

Little Brat's 331

Chapter 331: Lu Huaiyu's Room

Ning Li again.

Ning Li again!

She had already known that when these results came out, everyone would compare her and Ning Li again!

Why!?

It was clear that Ning Li had nothing to do with the Ye family, and that she wasn't a member of the Ye family either!

Why did everyone always lump their names together?

How was Ning Li even qualified to be mentioned in the same breath as her?!

This was the situation that she faced at Second High, and even at the winter camp, she still could not escape from it!

Ye Ci's blood pressure rose, and she felt as if there was a flame burning in her chest. She felt as if all the intense emotions within her were colliding uncontrollably, almost breaking down the boundary to her sanity.

While she had been at Capital First High, she had been despised and ostracized by everyone. She did not even know how much injustice she had suffered, but she knew she had suffered greatly.

Then, as soon as she had returned, she found out that her final exam results were extremely poor.

The grade report card had been uploaded to the group, so everyone would know how badly she had done this time!

However, Ning Li had come in first place again.

Without even thinking about it, Ye Ci knew what the people at school would say.

She took a deep breath.

“Father, I admit that I did not do well this time. I admit that it is my mistake. However, Ning Li is Ning Li, and I am me. I hope you won’t always compare the two of us. After all, she is not your child and has nothing to do with the Ye family, right?”

Ye Ming looked at her.

He had been in the business world for many years and was extremely shrewd.

How could he not see through Ye Ci’s thoughts?

“Lil Ci, I know you don’t like this, but do you think that I want to compare the two of you?”

“She lives with the Ye family now. In the eyes of outsiders, she is a member of the Ye family! The two of you are in the same school and the same class. Of course, everyone will think the same way. Moreover, even if you don’t compete with Ning Li, you still have to compete with others. Don’t you understand this logic?”

Ye Ci lowered her head and did not speak because her results this time were terrible.

She did not even have the confidence to refute Ye Ming now.

“There are only three more months before the college entrance exam. If you still can’t improve your results...” Ye Ming said slowly,

“Lil Ci, don’t forget that you said that you wanted to go to Xijing University.”

In fact, everyone already thought that Ye Ci had one foot firmly in the door of Xijing University.

However, who would have thought that things would turn out like this?

Ye Ci pursed her lips.

“Yes, I know.”

Seeing her like this, Ye Ming stood up and paced back and forth in the room.

What was the use of knowing?

With the state that Ye Ci was in now, she might not even be able to do better in the next exam, let alone improve her grades again!

“In addition to this, there is one more thing.”

As if he had made up his mind, Ye Ming turned his gaze to her.

“The results of your comprehensive test at the Winter Camp have also been reported back to the school.”

Ye Ci was shocked and raised her head abruptly.

How could it have been so fast!?

“Dad, you... You know about that already?”

Ye Ming’s face darkened when he saw her reaction.

“So, the feedback is true?”

Of course it was true.

This was a national training, and all the processes and results were transparent.

“After seeing your final results, I called the Vice Principal of your school.”

The Ye family was one of the top families in Yunzhou, and Ye Ming had a lot of connections. It was not difficult for him to find out about these things.

After finding out about Ye Ci’s scores, his first thought was that she would probably have a hard time passing the college entrance exam and getting into Xijing University.

Not only would it be difficult to enter Xijing University, but to all the top universities in the country as well.

However, she was his daughter. Moreover, since young, Ye Ci had always been outstanding in the eyes of outsiders.

If such a result came out in the end...

Ye Ming was unwilling to accept it.

Therefore, he immediately thought of another way: guaranteed entry through the competition.

In the previous preliminary competition, Ye Ci had been ranked fifth in the province.

As long as she could maintain this standard, even if she could not enter Xijing University, she would not be too far off.

Therefore, he had called that number to ask about the situation first.

However, the result made him completely dumbfounded.

In all of the exams during the Winter Camp, Ye Ci had ranked last!

Even the gap between the results of the person who had placed second from the bottom and Ye Ci's results was huge!

Of course, Ye Ming had not wanted to believe that this would be the result, but the feedback from the Winter Camp had to be handed over to all the major universities for reference. There could not be any mistakes.

The Vice Principal had not commented much while on the phone, but Ye Ming was very clear about what this feedback result represented.

He stared at Ye Ci.

"How did you get your results from the preliminary competition?"

...

The final results had been released on New Year's Eve. The grade group and the class group were filled with wailing.

[I thought that the results would only be released after the Chinese New Year! The school is deliberately not allowing me to celebrate this New Year!]

[It's the New Year, let me cheer everyone up!]

[Wait a minute, Lin Zhouyang failed English again this time, let him do it first! Where is he? Why hasn't he said anything yet?]

[Hehe, I don't think he cares much about his results now. Isn't he too busy comforting his goddess?]

Since everyone in the group was speaking anonymously, they were much bolder and more impudent.

As soon as these words were said, the atmosphere suddenly became subtle.

Everyone had thought that Ye Ci's last exam was bad enough, but no one would have guessed that she would now be ranked in 200th place.

She could be considered a popular figure at Second High. There were especially many people who paid attention to her, so this matter had naturally become a very big deal.

After a moment, someone came forward to refute this.

[No matter how bad the other person's exam results are, she still placed fifth in the whole province in the physics competition. There's no need to talk about her like that her, right?]

[Lin Zhouyang, you can stop being anonymous now.]

[I'm not Lin Zhouyang, I'm just trying to be fair. Ye Ci didn't do anything wrong, right? Do some people have to be so sour and mean?]

Someone else sent a laughing emoji.

[That's funny. Don't you know how ridiculous her fifth placing in the province is? Previously, I asked her about an electric field question, and she couldn't solve it. Is this the level of a fifth placing in the province?]

A few people echoed the sentiment, saying almost the same thing.

The person who had spoken up for Ye Ci remained silent for a while before replying.

[When the final results are out, don't cry out in pain when you're slapped in the face.]

The people below quickly followed up.

[To be honest, at the moment, only Ning Li is the one who's slapped anyone in the face. I'm completely convinced that she's in first place again! I submit to her greatness. As for Ye Ci... She's not even as good as me this time. I really want to see what position she can get in the whole country in the final exam.]

Regarding Ye Ci's fifth place in the entire province, many people had already been questioning her abilities.

So when these words were stated, they quickly received many people's support.

The person who had spoken up for Ye Ci earlier did not speak up again.

Everyone quickly moved on to other topics.

...

The Lu family.

Ning Li glanced at the contents of the group chat and quickly exited.

After Old Master Lu had finished admiring her report card, he had finally restrained the impulse to post on WeChat under Lu Huaiyu's persuasion.

Lu Huaiyu's phone rang, and he stood up to take a call.

Old Master Lu suddenly thought of something.

"Ah Li, please help me get a seal from Huaiyu's room. It should be on the bookshelf. You'll be able to see it at a glance."

Ning Li was stunned.

Go to Lu Huaiyu's... room?

Chapter 332: New Year's Eve

Subconsciously, she raised her head and looked at Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu seemed to have heard their conversation and nodded.

Only then did Ning Li get up and walk towards Lu Huaiyu's bedroom.

The door was not locked.

She walked in.

In her previous life, she had never been to the Lu family home, so naturally, she had never entered Lu Huaiyu's bedroom here.

The decor style of this house was Chinese, and his room was no exception.

It was simple and clean, exuding an antique charm.

There was a light cedar aroma in the air, which was the same as the scent that she usually smelled on him.

On the west side of the wall was a circular bookshelf made of pearwood.

Several books were placed on it, as well as a few decor pieces.

She walked over and scanned the bookshelf, but did not find the seal that Old Master Lu wanted.

She searched again but still did not find it.

Suddenly, her gaze fell on a book that had been sandwiched in between a few books.

At a glance, it was no different from other books.

The only reason Ning Li noticed it was because she used to have this book as well.

“The Physical Universe.”

The book had been a birthday gift from her grandmother when she was eleven.

At that time, she had just started to be interested in these books. Sometimes, she would go to the bookstore to look for books related to the same topic.

However, when her family had no money, she would not buy them and would stay in the bookstore for half a day to read them.

Fortunately, she was able to read books quickly, so she managed to read a lot.

However, she did face one disadvantage. Some beautifully bound books were still wrapped up, so she had not been able to read them.

At that time, the book had been placed on the top shelf of the bookstore, and it was expensive.

She had admired it for a long time, without ever touching it.

Later, on her birthday, her Grandma had bought this book and secretly put it under her pillow.

The old lady did not understand English or physics, but she had known that Ning Li had thought about that book for a long time.

Ning Li had treasured and kept that book well.

However...

Suddenly, her gaze focused, and she realized that there was a faint red mark on the spine of the book.

It seemed to look like... half of a bloody fingerprint?

Why was there a bloodstain on this book?

Ning Li frowned slightly and subconsciously reached out to take the book down.

Creak...

The door was pushed open and Lu Huaiyu walked in.

“Ah Li?”

Ning Li paused and turned around.

“Second brother.”

Lu Huaiyu’s gaze swept across the bookshelf without a change in expression.

“Did you not find it?”

Ning Li nodded.

Striding over with his long legs, Lu Huaiyu came over to stand by her side.

He retrieved a box from the top of the shelf.

“I forgot to tell you that seal was kept in here.”

Ning Li heaved a sigh of relief.

“I’ll take it over to Grandpa Lu then.”

Lu Huaiyu handed the box to her and casually asked, “I saw you staring blankly at the bookshelf just now. What were you looking at?”

Ning Li raised her finger and pointed.

“Nothing, it was just that book. I used to have a copy too.”

Lu Huaiyu looked in the direction that she had pointed.

“Used to?”

“Yes, I accidentally lost it later.”

Ning Li’s expression was indifferent.

Lu Huaiyu paused.

“How did it get lost?”

“It was a long time.” The corners of Ning Li’s lips curled up slightly, but she did not intend on continuing with an explanation.

She did not really want to bring this matter up.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her intensely.

“Why don’t I give this to you?”

Ning Li smiled and shook her head.

“There’s no need. Thank you, Second Brother.”

If she wanted it, she could afford to buy it anytime now, but...there was no longer any need for that now.

Moreover, the way Lu Huaiyu had placed this book here, made it obvious that it was very precious.

It was not good for her to steal something that was treasured by someone else.

Lu Huaiyu suddenly gently caressed her head.

“Okay.”

...

Ning Li left his room and went out to look for Old Master Lu, leaving the door ajar.

Lu Huaiyu took the book down.

There was a faint blood-red thumbprint on the corner of the cover.

It seemed to be that someone had once held onto it tightly and left such a mark on it.

He looked at it for a while, before opening it.

On the title page, there were only two simple letters.

— NL.

It had been written with a fountain pen. Probably because a lot of time had already passed, the ink had already faded a lot, leaving behind only a faint ancient blue.

He closed the book and put it back.

...

The sky gradually darkened.

Thick snow had piled up in the courtyard. The moonlight and snow combined, shone crystal clear and bright.

Ning Li was busy replying to various messages.

He Xiaochen called.

“Ning Li! Happy Chinese New Year’s Eve!”

Her voice sounded very cheerful.

Ning Li’s lips curved slightly.

“Happy Chinese New Year’s Eve.”

He Xiaochen complained, “Sob, sob, sob. I haven’t seen you in such a long time! I heard that you’re staying in the Capital for the New Year? I haven’t even been to the Capital before. Is it fun?”

Only God knew how boring her life was without her Goddess Ning’s beautiful face!

Ning Li nodded.

“It’s pretty good here.”

He Xiaochen cried with envy.

“If even you say it’s good, then it must be really good! Sob, sob, sob! I’ll definitely go there after the college entrance exam!”

With He Xiaochen’s grades, she could choose any university in the country, so it would not be any problem for her to come to the Capital.

“Oh right, Ning Li, who are you spending the day with today?”

She had been worried that Ning Li would be too lonely, hence why she had made the call.

Ning Li paused and was about to speak when a sound came from outside.

Whoosh... Bang!

She looked up and saw a brilliant fireworks display in the dark night sky.

It was followed by all kinds of fireworks that appeared in the sky, one after another.

Suddenly, a pair of hands covered her ears from behind.

In the next moment, Fang Qingyun set off a string of firecrackers in the courtyard.

The crackling sounds of the firecrackers could be heard, but they now sounded as if they were some distance away.

Only the bright and resplendent fireworks remained, and the fiery sparks of the firecrackers.

Also, there was him.

Chapter 333: Why Are You So Lovable

The sound of firecrackers went on for a long time before stopping. However, there were still all kinds of fireworks in the distant sky.

Only then did Lu Huaiyu let go of her and gently caressed her head with a smile.

“It’s time to eat.”

Ning Li nodded.

“Okay, I’ll just let my classmate know, then I’ll go over.”

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

Ning Li put the phone back to her ear. Before she could say anything, she heard He Xiaochen stutter in excitement.

“Ahhhhhhhhh...! That voice was so familiar! That was your Second Brother, right? It’s him, isn’t it? Ning Li, are you celebrating the New Year with your Second Brother today?”

Ning Li subconsciously covered the receiver, but it was too late. He Xiaochen’s voice had been so loud and clear that she could not pretend that she had not heard it.

She immediately looked up at Lu Huaiyu and saw him raise his eyebrows slightly and smile playfully.

“...”

Wonderful... Her excited scream had broken through the screen and been clearly heard.

Ning Li facepalmed.

“I...”

Before she could think of a reply, Lu Huaiyu suddenly raised his hand and took her phone.

She was caught off-guard, and the phone fell into Lu Huaiyu’s hand.

He smiled lightly and spoke in a low and pleasant voice, with a casual smile.

“Yes, Ning Li is at my house. She’s spending New Year’s Eve with me.”

As soon as he said that, He Xiaochen, who had been wildly excited so far, suddenly went completely quiet.

There was dead silence and the air seemed to have frozen.

After a long while, He Xiaochen finally opened her mouth as if she had just come back to her senses. Because of her nervousness, her voice had changed.

“Happy New Year, Second Brother of Ning Li! I... I... I am the deskmate of Ning Li...”

Ning Li covered her face in despair.

He Xiaochen was clearly embarrassed, but why was she feeling that way?

He Xiaochen finally seemed to realize that her behavior was extremely strange, and she stammered even more.

“I... I... I...”

“Happy New Year.” Lu Huaiyu said.

He Xiaochen hurriedly said,

“Happy New Year! I wish you good health, good luck, and a long life—”

Ning Li could not take it anymore. She took a step forward and interrupted her.

“Xiaochen, we’re going to have dinner now. Shall I hang up first?”

He Xiaochen finally stopped.

After reacting for a moment, she let out a soft “Ah” and mumbled in bewilderment, “...did I say something wrong just now?”

What had she said? Ahhh!

Ning Li was silent for a moment.

“It’s fine.”

That had not been the first time anyway.

He Xiaochen was silent for a moment before she started sobbing,

“Ah!

“I’m dead!

“What did I say just now, ahhhhh!”

Ning Li: “...”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows.

“Classmate, I heard everything you said just now. Thank you for your blessing.”

He Xiaochen’s crying stopped abruptly, and because it was too sudden, she even hiccuped.

In the silence, Ning Li said in a flat tone, “...it was public release just now.”

He Xiaochen said, “Thank you. I left very peacefully.jpg”

Ning Li said a few more words before hanging up.

The atmosphere was so awkward that Ning Li did not even dare to look into Lu Huaiyu’s eyes.

Had he heard every word just now?

After a while, Lu Huaiyu let out a laugh.

“Let’s go and eat.”

...

The Lu family’s Chinese New Year’s Eve dinner tonight was especially sumptuous.

Old Master Lu sat in the main seat, Lu Huaiyu sat to his left, while Ning Li sat on the opposite side.

Fang Qingyun and Zhang Chunlan finished their work and went home to have their reunion dinner with their children.

Old Master Lu turned his head to look at Ning Li and kept putting food in her bowl.

“Ah Li, you’re too skinny. Eat more!”

Ning Li’s bowl was already piled high with food.

The old man was so full of enthusiasm that she did not have the heart to refuse. She could only accept everything.

Old Master Lu asked about other things, mostly about her preferences.

Ning Li answered each question, one by one.

“Oh right, Ah Li will sleep in the guest bedroom on the first floor tonight, right?”

Knowing that someone was coming over, Old Master Lu had already gotten someone to clean the room up. All the bed sheets and pillowcases were new.

Ning Li paused.

That guest bedroom seemed to be next to Lu Huaihe’s bedroom...

After all, this was the Lu family.

She nodded.

“Okay. Thank you, Grandpa Lu.”

...

After dinner, Old Master Lu pulled Ning Li into the living room to watch the Spring Festival Gala.

Lu Huaiyu was also there to accompany them.

However, Old Master Lu was old and he fell asleep on the sofa after ten o'clock.

Lu Huaiyu noticed it and helped him back to his room to rest.

After a while, Lu Huaiyu came back.

“Are you sleepy?” he asked.

Ning Li shook her head. “I’m fine.”

Lu Huaiyu sat down on the sofa as well. There was a seat between them. Seeing that she was watching the television seriously, he followed her line of sight and asked with a smile, “Does it look that good?”

Ning Li was silent for a moment before she nodded slightly.

“Yes.”

Actually, the appealing part was not the Spring Festival Gala. The joys and sorrows of the people on the screen had nothing to do with her.

It was just that, in her memory, there had rarely been such a lively and peaceful Chinese New Year's Eve before.

Therefore, it was very appealing.

...

Time passed slowly.

Ning Li seemed to be getting sleepy, as her head started swaying slightly.

When Lu Huaiyu saw this, he turned off the lights in the living room, leaving only a floor lamp beside the sofa.

Then, he stood up and moved a little to her side, sitting beside her. He raised his hand to support her head and let her lean on his shoulder.

The hour hand pointed to 12 o'clock.

The clock struck midnight.

Lu Huaiyu turned his head and rested his chin gently on her forehead. His voice was very soft.

"Happy New Year, Ah Li."

Ning Li seemed to have fallen into a deep sleep.

Lu Huaiyu moved to carry her, intending on sending her back to her room.

As if sensing his movements, she frowned slightly, as if she wanted to refuse.

Lu Huaiyu coaxed her in a low voice, "Be good."

Hearing this, Ning Li's resistance stopped, and her eyebrows gradually relaxed.

Lu Huaiyu carried her in his arms.

Ning Li's room was next to his.

Lu Huaiyu came to the side of the bed and put her down.

Ning Li's fingers were still tightly clutching his shirt.

As if sensing that he was about to leave, she frowned slightly, and a hint of panic flashed between her eyebrows.

Then, she straightened her body slightly and pressed her forehead against his chest.

Smelling the cool and familiar smell of cedar, she leaned against him and gradually calmed down.

Lu Huaiyu and his Adam's apple rolled, as he couldn't help but laugh.

"Ning Li.

"Why are you so lovable?"

Chapter 334: B*stard!

Ning Li, who had fallen into a deep sleep, did not hear this sentence.

She lay there quietly, her breathing shallow and calm.

Lu Huaiyu could not help but gently pinch her face, and cover her with the quilt before leaving.

...

The next day, Ning Li woke up very early.

She went to pay her respects to Old Master Lu first and ended up with an extremely thick red packet.

Looking at the red envelope in her hand that seemed to be bursting with “lucky money”, Ning Li hesitated and said, “Grandpa Lu, this... I think you gave me too much...”

“It’s not too much. Not too much at all!”

Old Master Lu waved his hand emphatically.

Sigh, what a pity. Huaiyu had informed him too late, so he had not had time to customize an extra-large red envelope.

“Grandpa gave it to you sincerely from his heart. Just take it.” Lu Huaiyu said with a smile.

Ning Li had no choice but to accept it.

“Thank you, Grandpa Lu.”

Old Master Lu chuckled.

“What’s there to thank? Ah Li did so well in the final exam. She deserves a reward!”

Sigh, what a pity that Ah Li was still in her senior year of high school. It was not easy to find an appropriate gift to give her as a welcome gift.

Ning Li’s cell phone rang. She took it out to take a look.

Old Master Lu asked casually, “It’s still so early. Who’s looking for you, Ah Li?”

Ning Li said, “It’s Teacher Yu.”

Oh, right. Ah Li was in Capital for the New Year, and she still had to give her New Year’s greetings to that unreliable person.

Old Master Lu was speechless when he thought of that person’s name. If it was not for Ning Li’s sake, he really would not be bothered with it.

“So, is Ah Li going over to give her New Year’s greetings?”

Ning Li nodded.

Old Master Lu was reluctant to part with her, but it was obvious that Ning Li and Yu Pingchuan were very close.

He had no reason to hold her back.

“Then, let Qingyun send you off. Huaiyu, you go with her.”

Ning Li wanted to decline politely, but she knew she could not win against Old Master Lu. In the end, she could only agree.

...

The Black Panamera drove away from the Lu residence.

Old Master Lu stood at the entrance of the courtyard and looked around with some reluctance. Only when the car exhaust had disappeared from his sight, did he turn around and leave with his hands behind his back.

Actually, there was another reason for his willingness to let her go.

Every year, there were many people who would come to the Lu family to give their New Year's greetings. Old Master Lu thought that since Ning Li was still in her senior year of high school, he was afraid that too many people would disturb her.

The Xu family was the first to come.

Xu Rufeng and his wife had brought Xu Yini to visit the Lu family personally.

Old Master Lu was actually a little surprised.

The Lu family and the Xu family were family friends. Although they had had interactions with each other in the past few years, they were not as frequent as they used to be.

However, upon seeing Xu Yini, Old Master Lu could more or less guess their true intentions.

If this had happened in the past, Old Master Lu might not have cared too much.

Both Lu Huaiyu and Old Master Lu knew that Xu Yini was interested in Lu Huaiyu, but Old Master Lu had not really bothered about it much.

However, the situation was different now!

His grandson had already brought his granddaughter-in-law home, so what else could Xu Yini do?

Regardless, both families had been friends for many years, and he had watched Xu Yini grow up. He felt that it was better to clarify the matter as soon as possible so that Xu Yini could stop thinking about it.

As expected, the first thing they had done when they arrived was to look for Lu Huaiyu.

“Old Master Lu, is Huaiyu not at home today?”

Xu Rufeng looked around.

Didn't people say that Lu Huaiyu would be spending the New Year in the Capital this year?

Yet, he wasn't even home on the first day of the New Year?

“Oh, Huaiyu has gone to send... send a friend somewhere. He'll be back in a while.”

Old Master Lu made his explanation as he secretly contemplated how to open his mouth.

Xu Rufeng and his wife looked at each other. Then, as if they had made up their minds together, they said nervously, “Old Master Lu, actually, we came here today mainly to apologize to you and Huaiyu.”

Old Master Lu was stunned.

“Apologize?”

It seemed that the matter had not reached Old Master Lu's ears yet.

However, Xu Rufeng knew that even if he did not speak of it now, Old Master Lu would definitely hear about it in the future.

Rather than being passive, it was better for them to explain and apologize first. Perhaps they could salvage the situation a little.

Xu Rufeng clasped his hands and deliberated.

"This... This is what happened. A few days ago, Xi Lin held a cocktail party at LaTuie Winery. That day, both Huaiyu and Yini had been there. During the banquet, Yini had drunk too much wine and insisted on reading Huaiyu's book. Being impulsive, she accidentally dropped the book on the ground."

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Old Master Lu frowned slightly.

He had a vague memory of this matter. That day, Lu Huaiyu had instructed Yi Bin to come back here to retrieve a book.

He knew his own grandson the best.

Lu Huaiyu was obviously very concerned about that book. Xu Yini's actions had clearly crossed the line.

However, this matter did not seem to be worth needing Xu Rufeng and his family to come to make a personal apology, right?

Xu Rufeng braced himself and continued.

“More importantly, there was a hand-drawn picture in Huaiyu’s book. It seemed to be of a person that he holds in high regard...”

Old Master Lu was stunned.

Xu Yini bit her lip, looking apologetic.

“Grandpa Lu, I’m sorry. I really didn’t do it on purpose that day.”

Whether it had been on purpose or not, it was no longer important.

What was important was that because of this matter, she had completely offended Lu Huaiyu.

During this period of time, she thought about the matter and felt that the only thing she could do was to ask her parents to step in.

Their social circle was now abuzz with the rumors that Lu Huaiyu liked men, and that he was pining for a particular unattainable person.

However, Lu Huaiyu had still not come forward to clarify the matter.

Of course, what he had said that day had not helped matters either.

In the end, everyone only believed what they had seen.

Old Master Lu thought for a while and said, “It’s just a hand-drawn drawing, there’s no...”

“Grandpa Lu.”

Xu Qingrui could not help but speak.

“That hand-drawn drawing appeared to be of a young man.”

Old Master Lu’s eyes suddenly widened.

This b*stard!

Did he dare to bully Ah Li!?

Chapter 335: Had Always Been About Her

He took a deep breath and said coldly, “I’ll give him a call.”

As he said that, he stood up.

Xu Yini saw that the expression on his face was not good, which made her nervous.

“Grandpa Lu, this is all my fault. Please don’t blame Huaiyu and—”

Old Master Lu suppressed his anger.

“You don’t have to worry about that.”

After all, he had been born to be a general. Even when Old Master Lu was really angry, he continued to exude a regal aura.

Xu Yini’s heart trembled. She did not dare to voice out the rest of her words.

Xu Rufeng gave her a look.

Old Master Lu seemed to care more about this matter than they had expected.

However, upon further thought, Old Master Lu was very old and had a traditional mindset. How could he accept that his grandson liked men? Surely, it was normal for him to have such a big reaction.

No matter how much he doted on Lu Huaiyu, this time he would surely have to face reality.

Xu Yi was flustered and worried.

She felt guilty because her impulsiveness had caused so much trouble for Lu Huaiyu, but on the other hand, there was an unspeakable grievance in her heart.

She had liked Lu Huaiyu for so many years, but she had never received any response.

It wasn't that she did not find it tiresome, but she had kept telling herself that it had nothing to do with Lu Huaiyu not liking her. After all, he did not show interest in anyone else.

That meant that she still had a chance.

However, it was not until now that she realized that Lu Huaiyu already had someone in his heart.

All her efforts and sincerity had become a joke!

So, even though she had known that taking the initiative to come here would cause a huge impact on Old Master Lu and cause a storm in the Lu family, she had still come.

She wanted to know if Lu Huaiyu really liked men. She also wanted to find out the identity of the person that he treasured!

...

Old Master Lu entered his room and locked the door. He immediately dialed Lu Huaiyu's number.

Lu Huaiyu had just sent Ning Li back to Shuiyuan Shijia.

Lu Huaiyu's phone rang. He picked it up to look at the screen.

"It's grandpa."

Ning Li nodded, not minding it. She pushed the door open and got out of the car. She waved at him through the window.

"Goodbye, Second Brother."

Lu Huaiyu waited for her to turn around and leave before he answered the call.

"Grandpa?"

He had barely spoken when he was attacked by Old Master Lu's fierce barrage of fire.

"Don't call me grandpa!"

Old Master Lu was completely energized as he was filled with the urge to curse out loud.

"I don't have a grandson like you! You b*stard! I think you must have a death wish!"

Lu Huaiyu, "..."

"Tell me! What's with that hand-drawing in the book? What's going on!?"

So that was the reason for this call.

Lu Huaiyu instantly understood.

“Did the Xu family come?”

“Don’t you worry about whose family is here! So what? If they didn’t come, then were you not going to tell me about this?”

Old Master Lu was furious.

“Get your *ss back here right now!”

Lu Huaiyu pinched the space between his eyebrows in helplessness.

“Grandpa, this is just a misunderstanding...”

“What misunderstanding! They came to our house and told me everything clearly! Boy, you are really capable of doing anything now, aren’t you?”

Lu Huaiyu sighed softly.

“I don’t like men.”

“Whether you like men or not is none of my business!”

Old Master Lu’s temper flared up, causing him to explode.

“You already have someone that you have liked for a long time, yet you’re still messing with Ah Li? You b*stard, are you crazy?! Have you completely forgotten all my advice!?”

Lu Huaiyu, “...”

“You come back now! Now! I want to see who you are so—”

“That person is Ah Li.”

Old Master Lu’s voice suddenly became hoarse. After a while, he raised his voice and asked, “What did you say?!”

Lu Huaiyu turned his head to the side to look at the slender figure just outside the car’s window.

He said, “From the beginning until now, it’s always been her.”

...

Ning Li went upstairs. Yu Pingchuan and Lin Yaohui were already waiting for her.

When he saw her, Yu Pingchuan immediately said, “Ah Li is back. Let’s go now.”

Ning Li nodded.

“Then, please wait for me. I’ll go and take the New Year gifts.”

“It’ll just be the same old three, remember? Don’t bring too many!”

Yu Pingchuan reminded her.

Ning Li replied, "Don't worry, I know."

After twenty minutes, the three of them drove to Jinse Bay.

The road was quite congested.

Ning Li looked at the long queue of cars outside and asked, "There should be quite a lot of people going there to pay their respects today, right?"

Yu Pingchuan laughed.

"Don't worry, knowing that you're going, Jinse Bay has been specially cleared out for today. They're just waiting for you."

The corners of Ning Li's lips curled up helplessly.

"I've caused trouble for them."

"What trouble?" Yu Pingchuan chuckled when he heard what she said. "You don't know that the most annoying thing over there every year is these relationships. This year, we finally waited for you to come over so that there'll be no reason for you to refuse."

He turned to look at Ning Li and chuckled.

"Don't worry, we're all family here."

Ning Li nodded.

After a while, Yu Pingchuan suddenly thought of something and asked, "Oh right, I haven't asked yet. How was your time at the Lu family yesterday?"

Ning Li thought for a moment, and a small dimple appeared on the corner of her lips.

"Yes, it was pretty good."

Hearing her words, Yu Pingchuan's heart finally relaxed. He sighed and nodded with a smile.

"That's good! That's good!"

This was Ning Li's first Lunar New Year since her grandmother had passed away.

She was alone and in the Capital, so he naturally felt more worried and a sense of pity for her.

Fortunately, it seemed that she had been living well with the Lu family during the past two days.

In this aspect, Lu Huaiyu was indeed quite reliable. He had not misjudged him!

...

The Lu family.

In the living room, Xu Yini and her parents were still waiting, looking in a certain direction from time to time.

Xu Rufeng frowned and muttered, "Old Master Lu has been in there for quite a while. Has the call not ended yet?"

They were quite far away from the room. In addition, the door was tightly locked, so they could not quite hear what Old Master Lu was saying. All they could make out was that Old Master Lu had been really angry in the beginning. Then, he went quiet for a long time, but he still had not come out of the room.

Xu Yini was full of worry, and she began to wonder about whether it had been a mistake to come over today.

If Old Master Lu really did something to Lu Huaiyu, then...

Creak—

The door finally opened.

Xu Yini and the other two immediately looked up.

Old Master Lu walked out, but his expression was not quite what they had expected.

The look on his face... He did not seem to be angry anymore?

“Grandpa Lu.”

Xu Yini took the lead and stepped forward.

“There might be some misunderstanding here. Please don’t be angry yet. Let’s wait for Huaiyu to come back before we talk about it properly. In the end, this matter is still my fault...”

Old Master Lu put his hands behind his back and coughed when he heard that.

“There’s no need, no need. That... Yini, please don’t take this matter to heart. It’s not your fault. I’ve already reprimanded that kid.”

Xu Yini and her parents were completely stunned.

After all, this matter had been caused by Xu Yini with her drunk and crazy behavior. Now that the rumors were spreading, did the old man really not blame her at all?

Old Master Lu sat down on the sofa, picked up his teacup, blew on it, before speaking.

“It’s all right. Everything has been made clear. Huaiyu really likes that kid. Since that’s the case, just let him be!”

Chapter 336: Attentive

Let him go?

Xu Yini and her parents were completely stunned. They almost suspected that they had heard wrongly.

When Old Master Lu had first heard the news, he had clearly been so angry. He had even been on the phone for such a long time. So, why was he now suddenly saying to ‘let him go’?

Wasn’t this change in attitude a little too fast and too extreme?

Moreover, the person was a man!

Was Old Master Lu actually... willing to accept it?

Xu Yini muttered, “But... Grandpa Lu, that person... that person and Huaiyu, they aren’t very suitable, right?”

After all, the Lu family was an aristocratic family with meritorious deeds. How could they not care about such things?

Old Master Lu unhurriedly sipped his tea before turning to look at Xu Yini. He sighed inwardly, feeling a little disappointed.

Of course, he could see clearly what she was thinking.

In the past, his only impression of this child was that she was smart and beautiful. Although she was a little willful, she was, after all, the only daughter of the Xu family. It was understandable for her to be spoiled.

However, too much willfulness led to selfishness.

Putting aside the fact that she had gotten drunk and touched Huaiyu's book without permission, she had not come here today to apologize sincerely. It was clear that she had not completely given up and still wanted to probe further.

For this reason, she had even dragged her parents along.

Old Master Lu was not impressed with her small trick at all.

In the past, everyone had thought that Lu Huaiyu was not interested in anyone. It was not unusual for her to pursue him. In fact, she had been considered quite courageous.

However, even now that the news had spread and everyone believed that Lu Huaiyu's heart belonged to someone else, she had still come.

This matter had caused a commotion, yet Lu Huaiyu had just let it go without any intention to clarify anything at all.

Wasn't this a way to confirm to everyone that he liked the person in the hand-drawn picture?

Yet, Xu Yili still refused to give up and wanted to keep going.

Old Master Lu's expression became a little lighter, and he said, "There's no such thing as being suitable or not suitable. All that matters is that it is who Huaiyu likes."

As soon as he said this, his attitude towards the matter was clearly stated.

The living room went dead silent.

Xu Yini had thought up many excuses before, but right now, Old Master Lu's words had completely blocked her.

"As you all know, Huaiyu has always had his own ideas since he was young. He's also a prideful person. Whether he does something or not, is his choice. It's all up to his likes and dislikes. Even I can't control him, not to mention his parents.

Old Master Lu put down his teacup and spoke in a moderate tone.

"He has never been interested in anyone before. Now that he finally has someone that he cares about, I have no reason to stop him."

At this point, there was no other reason to continue.

Xu Yini's face had become mottled, and she was dazed for a long time.

She knew that Old Master Lu loved Lu Huaiyu, but she had not expected that...

Xu Rufeng glanced at her and apologized again.

Old Master Lu waved his hand, indicating that he did not care.

There was no reason for Xu Rufeng and his family to stay any longer, so they quickly got up and left.

Seeing that they had driven off, Old Master Lu returned to the living room. He stood there in deep thought for a while, then could not help himself from cursing as he laughed out loud.

“This brat has finally done something smart.”

The rumors that were spreading could just be ignored.

Anyway, he still had his granddaughter-in-law, so he could not be bothered with anything else!

...

Xu Yini sat in the back seat of the car and looked out of the window in a daze.

Before coming here, she had thought of many possibilities, but she had not expected that it would end up like this.

Old Master Lu’s words kept echoing in her ears.

‘Let him be.’

‘He has never liked anyone before. Now that he finally has someone in mind, there’s no reason for me to stop him.’

What he meant was that he did not care whether Lu Huaiyu liked men or women, as long as Lu Huaiyu liked the person.

He would rather indulge Lu Huaiyu than consider other people.

For example... her.

Even though they were of equal status and even though everyone thought they were a good match.

Even though she was infatuated with Lu Huaiyu and had worked hard to pursue him for so many years.

In Old Master Lu's eyes, she was still worthless.

She could not help but tear up, and her tears started to fall silently.

Hao Yun, who was sitting in the passenger seat, felt sorry for her daughter when she saw how sad she was.

"Yiyi, you and Huaiyu are not fated to be together. Let's just forget it!"

Lu Huaiyu was indeed an outstanding person. If not, she would not have allowed Xu Yini to chase after him all these years.

It would have been great if they could have married into the Lu family.

However, that was not an option now.

Everyone in the Capital knew that Lu Huaiyu liked men, and it was not just a casual attraction.

Under such circumstances, if Xu Yini continued to pursue him, she would undoubtedly become a joke in the entire Capital.

Xu Yini did not say anything, but her expression showed that she was clearly still unwilling to let go.

Xu Rufeng said in a deep voice, "Your mother is right. In the future, you should try your best to reduce contact with him. There are so many young prospects in the Capital, why must you hang yourself on this tree?"

Xu Yini bit her lip and refused when she heard this.

"I can't do it."

Xu Rufeng's expression became even more unpleasant.

"You can't do it? Why can't you do it? You threw a book at him, and how did he treat you? Today, you went to apologize, yet Old Master Lu just said what he said. Things have already come to this point. Don't you want to give up yet?!"

"You are the daughter of the Xu family. You could have any other man! Is Lu Huaiyu really the only one?!"

Xu Yini's tears fell even more fiercely.

Hao Yun glared at Xu Rufeng.

"Yini is extremely sad right now. Why are you being so mean to her?!"

She had liked Lu Huaiyu for such a long time. How could she give up just like that?

Besides, there was indeed only one Lu Huaiyu in the entire Capital.

Xu Rufeng was still angry.

"You like him, but he doesn't like you. What's the use of that!?"

The Lu family was even willing to accept Lu Huaiyu being with a man, without mentioning Xu Yini at all. What did this mean? Was it not clear?

If it not for the support of the Xu family, Xu Yini would have been completely banned by Lu Huaiyu!

How many people were laughing at her in secret? Didn't she know it?

Xu Yini did not want to talk anymore. She bit her lips tightly.

Of course, she knew all of this.

However, even if she knew it, it was not that easy to do.

Hao Yun sighed and said, "Yini, it just so happens that you don't have a lot of travel arrangements during this period of time. Why don't you go abroad with mom to relax?"

Xu Yini closed her eyes and leaned against the back of the seat.

This meant a rejection.

Hao Yun wanted to say something else, but she hesitated. In the end, she did not say anything at all.

...

The first day of the Chinese New Year was supposed to be extremely lively and joyful.

However, this was not what the Ye family in Yunzhou was experiencing.

Ever since Su Yuan and her childrens' return yesterday, the atmosphere in the entire villa had been very depressing.

Originally, Su Yuan had wanted to wait for the father and daughter to finish talking before she would talk to them separately.

However, they had talked for a long time in the study. Then while they were having the Chinese New Year's Eve dinner, Ye Ming and Ye Ci did not speak.

Su Yuan had not found the right opportunity.

The situation continued until the morning.

At the dining table, Ye Ming suddenly noticed the four sets of bowls and chopsticks and asked, "Where's Ning Li?"

Chapter 337: The Side View in His Memory

Yesterday, he had only been concerned about Ye Ci's results. He had certainly been in no mood to think about anything else.

It was only now that he had noticed that Ning Li had not come back with her mother.

There was a moment of silence at the dining table.

Ye Cheng pursed his lips.

"Father, why do you keep mentioning her?"

"Isn't it good that she's not here?"

Ye Ming glared at Ye Cheng. That caused Ye Cheng to shrink back, without daring to say anything more.

Su Yuan paused.

“She stayed in the Capital for the New Year.”

She said stiffly, in a timid voice.

This was the first Chinese New Year since they had brought Ning Li back from Lincheng to live with the Ye family. In the end, Ning Li had chosen to stay alone in the Capital rather than come back.

If word got out, it would not be pleasant.

Ye Ming frowned slightly.

This matter clearly made him a little unhappy, but he could not lose his temper.

“She’s all alone over there, and she’s unfamiliar with the place. How is she doing over there?”

“I think she has a friend over there as well.”

Su Yuan did not really know much about the situation. Adding to that, she did not want to talk more about Ning Li in front of Ye Ming, so she kept her answer fairly vague. “Besides, this is not the first time she’s done this. Surely, nothing will happen.”

Only then did Ye Ming remember that Ning Li had indeed made a trip to the Capital before.

He nodded.

“That’s good. But it’s the New Year, so it’s not appropriate to stay outside so much. Call her again later.”

“Okay.”

Upon hearing that he did not seem to have any intention of pursuing the matter further and that he had not vented his anger on her, Su Yuan felt relieved.

She picked up some food for Ye Ci.

“Lil Ci, did you have a good rest last night?”

Ye Ci seemed to be lost in thought as if thinking intently about something.

Su Yuan called out to her twice before she came back to her senses.

“Huh? Oh, it was pretty good. Thank you, Mom.”

Ye Ci forced a smile.

Su Yuan saw that there was a faint greenish tinge beneath her eyes and her eyes seemed to be a little bloodshot. She knew that she must not have slept well.

The final grade had indeed been... It was not unusual for her to feel uncomfortable.

Moreover, the father and daughter had talked for a long time in the study yesterday. She still did not know what Ye Ming had told his daughter.

“Lil Ci, if you are not feeling well, you should rest well at home for the next few days.”

During the Chinese New Year, the Ye family was usually extremely busy.

People came and went, and Ye Ci could not avoid being asked about her grades.

Ye Ci nodded silently.

Ye Ming glanced at her without saying anything.

...

As soon as Lu Huaiyu returned to the Lu family, he found Old Master Lu pacing back and forth in the courtyard.

It was obvious that he was waiting for him.

“You’re back?”

Old Master Lu’s voice trailed off, as his eyes fell on Lu Huaiyu. He looked as if he wanted to say something more but hesitated.

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

“So, the Xu family has left?”

“They left a long time ago.”

When Old Master Lu thought of it, he could not help but snort.

“You knew that they were coming, so you deliberately went out and waited for them to leave before coming back, didn’t you?”

“It was more important to send Ah Li off,” Lu Huaiyu said and laughed. “Since I didn’t want to see them anyway, it was just a coincidental fringe benefit.”

He had always been arrogant and difficult to please. It did not matter even if it was the Xu family, if he did not want to give them face, he would not give them face.

Old Master Lu choked for a moment, but he could not do anything about it.

“You brat, you sure have a lot of free time, leaving me here to deal with the trouble!”

Lu Huaihe raised his eyebrows.

“I thought you would be quite happy to do it.”

Old Master Lu’s thoughts were exposed, and his slight embarrassment showed on his face.

“If it weren’t for Ah Li, do you think I would be willing to help you clean up this mess!?”

As he spoke, he glanced at Lu Huaiyu again.

“However, that hand-drawing...”

Lu Huaiyu said, “You won’t be able to see it today. It’s at the Rongyue Residence.”

“Who said I wanted to see it?”

Old Master Lu immediately retorted.

“I... I was just asking casually! Didn’t you say that the picture was of Ah Li? So many people misidentified her, yet you don’t even want to think about it!”

Lu Huaiyu lowered his eyes slightly, and there seemed to be a surge of emotions in the depths of his deep phoenix eyes.

After a moment, he laughed.

“At that time, she was very young, with short hair. She was very thin, so, understandably, people misunderstood.

Old Master Lu had never seen that hand drawing before, so he did not understand the situation. However, he had seen Ah Li before and he could see that the child was beautiful. Even if she had short hair, surely she would not have been mistaken for a boy, right?

As if seeing through his thoughts, Lu Huaiyu explained with a smile, “That hand drawing only showed her profile. It doesn’t depict her full appearance.”

Old Master Lu understood.

“I see... But you’ve been thinking about her for so long. I thought it was her entire appearance, but actually... it was only her profile?”

Lu Huaiyu’s brows twitched slightly, but he did not say anything.

After a long while, his thin lips curved into an extremely faint smile.

He had only remembered her profile, so of course, that was all he had been able to produce.

Old Master Lu looked at him. He seemed to have thought of something, and the expression on his face faded.

After a long while, he sighed.

“It’s fine. It’s definitely her then.”

...

Lu Huaiyu returned to his bedroom.

He went to the bookshelf and took the book down.

This book was old and clearly had been flipped through many times. However, it was clear that its owner had treasured it very much.

“The Physical Universe”

This was an entry-level book on astrophysics.

He recalled the books that Ning Li had borrowed, as well as how Jiang Ran had said that she was the one who had sent Ning Li to Taihe...

His fingers tapped lightly on the book. After a long time, he finally took his phone out and made a call.

The other party quickly picked up.

“Huaiyu?”

Chapter 338: Was Taught by Senior Brother Lu

The people in the Capital branch of Fino laboratory all knew Lu Huaiyu.

Or rather, they had all heard of this name before.

Therefore, it was a very simple matter for Lu Huaiyu to come and ask for some information.

“I want to enquire about someone,” Lu Huaiyu said.

The other party jokingly asked, “For you to make a personal inquiry... Could it be about Junior Sister Jiang?”

After all, Jiang Ran had just returned to the country from the headquarters, recently. The timing of Lu Huaiyu’s call was too coincidental.

“If you really want to know, wouldn’t it be better to ask her directly?”

Lu Huaiyu remained calm.

“It’s not about her. The person I want to ask about is called Ning Li.”

The other party was a little surprised.

“Ning Li? You mean... the one who entered the data processing room a few days ago?”

Lu Huaiyu paused for a moment and answered without batting an eyelid.

“Yes.”

The data processing room of Fino laboratory was extremely confidential. Not even their own staff were automatically qualified to enter.

He had guessed that Ning Li had gone there, but he had not expected her to enter the data processing room directly.

“Do you know her?”

“Yes.”

“This...” The other party’s voice sounded a little awkward. “Huaiyu, her experimental confidentiality level is at S-rank. I’m sorry, I can’t reveal all the relevant data and content.”

Lu Huaiyu was no longer a member of Fino Laboratory. Moreover, this level was not something that ordinary scientists could come into contact with and understand.

“I’ve only heard Reya mention it once. Apparently, she had previously published an article in the sub-journal of “The Universe”.”

“The Universe” was the top journal in the physics world.

Even if it was a sub-journal, the approval standards were extremely strict.

However, because this kind of journal was so specialized, only relevant researchers would pay attention to it.

Outside of that circle, the outside world probably did not care at all.

Lu Huaiyu narrowed his eyes slightly.

“Which issue?”

“I happen to have one here. Can I send it to you later?”

“There’s no need. I’ll just pick it up myself.”

“Are you in such a hurry? Alright, you’re welcome to come.

“However, since you specifically asked about her, I don’t think that your relationship with her is an ordinary one, right? How is it that you don’t even know about this matter?”

Hearing this, Lu Huaiyu and the corners of their lips curled up into an extremely faint smile.

“Isn’t it starting to be clear now?”

...

During the Chinese New Year holiday, only a handful of Fino Laboratory’s people were on duty.

When Lu Huaiyu arrived, Yang Xun was already waiting at the door.

He had also been a student of Xijing University and had been in the same year as Lu Huaiyu. After he graduated with his PhD, he had entered the Capital branch of Fino Laboratory.

When he saw Lu Huaiyu, he greeted him with a smile.

“I can’t believe that a book is actually worth you making a personal trip, Second Master Lu.”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows.

“Senior Brother Lu?”

A familiar voice sounded.

Yang Xun heard the voice and turned to greet Jiang Ran.

“Junior Sister Jiang, are you off work now?”

Jiang Ran had not expected to meet Lu Huaiyu here, so a hint of surprise flashed across her face.

She nodded at Yang Xun.

“Senior Brother Yang.”

She walked over, her dimple faintly visible on her cheek.

Although she did not wear makeup, she was generous and gentle, with a bit of a scholarly aura. She made people feel very comfortable and was a beauty with a temperament.

“Senior Brother Lu, we meet again.”

Although Yang Xun was also from Xijing University, he had not been in the same high school as them, so he had not gone to their gathering.

“Why did Senior Brother Lu think to come here today?”

Jiang Ran asked curiously.

Yang Xun smiled.

“You wouldn’t have guessed it, but he came here to borrow some books.”

Jiang Ran’s gaze fell on his hand. Sure enough, he had a book in his bag.

It seemed... a little familiar.

“Isn’t this—”

She suddenly thought of something and laughed.

“Senior Brother Lu, you should have this book, shouldn’t you? Why did you need to borrow it from Senior Brother Yang?”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows slightly.

“Why should I have it?”

“Hmm?”

Jiang Ran was a little surprised to hear him say that.

“This... Senior Brother Lu, weren’t you the one who guided Ning Li on the paper that she published here?”

On the day of the gathering, Lu Huaiyu had said that Ning Li was his own child, which had greatly surprised her.

However, after she had gone home, she had thought about it carefully and felt that it was very reasonable.

Ning Li was only seventeen years old. For her to be able to write a thesis of that standard, she had to have been guided by someone.

Previously, she had thought that this person was Xu Yin, but Xu Yin's research direction was not the same as Ning Li's thesis.

That meant that it had to have been Lu Huaiyu.

Although Lu Huaiyu had already left the headquarters in Bai City several years ago and was not engaged in any related research, he had, after all, been the second Chinese person to be accepted by the headquarters.

His qualifications and abilities were obvious.

Jiang Ran smiled.

"When she came over the other day, I could hear that her English accent seemed to be very similar to Senior Brother Lu's. Initially, I had thought that it was just a coincidence. I didn't expect—"

Her dimple deepened.

"I even joked at the time that I wanted to introduce you to her at some point. However, the child didn't mention that you guys knew each other. I didn't know that I was mistaken.

Lu Huaiyu narrowed his eyes.

Jiang Ran's eyes lit up as she smiled.

"I knew it. How else could it have been so similar, other than that she had been taught by Senior Brother Lu himself?"

Lu Huaiyu was silent for a moment. Then, he said calmly, "No."

Jiang Ran was stunned. "What?"

“I didn’t teach her to speak English, and I didn’t guide her on her published paper.”

Jiang Ran was stunned.

Lu Huaiyu took the magazine from Yang Xun, seemingly uninterested in talking anymore.

“I’ll be taking these things away now then.”

Yang Xun pointed to the back.

“Don’t you want to go in to take a look?”

It was not easy to get Lu Huaiyu to come here, and he wanted to take the opportunity to ask Lu Huaiyu to take a look at the progress of his experiment. Recently, he had been stuck at a particular point, without making any progress for a long time.

Lu Huaiyu waved the book in his hand.

“No.”

Yang Xun felt a little regretful, but he also knew that Lu Huaiyu’s focus was not here, so he did not continue to persuade him.

“Then, let’s meet again another day.”

Lu Huaiyu nodded, turned around, and was about to leave.

Jiang Ran could not help but call out, “Senior Brother Lu.”

Lu Huaiyu stood still and turned his head to look at her indifferently.

Jiang Ran actually had a lot of things that she wanted to say.

From the beginning to the end of the gathering, she had only spoken a few words to him, and it had all been about Ning Li.

She did not chase after him passionately like most others, because she knew very well that Lu Huaiyu was used to that kind of behavior and did not appreciate it.

Sometimes, it was more appropriate to maintain a proper distance.

She smiled and said, "Senior Brother Lu, see you next time."

...

Lu Huaiyu returned to the Lu family home, went into his bedroom, and took the book out.

He stared at the cover for a while.

Suddenly, his phone rang.

It was Ning Li's phone.

He pressed the answer button and placed his other hand on the book, opening the first page.

"Second Brother."

Ning Li's voice sounded.

“Is it convenient for you to talk now? I have something to tell you.”

Lu Huaiyu paused his hand.

“Yes, go ahead.”

Ning Li was silent for a long time.

Lu Huaiyu seemed to sense something and waited patiently.

Then, Ning Li continued.

“The thing you asked me in the study... The reason Jiang Ran gave me a lift that day, was because I had gone to Fino Laboratory to get the data processing results.”

Chapter 339: Audition

This matter was actually very simple.

A few years ago, Xu Yin’s laboratory had established a small astronomical observation station in Lincheng to record data.

By chance, Ning Li had been specially recruited to help him complete the relevant records.

Later, when Xu Yin returned to the capital, this small observation station had been completely taken over by Ning Li.

All the data for her thesis had come from there.

That was how the thesis had been born.

This time, she had gone to the Fino Laboratory because the equipment of the observation station had been too old and could not process the data.

In fact, from the beginning, Ning Li had not intended on hiding this matter, especially from Lu Huaiyu.

He had a close relationship with Fino Laboratory, so if he wanted to investigate anything, it would not take much effort.

She just had not expected that this matter would be accidentally exposed because of Jiang Ran.

“...and that’s about it.” Ning Li said.

Lu Huaiyu had already flipped open the book.

The second article was her thesis, which took up a huge amount of space.

First Author: Ning Li.

Communication Author: Xu Yin.

Lu Huaiyu stared at Ning Li’s name for a long time.

Actually, he should have noticed it a long time ago.

After all, she had borrowed the German original when they had been in Yunzhou.

Ning Li was a little nervous when she heard no sound coming from him.

“Second Brother? Are you still listening?”

“Hmm.” Lu Huaiyu replied before suddenly smiling.

“So at that time, you even deliberately took away the Chinese translation?”

Ning Li, “...”

Wasn't it because he was worried that she would not be able to understand it, that he had taken the initiative to bring it up?

However, in the end, she had been mistaken.

“So now, are you still following Teacher Xu Yin?” Lu Huaiyu asked.

Ning Li paused.

“Sort of.”

Actually, Xu Yin had only provided a general direction. The specific ideas and experimental plan had all been designed by her.

Needless to say, Lu Huaiyu should have been able to guess it.

Ning Li lowered her voice slightly.

“Second Brother, are you angry?”

Lu Huaiyu laughed.

“Why should I be angry?”

As he spoke, he closed the book and looked up at the bookshelf.

The book with the blood-red thumbprint was placed onto it quietly.

“Since you like it, just do it. But—”

Lu Huaiyu then changed the topic.

“I heard from Jiang Ran that your English accent is a little similar to mine?”

Ning Li’s heart tightened.

“This... She mentioned this to me before as well. I guess it’s just a coincidence.”

Lu Huaiyu’s lips curved into a slight smile.

“That’s quite a coincidence.”

...

After hanging up, Ning Li put down her phone.

She got up and went to the balcony.

It was already evening and the clouds in the sky looked as if they had been dyed a warm orange.

Ning Li stood for a while and found that the snow on the road had begun to melt.

Pedestrians were coming and going.

'Your accent sounds like his.'

At that time, Jiang Ran seemed to accept that it was just a coincidence.

Lu Huaiyu did not seem to care too much.

Only she knew the truth.

It was not a coincidence.

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In the next few days, Ning Li spent almost all her time at Shuiyuan Shijia.

She spent part of her time doing questions and part of her time painting.

In addition, she also communicated with George about the contents of the Spring and Summer series for G&S.

Su Yuan had called twice to urge her to go back home.

Ning Li ignored her.

On the morning of the seventh day of the Lunar New Year, Ning Li took a taxi to the G&S headquarters.

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As soon as she arrived at the gate, Ning Li saw a long line at the side door.

All the girls in the line were young and tall.

It was still very cold in the Capital today, but most of the girls were wearing very little clothing. At a glance, all of them had straight and slender long legs.

Some of them were so cold that their lips had turned purple, but they continued to persist as they held their resumes in their hands.

Ning Li understood.

The G&S Spring/Summer press conference was in the midst of its preparations, and all of these girls were here for the model audition.

Ning Li was facing a bit of a headache. She had made an arrangement with George for someone to pick her up from the side door today, where they would take a special passageway to go directly to the press conference office inside.

However, she had not known that their interview had been scheduled for today, and it was being held right here.

However, she still had to go in.

Ning Li carried her bag and walked over.

Very quickly, someone noticed her.

Ning Li's current height was close to 1.7 meters. Coupled with her excellent body proportions, she looked even taller.

Even compared to the girls who had come for the interview, her height was still quite impressive.

Most importantly, her face was extremely eye-catching.

Some of the girls immediately became vigilant and started sizing her up, with a hint of hostility in their eyes.

Ning Li pretended not to see and walked straight forward.

She came to the side door and was about to enter when she was stopped by someone.

"Wait.

A girl had blocked her way.

"Didn't anyone teach you how to queue?"

Ning Li frowned slightly and looked inside the side door.

The person who was meant to pick her up did not seem to have arrived yet.

The girl's expression became even more unfriendly.

“Everyone is waiting in line. It’s not appropriate for you to come here directly, is it?”

The girl was not wearing makeup, but she was really beautiful.

Ning Li explained, “I’m not here for the interview.”

The girl was skeptical.

If she was not here for the interview, then what other reason could she be here for?

She looked like she was only 17 or 18 years old, and possessed such a figure and appearance...

“Then tell me, what are you here for? You can’t possibly be here for work, right?”

Ning Li paused, as it was not easy for her to reply.

Seeing that Ning Li was not saying anything, the girl crossed her arms and sneered.

“Do you think that by using a little trick to get in early, you’ll have a chance of getting in?”

Suddenly, the sound of fans screaming came from not far away.

Everyone looked over and saw a nanny van slowly driving towards the gate of G&S.

A few bodyguards exited the van and proceeded to protect one person.

The surrounding fans became even more enthusiastic.

It was Xu Yini.

Chapter 340: Wait

She was wearing a slim red overcoat, that revealed her slender calves. On her legs were a pair of black stiletto boots, a pair of sunglasses over her face, and a plum-colored lipstick on her lips. Her long chestnut curls fell over her shoulders, and she looked beautiful.

Several bodyguards shielded her as she stood in the middle, as a horde of fans surrounded them while holding light sticks and banners, as they shouted Xu Yini's name.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

"Happy New Year!"

"Woo... You're so beautiful!"

Xu Yini's lips curved very lightly. She waved her hand gently to the left and right respectively. Then she walked towards the gate of G&S under the guidance of her manager.

Suddenly, she seemed to notice something and turned to look in Ning Li's direction.

The earlier girl had taken half a step forward, blocking half of Ning Li's figure.

"What are you looking at? Do you think that you are Xu Yini and that you can enter and exit G&S as you please?"

Ning Li retracted her gaze.

Xu Yini frowned slightly.

Mei Li saw that she had paused for a moment and immediately asked, “Yini, what’s wrong?”

Xu Yini came back to her senses and said, “Nothing.”

She must have been mistaken in what she had seen. Why would Ning Li come here?

As she spoke, she did not linger outside and quickly stepped through the door.

Fans were not allowed to enter, so the noise was quickly cut off.

After taking a few steps, Xu Yini asked, “Are all those girls outside here for the audition to participate in the Spring and Summer Series’ press conference?”

Mei Li nodded.

“Yes. G&S is placing a lot of importance on this show. From the design team to the models, all of them are being carefully selected, especially the models. This time, Ning will be the only featured designer in this show. In order to meet its design philosophy to the highest degree, G&S specially organized this audition. The competition is very fierce.”

G&S was a luxury brand. There were countless models who would struggle their whole lives and still not be able to get the chance to walk for a G&S show.

Not to mention, the main designer this time would be Ning.

The previous success of the “Flower and the Moon” series had also made this unknown designer famous.

Now, not only in the fashion industry but also in the modeling industry and even in the entertainment industry, there were countless people who wanted to associate themselves with Ning.

Hadn't they witnessed Tang Wei's meteoric success after she had finished that big show?

Nowadays, all kinds of fashion and business opportunities were pouring in, which made many people envious.

Therefore, this model audition had attracted many people to compete.

"Other than these models, there are several female actresses in the industry who are interested in going on the runway as well."

Mei Li lowered her voice.

"As far as I know, these are B-list celebrities."

As A-list female celebrities were already currently popular, they were too embarrassed to take part in G&S's show because G&S already had a brand ambassador which was Tang Wei.

If they were to come and share the stage with Tang Wei, it would be as if they were demoting themselves.

Moreover, most of them were already endorsing other luxury brands anyway, so it would be even more inconvenient for them to collaborate with G&S.

However, it was different for the B-listers.

For them, it was worth the try, even if they had to go on stage to partner up with Tang Wei.

After all, this was G&S.

Just to be able to align with them would mean a complete win.

Moreover, if they could share the limelight on stage and overshadow Tang Wei, they would then be able to publicize themselves and hype up their own popularity.

Who would not want to be involved in such a business that was guaranteed to be profitable?

Xu Yini sneered when she heard that.

With her current status, she did not need to compete for a runway opportunity like these people.

She had come today for another matter.

Mei Li glanced at her and gave her a gentle reminder.

“Don’t worry, I’ve already asked around. The Crown Prince of G&S has been in the Capital recently. In addition, Ning will be coming today to discuss the G&S Spring & Summer Series press conference. Edmund said that if there’s an opportunity, he will introduce us.”

Upon hearing this, Xu Yini pursed her lips into a straight line.

Yes, the reason she had come here today was for George and Ning.

After the incident at LaTuie Winery the other day, all of HG’s stores across the country had removed all of her endorsements overnight.

Including Esya’s high-end jewelry series, all seven of the endorsements that she carried had been removed.

She had an extraordinary family background and a very high starting point, so the endorsements that she had signed on to had also very impressive.

For example, Esya jewelry, as well as a few famous brands' sunglasses, makeup series, and so on.

Now that HG had withdrawn their endorsement, these brands had also been greatly affected.

In addition, Lu Huaiyu had already ordered the entire Lu Group to stop all cooperation with Huanxing Entertainment and adopt a half-ban policy on all of its artistes. Thus, the news that Xu Yini had offended the Second Master of the Lu family had spread like wildfire.

The Xu family and the Lu family had been friends for many years, but in the end, the Lu family still had the upper hand over the Xu family.

In the past, there had been rumors that Xu Yini would very likely marry the Second Master of the Lu family, so everyone had treated her with some respect.

Who would have thought that such a thing would suddenly happen?

Everyone knew that the Second Master of the Lu family was the true person in charge of the Lu family.

It was clear to all that this big action on the Lu family's part was due to him alone.

Xu Yini had to have truly angered him. Why else would he not show any mercy?

If not for the backing of the Xu family, Xu Yini would probably have disappeared from the entertainment industry by now.

Even so, this incident had still greatly damaged Xu Yini's shine.

She still had several endorsement partners, but they had already made it clear that when their contracts expired, they would not renew them with her.

Therefore, she was feeling very anxious and needed to find an endorsement of the same level or even higher to replace it as soon as possible.

G&S was the best choice.

Tang Wei was their company's brand ambassador. However, it was only limited to the high-order ready-to-wear series.

Their company's line of jewelry, bags, and so on, were still unrepresented.

Xu Yini had come today to try to discuss with them about a possible collaboration in this aspect.

In addition, she also hoped to be able to connect with Ning.

If she could somehow form a relationship with that person and even form a partnership, at least she could salvage her fashion resources.

A few staff members came out to welcome her.

The one who walked in front was a young woman who looked to be in her twenties.

"Miss Xu, I'm sorry. Mr. Edmund is still busy at the moment and can't get away for the time being, so he asked me to escort you to the lounge first."

Xu Yini frowned slightly.

If he was so busy, would it mean that she would not even have the time to come out and meet with her?

Mei Li sensed her displeasure and immediately smiled.

“It’s okay, we can wait. Please lead the way.”

The young woman nodded.

“This way, please.”

...

Outside, at the side door.

Ning Li glanced in the direction of the main door again and saw that Xu Yini’s figure had already disappeared.

She had come to G&S...

“What are you still looking at? She’s Xu Yini, after all. If you have the same qualifications as her, you can enter directly. If you don’t, then you should go to the back of the line now, understand?”

Ning Li looked calmly at the girl in front of her.

“I already said that I’m not here for the audition.”

However, the other girl obviously did not believe her. She looked Ning Li up and down and sneered.

“If you’re not here for the audition, then you can’t go in at all.”

“Next!” The staff inside shouted.

The girl’s eyes lit up. “Coming!”

As she spoke, she walked past Ning Li and intentionally bumped into her shoulder.

Ning Li frowned slightly, but she did not want to cause any trouble. She took half a step back and made way.

After all, she had not come here to fight with them over this.

Seeing this, the girl sneered and was about to push the door open.

A hurried sound of footsteps came from inside.

“Wait!”