorry, but the number you have dialed is currently busy. Please try again later.”

Lu Huaiyu looked at his phone with slightly narrow eyes.

‘Busy line?’

Chapter 284: Second Brother, My Hands Are Cold

Lu Huaiyu put his phone aside and picked up the black chess pieces one by one again.

He even kept the chessboard.

When he looked at his phone, the screen was still black.

It looked like Ning Li still had not finished her call yet.

...

Winter nights in the Capital were windy and chilly.

“Sister Li, I heard about what happened with you and Grandma.”

The young man’s voice on the other end of the call sounded excessively calm, so no one knew what his state of mind was at this time.

Ning Li gently exhaled. White mist lingered in the air and there was a slight astringent feeling in her mouth.

After a while, she said, "Min, I didn't mean to hide it from you. It's just that you were abroad at the time and your company's management is so strict. Even if I had told you, there was no way you could have rushed back to..."

"I could've come back."

The young man interrupted her and there was finally a ripple in his voice.

He soon realized that he had let his temper show and calmed down again.

"I could've taken leave and come back."

He had always been good and obedient in front of her. If not for the fact that Ning Li had hidden too much from him for too long, he would not have acted out.

The corners of Ning Li's lips curved faintly, but with a hint of helplessness.

"You know your company. It was a critical time before your debut. If you had taken time off, you might have missed this opportunity forever."

"You and Grandma were more important than all of this."

The young man's voice was a bit willful.

Ning Li sighed lightly in her heart.

This was what had happened in her past life. He had rushed back after learning the news of his grandmother's death, despite her objections.

Due to that, he had missed a critical point in his career.

If not for that, he would not have gone through so much trouble.

“Grandma always loved you, so she would not have blamed you. Besides, I’m fine now, so you don’t have to worry.”

The young man was silent for a moment.

After he had returned to the country, some news had been easy to get even though he had not had the time to return to Lincheng.

He knew that Ning Li had been staying with Su Yuan and the Ye family in Yunzhou.

How well could a mother treat a daughter that she had abandoned for ten years and refused to see even once?

However, Ning Li had said that she was doing well.

It was a while before he said, “Sister Li, I heard that you’re in the Capital now?”

“Yeah, for the physics competition winter camp intensive training.”

The wind was strong, so Ning Li turned her back to block the wind.

“I’ll be back in Yunzhou soon.”

“Are you outside?”

His voice was a little tense.

The wind was quite loud.

He actually had a lot to say, but he decided to swallow his words.

"I saw that it's negative eight degrees in the Capital today. It's too cold, so you should go back inside."

Ning Li smiled and said, "It's fine. I just came out of the classroom, so I don't feel very cold. Anyway, you should concentrate on your training. I'll go back to the dorms."

He paused for a moment. "There's a show in the Capital soon. Why don't I..."

Ning Li knew what he was thinking and refused. "There's no need. Just focus on your work during this period of time."

"But..."

She sighed and said, "Min, please listen to me."

When she said that, he could never refuse her.

After a long time, he said, "Fine..."

...

Ning Li hung up the phone and saw a missed call from Lu Huaiyu.

She thought about it and called back.

After a few rings, the call was connected.

“Lili?”

“Second Brother, I’m sorry, I was busy earlier, so I missed your call.”

Lu Huaiyu had already returned to his bedroom and casually asked, “So you’re done with your call?”

Ning Li was stunned, then she nodded and responded, “Mm.”

Lu Huaiyu looked at the time.

That call had lasted for nearly ten minutes.

“Second Brother, was there a reason that you were looking for me?” Ning Li asked.

Lu Huaiyu did not call her very often, especially after she had gone to the winter camp. He knew that they had a tight schedule, so he did not contact her often.

He paused for a moment and did not answer her question.

When he heard the sound of wind from her end, he asked, “You’re not in the dorms?”

“I’m going back soon.”

Lu Huaiyu’s eyebrows were slightly furrowed.

‘She was on the phone outside for ten minutes just now?’

His voice was slightly gruff as he said, "Don't stay outside for so long the next time you take a call outside. You'll catch a cold."

Ning Li heard his serious tone, so she obediently answered, "Okay..."

Lu Huaiyu remembered that she was still outside. In the end, he still felt heartbroken and asked in a low voice, "Are you cold?"

Ning Li pulled over the hood of her down jacket, paused for a moment, and said softly, "Yeah, a little."

Her voice sounded a bit muffled and soft, which touched his heart.

Lu Huaiyu inclined his head slightly and started unbuttoning his shirt.

When he heard this, he paused for a moment.

He could hear the strong wind in the background.

Ning Li did not speak, and all he could hear was her shallow breathing.

Afterward, Lu Huaiyu spoke gently. "Are your hands cold?"

The low and gentle voice with his usual nonchalant tone landed in her ear.

Ning Li blinked and gently breathed into her hand. She lowered her head slightly and hid her head in her hood.

After a while, she said in a soft voice, "Yeah..."



Lu Huaiyu suddenly chuckled.

Ning Li's face instantly turned red.

"Second Brother, I'll go back first then."

Lu Huaiyu did not bother to continue teasing her and gave a faint "mm".

Ning Li hung up the phone and walked in the direction of the dorms.

...

Ye Ci was at the stairwell in the dorms, talking to Su Yuan on the phone.

So many things had happened today that she felt so aggrieved and did not know how to vent it.

Su Yuan was always very gentle when she spoke to Ye Ci. "Lil Ci, what's wrong? Are you homesick?"

Ye Ci let out a low "mm" with a suppressed cry.

Su Yuan heard it and knew that Ye Ci was not just homesick.

She asked with some concern, "Why are you crying? Is it because you're too tired over there?"

Ye Ci rubbed her eyes. "Yeah... The course schedule is quite intense. There are some parts that I didn't understand thoroughly in today's class too."

Su Yuan did not know much about this, so when she heard this, she subconsciously said, "Then, why don't you ask the teacher?"

“The teacher’s class time is fixed, so it’s not always convenient to ask them.”

“Then...what about your classmates? I remember that there are more than 50 students in your class, right?”

Ye Ci paused for a moment before saying, “Mom, you forget that we’re actually not considered classmates. We’re all competitors in the finals.”

Since it was a competitive environment, who would take the time to explain anything to her?

Su Yuan understood at once.

‘It makes sense... They may even wish that Ye Ci won’t understand the topics...’

After some thought, Su Yuan said, “What about Ning Li? She’s there as well, so get her to teach you.”

Although Ning Li’s temper upset Su Yuan, she had to admit that Ning Li’s current performance was indeed better than Ye Ci’s.

Ning Li had gotten first place in the province, so she had to be better than Ye Ci, right?

Ye Ci hesitantly spoke. “It’s already very troublesome for Sister Ning Li in the preliminary round... Sister Ning Li, you’re back?”

She was talking on the phone when she saw Ning Li coming upstairs, so she immediately called out to Ning Li.

Su Yuan heard this and said, “Lil Ci, please pass the phone to Ning Li.. Let me talk to her.”

## Chapter 285: What's the Point of Being So Defensive?

Ye Ci made a gesture and handed her phone over.

"Sister Ning Li, Mom wants to talk to you."

Ning Li did not take over the phone and only swept a glance at Ye Ci as she asked in a light voice, "Are you telling her about what Mr. Li told you today in the office?"

Ye Ci froze at once.

Ning Li was talking about Li Guangyuan asking Ye Ci to discuss with her family about withdrawing from the competition.

How could she bring it up to Su Yuan?

Su Yuan obviously heard Ning Li's words and asked, "The office? Mr. Li? Lil Ci, what is it about?"

"Give me the phone," Ning Li said as she reached out to take Ye Ci's phone.

Ye Ci's hand quickly shrank back.

"No, no... Sister Ning Li, you only just came back, so you'd better go wash up first. Otherwise, it'll be too late later."

The corner of Ning Li's lips hooked up lightly as she brushed past Ye Ci.

After Ye Ci had made sure that Ning Li was in the room, Ye Ci put the phone to her ear.

“Lil Ci?” Su Yuan vaguely felt that something was off and asked her again.

Only then did Ye Ci say, “Mom, it’s nothing, Sister Ning Li seems to be quite tired, so I didn’t want to bother her with this matter.”

“Then, what did she mean by what she said? Did your teacher look for you?”

“Yeah... It was just about my gastroenteritis yesterday. I got an IV and took some medication, so I’m feeling much better now.”

As soon as Ye Ci mentioned this, Su Yuan’s attention was instantly diverted.

“Is it serious?”

“It’s fine, Mom... Don’t worry...”

Ye Ci continued to reassure Su Yuan a while longer before Su Yuan finally felt relieved.

She hung up the phone and pursed her lips when she recalled Ning Li’s attitude just now.

Originally, Ye Ci had wanted to take this opportunity to make Ning Li give her the other notebook, but she had not expected Ning Li to actually turn the tables on her and threaten her with this matter instead.

Looking at it, it looked like Ning Li would never give her the notebook.

Today, Ye Ci and Zhang Yanyan had gone neck to neck, and everyone now knew about her score from the last exam.

They were not even halfway through the winter camp yet, so it would be tough for her to continue here.

Ye Ci stood there for a while before she turned around and went back to the room.

...

Room 202.

Song Mengtang was still doing some practice questions at her desk.

Cao Jingxuan saw Ye Ci enter the room and pointed to her desk.

“Ye Ci, I put the flask on your desk. There’s porridge inside and it should still be hot. Do have some.”

Only then did Ye Ci’s expression ease up. She smiled gratefully at Cao Jingxuan. “Thanks, Jingxuan.”

Now that everyone knew that Ye Ci had done badly in both exams, Cao Jingxuan was one of the few people who still treated her nicely.

Cao Jingxuan’s eyes curved up as she smiled. “You’re welcome.”

She then looked at Ning Li and asked, “Ning Li, could I have a look at your exam paper?”

Ning Li did not even turn to look at her as she said, “I lent it to Tan Ruiqun, so you can ask him tomorrow.”

Cao Jingxuan froze.

“Tan Ruiqun? Didn’t he do quite well in the exam this time? Why does he even need to borrow your papers?”

He had ranked third in the whole class and was only a few points behind Ning Li. What was the need to do so with such a score?

Ning Li said in a light voice, "There were a few questions that we had different solutions to."

Cao Jingxuan instantly understood something.

She spoke half-jokingly, "Ning Li, you're too generous. What if he does better than you next time after looking at your solutions?"

Cao Jingxuan was very smart. She knew why Tan Ruiqun had borrowed Ning Li's papers as soon as she had heard Ning Li's words.

He was not looking at Ning Li's answers, but at Ning Li's steps in solving the problems so that he could study her way of thinking.

This was more convenient and enlightening compared to discussing and matching answers.

Ning Li suddenly turned to look at her. "Why do you ask that?"

Cao Jingxuan froze. "What?"

Ning Li looked calm. "We're classmates, so it's not a big deal to look at each other's paper. I also lent it to Ge Yu and other people before. If he can do better than me next time, that would be due to his own ability. What's the point of being so defensive?"

Cao Jingxuan's smile faded a little.

"I was only speaking casually. Don't get me wrong."

Ning Li unzipped her backpack and did not reply to her anymore.

Cao Jingxuan's grades were good, but she was not used to seeing others do better than her.

She had come to the winter camp as the top student from Capital First High, but she had not even gotten into the top five ranking for the previous two exams.

Of course, Cao Jingxuan secretly felt unhappy and resentful.

Song Mengtang glanced back at Cao Jingxuan.

In the past few days, Cao Jingxuan looked generous, but she had always been very guarded about her own materials and papers.

When Song Mengtang had approached Cao Jingxuan to discuss a few questions earlier, Cao Jingxuan always said that she had not done it yet or did not know much.

What this meant could not be more obvious.

Thus, since then, Song Mengtang did not bother discussing anything with Cao Jingxuan anymore.

Song Mengtang stood up, took her paper, and walked over to Ning Li.

"Ning Li, I don't really understand the part about transformers that Mr. Zhao explained today. Could you please help me with it?"

Ning Li looked at her, pulled out a pencil from her pencil case, and made a few dotted lines on her book as she explained in a low voice, "This is a non-ideal transformer, so you can't use the previous equations."

Song Mengtang nodded as she listened.

Cao Jingxuan felt a little embarrassed and went to the bathroom to wash up.

...

The next day, Ye Ci went to the office by herself to confirm her decision to stay in the competition.

The teachers knew that she could not be persuaded otherwise, so they did not say anything further.

This matter had been brushed over.

The winter camp classes continued.

Since Ye Ci and Zhang Yanyan's little episode, the girls had not spoken to each other again.

Everyone's attitude towards Ye Ci had also subtly changed.

On the surface, everything seemed to still be the same as before, but Ye Ci could feel this change.

During class, the teachers occasionally asked students to answer questions, but never directed their questions to Ye Ci.

Everyone would gather in groups to discuss problems, but no one took the initiative to ask Ye Ci to join them.

At first, Ye Ci would ask others when she did not understand something, but after a while, they became more impatient with her.

"Mr. Li already taught this in class just now..."



“Use these two formulas... What’s so difficult about this?”

“Why don’t you ask someone else? Perhaps a different solution is easier for you to understand.”

...

After a few times, Ye Ci gradually stopped asking questions and tried to do the problems by herself.

She had never felt it more than now, that physics was actually very difficult and torturous.

As time passed, Ye Ci panicked even more.

Ye Ci knew very well that compared to the others, she was too far behind.

Four days passed by in a flash.

It was time for an exam again.

This time, the exam was held in the morning. After the exam, their marked papers were distributed by noon.

Ye Ci did not rest well at noon.

In the afternoon, Zhao Ping read out their results as usual.

Ning Li got full marks again.

As for Ye Ci...

“52nd place, Ye Ci.. 49 marks.”

Chapter 286: Senior Lu

Zhao Ping finished reading out everyone’s marks before turning to look at Ye Ci. He looked at her helplessly as he gently shook his head.

He had painstakingly tried to persuade her, but she had not listened.

What else could he do?

Thus far, they had already gone through half of the winter camp, yet Ye Ci’s situation still had not improved.

She was still adamant about participating in the finals and kept pressing on.

No one knew what she was up to.

Ye Ci had seemed like a smart and outstanding student based on her resume and performance in Yunzhou Second High, but she was so willful here.

Ye Ci had already expected this ranking and mark.

She went up to get her paper with her head slightly lowered and with no expression.

When she went back to her seat, she heard Zhang Yanyan talking to the person next to her.

“No wonder she was so mad last time. If I didn’t pass the paper, I would be upset if someone saw my paper too.”

“Shh... Keep it down... I think she heard us.”

“So what if she heard us? It’s a fact anyway. She’s taken the test, so why is she afraid of what others will say? Actually, it’s quite unbelievable that she’s in the same school and class as Ning Li and Pei Song with her level... Is there a problem with their school?”

“Yunzhou Second High has produced those two geniuses that always come in first and second...”

“They produced two geniuses and an idiot...”

Zhang Yanyan said this as she looked at Ye Ci and snickered.

“Some people shouldn’t even be here in the first place.”

Ye Ci closed her eyes and wanted to plug her ears, but even more so, she wanted to go up to Zhang Yanyan and rip her mouth off!

However, it had gotten very ugly the last time they had fought, so she could not do that again.

On the podium, Zhao Ping had already started talking about the paper.

“Let’s look at the third subquestion of the second last question. Only five people in the class have done it. Besides this solution I just talked about, there’s one more.”

Zhao Ping said and looked to the last row of the classroom.

“Ning Li, Pei Song, you both had the same solution to this question. Why don’t you both discuss and see who’d like to come up to write it?”

The people in the class turned around in unison.

Of course, the top two in class from the same school would also come up with the same solution.

Tan Ruiqun could not help but ask in a low voice, "Pei Song, have you guys learned this solution before?"

Pei Song shook his head. "No."

Tan Ruiqun looked at his own paper. "Then, it's quite a coincidence that you both wrote the same solution..."

Pei Song looked at Ning Li. "Which of us is going?"

Ning Li said, "You."

Pei Song nodded, got up from his seat, and walked towards the podium.

His figure was lean and tall. His indifferent and detached eyes were hidden behind his lenses. He then casually took the chalk and wrote on the board.

Pei Song's handwriting on the board was extremely beautiful.

Most of the students began to transcribe his solution while some others stared at him deep in thought.

Pei Song soon finished writing.

Zhao Ping stood next to him and said, "Why don't you explain it?"

Pei Song nodded. "Sure."

His cold and aloof voice rang out in the quiet classroom.

The small number of girls sitting in the front seats could not move their eyes away from him.

When Pei Song finished speaking, Zhao Ping nodded appreciatively and looked at Ning Li.

“Ning Li, do you have anything else to add?”

Ning Li shook her head.

“No, I’m thinking along the same lines as Pei Song.”

Pei Song put the chalk back and paused slightly when he heard this.

However, it had only been for a moment so no one noticed this subtle action since he had always been introverted.

...

After class.

A few girls got together and looked to the back of the classroom from time to time.

“Pei Song is amazing! He has good grades, he’s handsome and such an eye-candy compared to our school’s popular guy.”

“Sigh... Too bad the winter camp is only two weeks long... When it’s over, we won’t see this face again... By the way, do you guys think that Pei Song has a girlfriend?”

“I heard that he doesn’t, but many of the girls in Yunzhou Second High like him. If he was interested, it would only be a matter of time...”

“Tsk tsk... All he cares about is his studies, so why would he care about this?”

...

The classroom was rather noisy, but these words were intermittent, so it was easy to get the gist of it.

Pei Song did not seem to mind and looked calm.

He looked at his paper. His eyes lingered on the question for a moment before he finally folded it up and stuck it in his book.

Ning Li went to get some water. When she came back, she passed by the girls.

Someone asked her. “Hey, Ning Li, can I ask you something?”

Ning Li stood still. “What is it?”

The girl lowered her voice. “Do you know if Pei Song has someone that he likes?”

Pei Song’s eyebrows twitched slightly. He glanced at them.

Ning Li did not notice Pei Song. She thought about it and said, “I don’t think so...”

As far as she could remember, Pei Song seemed to be cold and aloof to everyone.

“Then...then what’s his type?”

Ning Li shook her head. “I’m not sure.”

The girls looked regretful.

Ning Li and Pei Song were classmates, so if she did not know, they had even less of a chance to find out.

Pei Song leaned back in his chair and lowered his eyes. He looked at the two words he had subconsciously written on the draft paper.

Ning Li.

He then turned the page.

“Pei Song really is the hottest guy I’ve seen in school. Even the popular guys from Capital First High in the past few years can’t compare to him.”

A girl sighed.

Cao Jingxuan, who was sitting next to her, heard this and laughed.

“That’s not necessarily true. There’s still Senior Lu!”

Ning Li was about to go back to her seat. When she heard this, she paused in her footsteps.

The girl was puzzled and asked, “Which Senior Lu?”

Cao Jingxuan smiled and said, “Who else? Senior Lu Huaiyu.”

Chapter 287: Choose a Major

“Do you mean Lu Huaiyu, Second Young Master of the Lu family?!”

At the mention of his name, another girl quickly responded.

“Is he the youngest one on the wall of distinguished alumni in Capital First High?”

“Who else but him?” Cao Jingxuan looked a little proud.

“If that’s him, he’s really good-looking...”

“I saw his photo when I came here. He looks like a Greek god!”

A girl asked, “You’ve all seen it? What does he look like? I didn’t pay attention to that Wall of Fame.”

The girl who spoke at the beginning sighed.

“I took a picture of it, but I don’t have my phone now. You’ll know when you see for yourself! He’s really hot!”

She looked at Cao Jingxuan. “By the way, I remember that he graduated several years ago, right? The popular guys I was talking about came after him. If we count him as well, then he’s definitely the winner!”

Cao Jingxuan nodded.

“Well...he went to Xijing University after only a year or so in high school. That photo was taken when he graduated.”

The girls who had not seen Lu Huaiyu’s photo felt that they were exaggerating.

“Really? Is he that handsome? It’s just a photo...”

Cao Jingxuan blinked and said.



“Two years ago on the 110th anniversary of Capital First High, Senior Lu came back for a visit. At that time, I happened to be part of the team to receive him.”

When these words came out, several girls immediately marveled and envied Cao Jingxuan.

“You’re too lucky!”

“Really?! Is he as handsome in person as he is in the photo?!”

“What’s he like? Did you guys talk?”

Cao Jingxuan’s face was a little red as she nodded her head.

“Yup, that picture isn’t even half as handsome as he is in person. He’s also very nice, polite, and modest. I even took a picture with him. If you want to see it, I can show you tonight.”

Several girls nodded excitedly.

Ning Li returned to her seat.

She opened her book and could vaguely hear the girls in front of her pestering Cao Jingxuan to tell them more about Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu was a legendary figure in Capital First High.

Even after graduating for several years and changing batches of students, Lu Huaiyu’s name could still easily make waves.

Ning Li turned her head and saw the confession that occupied half of the wall.

Lu Huaiyu's name had taken up the youths of countless girls.

That was something she did not participate in.

Suddenly, Ning Li remembered something.

Besides that photo of Lu Huaiyu on the Wall of Fame, Ning Li did not have any other photos of Lu Huaiyu on her phone.

...

Time passed quickly.

There was an exam every three days at the winter camp. In the following days, they had two more exams one after another.

Ning Li and the top three still remained the same.

As for the others, except for the two boys who made particularly obvious progress and barely made it into the top ten, the rest of the rankings did not change much overall.

The bottom few's rankings were also very stable, especially Ye Ci.

Even after minimizing her sleeping time and using up all her energy to study hard, it was still not much use.

In both exams, she was still at the bottom of the class.

Even Zhang Yanyan did not bother to comment about Ye Ci's grades anymore.

It was just too bad and she was not qualified enough.

Zhang Yanyan preferred to worry about her own grades.

...

The last day of winter camp.

Everyone's scores from the three assessments were summarized and a comprehensive assessment was made.

Ye Ci's situation was special, so only two assessments were included.

Even so, it had little impact on her results.

Her scores did not differ much each time.

After the class, Zhu Jingyuan waved at Ning Li.

"Ning Li, come with me."

Ning Li got up and followed the professor.

When she left, the classroom was abuzz.

"Is Professor Zhu going to ask Ning Li about her major?"

“Yeah, for sure! With Ning Li’s performance, she’s sure to win the prize in the finals. By then, all the top universities will definitely offer her a spot and she can take her pick. Professor Zhu is from Xijing University, so I’m sure he definitely hopes that she’ll choose his school!”

“I won’t even hope for Xijing University... There are only a few spots available, so it won’t even get to us...”

Ye Ci stared at Ning Li’s departing back. When she heard those words from the people around her, the jealousy in her heart surged wildly.

When the finals were over, Ning Li would get an acceptance letter from Xijing University and the envy and best wishes from countless people.

What about her?

...

Office.

Zhu Jingyuan looked at Ning Li with a kind expression.

“Ning Li, the winter camp is about to end. The professors at Xijing University and Hua University are both interested in you and want me to ask about your wishes first. Do you have a preference between these two schools?”

Xijing University was in the Capital, and Hua University was in Haicheng. They were two of the top universities in China.

Although the finals had not yet begun, from the time these students entered the winter camp for training, the professors from these universities were already paying attention to them.

Without a doubt, Ning Li was the most outstanding one here.

Ning Li nodded. "I choose Xijing University."

The smile on Zhu Jingyuan's face became much more obvious.

"Really?"

He was from Xijing University, so he was certainly happy to hear Ning Li say that.

"Then, do you have a major that interests you?"

Ning Li raised her eyes.

Generally speaking, the top twenty overall scores from the National Physics Competition would qualify for guaranteed admission, and those behind them would get conditional offers.

The first choice for students who had been guaranteed admission would usually choose a physics major.

Usually, only students that were ranked first were eligible to choose their own major.

Now, Zhu Jingyuan was already asking if Ning Li had a major that she was interested in.

Ning Li nodded her head.

"Yes, I do."

Chapter 288: Everyone's Here

Ning Li came out of the office, returned to the classroom, and went to Pei Song.

“Professor Zhu is asking for you.”

Pei Song had already expected this. He nodded and got up to leave.

The people in the class were not surprised.

Other than them, the top few students were also asked to see Professor Zhu one by one.

After Pei Song, it was Tan Ruiqun.

A girl turned around and asked.

“Jingxuan, you’ll be called later, right?”

Cao Jingxuan glanced towards the door.

“Not necessarily.”

Her best ranking had been sixth place in the first test. After that, she had gotten 8th and 9th place.

It was a rather awkward position.

It was not bad, but it was definitely not the top.

There were a limited number of places at Xijing University and Hua University, so she might not even qualify.

After she said this, she looked down and started doing more practice questions.

However, she was obviously not concentrating on it and would look up from time to time.

Two more boys were called in succession.

Cao Jingxuan gradually got a little anxious.

Although she was in a risky position, she did not know what she would do if she was not included.

She was even a student at Capital First High.

“Song Mengtang,” The boy who came back shouted.

Cao Jingxuan frowned slightly, but still held on to the last bit of hope.

After a while, Song Mengtang also came back.

However, she went straight to her seat without calling anyone.

Cao Jingxuan immediately understood.

She had indeed not been included.

Cao Jingxuan was silent for a while. She then turned to look at Ye Ci.

“Ye Ci, the winter camp officially ends tomorrow. Are you going straight back to Yunzhou?”

Ye Ci shook her head.

She had lost a lot of weight during her time here. The dark circles under her eyes were heavy and her face was much paler.

Her haggardness was extremely visible.

“My mother and brother came to pick me up...and Sister Ning Li,” Ye Ci said.

This was what they had discussed at the very beginning.

After Ye Ci had gotten the results of her last two exams, she actually did not want them to come. However, she could not think of any reason to persuade them otherwise.

Moreover, since she had cried on the phone the other day, Su Yuan had been very distressed and insisted on coming over in person.

Chinese New Year was almost here, so Ye Ming was very busy at the office and could not follow along.

However, Ye Cheng had made a fuss early on and wanted to come to the Capital, so Su Yuan had brought him with her.

“That’s nice,” Cao Jingxuan said, “The training is over, so you should relax and unwind. Why don’t I show you around Capital First High and the Capital?”

Ye Ci hesitated for a moment.

“Um... Why don’t you ask Sister Ning Li as well?”

“Okay.”

Cao Jingxuan went to Ning Li and talked to her about it.



“Since it’s rare for you guys to come to the capital, why don’t you stay for a day or two...”

“There’s no need.” Ning Li interrupted her. “Didn’t Ye Ci tell you that I’m not going back with them?”

“Huh?” Cao Jingxuan was a little surprised.

‘Aren’t they a family and aren’t they living together? The family came to pick them up, but Ning Li isn’t going back with them...’

Seeing Ning Li’s cold attitude, Cao Jingxuan also had the sense not to continue. She smiled and said, “That’s fine, next time then. Feel free to call me whenever you come to the Capital! I can be your tour guide.”

Ning Li did not say anything.

Although Ning Li was not from the Capital, that did not mean that she was not familiar with the place.

Cao Jingxuan felt a little awkward and did not say anything else. She turned around and walked away.

...

The next day, everyone left the school.

Sun Qingyi and several other teachers of Capital First High sent the students away.

Those who were going to the airport were grouped together, and those who were taking the high-speed rail were in another group.

Those like Cao Jingxuan, who lived in the Capital, had families to pick them up.

Dormitory 202.

Song Mengtang had gone to the airport early in the morning.

Cao Jingxuan was moving her suitcase downstairs.

She did not have a lot of things, so she moved her things down quickly.

Ye Ci's suitcase was also packed, and she was sitting at her spot. "Mom, are you guys in the car now? Okay, I'll wait for you guys at school."

After hanging up, she looked at Ning Li.

"Sister Ning Li, Mom and Lil Cheng will be here in another hour or so. Are you really not coming with us?"

Her eyes swept over Ning Li's black suitcase.

Since they had arrived at the Capital, Ye Ci did not even know what Ning Li had packed in that suitcase.

Ning Li had never opened it in front of them.

Ning Li leaned back in her chair and gave a faint "mm". She got up, packed some small items on the table into her backpack, and carried her suitcase downstairs.

There were several cars parked at the dormitory building.

Cao Jingxuan was standing by a white car.

Seeing Ning Li coming down with her luggage, she waved at Ning Li.

“Ning Li, where are you going? I can give you a ride!”

Ning Li pulled up her down jacket hood.

“No thanks.”

“You don’t have to be so polite. You have so much stuff and it’s so heavy, so it’ll be easier to take a car.”

Before Ning Li had time to speak, a cold and aloof voice came from the side. “Where are you heading? I’ll drop you off.”

It was Pei Song.

Ning Li looked over.

There was a car parked behind him.

That was probably his family from the Capital that had come to pick him up.

Pei Song looked down and extended his hand.

“Give me your suitcase.”

Ning Li was about to refuse when she heard a loud honk.

Everyone looked over.

It was an extremely flashy red Maserati sports car.

Gu Siyang poked his head out from inside.

“Ning Li! I’ve come to pick you up!”

Ning Li fell into silence as she looked at the extremely expensive supercar with an ultra-low chassis and smooth curves but really only had two seats.

Beep!

Another white SUV drove in from behind.

Yu Pingchuan got out of the car, looked at Gu Siyang, and then at Ning Li.

“Lili? Your friend came to pick you up?”

Ning Li was speechless.

Beep!

Another black Panamera slowly drove up and stopped next to the two cars.

A handsome, elegant, and tall figure got down from the passenger side.

Lu Huaiyu looked at the situation and raised his eyebrows slightly. His eyes lingered on Pei Song’s outstretched hand for a moment before he chuckled and said, “Wow, everyone’s here!”

Chapter 289: Lili Never Mentioned Me?

The scene went silent.

Three luxury cars were lined up, blocking the road at the dormitory building.

Ning Li felt a bit of a headache coming on.

She had not told anyone about leaving camp today and had thought that she would just take a taxi from here. She had not expected that so many cars would come over and that all of them would bump into each other.

‘Why is Gu Siyang so free?! Did Master Yu come back to the Capital early? As for Lu Huaiyu...’

Ning Li raised her eyes and met Lu Huaiyu’s gaze. He had a relaxed smile, but for some reason, she inexplicably felt a chill in the back of her neck.

Cao Jingxuan also froze when she saw the cars.

She did not know Yu Pingchuan, but his SUV was worth a lot of money.

Needless to say, the supercar next to Gu Siyang had “I’m expensive” written all over it.

Were both these people here to pick Ning Li up? Wasn’t she from Yunzhou? How did she know such people in the Capital?’

However, Cao Jingxuan’s attention was on the man who had arrived last.

At first, Cao Jingxuan thought that she was mistaken when she saw that face. However, after staring for several seconds, she was able to confirm that the man in front of her was indeed Lu Huaiyu.

Her heart was racing because she had not expected to run into him at this time.

Although they had met two years ago, such a handsome and noble person was truly hard to forget.

Currently, a few girls who were standing downstairs also stared at Lu Huaiyu dumbstruck.

One of them could not help but murmur, "OMG! He's too handsome! Why does he look so familiar?"

The girl next to her smacked her and said, "Do you think all handsome guys look familiar?"

The other girl froze and shook her head. "No... He really is familiar! I'm sure I've seen him somewhere before...but where..."

She thought hard for a few seconds and suddenly remembered something. "Wait! Isn't that Lu Huaiyu?!"

Lu Huaiyu.

Once this name came out, the other girls quickly reacted.

"Lu Huaiyu?! The one on the Wall of Fame?!"

"Who else could it be? It must be him! That picture of him is still in my phone... Ahem, anyway, I'm sure it's him!"

"Let's ask Jingxuan, hasn't she seen him before?"

They looked at Cao Jingxuan in unison with curious and excited faces.

Cao Jingxuan blinked and nodded gently.

“Yeah, it’s him.”

The other girls grew more excited.

Lu Huaiyu’s photo, with his youthful vigor, sharpness and an innate pride that he exuded all over his body, was already eye-catching enough.

Now, he looked even cooler and more elegant with an unparalleled aura. He appeared to be as unattainable as the snow on top of the highest mountain.

Just one glance was enough to convince others to submit to him or be charmed by him.

It was only after witnessing it that one could understand how impactful this man’s aura was.

One of the girls nudged Cao Jingxuan.

“Jingxuan, what are you waiting for? Go say hello! If possible, please introduce us too?”

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so how could they miss it?

Cao Jingxuan took a deep breath and put on a beautiful smile on her face. She stepped forward and greeted Lu Huaiyu. “Senior Lu.”

Lu Huaiyu looked over with his clear eyes.

Cao Jingxuan was actually nervous and did not dare to look him in the eyes. Her heart was beating fast.

“You probably don’t remember me. I’m Cao Jingxuan. I was responsible for receiving you during the school’s 110th-anniversary celebration two years ago.”

The team that had been selected to receive guests from the school were all slim and beautiful girls.

Cao Jingxuan had been one of the best among them.

She subconsciously straightened her shoulders and back as she met Lu Huaiyu’s eyes.

Even the few girls standing behind her were also shy and nervous.

Lu Huaiyu inclined his head, seemingly in thought, before nodding.

Cao Jingxuan held her breath as her heart surged with joy.

In the next moment, Lu Huaiyu said in a lazy voice, “Indeed. I don’t remember.”

1

The smile that had just risen on Cao Jingxuan’s face suddenly froze.

Lu Huaiyu did not show any interest in her and quickly moved his gaze. He looked past them to Ning Li, who was standing at the innermost area.

“Am I late?”

Everyone followed his line of sight.



After realizing that Lu Huaiyu was looking at Ning Li, everyone was shocked.

“Was his question for Ning Li?” The girl who had first recognized Lu Huaiyu mumbled.

Cao Jingxuan frowned extremely lightly.

Another girl said, “How could that be? Isn’t Ning Li from Yunzhou? Lu Huaiyu’s from the Capital. How could they know each other? Jingxuan is his junior yet he doesn’t even remember her, let alone Ning Li...”

Her voice came to an abrupt halt because Lu Huaiyu was walking towards them.

He was very tall, so as he walked over, his long legs looked particularly striking.

Lu Huaiyu seemed to be surrounded by a layer of invisible charm. He was so noble, casual, cold, ascetic, and untouchable.

He walked through the crowd and finally stopped in front of Ning Li.

Lu Huaiyu leaned down slightly, and under the shocked gaze of the crowd, he raised his hand to lift Ning Li’s hood. He looked into Ning Li’s beautiful and clear eyes and let out a low chuckle. “Hmm?”

He had indeed been asking Ning Li that question.

Ning Li shook her head. “No.”

Everyone saw this and were silent from shock.

They actually knew each other!

Only then did Lu Huaiyu straighten up in satisfaction and extend his hand.

“Hand me your things.”

Ning Li obediently pushed her suitcase over and handed him her black backpack.

Lu Huaiyu weighed the suitcase.

“It’s so heavy! Why didn’t you wait for me to come over before moving it?”

Ning Li did not know what to say.

‘You didn’t say that you were coming...’

However, she did not dare to say that and only said, “I stayed on the second floor, so I could just bring it down myself.”

Lu Huaiyu took a step forward. He suddenly paused and turned to look at Pei Song.

“Thanks for earlier.”

Pei Song had already retracted his hand. His expression was distant and calm.

“We’re classmates, after all.”

Lu Huaiyu smiled. “Classmates should also be thanked.”

Pei Song did not speak.

Lu Huaiyu turned back and gently patted Ning Li's head.

"Get in the car. It's cold outside."

There was dead silence in the lobby of the dormitory building.

Even a blind man could see that Ning Li not only knew Lu Huaiyu, but she also had a special relationship with him!

When they passed Cao Jingxuan and the other girls, one of them could not help herself and called out to Ning Li.

"Ning Li!"

Ning Li stood in place.

The girl looked at Lu Huaiyu and then at Ning Li. She really could not hide her curiosity and asked cautiously, "Y-You know..."

Ning Li nodded.

"What? But why didn't you mention it before?"

The girl had a complicated look on her face.

If she had known that Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu were close, she would have tried to get closer to Ning Li.

1

Before Ning Li had a chance to speak, Lu Huaiyu looked over.

He raised his eyebrows slightly.

“Lili never mentioned me?”

This was directed to that girl.

The girl had not expected Lu Huaiyu to ask her a question, so her face instantly turned red. She stammered and said, “I-I...d-don’t think so...”

Lu Huaiyu laughed and asked unhurriedly, “Oh? Not even once?”

Ning Li instantly felt a chill at the back of her head.

Chapter 290: Who Are You Going With?

Ning Li turned sideways. “Second Brother, this is my classmate, Zhou Meng. Zhou Meng, this is my Second Brother.”

Zhou Meng had not expected Ning Li to introduce them, so she did not even stop to think about why Ning Li called Lu Huaiyu “Second Brother”. She immediately greeted him. “Hello, Ning Li’s Second Brother!”

Lu Huaiyu looked at Ning Li with a smirk.

‘This girl is quite good at avoiding the main issue and making light of it...’

However, in front of these people, Lu Huaiyu respected Ning Li’s wishes.

He nodded gently at Zhou Meng. “Hello.”

Zhou Meng screamed inwardly.

'He's so handsome. He looks so cold and ascetic, but he's actually gentle and friendly!'

Since Ning Li had introduced one of them, she had to introduce the rest as well.

"This is Sun Mengmeng, and this is Li Fei."

Although Ning Li usually looked indifferent, she was still quite familiar with these girls because they would come to borrow her papers and ask questions.

Both girls were quite shy. They stood aside after greeting Lu Huaiyu and were too embarrassed to even say more than one word.

Ning Li's gaze eventually fell on Cao Jingxuan.

"This is Cao Jingxuan. She's also from Capital First High."

Only then did Lu Huaiyu look squarely at Cao Jingxuan, as if this was the first time he had seen her.  
"Hello."

Cao Jingxuan's face was a mixture of red and white.

She had taken the initiative to talk to Lu Huaiyu earlier, but he had not even bothered to say hello.

Now, Cao Jingxuan had only gotten a hello because she was Ning Li's classmate...

After the introduction, Ning Li breathed a sigh of relief.

"Second Brother, then...let's go?"

Lu Huaiyu let out a faint “mm”.

Ning Li also fled towards the car, but she soon realized that she seemed to have a bigger problem.

‘Which car should I get into?!’

Standing in front of the three cars, Ning Li once again fell silent.

Gu Siyang also got down from the car, and rushed straight to Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu.

He was very happy to see Ning Li, but he was also delighted to see Lu Huaiyu.

It was double the happiness!

“Second Master Lu, when did you return to the Capital? I didn’t even know! I didn’t expect to run into you here...hahahaha!”

Gu Siyang was excited and was very attentive in helping with Ning Li’s bags.

“Allow me to take these!”

Lu Huaiyu glanced faintly at Gu Siyang.

“It doesn’t seem like your car can fit these.”

“Huh?”

Gu Siyang looked back, feeling that Lu Huaiyu’s words were somewhat reasonable.

He had only thought about picking Ning Li up and forgot that Ning Li would have brought her suitcase.

This did seem inconvenient.

Gu Siyang slapped his thigh and instantly regretted his decision.

“Damn! I should’ve driven my dad’s off-road...”

Ning Li was speechless.

‘What in the world was I thinking when I told Gu Siyang about attending winter camp in Capital First High?!’

Yu Pingchuan did not know Gu Siyang, but knew that he was probably a Young Master of an affluent family that seemed to be quite familiar with Ning Li.

In addition, he had not expected that Lu Huaiyu had also returned to the Capital and would come to pick Ning Li up.

“Master Yu.” Ning Li greeted him. “You came back to the Capital early! Why didn’t you tell me?”

Yu Pingchuan smiled. “It was a last-minute decision and I wanted to surprise you!”

He had thought that since this was the last day of Ning Li’s winter camp and that she was not familiar with the Capital, she would probably need someone to take care of her. Thus, he had finished his work in advance and returned to the Capital ahead of schedule.

However, this situation seemed to be a little different from what he had expected.

Yu Pingchuan tentatively asked. "Lili, are you not going back with me?"

When these words came out, Gu Siyang and Lu Huaiyu both looked over.

Ning Li held her breath and said, "There are quite a lot of hotels in the Capital..."

Lu Huaiyu, who had been standing next to her, suddenly laughed lightly.

Ning Li swallowed back the rest of her words.

Lin Yaohui got down from the driver's seat and smiled at Ning Li. "Lili, Master Yu had someone clean up the apartment at Shuiyuan Shijia in advance, especially for you this time. You can just stay at the bottom floor."

Yu Pingchuan had bought two floors of apartments there, so he had a spare apartment for Ning Li.

Lin Yaohui had also accompanied Yu Pingchuan to the Capital.

Ning Li let out a light sigh in her heart.

"Then I'll go back with you."

Yu Pingchuan was overjoyed. "Great! Get in the car then!"

He was ecstatic, but the remaining two were not so happy.

Gu Siyang looked at Ning Li bashfully. "Ning Li, are you sure? Our training...the conditions there are pretty good too! Are you really not coming to take a look?"

Ning Li believed his words, of course, but at this time, she did not care about him.



She looked at Lu Huaiyu and looked torn.

“Second Brother...”

Lu Huaiyu had personally come to pick her up, but she could not go with him.

“Since Master Yu has taken so much trouble, it’ll be a waste of his efforts if you don’t go with him.”

Lu Huaiyu smiled faintly.

Ning Li tilted her head to look at him, trying to search for some emotion on his face.

“Really?”

Lu Huaiyu smiled slightly deeper and gently flicked her forehead.

“Really...get in the car.”

Only then did Ning Li’s heart settle down.

“Then...I’ll go with Master Yu first!”

Lu Huaiyu nodded and walked over to put Ning Li’s suitcase in the trunk of Yu Pingchuan’s car.

Lin Yaohui and Yu Pingchuan got into the car.

Ning Li was last to get in.

When she got into the backseat, Lu Huaiyu pulled open the car door and handed over her backpack. "Let me know when you arrive."

Ning Li nodded. "Okay."

Lu Huaiyu looked at her for a moment before closing the car door.

Gu Siyang leaned on the other side of the car window and was still holding onto the last shred of hope as he asked tenaciously, "Ning Li! Ning Li! Then, will you be free tomorrow?"

Since he could not pick her up today, he could only try again tomorrow.

If tomorrow failed, then he would try again the day after tomorrow.

Gu Siyang would try every day that Ning Li was in the Capital to invite her to their training base.

"I..."

"Gu Siyang."

Just as Ning Li spoke, Lu Huaiyu looked at Gu Siyang and interrupted him. "Your car is blocking the way. Drive your car out first."

"Huh? Oh, okay!"

When Gu Siyang heard this, he immediately replied and turned to go back to his supercar.

He started the car engine, which roared loudly.

Gu Siyang was the first to drive out.

His uncle had finally lifted his ban on touching cars, so Gu Siyang did not want to repeat the same mistake again.

Although this car was not very expensive, he knew that his uncle's only concern was about his attitude.

Gu Siyang would have to behave well during this period of time.

After Gu Siyang had driven out, Lu Huaiyu took a step back.

Lin Yaohui drove behind Gu Siyang.

Lu Huaiyu was the last to get into his car.

The black Panamera followed in a low profile at the tail.

Fang Qingyun looked to the front and grunted.

Before coming over, he had not expected to see this kind of scene.

"Second Young Master, since Ms. Ning has left with Master Yu, are we still going to Rongyue Mansion?"

A few days ago, Lu Huaiyu had ordered people to clean out that mansion for Ning Li, but who would have guessed that she would not leave with him.

Lu Huaiyu leaned back in his seat and folded his long legs. His expression was dull. "Mm."

Fang Qingyun secretly lamented. 'All these years, I've never seen Second Young Master at such a loss...but since this is the lady's choice, no one can say anything about it...'

The three luxury cars formed a flashy line-up as they drove away one after another.

Sun Qingyi, who was driving back, came face-to-face with them.

He was stunned. “What’s going on?”