

## Little Brat's 321

Chapter 321: Lu Huaiyu Kissed Her

Lu Huaiyu went out.

Click.

The door closed.

The room finally quieted down.

Ning Li sat on the edge of the bed, still feeling a little sleepy.

She looked at the slippers on her feet.

Then, she turned her head and looked at the pajamas by her side.

‘Pure Cotton, blue and white, new, female style.’

It was her size.

Her cheeks were burning. In the quiet night, she heard the sound of her heart beating fast. She could feel herself burning red hot from her ears to her neck.

Only her eyes were moist and clear. She was no longer drunk now.

She had warned herself repeatedly not to fall in love with Lu Huaiyu.

However, even after the ten-thousandth time, she still could not avoid it.

How could she not like him?

He was Lu Huaiyu.

She slowly raised her hand and touched her lips.

She felt as if her fingers could still touch his hot and heavy breath on her lips.

Her clear peach blossom eyes shone with a shy twinkle of starlight.

She had kissed Lu Huaiyu.

Then—

Lu Huaiyu had kissed her.

He had said...

‘When you grow up, you can kiss anywhere you want, okay?’

Ning Li pulled the quilt over herself and covered half of her small face.

After a long time, in the quiet room in the middle of the night, an extremely soft murmur could be heard.

“...Lu Huaiyu, you have to keep your word...”

...

Lu Huaiyu went to the living room and picked up the bottle of wine.

The label was in Russian, but only had two printed rows listing the ingredients and name. The degree of alcohol content was not shown.

Cheng Xiyue had helped him bring this bottle back when he had gone abroad on a business trip. The production was extremely low, and it was not sold on the market.

He carried the wine and gave Cheng Xiyue a call.

“When you went abroad in February two years ago, you helped me bring back a bottle of wine. What are the storage conditions? Must it be kept in a constant temperature wine cabinet?”

Cheng Xiyue was completely stumped by his question.

The last time he had called Lu Huaiyu due to the rumors circulating within the Capital society, Lu Huaiyu had hung up on him. The two of them had not spoken on the phone again since.

Finally, he was calling him now, but it was to ask about wine!?

He frowned and said somewhat hesitantly, “... Lu Er, you have to step out to resolve this kind of matter. What’s the use of drinking to drown your sorrows?”

Lu Huaiyu completely ignored him and asked instead, “Can I put it in the safe?”

Cheng Xiyue: “...”

He looked at his phone suspiciously.

It was Lu Huaiyu's phone number, and it was also his voice!

He was silent for a while.

"How much have you drunk? Put it in the safe? Why don't you put it in the sky?"

Lu Huaiyu chuckled.

"How could I bear to?"

"..."

Cheng Xiyue felt that Lu Huaiyu might really be under the influence of some kind of stimulant.

He massaged his throbbing temples to try and calm himself down, his last little bit of patience starting to disintegrate.

"If you still want to continue drinking it in the future, then put it back in the wine cabinet."

Lu Huaiyu weighed the wine bottle in his hands.

He was reluctant to put it back in the wine cabinet with the other wines.

However, the desire to retain the taste of this wine had grown even more today.

"Got it. If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now."

As Lu Huaiyu spoke, he moved to hang up the phone.

Cheng Xiyue: ???

“Wait a minute!

He hurriedly shouted, “It’s so late at night. Are you really calling just about a bottle of wine!”

“What else?”

“Then, that rumor... Do you know what kind of rumors have spread already!? Second Master Lu, you’re currently in the Capital. Are you really not the least bit anxious?”

Lu Huaiyu placed the bottle of wine back into the innermost layer of the wine cabinet and closed the cabinet door. Only then did he speak lazily.

“What’s there to be anxious about?”

Cheng Xiyue’s headache was killing him.

“If your grandfather hears about this matter, won’t he break your legs?”

Lu Huaiyu leaned against the cabinet door and smiled.

“This master is about to marry a wife. If you have time to worry about this, why don’t you work harder and prepare the money for the wedding gift?”

...

Ning Li lay on the bed, unable to sleep.

After hesitating for a while, she got up, opened the door, and walked out.

Lu Huaiyu was not in the guest bedroom.

She turned around and heard the sound of water in the bathroom.

Lu Huaiyu seemed to be taking a bath.

She thought for a moment and went back into the master bedroom.

After about half an hour, she got up again.

The bathroom door was still locked.

Ning Li stood outside and stared at the door. She frowned slightly, feeling a little lost.

Lu Huaiyu was taking an unbelievably long shower...

She went back to the master bedroom.

Perhaps it was because she was tired out after such a long day, but this time, she finally fell asleep in a daze.

...

The next morning, Ning Li opened her eyes and looked at her phone.

It was only seven o'clock.

She sat up and looked around.

All the memories from last night flooded into her mind in an instant.

Her face turned red as she stared at the door.

She needed to go out... What if she ran into Lu Huaiyu!?

Suddenly, familiar footsteps could be heard from outside.

Ning Li immediately lay back down. She pulled the blanket tightly around her, and held her breath, not daring to make a sound.

Lu Huaiyu stood outside the door for a while, but he heard no movement inside. He thought that she was probably still not awake, so he could not bear to knock on the door and quickly left again.

Ning Li hid under the blanket, her face completely covered.

This was Lu Huaiyu's home. Who else would she run into if not him?

Yesterday, she had nowhere else to vent all her emotions and could only use her drunkenness to behave in such a crazy manner.

Stealing a kiss from him had almost used up two lifetimes of her courage.

Now, she really did not know how to come out and face this mess.

She lay on the bed until nine o'clock before finally changing her clothes slowly and preparing to leave the house.

Lu Huaiyu was reading a document in the living room.

When he heard the noise, he turned his head to look.

The morning sunlight fell on his face, making him look even more elegant.

He looked completely different from the way he had, as he had hugged her last night.

If she had not seen him with her own eyes and heard him with her own ears, even she would not have expected such a pure and chaste person to be tainted by such a fiery desire.

Ning Li's hand was leaning against the wall, as if she had been nailed to the spot by his gaze.

Her voice was soft and gentle.

"... Second Brother."

Chapter 322: Follow Me Home

Lu Huaiyu stood up and walked over.

Ning Li became more and more nervous, as she tried hard to recall what had happened after she had blacked out last night.

Before she could make up her mind, Lu Huaiyu was already standing in front of her.

He bent over slightly, his deep phoenix-like eyes looking straight at her.



Ning Li's face couldn't help but heat up.

'Could he tell...'

"Are you not feeling well?"

Lu Huaiyu raised his hand and touched her forehead,

"Your face is still so red. Do you have a fever?"

Ning Li immediately shook her head and braced herself to ask, "No, no. My... Second Brother, last night... Did I do anything I shouldn't have done?"

Sure enough, she appeared to have forgotten everything.

Lu Huaiyu straightened up and tilted his head to look at her. His gaze lingered on her plump and moist lips for a moment before he moved away.

He thought for a moment before he raised his eyebrows and smiled.

"It was me."

Ning Li was extremely nervous. "Wh-What?"

"Last night, you cried and begged to be allowed to sleep in my bed..."

Lu Huaiyu's thin lips held a casual smile.

"I could only give up the master bedroom to you."

Ning Li slowly widened her eyes.

How could this man say such words without changing his expression at all?

Wasn't he the one who had carried her over himself??

She had not spoken a single word from the beginning to the end!

"I didn't—"

She had just opened her mouth when she looked at Lu Huai and his slightly raised eyebrows. She then automatically swallowed back the rest of her words.

"I... I wouldn't do such a thing, right?"

Ning Li's hand was tightly pressed against the wall. She gritted her teeth, trying to prove her innocence.

"Oh, do you remember then?"

Lu Huaiyu smiled faintly.

Ning Li felt a lump in her chest, and her voice weakened a little.

"No, I don't remember..."

She knew she had done something she felt guilty for. Hence, she was feeling very hesitant as she faced Lu Huaiyu who was sober.

Where could she find the extra energy to clear her name?

“Yes, you drank one-third of that bottle of whiskey. You got drunk and blacked out. It’s perfectly normal for you to not remember what happened.”

As Lu Huaiyu spoke, her delicate and fair earlobes turned red at a visible speed.

“I said I would send you home, but you refused. You said that it was snowing, and then you said you wanted to sleep. You entered my room and refused to leave...”

She lowered her eyes, and her thick and curly eyelashes fluttered slightly.

Lu Huaiyu watched with great interest. He admired her for a while, to the point that he felt that the young girl was about to be embarrassed and annoyed. Then, he changed the topic and gave her a way out.

“Maybe you went in once before, so you decided to claim it as your territory?”

She had completely forgotten about the incident. That was a huge loss for him.

With last night’s experience, he felt he had to get back at her a little this time.

Ning Li stared at the floor and listened to him as he seemed to be accusing her of some wrongdoing. She felt as if she was going crazy.

Lu Huaiyu...

How could he do this!?

She took a deep breath:

"I... I..."

"Anyway, that doesn't matter. If you like my bed that much, I'll give it to you."

Second Master Lu came from an aristocratic family and had always been generous,

"You can sleep there whenever you come to visit in the future."

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Ning Li's line of defense was hanging by a thread. She forced herself to hold on:

"No, there's no need..."

"There's no need to be polite with me."

Lu Huaiyu's lips curved slightly.

Ning Li, "..."

Was this even a matter of politeness!?

However, Lu Huaiyu did not seem to think that this was an important matter. He gently patted her head.

"Are you hungry? Let's eat."

He had gotten up early and prepared porridge for her.

Ning Li's thoughts were still preoccupied about the bed, so she slowly followed him.

...

The food tasted bland to Ning Li.

Lu Huaiyu had just made her look bad. She had not done what he said, so how could she admit to it!?

However, she really didn't know how to express what she was thinking.

Which was more humiliating? Getting drunk, then crying and insisting that she wanted to sleep on Lu Huaiyu's bed, or pretending to be drunk and secretly kissing Lu Huaiyu?

Ning Li closed her eyes in despair.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her:

"No appetite?"

Ning Li put down her spoon and nodded.

"Yes."

Who could possibly eat under such circumstances?

Lu Huaiyu bent his fingers and lightly knocked on the table.

"Since we're done eating, let's talk about what happened yesterday."

Ning Li instantly straightened her back.

“What?”

Lu Huaiyu paused and looked at her carefully before asking, “Did you go to Taihe yesterday afternoon?”

So that was the question.

Ning Li heaved a sigh of relief and nodded.

“Yes, I went to buy some things.”

Lu Huaiyu casually asked, “With Pei Song?”

Ning Li raised her eyes in astonishment.

How did he know about this?

But very quickly, she remembered something.

“Did Miss Jiang tell you?”

The dining table was instantly dead silent.

The air seemed to freeze.

After a while, Lu Huaiyu and his thin lips curled into a meaningful smile.

He leaned back and slowly said, "There were fourteen people at the high school reunion. Sun Qingyi was the one who organized the gathering.

"They stayed there for half an hour and touched four dishes. They didn't drink a single drop of alcohol.

"One of the girls happened to take a photo of you. It was deleted."

Each sentence was clearly stated.

It was as if he was making a list.

Ning Li was instantly embarrassed.

Lu Huaiyu's words...

"When I came home, I saw that you were already drunk."

When he said this, Lu Huaiyu suddenly raised his eyebrows and smiled.

"Do you still remember what happened then?"

Ning Li's throat was dry, and she said reluctantly, "I don't remember."

Lu Huaiyu nodded, as if he was not surprised.

He did not speak anymore and continued to just look at Ning Li, obviously waiting for her answer to his earlier question.

For some reason, Ning Li felt strange.

However, Lu Huaiyu's gaze seemed to be intense, and the aura around him was too strong.

She sorted out her thoughts before continuing.

"He wanted to return the book that he borrowed from me previously, so we arranged to meet at Taihe Plaza.

"After that, I went to the mall to buy some things."

Lu Huaiyu understood.

She went by herself.

She was still quite obedient.

"That's good."

He nodded, pondered for a moment, and then said with a smile.

"Ning Li, if you want to fall in love, wait until you grow up. Understand?"

"When you grow up, even more than that, you'll be able to kiss anywhere you want, okay?"

Ning Li almost did not dare to look into his eyes.

His words were so straightforward that they were almost naked. Every word carried a burning heat.

She lowered her head slightly for a while before she answered, "Yes."



“Okay.”

Lu Huaiyu looked outside.

“Today is New Year’s Eve. You should pack up and come home with me tonight.”

Ning Li was stunned.

“Your home?”

Lu Huaiyu nodded. He could not help but laugh when he saw her wide-eyed and shocked look.

“Don’t be nervous. My parents and brother are both out of town, so my grandfather is the only one at home. Just treat it as a reunion dinner with the elderly.”

Of course, he would not leave her alone in the Capital.

Ning Li felt that she did not seem to have anything to do with the words “reunion dinner” ...

She said hesitantly, “This doesn’t seem... appropriate, does it?”

In what capacity would she be going as?

Lu Huaiyu seemed to have seen through her thoughts and smiled.

“Since you’re already sleeping in my bed, isn’t it normal for us to have a meal together to celebrate the New Year?”

Ning Li, "..."

After a while, she nodded her head in resignation.

"Okay."

Chapter 323: I Can't Do Anything?

Ning Li's cell phone rang.

Su Yuan was calling.

The last call had upset her so much that she had not contacted Ning Li in the past few days.

She just wanted to see how Ning Li could live alone in Beijing when she was unfamiliar with the place and people.

After some suffering, Ning Li would surely admit to her mistake.

However, even after waiting for a long time, Ning Li still did not lower her head.

Su Yuan had to try and call her again.

Ning Li picked up her phone, glanced at Lu Huaiyu, then got up and left. She walked to the side and picked up the phone.

Just as she answered the call, Su Yuan's voice came from the other end.

“Ning Li, we booked a flight back to Yunzhou at noon. Pack up your things and go straight to the airport.”

Ning Li had expected this, so she said calmly, “You don’t have to wait for me. I’m not going back today.”

“Not going back?”

Su Yuan obviously had not expected to hear Ning Li’s answer.

“What did you say? Today is New Year’s Eve. If you don’t go back with us, are you just going to stay in Beijing alone for the New Year?”

Ning Li turned around and her gaze fell on Lu Huaiyu.

Su Yuan’s voice was filled with displeasure.

“This is your first New Year in the Ye family. How can you not go back?”

A hint of sarcasm flashed across Ning Li’s eyes.

“I’m not a member of the Ye family. I shouldn’t be staying with the Ye family for the New Year, should I?”

As soon as she said this, Su Yuan suddenly became silent.

Ning Li’s words were actually correct.

Her surname was Ning, and the only connection she had with the Ye family was Su Yuan.

However, the current Su Yuan was Mrs. Ye.

After a while, Su Yuan just hung up the phone.

Ning Li put away her phone.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her.

His little girl stood there, her slender and straight figure alone.

Today was Chinese New Year's eve, a day for family reunions.

However, to her, Su Yuan was not her family.

He smiled and said, "Ah Li, change your clothes. Let's go home."

...

Lu Huaiyu accompanied Ning Li back to Shuiyuan Shijia.

He also brought back the things that she had bought in Taihe yesterday.

Lu Huaiyu helped her carry them. Seeing that they were all New Year gifts, he casually asked, "Are these for Teacher Yu?"

Ning Li paused and nodded.

Lu Huaiyu knew that Yu Pingchuan loved her, so he did not ask anything further.

Ning Li changed her clothes.

She wore a white printed hoodie, a hazy blue down jacket, black jeans, and Doc Martin boots.

Her long legs looked especially straight and slender.

Her hair had been tied up in a bun, and her clean and pretty face gave her a laidback and playful look.

She did not look like a senior in high school anymore.

When she walked out of the bedroom, Lu Huaiyu stared at her for a long time.

Ning Li was a little nervous.

“Second Brother, is this ok?”

Lu Huaiyu smiled and nodded.

...

Before leaving the house, Ning Li received another call from Yu Pingchuan.

“Hello? Ah Li, are you home? Come upstairs for dinner tonight.”

Ning Li: “...”

Since she had already promised Lu Huaiyu, she definitely would not be able to attend Yu Pingchuan’s dinner.

She paused and spoke after some deliberation.

“Teacher Yu, I’m afraid I won’t be able to go with you tonight.”

Yu Pingchuan was stunned.

“What’s wrong?”

Previously, Ning Li had said that she would not be returning to Yunzhou or Lincheng. Instead, she planned on spending the New Year in the Capital.

Ning Li rubbed the space between her eyebrows helplessly.

“I... I have an appointment with my friend. I’m going to his house...”

Lu Huaiyu, who was standing to the side, raised his eyebrows and looked over when he heard this.

Friend?

Ning Li felt guilty when he looked at her. She subconsciously turned her body away.

Yu Pingchuan was unconvinced.

“What friend? Why did I not hear you mention it before?”

It was the New Year, yet she did not come to his place. Instead, she wanted to go to a friend’s house?

What kind of logic was this?

“It’s just...”

Ning Li was thinking about how to say it.

For some reason, she could not say it out loud.

Actually, it was not an unusual matter whether she wanted to stay on her own or to go to a friend's house.

Yu Pingchuan had always been considerate towards her. After clearly asking her, he would usually not say anything more and just respect her decisions.

But going home with Lu Huaiyu...

She felt that the situation would not be like this, even if she had said that she was going to Gu Siyang's or Gu Tinglan's house.

It was clearly not a big deal, but she felt very strange. She felt as if she had done something wrong and could not open her mouth.

Just as she was struggling with what to say, a hand reached out from the side and took her phone away.

Ning Li raised her head.

Lu Huaiyu had already answered.

"Elder Yu."

Yu Pingchuan was stunned when he heard the voice.

"Huaiyu?"

Lu Huaiyu's tone was gentle and there was a smile at the corner of his lips. However, his eyes were fixed on Ning Li.

"Elder Yu. Ah Li is coming home with me for the New Year. I'm afraid it won't be convenient for her to accompany you."

Upon hearing that it was him, Yu Pingchuan immediately felt relieved.

"So, you're the friend Ah Li was talking about! That's good, that's good! I thought it was the kid who had driven the sports car the other day! Knowing that it's you, I will feel at ease!"

He had seen the way Lu Huaiyu had treated Ning Li at the beginning while they were at the racecourse.

Moreover, Lu Huaiyu was an outstanding person. In Yu Pingchuan's opinion, they were even more suited to each other.

Ning Li averted her gaze.

Lu Huaiyu and Yu Pingchuan were still talking about something.

"Yeah, we'll pay you a visit to convey our New Year's greetings some other day.

"You may rest assured. Okay."

After a while, he hung up the phone and handed it to Ning Li.

Ning Li went to get her phone.

Lu Huaiyu suddenly avoided her hand.



Ning Li looked up at him in surprise.

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows and looked at her with a smirk on his face.

“Ah Li, why do you feel guilty when you are with me?”

“Am I that unpresentable?”

Chapter 324: Granddaughter-In-Law Is Too Popular

Ning Li felt that his words sounded even stranger...

However, when faced with his scrutinizing gaze, she could only try her best to explain herself.

“No, it’s just... I originally planned to accompany Teacher Yu for the New Year, but now, now...”

Lu Huaiyu handed over her phone and gently tapped her forehead with his fingers. He chuckled.

“If one didn’t know any better, one might think that I’ve kidnapped you.”

Ning Li, “...”

Lu Huaiyu took her backpack and stroked her head.

“Let’s go.”

...

The Black Panamera had parked downstairs. Fang Qingyun was waiting in the car.

He kept an eye on the entrance of the building as he received the seventh call from Old Master Lu.

“Hey, Old Master, he hasn’t come out yet. Please wait a little longer.”

“Soon, soon. Second Master said that he’ll be down soon!”

“Don’t worry, I’ve been keeping an eye on—”

“...with what you said, can I still drive the car upstairs?”

As they were speaking, two figures came out of the main door.

The tall and straight figure on the left was his Second Master.

The person on the right...

The tall, slender figure was the girl that he had seen in the courtyard of Xijing University the other day.

Fang Qingyun immediately lowered his voice and said, “They’re here! They’re here! I’m hanging up now! I’ll be home in half an hour!”

He quickly hung up the phone and got out of the car. He greeted them warmly.

“Second Master, Miss Ning!”

Ning Li looked in the direction of the voice and saw a middle-aged man in his forties walking towards them. He greeted them with a smile on his face.

Lu Huaiyu lead her over.

“Ah Li, this is Uncle Fang.”

Ning Li greeted, “Hello, Uncle Fang.”

This was the first time Fang Qingyun had seen Ning Li up close. Seeing the young lady’s clean, elegant, and obedient appearance, a thought suddenly flashed through his mind.

It was no wonder that the Second Master was so obsessed with her...

This child was too lovable!

Fang Qingyun’s smile was boundless.

“Good, good! Quickly, get in the car! Everyone at home is waiting!”

His enthusiasm went beyond Ning Li’s imagination.

She rarely received this kind of treatment from other people, so for a moment, she was a little nervous.

Lu Huaiyu smiled and helped her open the car door.

“Uncle Fang has always been like this. You’ll get used to it. Let’s go.”

Ning Li did not bother to think about what he meant by “You’ll get used to it”, and got into the car obediently.

Lu Huaiyu sat in the back seat with her.

...

Fang Qingyun started the car and drove towards the Lu family mansion.

He surreptitiously glanced at the rearview mirror and could not help but smile.

“Miss Ning, I heard that you came here to participate in the winter camp?”

Of course, he knew about these things, but listening to her talk about it in person was obviously different!

Ning Li nodded.

“Uncle Fang, you can just call me Ah Li.”

Fang Qingyun was overjoyed.

“Oh, that’s good. Good!”

As he spoke, he glanced at his Second Master and chuckled.

“Ah Li, you’re the first person that the Second Master has personally brought home for the New Year!”

In the past few years, there had been countless women chasing after the Second Master. Although the Second Master had always kept a respectful distance from them, what if this young girl did not know that?

He still had to make it clear. Yes, make it clear!

He had to help raise her estimation of his Second Master to make a good impression!

“How has your trip here been so far?”

“The Second Master can show you around. There are so many fun places here!”

“Your winter camp was at Capital First High School. What a coincidence! The Second Master used to be in Capital First High School, too!”

...

The Lu family.

Old Master Lu stood in front of the mirror and looked around.

“Chunlan, what do you think of this outfit? Isn’t it a little too dark and too serious?”

A middle-aged woman stood at the back, wearing an apron and holding a handful of coriander.

She was one of the aunts in the Lu family. She was married to Fang Qingyun, and they were both elders of the Lu family.

Zhang Chunlan looked at it seriously and nodded.

“It does appear to be a little dark and serious.”

Old Master Lu immediately turned around and returned to his room.

“I’ll change into another set then.”

Zhang Chunlan called out.

“Old Master, why don’t you change into the first set that you tried on?”

Ever since he had received a call from Lu Huaiyu in the morning, saying that he was going to bring someone home for the New Year, Old Master Lu had rummaged through his wardrobe and changed into several sets of clothes within the past few hours.

Till now, none of them seemed satisfactory.

Zhang Chunlan had been kept busy cooking as she continued to advise the old man. Thus, she was extremely tired.

“Aiya! My fish soup!”

Zhang Chunlan suddenly remembered something. She slapped her thigh and hurried back to the kitchen.

Old Master Lu thought about it a moment before changing back into his first outfit, which was a Tang suit.

He surveyed himself in the mirror and nodded reluctantly.

“Aiya, there’s not much time left. This will have to do!”

As he spoke, he looked out of the window.

“Why aren’t Qingyun and the others back yet?”

He walked to the kitchen.

“Chunlan, why don’t you give Qingyun a call? Ask him where he is now!”

Zhang Chunlan lifted the lid of the pot to check on the fish soup. After making sure that it was well cooked, she said, “Old Master, why don’t you just give him a call yourself? Or you can call the Second Master.”

Old Master Lu straightened his collar and refused.

“That won’t do. Wouldn’t that make me seem too anxious?”

Zhang Chunlan: “...”

Were his previous seven calls not obvious already?

Old Master Lu pursed his lips.

“Give him a call.”

...

Fang Qingyun received a call from Zhang Chunlan.

How could he not guess that this was at the prompting of Old Master Lu? Looking at Ning Li who was sitting behind him, he silently sighed.

Alas!

Old Master Lu was so impatient!

Could he not learn from him?

Fang Qingyun picked up the call to preempt the questions he knew were coming.

“Hello? Wife?”

“I’m on my way. I’ll be there in ten minutes.

“Right, right. The traffic is a little congested. After all, it’s New Year’s Eve!

“Don’t worry about me. I’ll be there in a moment! Okay, okay, I’ll hang up now!”

Fang Qingyun hung up the phone smoothly.

Ning Li was looking straight ahead.

Fang Qingyun chuckled and explained superfluously,

“That was my wife!”

Ning Li was silent. She had overheard the conversation...

“You and Auntie seem to have a good relationship.”

Fang Qingyun glanced over at Lu Huaiyu.



“That’s not just considered good. Having a wife is different. Hahahaha! Ah Li, I don’t think you know that the first rule for us Capital men, is to love our wives! In the future, if you—”

Lu Huaiyu looked up and looked at him with a half-smile.

Fang Qingyun quickly stopped talking.

Oh my.

He had been so excited that he had almost forgotten that the little girl was still in her senior year of high school...

“Cough!”

Fang Qingyun coughed hard.

Ning Li’s phone rang.

It was Gu Siyang.

She was hesitant to pick it up immediately.

Lu Huaiyu turned his head to look.

Ning Li silently sighed and answered the call.

“Hello?”

Young Master Gu’s enthusiastic and excited voice came through the phone.

“Ning Li! It’s New Year’s Eve today! Come to my house for the New Year!”

He was so excited that even Lu Huaiyu, who was beside Ning Li, could also hear his loud voice.

He raised his eyebrows.

Ning Li, “...”

She had not realized that Gu Siyang would come looking for her!

She politely declined.

“Thank you, but I’ve already promised to go to Second Brother’s house today.”

Fang Qingyun’s ears immediately perked up.

What?

Was someone else inviting Ning Li to their house for the New Year?

Chapter 325: This Kid Is Really Something Else

Gu Siyang felt very regretful.

“Second Master Lu?”

Ning Li replied with a “Hmm”.

“Thank you for your invitation, but I really can’t go.”

Ning Li appreciated Gu Siyang's good intentions.

Actually, Gu Siyang's intentions were very simple.

Ning Li was alone in the Capital. As her future boss, he naturally felt obligated to bring her along for the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Unfortunately, Lu Huaiyu had been one step ahead of him.

However, the Second Master Lu was also a good person, so it was good that Ning Li would be with him.

"Alright then. Shall we meet again after the Chinese New Year? LY has changed to using Farley engines now. You must come and give it a try when you have time!"

"Okay."

The two of them spoke a few more words before Ning Li hung up the phone.

Fang Qingyun's alert level had been raised to the limit. He chuckled and asked, "Ah Li, was that your friend?"

Ning Li nodded.

"It's Gu Siyang. You should know of him."

Young Master Gu's name was quite well-known in the Capital now.

Fang Qingyun immediately understood.

“Oh, oh, it’s the young master from the Gu family! If I remember correctly, he was there when you were leaving the school the other day, right?”

Fang Qingyun had been in the car at that time, so naturally, he had seen Gu Siyang.

“Yes, that was him.”

Fang Qingyun became even more vigilant.

What were Gu Siyang intentions?

First, he had gone to Capital First High to compete with the Second Master to pick him up. Now, he wanted to compete to bring Ning Li home for the New Year?

Although Gu Siyang was obviously not as outstanding as the Second Master of his family, his enthusiasm did not lose out in the slightest!

Just as he was thinking about how to discreetly ask more questions, Ning Li’s phone rang again.

This time, it was Ji Shu.

“Sister Li, my parents are coming to Beijing to celebrate the New Year with me! Would you like to come over?”

Ning Li had no choice but to repeat herself.

“Please send my uncle and aunt a New Year’s greeting on my behalf, but I really can’t go over today.”

“I... I’m going to Second Brother’s house.”

“Okay, then. Bye.”

Fang Qingyun became nervous.

Aiya!

There was more than one!

It even sounded like the second one was very familiar with her! Even his parents knew her?

Didn't Ning Li say that she was from Lincheng? Why did she have so many friends in the Capital?

Before he could speak, a call came from Qiao Xi.

Ning Li looked at the name on the screen. The corner of her eyes twitched, and she ended the call.

However, Qiao Xi did not give up and called again.

Just as Ning Li was about to end the call again, Lu Huaiyu asked her with a chuckle, “Why aren't you picking up?”

Ning Li sat up straighter.

“Not someone I'm very familiar with.”

Lu Huaiyu said, “Oh.”

Ning Li sent Qiao Xi a New Year's greeting and then quickly blocked him.

Lu Huaiyu was well aware of this little trick, but he did not expose it. He only raised his eyebrows and smiled.

Ning Li was in his car.

He wanted to see who could snatch her away from him.

Ning Li put away her phone and the car finally quieted down.

Fang Qingyun glanced at the rearview mirror a few times, feeling anxious.

There had already been several calls!

Why wasn't Second Master panicking at all?!

...

The Lu family.

Old Master Lu could not hold in his excitement any longer and started strolling around the courtyard again, looking outside from time to time.

"Yo, Old Lu, who are you waiting for?"

A teasing voice came from the side.

Old Master Lu turned his head to look.

It was Zhou Guanglin.

The two of them had been friends for many years. One had been a chief while the other had been a political commissar. They had been fighting for decades, and neither of them was willing to submit to the other.

Although they were both retired now, they still lived close to each other and were always quarreling with each other.

Old Master Lu coughed lightly.

“Ah, I’m not waiting for anyone. It’s just that Huaiyu said that he was bringing a friend home. What about you? Why are you so free today? Are you going out?”

Zhou Guanglin smiled.

“Isn’t this the Chinese New Year? My little granddaughter is back for her New Year’s holiday! She insisted on buying me things! I refused them, so now she’s angry! Now that she’s changed her clothes, I’m going to accompany her out for a walk. This girl hasn’t been back for a long, and she’s so clingy. What a nuisance!”

Old Master Lu choked on his breath.

Zhou Guanglin had two sons and a daughter. Following that, were two grandsons, two granddaughters, and his newest grandchild. This baby was extremely precious, and Zhou Guanglin kept bragging about his little cotton-padded jackets.

Old Master Lu only had one son and two grandsons. He had completely lost in this aspect.

Zhou Guanglin looked at Old Master Lu’s expression in satisfaction for a while. He looked at his clothes and said, “Hey, but Old Lu, your clothes... Aren’t they a little too grand?”

This was a nice way of saying it, but his intention was not nice. He was simply being sarcastic.

Old Master Lu slowly let out a breath and smiled.

“It’s alright.”

“After all, Huaiyu’s bringing home a girl. So I think this color is very suitable, don’t you think so?”

Zhou Guanglin’s expression changed.

“Huaiyu’s bringing a girl home?”

His own grandson, the eldest, was 27 years old. He did not even have a family of his own yet.

However, of the two Lu family members, one spent most of his time in the army without meeting any women, while the other simply kept a respectful distance from all women.

Zhou Guanglin had always felt that the Lu brothers were always going to remain single.

Even if it happened a little late, he would still win!

But now...

Lu Huaiyu was quietly bringing a girl home!?

D\*mn it!

Old Master Lu had turned the tables on the situation and felt very comfortable now.



“Yeah, after all, he’s about to reach the legal age for marriage, right? Sigh, let me tell you, these children nowadays all have their own ideas. Some people can’t find the right person, yet he met her in a flash! Tell me, who can predict things like fate? Hahaha!”

Zhou Guanglin forced a smile.

“That’s true.”

“Aiya, Old Zhou, which ones in your family have not decided on their partners yet? Why don’t I help you make some introductions?”

Old Master Lu was very enthusiastic.

Zhou Guanglin couldn’t bear to stay any longer, having turned green in envy.

“When it comes to the children, just listen to them. You can’t rush them.”

Old Master Lu nodded solemnly.

“That’s right. If he has to go to collect his marriage certificate on the 22nd day, we can’t stop him, right?”

“...”

Zhou Guanglin flicked his sleeves and left.

Old Master Lu had been crushed for many years, but now, he was finally able to hold his head up high. He felt very refreshed!

What was marriage?

Surely his future great-grandchildren were just around the corner!

The Black Panamera slowly drove over.

Old Master Lu saw it and immediately picked up the jug beside him, pretending to water the flowers.

The car stopped.

Lu Huaiyu got out of the car first.

Old Master Lu then turned around.

“Huaiyu, you’re back?”

His gaze went past Lu Huaiyu and landed behind him.

Old Master Lu looked on eagerly and finally saw a young girl get out of the car.

“Grandfather.”

Lu Huaiyu brought Ning Li forward.

“This is Ning Li. Ah Li, this is my grandfather.”

Ning Li stood beside Lu Huaiyu, feeling dazzled by Old Master Lu’s red Tang suit. However, she still greeted him obediently.

“Hello, Grandpa Lu.”

Old Master Lu tried his best to suppress his excitement and nodded calmly, with a calm and amiable smile.

“Good, good, good! Ah Li, right? Come in, come in! Make yourself at home!”

Ning Li, “...”

For a rare moment, Lu Huaiyu also fell silent.

Old Master Lu gave Ning Li an appraising look.

Oh, she’s so beautiful and so obedient! So—

Eh?

Wait a minute.

Ning Li?

Why was this name so familiar?

Was this...the child he had helped in Yunzhou before?

If he remembered correctly, the girl was still very young, right?!

Old Master Lu looked at Lu Huaiyu in disbelief.

Huaiyu, you are such a bad boy!

## Chapter 326: Joy

When Lu Huaiyu had said that he would be bringing a friend home, Old Master Lu had guessed that it had to be the one that he had not managed to pick up previously.

It was also the one that he admitted that he liked.

However, Old Master Lu had not expected the person to be Ning Li!

Wasn't this the child that he mentioned earlier that was accompanying him?

He never expected that it would be... the same person!

Lu Huaiyu remained calm and collected.

"Grandpa, let's go in first."

Old Master Lu finally reacted, immediately giving a little cough.

"Yes, yes, this is Ah Li's first time here. No need to be shy!"

As he spoke, he sent Lu Huaiyu a look that seemed to say, 'Just you wait... I'm going to teach you a lesson!'

...

The whole group entered the house and sat down in the living room.

Zhang Chunlan poured some tea and looked at Ning Li with an extremely loving gaze.

“This must be Miss Ning, right?”

Lu Huaiyu said, “This is Auntie Lan.”

This was the person who had called Fang Qingyun earlier.

Ning Li nodded.

“Hello, Auntie Lan. You can just call me Ah Li.”

Zhang Chunlan replied with an echo of her name.

This was the first time that Lu Huaiyu had brought someone home, and he seemed to be very protective of her. She was indeed beautiful and well-behaved!

Old Master Lu sat across from the sofa. When he spoke, his tone was much gentler than usual.

“Ah Li, I heard that it’s time for your college entrance exam this year, right? Why did you come to the Capital this time?”

He asked this question because he did not know much about Ning Li’s reason for coming to the Capital.

Ning Li nodded and explained, “I participated in the winter camp training for a school competition.”

Old Master Lu’s eyes lit up when he heard this.

“Ah Li, you’re that amazing?”

He sighed.

“So much better than our Huaiyu.”

Ning Li said, “Second Brother is also very outstanding. When I went to the Capital First High school, his photo was still posted on the Wall of Outstanding Alumni Photos.”

Hearing this, Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows and looked at her.

Old Master Lu waved his hand in disdain.

“That’s so many years old. It’s not even worth mentioning!”

Ning Li, “...”

Old Master Lu asked several other questions.

He knew about Ning Li’s family background, so he wanted to avoid questions about that topic. He only asked her about the arrangements for coming to the Capital, what dishes she liked to eat, and whether she was happy here.

After chatting for a while, Lu Huaiyu asked, “There are some books in the study here that I think you would like. Would you like to go and have a look?”

Ning Li’s head was dizzy from Old Master Lu’s enthusiasm. She immediately nodded.

“Okay.”

Lu Huaiyu stood up.

“Follow me.”

The two went to the study.

Old Master Lu looked at the backs of the pair that was leaving with mixed feelings. He was partly happy but also conflicted.

He suddenly thought of something and lowered his voice to speak to Fang Qingyun.

“Qingyun! Tell me, did you already know about this a long time?!”

Fang Qingyun obviously knew what he was talking about, so he coughed guiltily and awkwardly.

“This... Old Master, you don’t know... Actually, I was only a few days earlier than you...”

“That child, Ning Li, is only seventeen! How old is he? How could he lie to a child like that!? His behavior is too shameless!”

Old Master Lu was heartbroken and resentful.

Fang Qingyun was silent as he thought, ‘Old Master Lu, he is still your biological grandson...’

Aloud, he weakly reminded him, “Actually... Actually, the Second Master is only four years older than Ah Li...”

“She’s still in her senior year of high school!”

Old Master Lu was even angrier.

“How many years ago did he graduate from high school?!”

Fang Qingyun went silent again.

"It's not Second Master's fault that he graduated at sixteen... No, that's not what I meant. Old Master Lu, please be more open-minded... You should know more or less how much the Second Master likes that girl, right? Besides, Second Master is your biological grandson. He has always done things carefully. Can't you trust him in this matter?"

Old Master Lu's expression softened a little.

Fang Qingyun struck while the iron was still hot.

"Moreover, I don't think you realize that so many other people are interested in Ah Li as well! On the way here, that Young Master of the Gu family even wanted to invite Ah Li to celebrate the New Year together."

Old Master Lu narrowed his eyes and thought for a while.

"Gu Tingfeng's youngest son?"

"Yes! And there was another friend as well. From what I heard, they seem to be quite familiar with each other."

Fang Qingyun concluded, "Old Master Lu, the competition that the Second Master is facing is very intense! If we don't hurry up, our Second Master will lose his chance!"

Old Master Lu had not expected this situation. He thought about it carefully and felt that what Fang Qingyun had said made sense.

"That's true... Ah Li is very endearing..."



The young girl had a good appearance and temperament, and her results were outstanding. How would it be possible if no one pursued her?

Old Master Lu instantly felt a sense of crisis.

“That won’t do! That’s my granddaughter-in-law!”

He had raised these two brothers for more than 20 years, and now he was finally seeing the shadow of his granddaughter-in-law. How could he bear to let go of her?

Previously, when Lu Huaiyu had gone to pick her up, he had not succeeded, had he?

Fortunately, he had not let him down this time.

Thinking of the young girl he had just seen, Old Master Lu felt happy again.

“However, Ah Li is indeed a good child. No wonder he likes her.”

Fang Qingyun saw that his mood had improved greatly and felt relieved.

“Yeah, she even got first place in the whole of Yunzhou City!”

Old Master Lu was happy to hear that.

“I told you she was very good!”

At this point, he could not help but let out a long sigh and said faintly, “It’s that kid. I don’t know what kind of terrible luck he’s got. It’s simply too bad.”

...

Ning Li followed Lu Huaiyu to the study room.

The size of the study room here was even larger than the one in Yunding Fenghua.

It was decorated with antiques, and all kinds of books filled an entire wall of the bookshelf.

Lu Huaiyu smiled faintly and said, "We don't usually have many guests here, so grandfather is quite happy today. Please don't mind him."

Ning Li shook her head.

"No. I think... it's quite good."

In her memory, there was no perfect and lively Chinese New Year's Eve.

#### Chapter 327: Supporting Her

From what she could remember, there had always been a small quarrel at home every three days and a big quarrel every five days.

During the Chinese New Year, Su Yuan and Ning Haizhou always made a big fuss.

While other families were happy and reunited, but her family only had quarreling and screaming, as well as the ear-piercing sound of countless things being broken and thrown.

She had been too young at that time, and crying and begging had been useless. Later, she stopped trying to dissuade them and resorted to closing her room door tightly. She hid under the quilt and covered her ears, hoping to isolate those sounds.

Later on, Su Yuan had left and Ning Haizhou had been involved in an accident. The situation had worsened.

The accident victim's family would come and make a scene from time to time, especially on New Year's Eve.

They would scold, scream, and smash things.

She did not have any expectations for this festival. In fact, she had been afraid of it and loathed its arrival for a long time.

Coming to visit the Lu family today, she felt... very different.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her quietly.

Some things did not need to be said. He knew very well how she had lived in the past.

The young girl's face was calm, and the corners of her lips curled up slightly, as if she did not care about the past at all.

However, some things had happened, and the scars that had been left behind still existed.

They could not be forgotten, and they could not be erased.

He walked over and took a book from the bookshelf.

"Have you read this book?"

Ning Li looked at it and nodded.

"Yes."

Lu Huaiyu paused, smiled, and said calmly, "There is no Chinese translation of this book in the country. Have you read it?"

The study room instantly fell into silence.

Lu Huaiyu was holding the original German book.

Ning Li did not say anything, but she slowly tightened the palms of her hands.

"Actually, there's one more thing I didn't have the time to ask you this morning."

Lu Huaiyu propped one hand next to her ear and bent down slightly.

Ning Li subconsciously took half a step back and found her back pressed against the bookshelf.

He stared into her clear, peach-blossom eyes, with a faint smile.

"Jiang Ran said that she was the one who sent you to Taihe Plaza yesterday."

"Ah Li, don't you have anything to say to me about this?"

...

At the same time, Old Master Lu was alternating between the thoughts of "Having a shameless grandson means having a great granddaughter-in-law" and "Giving up this shameless grandson, can you still keep this granddaughter-in-law?".

Thinking about how he had said that he planned to get a certificate and have a great-grandson in front of Zhou Guanglin earlier, Old Master Lu was extremely regretful.

Lu Huaiyu and this person had an unpredictable future!

Ah Li was only in her senior year of high school. How long would he have to wait?!

Of course, Fang Qingyun's words also played a significant role.

It was fine to lose a grandson, but the loss of a granddaughter-in-law would be difficult to replace!

This precious opportunity for their Lu family was here now!

"Sigh!"

Old Master Lu was full of resentment.

It was one thing for Lu Huaiyu himself to behave shamelessly, but now Old Master Lu would also be implicated along with him!

Fang Qingyun had already given up trying to persuade him because he felt that he had done quite well.

If not for his efforts, it was hard to say if the Second Master would have been able to get out of trouble this time!

That's okay, that's okay.

That's enough.

Old Master Lu then thought of something else.

"By the way, that kid went to fetch someone last time, but he didn't receive that person. Who was the one who picked Ah Li up?"

Fang Qingyun said, "Oh, it was Yu Pingchuan, Elder Yu."

"Him?"

Old Master Lu was surprised.

"He knows Ah Li too?"

"It looks like it. Moreover, it seems like Teacher Yu takes care of her very well and is very close to her. In order to pick her up, Teacher Yu had especially returned to the Capital from Yunzhou. Throughout her visit here, Ah Li has been living in the house below Teacher Yu."

Old Master Lu fell into deep thought.

Yu Pingchuan looked gentle, but he was actually a very noble person deep down.

Seeing that he was so devoted to Ning Li, it was obvious that he really liked her.

"Oh right, he is the chairman of the Yunzhou Art Association. He has also been there a lot..."

Old Master Lu Thought for a while before suspiciously asking, "If that's the case, then did Yu Pingchuan have any objections to Ah Li coming here with Huaiyu for the Chinese New Year dinner today?"

"This... I'm not too sure, but I think Ah Li should have told him about it, right?"

Old Master Lu nodded.

"Alright, that's it for now. Go get the two of them to post the Chinese New Year couplets."

...

In the study room, it was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Lu Huaiyu and Ning Li waited patiently for Ning Li's answer.

Ning Li pursed her lips.

Actually, this matter could not be hidden from Lu Huaiyu.

He was someone who had entered the Fino Laboratory's headquarters in Bai City. It would be too easy for him to get some insider information.

"I..."

She had just opened her mouth when the door to the study opened, accompanied by grandfather Lu's joyful voice:

"Ah Li, come and paste the Chinese New Year couplets..."

Lu Huaiyu immediately stood up and distanced himself from Ning Li. He turned around to look.

"Grandfather."

Old Master Lu stood at the door. Seeing this scene, his temples throbbed and he almost cursed out loud at Lu Huaiyu.

So this kid brought people into the study just for this reason!?

Ptui!

“Ah Li, come and help stick the window flowers. Huaiyu, come with me to stick one on the door.”

Lu Huaiyu rubbed the space between his eyebrows helplessly.

This misunderstanding...

He looked at Ning Li.

“I’ll go first, but I’ll find you later.”

Ning Li knew that she would not be able to avoid this matter eventually, but she was still slightly relieved.

“Okay.”

...

In the room, Old Master Lu and Lu Huaiyu were having a confrontation.

Lu Huaiyu was the first to speak.

“Grandfather, it’s not what you think.”

Old Master Lu sneered.

“What do you think I’m thinking?”

“...”



Lu Huaiyu did not say anything.

Originally, he would have had the confidence to refute, but after what had happened last night, he really...

“Do you think I don’t know what you’re thinking?” Old Master Lu scoffed. “Did you think that you could do whatever you want without anyone looking out for that girl?”

“Stand right here! I’ll call Yu Pingchuan right now!”

Although he did not know how Ning Li knew Yu Pingchuan, looking at the circumstances, it was not difficult to see that the two of them had a good relationship.

He could not control his grandson, but Yu Pingchuan was Ning Li’s close elder. Surely he would be able to handle him?!

As Old Master Lu spoke, he dialed Yu Pingchuan’s number.

The call was answered very quickly.

“Hello? Old Master Lu?”

“Pingchuan, Ah Li is at my house. You did know that, right?”

Old Master Lu went straight to the point and brought it all out in the open.

“I know. Wasn’t Huaiyu the one who took her away?” Yu Pingchuan chuckled.

Old Master Lu gave Lu Huaiyu a warning look.

“Yes, there’s no other matter. I was only thinking that perhaps Ah Li was meant to accompany you on this Chinese New Year’s Eve, but Huaiyu took her away instead. On your side—”

“Oh, is that all? It’s fine, it’s fine! Huaiyu has always been good to Ah Li. In fact, I’m very relieved that Ah Li went with him! Hahaha!”

Yu Pingchuan’s hearty laughter echoed throughout the quiet room.

Lu Huaiyu had one hand in his pocket, as he raised his eyebrows slightly and smiled.

Old Master Lu, “...”

This person could not be relied upon as well!

He could still laugh, even when the person under his care was about to be taken away by someone else!

Chapter 328: Laughing At Me?

Old Master Lu simply hung up the phone.

Yu Pingchuan could no longer be counted on. Clearly, he would have to handle this matter himself.

He raised his eyes and looked at Lu Huaiyu.

“I’m warning you, you’d better behave yourself before Ah Li goes to university! If I find out that you bullied her...”

Lu Huaiyu’s thin lips curved slightly.

“Don’t worry, she has always been the only one to bully me. It’s not my turn to do so.”

This young girl was extremely skillful in inflicting torture, yet he did not even have the right to chastise her.

Old Master Lu stared at him for a long time before he felt slightly relieved.

“That’s more like it.”

Lu Huaiyu, “...”

Old Master Lu put one hand behind his back and thought of something else. He pretended to ask casually, “What is Ah Li’s birthday...”

“June 26th.”

Lu Huaiyu understood his intention and gave him a direct answer.

Old Master Lu blurted out, “So late?”

Lu Huaiyu looked at him with a faint smile.

Old Master Lu felt guilty and coughed hard.

“Cough! I didn’t mean anything by it! I was just asking! Just asking!”

He started counting... There was still one, two, three...

It was still far from twenty!

Old Master Lu was annoyed by Lu Huaiyu's gaze.

"Alright, alright, you can go out now! This is Ah Li's first time in our home. You should stay with her a little longer."

As he spoke, he pointed at Lu Huaiyu with a warning.

"Be careful."

Lu Huaiyu helplessly pinched the area between his brows and chuckled.

"I know."

...

Ning Li was pasting flowers on the window.

"Ah Li, come and help me take a look. Has this Chinese New Year couplet been pasted properly?"

Old Master Lu held something and called out to her at the door.

Lu Huaiyu was standing beside her.

Ning Li walked over.

"Grandpa Lu."

Old Master Lu pasted the first verse and turned his head to ask her.

“Is this okay?”

Ning Li took two steps back.

“The left side seems a little high.”

Old Master Lu moved it a little.

“A little higher, yes, yes.”

Ning Li looked at it carefully and nodded.

“Grandpa Lu, it’s good now.”

Old Master Lu stuck the couplet and took a few steps back, praising it with a smile on his face.

“Ah Li, you have a good eye! Look at how straight this couplet is!”

Ning Li, “...”

Since her arrival here today, she seemed to have heard more compliments than she had heard in the past month...

Lu Huaiyu said with a smile, “Grandpa, so do you mean that the ones I helped you put up were not correct?”

Old Master Lu glared at him.

“How can you even compare with Ah Li?”

She did not know what to do.

Seeing that Lu Huaiyu was being criticized, Ning Li could not help but laugh.

All this time, she had always had the impression that Lu Huaiyu was always noble and proud, so witnessing this was something rare.

Lu Huaiyu gave her a quick glance. Ning Li coughed lightly and picked up a smaller couplet.

“Grandpa Lu, would you like to paste this on the inside of the door?”

“Yes, yes, Ah Li, come and paste it! I’ll help to see if it’s straight!”

Ning Li followed Old Master Lu and left.

After she finished pasting the couplet on the other side, she invited Old Master Lu back to his room to rest. Then, she took a small banner and pasted it on the tree trunk in the courtyard.

White snowflakes started to flutter down.

Ning Li looked up.

“It’s snowing again.”

It had snowed heavily yesterday so there was snow piled up in the courtyard of the Lu family. Now, the snow was falling again.

A hand gently landed on her head. She turned around to see Lu Huaiyu sweeping the snow off her head.

“Second brother...”

She had just spoken when her neck suddenly felt cold, and she shivered subconsciously.

It was so cold!

He had deliberately swept some snow onto her neck!

Ning Li looked up, her peach blossom eyes wide open.

“Second Brother!”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows and chuckled.

“Ah Li, you’ve got guts. You even dare to laugh at me.”

Ning Li instantly felt guilty and pouted.

“It was Grandpa Lu who laughed at you. I didn’t.”

“Did you really not?”

“I didn’t.”

Ning Li raised her head, putting on a righteous air.

Lu Huaiyu and Ning Li looked at her with a smile.

Ning Li suddenly bent her hand.

“Second Brother, I have something to tell you.”

Lu Huaiyu’s eyebrows lifted slightly, and he silently bowed his head.

“What—”

Ning Li shoved her hand into the crook of his neck, and pressed her cold and soft hand against his neck.

Once she succeeded, she gave him a triumphant look, as her peach blossom eyes sparkled.

“Is it cold?”

Her hand felt cold but soft to the touch. Beneath the coldness of the ice and snow, a sporadic flame seemed to burn.

Feeling gleeful from her successful counterattack, Ning Li moved to retreat immediately.

Just as she turned around, Lu Huaiyu pulled her into his arms from behind.

“Why are you running?”

Ning Li decided that it was wiser to retreat and immediately said, “Second Brother, I was wrong!”

She struggled in his arms, afraid that he would hit her with another snowball.

However, Lu Huaiyu was much taller than her and he easily held her in his arms.

“Are you still smiling?” Lu Huaiyu asked.



Ning Li quickly shook her head.

“I’m not smiling anymore!”

“Really?”

His other hand seemed to have landed on the collar of her sweater, and it would be reaching her neck in the next second.

Ning Li obediently replied, “Really, really!”

In the next moment, he moved his palm away and held her hand down.

She immediately felt a burning heat.

Ning Li instantly stopped moving and her eyes widened slightly.

Lu Huaiyu and his chin were pressed against her shoulder, and his breath landed beside her ear.

“Your hand is so cold. Don’t you feel cold?”

Ning Li’s ears instantly turned red.

Lu Huaiyu saw that, and a smile appeared in his eyes. He squeezed her hand again before releasing her.

“Let’s go back into the house. It’s warm inside.”

Ning Li hurried away as if something was after her.

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows and the smile in his eyes deepened. Then, he followed her unhurriedly.

...

When Ning Li returned to the house, she felt even warmer.

If she had known earlier, she would not have teased him...

This man was not willing to accept losing at all!

Her phone vibrated. She took it out and took a look. Only then did she realize that the grade group and the class group had made an announcement.

The final results were being announced today.

Chapter 329: Granddaughter-In-Law's Report Card

The rankings for the whole year and each class were uploaded to the group.

In addition, the students also received a text message informing them of their grades.

The message included the grades of each subject, as well as the ranking.

Ning Li clicked on the overall grade report card, her gaze sweeping over her own name at the top of the list. She was not surprised.

She looked down.

Turning over the first page, she did not see Ye Ci's name.

This was the report card for the whole grade and each page listed one hundred people.

She turned to the next page, but still did not see her name.

Finally, she found the familiar two words at the end of the third page.

“Ah Li, I see that your final results are out?”

Lu Huaiyu walked over with his phone in his hand.

Ning Li was stunned for a moment before she realized the messages had not been sent only to the students. Their parents would receive them as well.

Lu Huaiyu had left her number at Second High, listed as her relative and contact person.

She nodded.

“Yeah, it was just announced.”

When Old Master Lu heard this, he immediately looked over.

“Eh? Are the results out? How did Ah Li do?”

Lu Huaiyu smiled and smoothly reported her results.

“Language 144, full marks for all other subjects.”

This score was really easy to remember.

“So high!?”

Old Master Lu was overjoyed and quickly walked over.

“Come, come, let me see!”

Ning Li handed her phone over. On the screen was the grade report card that she had yet to download from.

Old Master Lu put on his reading glasses and carefully looked at it.

He sighed, “Aiya, so this is what the grade report card for first place looks like!”

Look!

Her name was at the top of the list, which he could see at a glance!

Ning Li glanced at Lu Huaiyu, feeling as if it was a little strange to be praised in front of this person.

After all, Lu Huaiyu himself was also extremely outstanding.

This little result of hers was really nothing.

“Grandpa Lu, I heard that Second Brother used to always get first place in Capital First High school...”

“Oh? Is that so?”

Old Master Lu pulled on his glasses and looked at Lu Huaiyu in surprise,

“Did you get first place at that time?”

Lu Huaiyu was calm and composed.

“You haven’t seen my report card before, so it’s normal that you wouldn’t know about this.”

Old Master Lu, “Oh.”

He waved his hand.

“Forget it then. That was a long time ago. There’s no need to mention it!”

As he spoke, he magnified Ning Li’s report card and looked at each column.

Aiyo.

‘My granddaughter-in-law is so smart!

‘Look at this score! It’s so much better than my grandson’s!’

“Ah Li, can you send grandpa a copy of this report card later?”

Ning Li was a little surprised.

“Of course it’s not a problem, but... What do you want this for?”

“Of course I want it to be kept well as a souvenir! This is the first report card of yours that grandpa has ever seen!”

This was the first report card that his granddaughter-in-law had sent to him since she had come to his house!

Ning Li felt a little puzzled, but she still nodded and agreed obediently.

“Okay, I’ll send it to you later.”

Old Master Lu took his phone out.

“By the way, how do you use WeChat?”

Ning Li went over and patiently taught him.

After some time, they added each other as WeChat friends, and Ning Li sent a copy of the report card over.

Lu Huaiyu looked at it from the side and raised his eyebrows slightly.

Old Master Lu had never really shown any interest in these things before.

His family had said that they wanted to teach him, but he had not been willing to learn. He only used his phone to make calls all day long.

Now, in order to get Ning Li’s report card, he had taken the initiative to learn...

While Ning Li was in the restroom, Old Master Lu moved closer to Lu Huaiyu and said, “Huaiyu, print a copy of this report card for me later.”

Lu Huaiyu raised his teacup and responded.

“Okay.”

Old Master Lu’s intention was extremely obvious.

Old Master Lu stared at his phone for a long time before asking again.

“By the way, how do you post it on your WeChat Moments?”

As he spoke, he frowned and fiddled with his phone.

“How do you take a screenshot on this phone? Qingyun mentioned it once before, but I’ve forgotten...”

Lu Huaiyu put down the teacup and was silent for a long time before he earnestly advised, “Grandfather.

“Please restrain yourself a little.”

...

Yunzhou.

The Ye family.

The entire villa had been decorated with lanterns and decorations.

The Black Cayenne drove into the courtyard.

Su Yuan got down from the front passenger seat. Zhou Hua got down from the car as well and carried their luggage out of the trunk.

Aunt Zhao came out to welcome them.

“Madam, you’re finally back. Sir is already waiting inside the home. He was just talking about you, Madam.”

Hearing that Ye Ming had returned, Su Yuan’s smile widened.

Lately, both she and Ye Ming had been in a state of semi-cold war. They had never found a chance to have a proper conversation. Considering that today was Chinese New Year’s Eve, and Ye Ming finally seemed willing to take a step to open up again.

Naturally, that made her happy.

“Lil Ci, Lil Cheng, we’re home.”

Ye Cheng came out from the back seat with an excited expression.

“Daddy’s home! That’s great!”

They had stayed in Beijing for some time. Although he had fun, he still missed Ye Ming very much.

“Sister! Get out of the car! Daddy’s waiting for us!”

Seeing that Ye Ci had not followed them out, Ye Cheng went over to the car window and shouted.

Ye Ci was sitting in the car, looking down at her phone. Her hair was disheveled and covered most of her face. Her emotions could not be seen clearly.

She seemed to be in a trance. It was only when Ye Cheng came over that she suddenly woke up.



“What?”

Ye Cheng felt that she was behaving a little strangely, but he did not really give much thought to it.

“I said that Daddy is back! Sister, are you not happy?”

Ye Ci forced a smile.

“No.”

She got out of the car, her hands and feet feeling cold.

Su Yuan noticed her abnormal behavior. She walked over and asked softly, “Lil Ci, what’s wrong? Are you too tired from the journey and not feeling well?”

Ye Ci subconsciously hid her phone behind her back. Her lips were pale.

“Maybe a little.”

Su Yuan’s exquisite brows furrowed slightly.

“Then go back to your room and rest for a while.”

Ye Ci nodded and followed her into the villa.

Ye Cheng was full of energy. Even after a whole day of a long journey, he was still excited. He shook Ye Ci’s arm.

“Sister, don’t be unhappy! It’s New Year’s eve today, and that annoying person isn’t here either. It’s just me, you, and mom and dad! How wonderful is that!”

Ning Li had rejected Su Yuan’s suggestion to come back together. Ye Cheng was the happiest about it.

For some reason, after Ye Cheng’s words, Ye Ci’s expression became even uglier.

They then entered the villa just like that.

As soon as they arrived at the hall, they saw Ye Ming sitting on the sofa.

Hearing their movements, he stood up and looked at Ye Ci, his face expressionless.

“Lil Ci, come to the study.”

Chapter 330: Ning Li Again!

Ye Ci tightened her grip on her phone.

Everyone else looked surprised.

The living room quickly quieted down. Even Ye Cheng noticed that Ye Ming was not in a good mood. He stopped and nervously looked at Su Yuan in fear.

He was very familiar with his father’s mood when he looked that way.

Every time he got into trouble and his father wanted to teach him a lesson, his expression and the tone of his voice would get the same way.

However, his sister had always been the apple of his father’s eye. He had never seen his father say a single harsh word to her before.

So... what happened today?

Moreover, it seemed that his father's anger was not at a normal level.

What was the matter that was so serious?

Su Yuan did not have a good feeling either.

"Hubby, we just came back. Lil Ci is still tired..."

Ye Ming did not bother to look at her. He only turned around and went upstairs.

Su Yuan was instantly embarrassed.

She walked to Ye Ci's side and gently pulled on her arm.

"Lil Ci, what's wrong?"

Ye Ci did not say anything. Instead, she silently followed Ye Ming upstairs.

The two figures disappeared behind the study door, leaving Su Yuan and the others in the living room. The atmosphere in the room had gone cold.

Ye Cheng asked in a low voice:

"Mom, why is Dad angry?"

Su Yuan frowned.

How would she know?

The family had not seen each other in such a long time. Since today was New Year's Eve, she had thought that they could have a good new year.

Who would have known...

She took her phone out in frustration, only to find two unread messages.

They were the student results from Second High School.

She clicked on the first message. It was regarding Ning Li.

Although Geng Haifan rarely contacted Su Yuan regarding Ning Li, she was still Ning Li's biological mother, and her phone number was still listed at the school as a contact. Naturally, she would receive this message.

Looking at the line of scores, Su Yuan had mixed feelings and did not speak for a long time.

Not only had Ning Li placed first in the entire Second High, but she was also number one in all of the single subjects.

This made her feel glum.

She was not the one who had brought Ning Li up. This result had nothing to do with her.

Ning Li preferred to stay in Beijing alone than return to the Ye family with her for New Year's Eve.

There was a deep estrangement between them that had lasted for ten years.

It was as if there was a wall between them that could not be crossed, no matter what.

Su Yuan closed the page and clicked on the second entry which lead to Ye Ci's score.

However, when Su Yuan saw the scores and rankings clearly, she was completely stunned.

For this final exam, Ye Ci's score had dropped by a large margin compared to the mid-term exam, and she was ranked 284 in the entire grade!

Su Yuan's first reaction was that this result had to be some kind of mistake!

Ye Ci had always been at the top of the grade and was usually in the top 20.

Even if her score had dropped in the previous exam, surely she would not have fallen to this rank!

She walked over to the side and called Geng Haifan.

Geng Haifan quickly answered the call.

"Hello, Madam Ye?"

Su Yuan tried hard to keep her voice calm.

"Teacher Geng, I'm really sorry to disturb you on New Year's Eve. However, there's something I really need to check with you. What happened with Ye Ci's grades? Is there some kind of mistake?"

Geng Haifan had long been expecting her to make this call. He sighed and said, "Madam Ye, that is indeed Ye Ci's real score for the final exam. We have already reviewed it, even pulling out her test paper to be rechecked. It is definitely not a mistake."

There had been no mistake in the addition of points, correcting mistakes, or any other reason. This was simply the result of how she had taken the test.

He did not say this out loud, but Su Yuan understood what he meant.

She stood there in a daze. Her mind had gone blank, and she did not know how to react.

With this ranking, she might not be able to get into any of the top-ranked universities in the country, much less Xijing University!

All these years, Ye Ci's results had been always been very good, and she had been outstanding in all aspects. Su Yuan found it hard to accept this sudden turn of events.

Geng Haifan also knew how big of an impact this matter would have on Su Yuan, so he gave her some advice.

"Madam Ye, I feel that this time, you and Mr. Ye really need to have a good talk with Ye Ci. You can also see that this semester, Ye Ci's results have declined greatly.

There had been a straight-line decline, especially after the competition.

Now that Ye Ci had even participated in the Winter Camp, it was not good for Geng Haifan to say anything more about it, so he could only speak indirectly.

"The senior students are under a lot of pressure, so it is inevitable that there will be times when they don't perform well. However, regarding Ye Ci's situation... Madam Ye, you have to pay attention to it. There is only one semester left before the college entrance exam. If she remains in this state and can't make any adjustments in time, the situation will be very dangerous."

Su Yuan looked up at the study on the second floor.

She finally understood why Ye Ming had called Ye Ci upstairs.

He must have already seen her results.

"I... I understand." Su Yuan took a deep breath. "I'll ask her father about it."

Geng Haifan said, "That's good."

However, the person who would receive the biggest impact from this result was definitely Ye Ci.

"You and Mr. Ye can try to communicate with her, but you must pay attention to the methods. Don't burden the child too much. Ye Ci has been under my care for several years now. She has always been outstanding and has a solid foundation. As long as you guide her well, she will definitely be fine."

It could be considered that Geng Haifan had given her his best advice.

Although he did not like the biased treatment that Su Yuan gave to both her daughters, he would not fall behind in what needed to be said and done.

"Okay, I understand. Thank you, Teacher Geng."

Su Yuan hung up the phone.

Ye Cheng saw that she looked even worse than before, so he did not dare to make a fuss and ran back to his room to play games.

Su Yuan wanted to go upstairs, but she knew that Ye Ming would be unhappy if she went there now.

She thought about it and sat down on the sofa, waiting for the father and daughter to finish their conversation.

...

In the study room.

Ye Ming sat behind the desk and looked at Ye Ci with a gloomy face.

"Lil Ci, your final results are out. I take it that you've seen them already?"

Ye Ci lowered her head slightly and looked at the lines on the floor, her mind already in a mess.

"Yes."

She responded in a quiet voice.

"Then tell me, how did you get these results and rankings?"

Ye Ming was looking at her without any expression on his face.

"Don't tell me that you're not in a good state of mind and that you're not performing well. I've already seen all of your results. Throughout the entire third year of high school, the monthly exams, and the midterm exams, you've gotten worse and worse each time!"

How could this be explained just by saying "I didn't perform well"?

Ye Ci's entire body stiffened.

Ye Ming had always doted on her, and this was the first time he had spoken to her in such a tone.



His gaze and words felt like a knife scraping at her, making her feel extremely uncomfortable.

Her eyes reddened.

“I... I didn’t put much thought into my studies during this period of time. The physics competition took up a lot of time, so I... I didn’t expect it to turn out like this...”

Ye Ming’s brows furrowed even more tightly, and he suddenly interrupted her.

“Ning Li went to the physics competition class as well. How is it that she wasn’t affected and she even managed to get first place?”