

## Little Brat's 341

### Chapter 341: Ning Also Came

The person who had just come was a young man who looked to be in his twenties.

He was wearing a nice suit and his hair was neatly combed back. He was a handsome man who exuded an elite aura.

When they saw him, the staff members who were in charge of the auditing process at the door all stood up and greeted him politely and earnestly.

“Assistant Liang.”

When they heard this name, the ten or so girls who were standing the closest to the entrance were delighted.

Assistant Liang had to be Liang Yue, who was the senior assistant to George, who was the heir to M&S, right?

Liang Yue nodded slightly at those people and then looked out of the door.

The girl who was standing at the front immediately straightened her shoulders and raised her chin slightly. The corners of her lips curled up into a perfect arc, and her voice was sweet and soft:

“Hello, Assistant Liang.”

Liang Yue was close to George, so of course, he also had a lot of influence.

If he liked her, perhaps she would have a better chance of being selected later.

However, Liang Yue's gaze only briefly swept across her body before quickly looking behind her.

It was as if he was looking for someone.

The girl was stunned.

She thought that her appearance was pretty good, so why had this Assistant Liang not looked at her at all?

Then, Liang Yue called out to the right of her.

"Miss Ning?"

As soon as he said that, everyone in the vicinity looked over.

Ning Li had seen Liang Yue come out and guessed his identity.

She nodded slightly at him.

"Assistant Liang."

Liang Yue took a few steps forward and passed the stunned girl who was standing at the front. He stood in front of Ning Li with an apologetic expression and bowed.

"I'm sorry I'm late. Please forgive me."

There was a dead silence both on the inside and outside of the side door.

The girl who had stopped Ning Li earlier looked even more shocked.

This, this girl...

Ning Li shook her head.

"It's okay."

She had thought that George would just find someone random to come, but he had sent Liang Yue directly.

As expected, he had always been over-the-top.

Liang Yue turned sideways and raised his hand.

"Please—"

Ning Li nodded and walked inside.

Liang Yue said to the staff members standing there, "You guys may continue."

"Yes."

They immediately agreed.

After Liang Yue finished giving his instructions, he took a few quick steps and caught up with Ning Li. He walked half a step in front of her and led the way for her with a respectful attitude.

The two figures quickly disappeared inside the building, leaving the people at the scene still in deep shock and disbelief, unable to recover from their shock for a long time.

“Next.”

One of the staff members in charge of the audit repeated the call and reminded the stunned girl.

“Resume.”

The girl suddenly came to her senses and subconsciously handed over her resume.

The staff member looked at it.

“Mi Shang?”

The girl nodded nervously.

However, her eyes were still looking in the direction of where Ning Li and the guy had left.

Finally, she could not help but ask, “Hello, I would like to ask... Did that girl just go straight in?”

The staff member glanced at her and smiled.

“Assistant Liang came to pick her up personally, so what do you think?”

If she could not tell, then she had to be blind.

Mi Shang seemed to have realized that her question was too stupid, and her face was mottled in embarrassment.

“But, but...”

That girl looked like she was only seventeen or eighteen years old. What kind of identity did she have that she was so important?

Then.. had she just completely offended him?

...

Liang Yue led Ning Li to the large conference room on the sixteenth floor.

On this floor, only people above the level of Supervisor in G&S could come up.

Liang Yue knocked on the door and walked in with Ning Li.

George was already waiting in the conference room.

When he saw Ning Li, a smile appeared on his beautiful face, looking especially gentle and affectionate.

“My dear, you’re finally here. Do you know how difficult it’s been for me to wait for you?”

Ning Li was immune to his attacks. She just walked over and sat down beside the conference table.

Liang Yue retreated and closed the door.

“I’m quite pressed for time.

Ning Li said straightforwardly,

“So, I hope your company is more efficient.”

“It makes me sad when you speak so insensitively.”

George clicked his tongue.

“You’re the main designer of this show. Why do you make it seem like we’re in charge of everything?”

The corner of Ning Li’s lips curved slightly.

“If you’re willing to give me ten percent more profit, I can put in more of an effort.”

Josie’s smile remained. He blinked and his clear sky-blue eyes sparkled.

“Why are you being so formal with me? Come, let’s take a look at the proposal for the press conference.”

As he spoke, he picked up a small remote control and pressed it.

A huge poster immediately appeared on the projection screen in the conference room.

“The theme this time was chosen based on the drawing that you sent earlier. This is the theme poster. Take a look.”

Ning Li looked up and nodded.

These had been communicated to her before. G&S had sent her several versions for her to choose from, and this was the final refined version.

G&S had always been very good at aesthetics and efficiency in this aspect.

George switched to the next one.

“This is the concept map of the venue layout. I’ve made some modifications. What else do you see that needs some improvement?”

Ning Li looked at it and suddenly noticed a small screen window at the lower right corner of the screen.

“What’s that?”

George laughed.

“Did you mean this? This is the surveillance footage of today’s model audition.”

Ning Li looked at him.

George shrugged.

“You’re the main designer, so of course you know best what kind of people suit those clothes the most.

“We need a total of twenty models this time. Apart from Tang Wei, there are still nineteen more to be decided. Edmund and the others are in charge of the on-site audition, but the final choice is in your hands.”

“Shall we begin then?”

...

At the same time, the audition venue was being held on the ninth floor.

Quite a number of models had already entered. Each of them had numbers pinned to their waists and were arranged in order.

Five G&S interviewers sat in the middle, including Edmund.

The room was very quiet.

Mi Shang pinned her own sign on and sat down in the second-to-last row.

She looked around and could not help but look at a model who had arrived earlier than her.

She asked in a low voice, "Hello, may I ask if the audition has not started yet?"

The girl nodded, her expression excited and nervous at the same time.

"I heard that Ning is coming today and will be personally screening the models! Everyone is waiting for her!"

Chapter 342: Invites You Out (5pm)

Mi Shang was shocked and could not believe it.

"Ning? The designer from the Flower and Moon Series?"

"Yeah, who else could it be?"

The model lowered her voice.

"Those who came in earlier have already waited for half an hour. However, Ning didn't come, which meant that the audition couldn't start yet. Look, they're all waiting!"

At first, they had not even known that Ning would be coming today.



They had only gotten the news after waiting for a while.

They were willing to wait for the G&S audition no matter how long it took, so half an hour was nothing.

What's more, apparently Ning would be coming this time?

Mi Shang also felt nervous and excited at the same time.

"Didn't Ning say that she doesn't want to make her identity public? She didn't show up at all at the last press conference. How come this time..."

As she asked, she looked around carefully to try and catch a glimpse of the rumored designer.

The model beside her could not help but laugh when she saw her reaction.

"You can stop looking. She's here, but she won't be making an appearance here."

"What?"

"See that camera over there? Everything on our side will be broadcast live. On the surface, it looks like Edmund and the others are in charge of the interview. However, in the end, the person behind the camera will be making the final decision."

Hearing this, Mi Shang finally understood.

It was also at this moment that she realized that the models who had been waiting here for a long time, including the one next to her, had been constantly maintaining their best posture.

It was no wonder they were on their best behavior. It was because they were being observed through the camera.

She immediately shut up and straightened her back, afraid that if she did not perform well, that person would see her and eliminate her.

Just then, Edmund, who was sitting in the middle, touched the Bluetooth earpiece on his ear and nodded in response.

In the quiet room, his reply was exceptionally clear.

Everyone focused their attention.

Edmund raised his head and looked up.

“Let’s begin.”

...

In the lounge.

Xu Yini sat down on the sofa and took off her sunglasses.

She was wearing a lot of makeup today, but upon closer inspection, she could still see that her eyes were a little red and swollen, and she did not look very well. She looked very haggard.

After she had returned from the Lu family the other day, she had not slept well for several days.

Whether it was Lu Huaiyu’s swift and decisive actions or Old Master Lu’s attitude, all of it was hard for her to accept.

In addition to the pressure from the Lu Corporation, she had recently failed to negotiate with many of her collaboration partners, and she was under a lot of pressure.

Today, when she had come to G&S, she had deliberately worn a red coat and lipstick to make her complexion look better.

However, the effect was limited.

She looked fine while she was wearing sunglasses. However, once they were removed, the signs of her stress were very obvious at a close distance.

Mei Li poured her a cup of hot water.

“Yini, did you not sleep well again yesterday?”

Xu Yini nodded listlessly, and a hint of tiredness and impatience appeared between her brows.

Mei Li looked hesitant.

Although she did not know much about the situation between the Lu and Xu families, she was a gold-medal agent in the circle with a lot of connections. Therefore, she had also heard about what had happened that night at the LaTuie Winery.

Initially, she had thought that it was strange. Although Second Master Lu was not interested in Xu Yini, he had never used such a method before.

Now, he had even half-banned her...

It was not until she had enquired about the situation that she had understood.

That matter had caused a stir. It was no wonder that the Second Master Lu had been so merciless.

Moreover, it was because of this matter that Xu Yini had been in a very bad state during this period of time.

This had indeed been Xu Yini's fault.

However, she was still Xu Yini's manager, so of course, she still had to stand on Xu Yini's side.

"Yini, don't think too much. The public relations department has already tried its best to suppress the news. As long as it's handled well, there won't be too much of an impact in the future. If today's negotiation with G&S is successful, it will completely make up for the endorsements that you lost previously.

"As time goes on, if you produce more work, everyone will naturally forget about what happened during this period of time."

Xu Yini nodded her head weakly.

Of course, she understood the logic. It was just that she still felt uncomfortable and unable to cross that threshold yet.

She looked at the time and her mood became more and more agitated.

"It's already been so long. Why isn't Edmund here yet?"

Merry said, "I just heard from their people that Edmund will be conducting the audition today, so he might come over later."

If that was the case, then there really was no other way.

All she could do was wait.

Xu Yini could only be patient and continue to wait.

...

After another half an hour had passed, Xu Yini felt that she could not bear to wait any longer.

“Where are they conducting the audition? I think I’ll go over and take a look.”

Mei Li felt that it was not very appropriate.

“Yini, you’re different from them. Why do you have to go over? We can just wait here.”

However, Xu Yini had been in a constant bad mood lately. She was so upset that she did not want to wait any longer.

She put on her sunglasses.

“It’s just an audition. So what if I go and take a look?”

As she said that, she opened the door.

The sound of high heels on the ground could be heard from the corridor outside. There were also a few young girls discussing something.

“What a pity. I thought I would be able to see Ning today! Even though I was not selected, at least I would have been able to see Ning in person. Then this trip wouldn’t be a loss!”

“Sigh, not only did we not see her, we didn’t even hear a sound.”

“I’m really envious of those two who have already been selected. To be able to catch Ning’s eye and participate in this G&S show, their net worth would undoubtedly be different in the future...”

As they spoke, they walked away.

Xu Yini pulled open the door and walked towards the audition room on the ninth floor.

Mei Li hurriedly followed behind.

...

There was a gap in the door of the audition venue.

The models who had been selected stayed behind, while the ones who had been eliminated gradually left one after another.

Xu Yini knocked on the door and pushed it open without waiting for an answer before walking in.

Everyone looked over at her.

Xu Yini looked at Edmund and smiled.

“Hi, Edmund, are you still busy?”

She was walking in as she spoke.

Edmund’s hand touched the Bluetooth earpiece and said, “I’m sorry, Miss Xu. This is an audition venue. Only interviewees are allowed in.

“So, I need to ask you to please leave.”

## Chapter 343: Elimination

The hall was very quiet, so Edmund’s words were extremely clear.

He had spoken in German, which most people did not understand, but Xu Yini did.

The smile on her lips suddenly froze, and for a moment, she almost thought that she had heard wrong.

All this time, her relationship with Edmund had always been very good, and he had expressed his appreciation for her more than once.

She had not expected Edmund to say such words to her in front of so many people on this occasion.

He had not given her any face at all.

Many of the surrounding models secretly exchanged glances.

“Isn’t that Xu Yini? Why is she here? Could it be that she wants to take part in G&S’s big show as well?”

“How is that possible? Currently, she is already popular. Why would she come to fight for such a small opportunity?”

“That might not be the case. I heard that she had competed with Tang Wei for the position of G&S’s brand ambassador before, but it didn’t work out in the end. She came here in such an ostentatious manner today. She must be here for the collaboration with G&S! However, she’s a first-tier celebrity with a good family background. We can’t possibly compare to her!”

“What did Edmund say to her just now? Did any of you understand? I thought that they had a pretty good relationship—”

All sorts of discussions rang out. Xu Yini heard most of them and her expression became even more unsightly.

“Miss Xu?”

Seeing that she had not given any reaction, a female member of the panel sitting next to Edmund called out again.

She thought that Xu Yini had not understood Edmund, so she translated his words.

“Mr. Edmund said that this is the audition venue and no one is allowed to enter unless they are involved in the audition process. So, please leave first.”

As soon as these words were said, all the voices in the venue instantly went silent.

The air froze.

Everyone looked at Xu Yini with different expressions.

Some were surprised, some were mocking, and some gloated over her misfortune.

They had thought that she was so amazing. She had just casually strolled in and acted as if she was very close to Edmund. However, in the end... she was being chased out in public, just like that?

Xu Yini gritted her teeth, but Edmund did not look like he had any intention of speaking up for her.



In the meeting room on the sixteenth floor, Ning Li watched this scene calmly.

George leaned against the chair with a smile on his handsome and exquisite face.

“Edmund, it seems that Miss Xu doesn’t know you well enough.”

Edmund was a very talented person. He was passionately creative, but at the same time, he was very clear about the distinction between love and hate. He was also exceptionally stubborn.

Thus, his likes and dislikes were usually very obvious.

Whether it was for a piece of fabric, a button, a manuscript, or a person.

Edmund did have a good impression of Xu Yini.

After all, she was pure and beautiful, and she was good at talking.

That was why he had agreed to help Xu Yili.

However, he had a bottom line: when he was working, he would never allow anyone to disturb him.

Xu Yini had not followed the rules. She had crossed the line by coming in without an invitation.

In Xu Yini’s eyes, she and Edmund had a good relationship. All she had done was just to come and say hello. She did not think it was a big deal.

For Edmund, however, this was not the case.

George's words had a deeper meaning. Xu Yini had been in frequent contact with Edmund for some time. To be able to make him like her so much, it was obvious that she had done intentionally something.

George had turned a blind eye to it so far. He knew that Edmund had a clear distinction between public and private affairs, so he did not care.

But now, Xu Yini actually thought that with this little bit of friendship, she could enter and leave the G&S audition venue as she pleased. She really thought too highly of herself.

Edmund frowned even more and repeated his second sentence.

This time, everyone knew what he meant.

Xu Yini came to her senses and forced a smile.

"I'm sorry to have disturbed you, please continue."

As she said that, she turned around and left, holding back straight and her chin slightly raised.

Her high heels made a pattering sound as she walked across the floor.

Her attitude was just as arrogant when she entered the room.

However, to everyone present, no matter how she acted now, it only emphasized her bad behavior.

Ever since Xu Yini had made her debut, her journey had always been smooth sailing. With the support of various resources, wherever she had gone, it had been a glorious experience.

Who would have thought that she would actually receive a slap in the face in the G&S Headquarters building today?

The female interviewer next to Edmund shouted, "Number 57, Mi Shang."

Hearing her name, Mi Shang's heart tightened. She immediately took a deep breath, adjusted her posture and expression, and walked forward.

There were two parts to the interview.

One was a runway show, and the other was a random question-and-answer session.

Mi Shang stopped in the middle position after she had finished walking.

A few interviewers raised three questions one after another.

Ning Li's gaze swept across the surveillance screen.

She could see her nervousness through the screen.

A model with such a bad mentality would not be selected.

Sure enough, in the next moment, the female interviewer was the first to give her opinion.

—Eliminated.

A trace of disappointment and panic flashed across Mi Shang's face.

The remaining few also gave their opinions one after another.

All five interviewers had chosen to eliminate her.

"I'm sorry, Miss Mi Shang, you and G&S are not a good match," said the female interviewer.

Mi Shang's eyes were red, and she felt extremely uncomfortable.

So many had come to be auditioned and most of them had been eliminated. However, she was the first one to be eliminated by all five interviewers.

There was nothing more shameful and humiliating than this.

Her voice had already taken on a crying tone as she said, "Thank you, I understand."

After saying that, she hurriedly turned around and left the meeting room with her head lowered.

Ning Li sat in the conference room with a calm expression, without saying anything.

This audition was divided into two rounds.

The first round was for Edmund and the other five interviewers. They were the representatives of G&S and were also the absolute authority in the fashion industry.

To begin with, their requirements for models were already extremely strict.

Only those who received more than half of the passes would automatically be selected for the second round, which would be for George and Ning Li.

However, it was clear that Mi Shang was not even qualified to enter the second round.

The auditions continued.

...

Xu Yini returned to the lounge.

As soon as she closed the door, she took off her sunglasses and tossed them aside. The anger that she had suppressed finally erupted now.

“It’s just an audition. Was there a need to be like this? What a drag!”

Crack!

The sunglasses had hit the wall and fallen onto the sofa. A crack had appeared on the left lens.

Mei Li saw this and immediately walked over to pick the sunglasses up. She felt a headache coming on, as she helplessly tried to persuade her.

“Alright, Yini, don’t forget that this is G&S! Can we just leave just because you are angry?”

Xu Yini gritted her teeth, grabbed her bag from the table, and moved to leave.

Mei Li quickly pulled her back.

“Hey, Yini! Where are you going?!”

Xu Yili sneered.

“Where am I going? Didn’t you hear what they said? They chased me out! Why am I still here then?!”

She had been completely humiliated today!

If she continued to stay, she would be a laughingstock!

Mei Li held onto her tightly, feeling extremely anxious:

“My dear, can you calm down, please? Have you forgotten why we’re here today?”

Chapter 344: Self-Humiliation

Xu Yini paused.

Of course, she remembered that she had come here today to discuss a possible collaboration with G&S.

If not for this matter, she would not have waited so long!

However, the people from G&S had been too much!

“Did you see how they treated me at the audition venue, Sister Mei?”

Xu Yini’s face was practically blue with anger.

She had been pampered since she was young, and had always been surrounded by people who were obedient to her. That was why she had the temper of a pampered miss.

Over the years, other than Lu Huaiyu, she had almost never been refuted like this in front of other people.

“They chased me away. Do I have to swallow my pride and continue to stay here?!”

In her anger, Xu Yini was holding on to her bag tightly. Her beautifully manicured nails had left several marks on the leather, and her knuckles had turned white.

All Mei Li could do was to try her best to coax her.

“Alright, alright. Edmund said that for a reason, right? After all, it’s a G&S interview. It’s not appropriate for you to go in just like that...”

As she spoke, she saw Xu Yini’s expression become even worse, so she hurriedly stopped her.

“What I mean is, he wasn’t targeting you. He wasn’t targeting you. So, don’t think too much about it. All this time, he’s always had a good impression of you. Don’t you know that? Many people in the industry have tried to build a good relationship with him, but they haven’t succeeded, no matter how hard they’ve tried! Think about it, who else can compare to you?”

At this point, Xu Yini’s expression finally eased up a little.

Mei Li continued to persuade her.

“Also, whether or not we can get the collaboration from this company depends on him.”

Edmund was the Fashion Design Director of G&S, so he had a lot of influence.

Xu Yini would not have spent so much effort on him if it were otherwise.

Xu Yini’s voice still showed her annoyance.

“Even so, he did not show me any respect just now! There were so many people present, and they saw everything clearly!”

She could not afford to be so humiliated if word got out!

Mei Li did not seem to be overly concerned about this.

“Don’t worry about that. G&S’s audition screening process is very strict. No one is allowed to bring along any communication or video recording equipment, including cell phones. So today’s matter won’t be made public. Even if a few people don’t keep their mouths shut, at most, it will just be a small-scale matter. Without evidence, there’s no need to care about it at all.”

Seeing that Xu Yini’s attitude had finally relaxed a little, Mei Li tried to persuade her again.

“Also, there’s Ning.”

Ning had not attended the Autumn and Winter press conference previously, and Xu Yini had been thinking about this matter.

It had not been easy to bump into her today, and she could not afford to miss the opportunity again.

Xu Yini took a deep breath.

She would just wait!

As long as she could get what she wanted, everything else... She just had to wait!

...

The audition had lasted for a total of three hours.

Although it was an audition, most of the resumes had actually already been filtered out.

Only the best of the best had been allowed to enter the audition venue.



In the end, a total of nineteen people had been decided.

After the audition, Ning Li and George discussed several details, which included the materials, colors, and types of gemstones needed for the heavy industry section.

...

In another part of the building, Edmund finally came to the waiting room.

“Miss Xu, I’m sorry to have kept you waiting.”

Xu Yini stood up.

She was still angry, but she could not lose her temper now.

An apologetic look appeared on her face.

“I should be the one apologizing. I should not have barged into the audition venue earlier.”

Her apology seemed to be very sincere.

Of course, it was only a front.

Edmund looked at her, as he frowned slightly.

Previously, he had always thought highly of Xu Yini, which was why he had repeatedly helped pull some strings for her.

However, what she had done today had really surprised and disappointed him.

Mei Li looked behind Edmund and found that no one else had come over. She could not help but feel uneasy.

Why was he the only one here?

Had they not said that they would be discussing a possible collaboration?

Xu Yini had also taken notice of this.

“Edmund, why are you the only one here?”

Edmund looked at her, paused for a moment, and said, “The Director of the Marketing Department and the Director of the Public Relations Department aren’t coming.”

“They’re not coming?”

Xu Yini was stunned.

“Why?”

Hadn’t they said that everything was fine earlier?

They had been very interested in working with her for the brand promotion of the other product lines of G&S.

So how come now—

“Because those two have already seen you,” Edmund was expressionless. “At the interview venue just now.”

Xu Yini was stunned at first, but then she suddenly realized something.

Those two had also been interviewers!

So, they obviously knew about what had happened when she had suddenly barged in just now!

Edmund said faintly, "The female interviewer who translated for you was Amy, the Director of the Marketing Department, and the one next to her was Liu Fei, the Director of the Public Relations Department."

Xu Yini's heart quickly sank, and her whole body felt cold.

She had not had much contact with the people in the G&S headquarters before. Thus, she had not met those two people before. Now that she heard Edmund's words, she started to put two and two together.

She had made a huge mistake! She had actually forced her way into the audition venue in front of these people!

"They asked me to inform you that since they've already met you on the ninth floor, there's no need for a second meeting. Miss Xu, I'm sorry but you're not the best candidate for our collaboration at this time."

As Edmund looked at her, his eyes were no longer filled with admiration and praise.

"Unfortunately, I think so too."

Xu Yini did not speak for a while.

Even a fool would be able to tell that Edmund himself had rejected her on behalf of G&S!

There would be no room for discussion anymore!

If she had known earlier that they would both be present at that time, she would not have...

However, it was too late to say this now.

Mei Li was beside her. Although she did not understand what was said, it was not difficult to figure out Edmund's meaning from Xu Yini's expression.

She was also feeling anxious.

"Yini, quickly ask about Ning!"

Even if she could not work with G&S, it would not hurt to try and make contact with Ning.

Xu Yini took a deep breath.

"I understand. I suppose working together also depends on fate. All I can say is that it's a pity. By the way, Edmund, Ning should still be here, right? I wonder if you could..."

Edmund shrugged.

"Ning also witnessed the situation at the venue. If that's the case, do you still want to insist on seeing her?"

Xu Yini suddenly felt something prick her heart.

Edmund's meaning was very obvious. Ning definitely did not have a good impression of her based on her actions earlier. Under such circumstances, if she still insisted on meeting her, the other party would most likely reject her.

Xu Yini, why bother to humiliate yourself further?

However, the more she did so, the more unwilling Xu Yini became to let the matter rest.

She gripped her handbag tightly and nodded.

Edmund glanced at her.

"On account of our previous relationship, I'll help you ask. But whether it can be done or not, will not be up to me anymore."

Xu Yini's face turned pale.

What Edmund meant was that after this phone call, he would not have any more dealings with her!

Edmund then dialed George's number.

Chapter 345: The Person He is Pining For

He did not have Ning's contact information, so of course, he could only go through George when he needed to find someone.

The person who answered the phone was Liang Yue.

George and Ning Li were still discussing the final content in the conference room and had not come out yet.

It was a rare occasion for Ning Li to come over, so George had specially handed his phone over to Liang Yue so that he would not be disturbed.

Seeing that Edmund was calling, Liang Yue hesitated for a moment, but still knocked on the conference room door.

George turned his head to look at him.

“What’s the matter? Is it urgent?”

Liang Yue raised his phone and looked at Ning Li.

“Miss Xu wants to meet with you. Look...”

“She hasn’t left yet?” George smiled and winked at Ning Li. He spoke teasingly, “It seems that she wants to see you more than me.”

Liang Yue said, “Miss Xu said that whenever you have time, she would like to meet you. She’s available at any time.

This sincerity could be said to be sufficient.

However, Ning Li knew very well that it was not her that Xu Yini wanted to meet, but Ning.

She shook her head.

Liang Yue immediately understood and quickly left.

George was not surprised by Ning Li's choice.

Xu Yini was not worth her concern.

George said playfully, "It looks like she's really anxious this time. In the past, the eldest miss of the Xu family would never have lowered herself this much, right?"

Ning Li felt that something was not right.

"What?"

"Didn't you know? Her situation recently hasn't been too good.

George spread his hands.

"HG has canceled all of its cooperation with Huanxing Entertainment, especially Xu Yini. Because of this, she has already lost quite a few endorsements. I guess she's taking advantage of this opportunity to work with G&S and you?"

"HG?"

Ning Li really had not known this.

She had been quite busy recently, and there was no reason for anyone to mention Xu Yini to her.

Now that she had heard George mention this, she realized that something was indeed wrong.

It did not seem like Xu Yini's usual style to voluntarily humble herself and seek a partnership.

“To be precise, it’s the entire Lu Corporation.”

George blinked and suddenly moved closer.

“There have been rumors in the Capital recently. A few days ago, she offended the Second Master of the Lu Corporation. This... Did you not know this either?”

Ning Li was slightly stunned.

When George saw her reaction, his deep and beautiful sky-blue eyes curved up.

“It’s said that it’s because of the person Second Master Lu is pining for.

...

It was already afternoon by the time Ning Li came out of the G&S headquarters.

Compared to the hustle and bustle of the morning, it was much quieter now.

She took a taxi.

“Young lady, where would you like to go?”

The driver asked casually.

Ning Li paused.

“Rongyue Mansion.”



“Okay.”

The driver replied and started the car.

After driving for a while, Ning Li’s phone vibrated.

She took it out and took a look.

[ Sister Li, Ye Ci has contacted that number. ]

Ning Li stared at the sentence for a while before raising her eyebrows slightly.

Could it be that she finally could not stand it anymore?

[ Got it. ]

She raised her head and said, “Mister, I’m not going to Rongyue Mansion anymore. I’ll be going to Shuiyuan Shijia instead.”

...

Rongyue Mansion.

In the master bedroom, the curtains were tightly drawn so the room was pitch black.

The person on the bed moved.

Lu Huaiyu slowly opened his eyes and gradually woke up in the darkness.

He sat up and the blanket slowly slid down.

He took the phone from the bedside table and glanced at it.

This time, he had only slept for two hours, which was shorter than before.

More importantly, he did not have any more dreams.

He lifted the quilt and got up, pulling the curtains open.

It was already evening, and the setting sun had warmed the tall buildings.

Perhaps after a while, he would be able to completely adjust his schedule.

He called Ning Li.

Ning Li seemed to be busy, and only picked up when he made the second call.

“Li, do you want to have dinner together tonight?”

Ning Li’s voice came from the receiver.

“Second Brother, I’m afraid it’s not convenient today. I’m packing my luggage.”

Lu Huaiyu paused, his phoenix-like eyes slightly narrowed.

“You’re going back to Yunzhou?”

“Yes. The plane ticket is at nine o’clock tomorrow morning.”

“So urgent?”

“Actually, it’s not that urgent. It’s mainly because some things need to be dealt with back home. In addition, I’ve already stayed in the Capital for quite a long time this time.”

In the beginning, Ning Li had not planned to stay in the Capital for so long. She had even rushed through a few things together.

However, now that the matters here were basically settled, it was time for her to go back.

Moreover, over at Yunzhou—

Lu Huaiyu thought for a moment.

“I’ll send you off tomorrow.”

Ning Li wanted to refuse, but when she thought about how she was indeed in a hurry this time, she agreed.

“Okay.”

Ning Li held her phone, wanting to ask him about Xu Yini.

No, she actually wanted to ask about the “History of Time” book and the hand drawing in it.

George had not been at LaTuie Winery that day, so he did not tell her much about the specific situation. All he said was that Xu Yini had been drunk that day and offended Lu Huaiyu, which ended up leading to so much trouble.

He had not mentioned the book or the hand drawing.

On one hand, there were so many rumors circulating about this issue that he felt that it was hard to judge whether it was true or not.

On the other hand... It was because he had interacted with Lu Huaiyu during his trip to Yunzhou.

Other people did not know about Ning Li's existence, but men understood men the best. He knew very well what Lu Huaiyu's thoughts about Ning Li were.

This matter was quite interesting, so he had only mentioned it at the end.

Lu Huaiyu seemed to notice something.

"What's wrong?"

Ning Li thought about it a moment longer, before gently shaking her head.

"Nothing. Second Brother, when will you return to Yunzhou?"

She had seen that hand drawing twice.

If he wanted to talk about it, he would naturally do so.

Moreover, it did not seem very appropriate for her to ask about this matter now.

She suppressed the thoughts in her mind.

Lu Huaiyu looked out of the window.

“When will you be sitting for the final exams?”

Ning Li thought for a moment.

“There are still eleven days more.”

Lu Huaiyu said, “I’ll come back once you have finished the exams.”

#### Chapter 346: Two Notebooks

The next morning, Lu Huaiyu sent Ning Li to the airport.

Ning Li said goodbye to him and boarded the plane back to Yunzhou.

...

At noon, Ning Li returned to the Ye family.

Ye Ming had gone to the company, Su Yuan had taken Ye Cheng out to play, so only Ye Ci was at home.

Recently, there had been a sense of low pressure in the household.

Su Yuan had only thought that it was because Ye Ci had not done well in the final exam. She did not know about the physics competition.

She had privately tried to give Ye Ci advice a few times. However, she found that it had little effect, so she did not continue to nag her.

After all, things like grades could not be improved just by saying a few more words.

In addition, she was also afraid that if she mentioned it too many times, it would put more pressure on Ye Ci.

So recently, she had begun to secretly look for a tutor.

She did not know that Ye Ci was this way not because of the final grades, but more because of the competition.

Aunt Zhao was cleaning the dishes in the kitchen when she heard a noise and looked over.

When she saw that it was Ning Li, she immediately spoke in a strange tone.

“Oh, so it’s Miss Ning who is back? Why didn’t you tell me in advance? I didn’t leave you any food.”

There was no need to ingratiate herself with an outsider who had not even come back for the New Year.

Who knew where she had gone to be wild again?

Although Aunt Zhao was smiling, she did not hide the contempt in her eyes. When she saw Ning Li pushing her suitcase in, she did not make a move to help.

Ning Li ignored her and carried the suitcase upstairs.

Aunt Zhao was very humiliated to be ignored like this.

It was not until Ning Li had gone upstairs that she could not help but snort coldly.

“Do you really think you are the eldest miss here? You don’t follow any rules at all! What is there to be proud of? Sooner or later, you will be kicked out!”

...

Ye Ci was waiting in her room. When she heard the noise outside, she guessed that Ning Li had come back. She covered her phone and said, “Jingxuan, Sister Ning Li is back. I have to hang up now.”

Cao Jingxuan was a little surprised.

“Did she just return from the Capital?”

“Yes.”

Cao Jingxuan seemed to smile.

“I’m so envious. My parents are very strict with me during the Chinese New Year. One day, if only I can go out just like Ning Li, I could stay as long as I want.”

Ye Ci pursed her lips slightly and said softly, “Sister Ning Li’s grades are good, and her personality is independent. My parents have never needed to worry much about her.

“That’s true. Her grades are indeed good. If only I could do as well as her, I would be so happy.”

Cao Jingxuan laughed as she spoke cheekily.

“Then I’ll hang up first.”

“Okay, bye.”

Ye Ci hung up the phone and her gaze fell on the open paper on her desk.

She had been looking at this circuit diagram for a long time, yet she still had not been able to figure it out.

If it was Ning Li... She should be able to write it out easily, right?

She thought of Cao Jingxuan’s words again, gritted her teeth, and got up to open the door.

Ning Li had already walked to the door of her room.

Ye Ci called out to her, “Sister Ning Li, you’re back?”

As Ning Li opened the door, she looked back at her.

“What’s the matter?”

Her expression was as calm and cold as ever, with a layer of invisible estrangement.

For some reason, when she encountered those clear peach blossom-shaped eyes of black and white, the words in her throat suddenly could not come out.

“Nothing, nothing...” Ye Ci muttered.

“You haven’t been back for a long time. Father, Mother, and Xiao Cheng miss you very much.”

After she had finished speaking, she saw that Ning Li seemed to be smiling.



However, upon closer inspection, that smile disappeared again, as if it had only been an illusion.

“Is that so?” Ning Li asked faintly.

At the same time, she pushed the door open and pushed her luggage in. It seemed that she did not have any intention of listening to Ye Ci’s reply.

It was merely a perfunctory sentence.

Click.

The room door closed.

Ye Ci stared at the door for quite a while, her motions surging within her eyes.

In the end, she did not say anything and turned back to her room.

She sent a message to Ye Ming and Su Yuan, saying that Ning Li was back.

...

Ning Li took a nap and went out at three in the afternoon. She took a taxi to the rented house.

She did not return to the Ye family until seven in the evening.

The food on the table was very sumptuous. Ye Ming and the others were all there but were not eating yet.

They seemed to be waiting for her.

As expected, the moment he saw her, Ye Ming waved his hand.

“Ning Li, so you’re back? Come and eat.”

Ye Cheng rolled his eyes.

He really did not know why the whole family was waiting for Ning Li here!

However, the atmosphere at home these few days had not been good, so he did not dare to make a scene.

Ning Li raised her eyebrows slightly.

Such a big scene was really rare.

She walked over with a normal expression.

Ye Ming said, “We’re all family. We weren’t able to have a meal together this New year’s Eve, so this meal will be your welcome home.”

Family.

The corners of Ning Li’s lips curled up into an extremely faint smile.

“Thank you, Uncle Ye.”

...

There was a subtle atmosphere during the meal.

Ye Ming spoke a little more and asked Ning Li several questions, most of which were about her spending the New Year in Beijing.

Ning Li picked her answers carefully, purposely evading some of his questions.

After a meal was, there was nothing more Ye Ming could ask.

Only then did he realize that Ning Li was more difficult to deal with than he had thought.

However, that was not the point.

After dinner, Ye Ming called Ning Li and Ye Ci to the study.

Su Yuan did not understand. However, this was Ye Ming's decision, so of course, she would not object.

Ning Li put down her chopsticks and got up to go upstairs.

Ye Ci followed closely behind.

"Sister Ning Li, please wait for me."

...

In the study.

Ye Ming sat on a chair, with his arms crossed.

“Ning Li, Lil Ci, please sit.”

Ning Li did not move.

“Uncle Ye, if you have something to say, just say it.”

Ye Ming choked for a moment, but he looked at Ye Ci next to her. After a long silence, he finally spoke.

“I already know about what happened at the Winter Camp.”

Ning Li’s expression was calm as she waited for his next sentence.

Ye Ming hesitated.

“Ning Li, I invited you here today because I have something to ask you.”

“Lil Ci said that you helped her write two notebooks. Is that right?”

Chapter 347: Can’t Be Helped

Ning Li looked at Ye Ci.

Ye Ci lowered her head and pursed her lips tightly.

“I did prepare two notebooks,” Ning Li replied.

Hearing her say this, Ye Ming was slightly relieved.

He probed further.

“The situation is like this. With Lil Ci’s current level, I’m afraid it will be a little difficult for her to participate in the final of the physics competition. “So, Uncle was wondering if he could ask you to help coach Lil Ci? “Of course, Uncle knows that you’re also preparing for the exam right now, so time is very tight. So, do you think you could lend the second notebook to Lil Ci?”

“This won’t take up too much of your time and energy. Lil Ci will also be able to raise her standard and make a final sprint—”

Ning Li listened patiently, but when she heard these words, she finally could not help but smile.

However, it was a very light and shallow smile, one that did not extend to the corners of her eyes.

Her peach blossom eyes were clear and bright, but with a bit of a threatening coldness in them.

“What position is Uncle Ye in now, to ask me for this favor?”

Ye Ming was stunned.

He was a very shrewd person, so of course, he could hear the rejection in Ning Li’s words.

He frowned.

“Ning Li, Uncle knows that Lil Ci did something that made you unhappy. However, at that time, she was suspected of cheating by a few teachers, so she couldn’t defend herself. I can only tell you honestly that she didn’t mean to implicate you.”

“She knows now that she was wrong, and she feels very guilty towards you. Uncle can understand if you don’t want to lend her that notebook again. However, these final exams are really important. Could you help your sister out for the sake of our family?”

Actually, Ye Ming was very unwilling to discuss this with Ning Li.

After all, Ning Li really had no ties to him.

Accepting Ning Li into the Ye family had already been his biggest concession.

These words should have been said by Su Yuan.

However, he did not want Su Yuan to know the true situation at the winter camp.

The fewer people who knew about this matter, the better.

Moreover, during this period of time, he had been observing coolly from the sidelines. He knew that the relationship between Su Yuan and Ning Li was not good.

No matter what Su Yuan said or did, Ning Li did not seem to care and always did things her own way anyway.

When he thought about that, he felt that it would be better if he just did it himself.

When Ning Li heard this, she felt like laughing.

Of course, this competition was very important because it involved the reputation of Ye Ci and the entire Ye family.

They had held such a grand celebratory banquet previously. Everyone in the upper circle of Yunzhou knew that this daughter of the Ye family was very outstanding.

In fact, the more this kind of aristocratic family paid attention to their family status, the more they cared about the cultivation of their children.

The more outstanding the children were, the more respect they would have.

If Ye Ci were to participate in the finals at her current level, who knew how many people's eyes would pop out in shock when the results came out.

The number of people waiting to laugh at them would be even more numerous.

Ye Ming was someone who cared a lot about his own reputation. How could he accept such a thing happening?

After all, Ye Ci had always been outstanding in the past. Whether it was her results, her paintings, or anything else, she had always been considered as one of the best among the daughters of Yun Zhou's socialites.

Ye Ci could not bear the huge difference in the comparison between her then and now, and neither could Ye Ming.

Thus, that was why he was willing to compromise and negotiate with Ning Li so nicely.

However, the point was that... it had not crossed his mind that Ning Li actually had no reason to help Ye Ci.

A family...

It was really difficult for him to say those words out loud.

Ning Li said lightly, "Uncle Ye, I'm sorry. I can't help you with this."

She gave him a straightforward rejection.

Ye Ming's brows were tightly knitted.

“Ning Li. I know you’re angry with Lil Ci and that you don’t want to help her. Uncle understands. Any request that you have, Uncle will try his best to fulfill it. All you need to do is lend that notebook to Lil Ci. Moreover, I heard from Lil Ci that you prepared that notebook for her, right? Look, this—”

“It’s not that I don’t want to help, but I can’t.”

Ning Li interrupted Ye Ming, as the corners of her lips curled up slightly.

“It’s because I’ve already thrown the notebook away.”

“What!?”

This time, not only Ye Ming, but Ye Ci also looked over in shock.

“You, you threw it away!? How could you throw it away!?”

Ye Ci’s eyes widened. Due to her shock, her voice had become a little shrill.

Ning Li turned her head to look at her.

“That book was originally mine. Why can’t I throw it away?”

Her eyes were so cold that for some reason, Ye Ci felt a little uneasy and afraid.

Her lips twitched.

“I, I didn’t mean that... After all, Sister Ning Li, you worked hard to write that notebook. It’s such a pity to throw it away...”



“That’s okay.”

Ning Li tilted her head, her tone casual.

“It’s better than being mistaken for cheating again and being called to the office for questioning, right?”

She smiled.

“After all, I don’t think I’ll be able to produce a third notebook to prove my innocence.”

Ye Ci’s face turned pale.

It was clear that Ning Li was deliberately being sarcastic!

However, this matter had indeed been caused by her. Moreover, while they had been in the office, she had indeed said something similar to testify against Ning Li.

Now that Ning Li was not willing to help, she could not say anything more.

If she said too much, she would only embarrass herself even more.

However, Ye Ming had not given up yet.

“Well, where did you throw that thing then?”

If they could still find it in time, there should still be some hope.

Ning Li lowered her head and thought for a while.

"I can't remember clearly. I threw it away a long time ago. By my estimation, I should think it would have been sent to the garbage disposal station by now, right?"

Her eyes curved as she smiled.

"I'm not sure which one it would be. After all, as you know, the Capital is quite big."

Chapter 348: Guaranteed Delivery?

Ye Ming's face turned pale.

Ning Li's meaning was very clear... She just didn't want to help!

The atmosphere in the study room was cold.

Ye Ci looked at Ye Ming in a panic.

What should she do?

On the day the final results had been released, she had had a long talk with Ye Ming. She had told him about the preliminary competition and the events that had happened at the Winter Camp.

Ye Ming had been furious, but Ye Ci was his biological daughter, so of course, he had to protect her.

Moreover, this matter involved the Ye family's reputation.

Therefore, he had been waiting for Ning Li's return, intending on asking her for the second notebook.

If Ye Ci had been able to rely on the first notebook to get fifth place in the province, then maybe borrowing the second notebook would help her get a good result as well.

Ye Ci knew that if she asked to borrow it, Ning Li would definitely not give it to her. However, Ye Ming might be able to do it.

However, Ning Li still bluntly refused.

If she was really determined not to help, then... What should she do in the finals!?

The closer it got to the exams, the more panicked Ye Ci became.

She did not dare to imagine what awaited her once the results were out.

Ning Li did not seem to see the dilemma between father and daughter. She said lightly,

“Uncle Ye, if there’s nothing else, I’ll take my leave first. After all, there are only a few days left before the finals, and I’m quite pressed for time.”

What she meant was that she did not want to waste even a second more with them.

After saying that, she did not wait for Ye Ming to express his position. She simply turned around and left.

The study room fell silent for a long time.

Looking at the door that was closed again, it took Ye Ci a long while to compose herself. She looked at Ye Ming with red eyes.

“Dad, what should we do now?”

If she really went to the finals, her reputation would be completely ruined!

Ye Ming lit a cigarette and frowned.

Tears were falling from Ye Ci's eyes. The panic, unwillingness, and anger in her heart gradually turned into hatred for Ning Li.

The questions in the competition were not difficult for Ning Li at all. As long as she was willing to help tutor her during this last period of time, it was definitely not too late.

She could have helped her, but she refused!

Wasn't it obvious that she was doing this on purpose!?

Ye Ming finished his cigarette and finally said,

"Alright, you can go back first. I'll help you to think of a way."

...

Ning Li went back to her room and did a science paper. She then memorized two large English essays.

While in the middle of that, she even discussed a math problem with He Xiaochen.

After doing all this, she took out a blank A4 paper.

Then, she calmly and seriously wrote a question on it.

This was a calculation problem of movement and speed.

It was also the first question of this year's physics competition final.

Ning Li stared at the question for a while, then moved the tip of the pen down, and began to write the second question.

An hour and a half later, the complete exam paper for the physics competition final appeared in Ning Li's hand.

Moreover, the whole exam paper had been fully answered.

The answers were clear, the steps were simple and smooth.

Ning Li checked it twice and turned on the computer after confirming that there were no problems.

...

For the next few days, Ning Li left early and returned late every day.

Ye Ci seemed to have given up on seeking her help and spent most of her time studying in her own room.

In the blink of an eye, it was the day that the senior year of high school in Yunzhou Second High started school early.

The winter holidays of the first and second years of high school were based on the school calendar. The third year of high school was a special case. Classes were to start not long after the Chinese New Year.

Perhaps it was because they had only just finished their holidays that many people had yet to start concentrating. The whole senior year of the high school building was particularly lively.

Even the First Class of the senior year of high school was no exception. The class was in an uproar.

"Hey, how much New Year's money did you receive this year?"

“You still get New Year’s money? Dad stopped doing this three years ago, okay? Did you finish your final homework? Lend it to me to copy!”

“Hey hey! Isn’t this the final exam results? When my grandpa saw it, my New Year’s money doubled! Doubled, I tell you!”

“Oh, just stop mentioning the final results! I don’t know what the school was thinking, releasing the results on New Year’s Eve. My house was almost destroyed by my parents! If it wasn’t for my endurance—”

“Please add me to the victim list! I almost didn’t get to see the sun on the first day of Chinese New Year!”

“It’s alright. I paid my respects to the school beauty Ning and the class monitor before the exam, so I narrowly passed the test! Hahahaha! They are forever gods!”

“I’m really impressed. I don’t even know how they got that score...”

As everyone was talking, Ning Li and Ye Ci walked into the classroom one after another.

The class suddenly went silent for a moment.

As soon as Ye Ci entered, she felt the gazes of practically everyone on her.

Unlike the adoring, admiring, and even jealous gazes of the past, this time, she clearly felt that the gazes of these people were now filled with surprise, ridicule, and gloating.

First Class was the best in the entire senior year of high school, with most of the outstanding students in the entire grade gathered here.

Even if their grades were at the bottom of class one, under normal circumstances, they could still be ranked at the top of the grade.

It was also because of this that once someone's grades dropped, everyone would quickly know.

Not to mention, that person was Ye Ci.

Her final results ranked at the 280th place of the entire grade, and she was also at the bottom of First Class.

Throughout the entire holiday, especially after the final grade had been announced, Ye Ci had not said a single word in the group.

However, now that school was starting again, and everyone had to meet.

On the way here, Ye Ci had actually taken a long time to prepare herself mentally.

However, when the moment came for her to actually stand in the classroom, her face went stiff, and her limbs turned cold.

Even without them saying anything, she still felt the endless ridicule and contempt aimed her way!

"Lil Ci."

Cheng Xiangxiang walked over, took her arm, and carefully observed her expression.

After Ye Ci had gone to Beijing to participate in the Winter Camp, the two of them had not had much contact.

Later, when Ye Ci had finally come back, she had wanted to ask her out but was caught off guard by the final results.

Cheng Xiangxiang had not expected Ye Ci to be worse than her this time.

Later, she had called Ye Ci a few times to ask her out to relax, but she had been rejected by Ye Ci.

Today, she was finally able to see her.

Ye Ci forced a smile and returned to her seat.

Just as she sat down, a very soft voice came from the side.

“Compared to Ning Li, I’m very curious. How did Ye Ci score?”

The person who had spoken was a girl. It was probably because she did not like Ye Ci that she did not want to miss this opportunity, now that she had it.

She laughed and said, “Could it be that after being a good student for such a long time, she now wants to experience the feeling of being a bad student?”

The girls who were surrounding her laughed along with her.

Every class had its cliques, especially the girls.

Cheng Xiangxiang immediately exploded.

“What are you guys talking about?”

The girls looked over and one of them shrugged.



“To be honest, the exam has already been taken. Are you not allowing people to talk about it now?”

They weren’t the ones who had made Ye Ci fail the exam, so why was she coming after them now?

“You!”

Cheng Xiang was furious.

“Lil Ci just didn’t perform well this time! Besides, she’s still busy with the physics competition, and she might be able to get a free pass very soon. Can you guys do the same?”

Chapter 349: Tactics

Ye Ci’s lips turned pale. She pulled Cheng Xiangxiang hard.

“Xiangxiang, forget it. I really didn’t do well in the exams.”

The girls were quiet for a while before someone mumbled softly, “Who knows if she’s even capable of getting a free pass?”

Many students were still suspicious of Ye Ci’s Physics results.

Ye Ci’s heart was burning with anger because this person had hit the nail on the head.

However, she could not lose her temper in front of everyone. She could only ask Cheng Xiangxiang to sit down and stop arguing with them.

The bigger the commotion, the uglier the situation would be.

Cheng Xiangxiang could see that she was unhappy, so she had to let it go. After sitting down, she still felt unconvinced, so she turned her head and retorted, "It doesn't matter if Lil Ci can deliver or not, it's nothing to do with you anyway!"

The few girls secretly exchanged glances and smiled meaningfully.

It didn't matter if she could deliver or not, Ye Ci's test results this time were really bad.

Because of this farce, the atmosphere in the whole class became a little strange.

Ye Ci pretended not to know and merely lowered her head to read as she sat in her seat.

Knock knock.

Zhou Fei came to the door of the classroom.

Everyone quickly quieted down.

Zhou Fei looked around.

"Ning Li, Ye Ci, please come to the office."

Ning Li guessed that it was about the finals, so she got up and walked over.

Ye Ci was one step behind as she followed her.

Without a word, Zhou Fei led the two to the office.

As they went downstairs, they bumped into Pei Song, who had just arrived, so Zhou Fei called him over as well.

...

Zhou Fei was the only teacher in the Physics department's office.

He sat behind the desk and swept his gaze across the three of them. There were a few pieces of paper beneath his hand.

He tapped on them with his finger.

"The school has received the feedback on your results from the Winter Camp."

Ye Ci instantly tensed up.

Zhou Fei's gaze lingered on her for an additional moment.

"You all know how well you performed over there, so I won't say much more. The most important thing will be the finals in three days."

"The venue of the competition is still at Capital First High School. I'll be leading the team there a day earlier. After the morning exams, the results and rankings will be released the following afternoon. Teachers from several universities will also start contacting you one by one, but ultimately, it will still depend on you."

"For the next three days, the three of you will follow me for the final surprise training. Is that okay?"

Ning Li and Pei Song both said, "No problem."

Ye Ci did not say anything. Her head was lowered as if she was deep in thought.

Zhou Fei called out to her.

Ye Ci raised her head in a daze and quickly said, “No problem. I will follow Teacher Zhou’s arrangements.”

Zhou Fei looked at her as if he wanted to say something, but he stopped himself.

In the beginning, he had already felt that there was something wrong with Ye Ci’s results, and it had turned out to be true.

The most important thing was that the situation was even more troubling now.

With Ye Ci’s standard, if she insisted on participating in the finals, no one could anticipate what kind of results she would get.

However, there were only a few days left before the competition, so it was useless to say anything more.

He handed over the papers that were face down on his desk.

“Alright, it’s settled then.”

...

The senior year students started their classes normally.

As for Ning Li and the other two, they followed Zhou Fei to another empty classroom for the final training.

Two days passed in the blink of an eye.

The class ended in the afternoon. Zhou Fei let them go home to pack their things in preparation to take the next day's noon flight to the Capital.

This time, they would not be staying long. Ning Li would only be bringing a twenty-inch suitcase and a few pieces of change of clothes.

Ye Ci knocked on her door.

"Sister Ning Li?"

Ning Li folded a sweater and placed it in the luggage. She got up and went to open the door.

She leaned against the door frame without any intention of inviting Ye Ci in.

Ye Ci looked inside and quickly withdrew her gaze. She handed over the clothes in her hand.

"Sister Ning Li, this is your down jacket that Aunt Zhao sent for dry-cleaning previously. I brought it up for you."

Ning Li looked down.

It was a short red down jacket.

She took it.

"Thanks."

Ye Ci smiled.

“Sister Ning Li, this red is auspicious. Mom said that if you wear this, you’ll definitely do well in the exam.”

Ning Li looked at her as the corners of her lips curled up.

“Is that so? That would be great if that’s really the case.”

“Sister!”

Ye Cheng ran upstairs and called out to Ye Ci.

Ye Ci responded and turned to leave.

Ning Li closed the door.

She came to the bedside and casually tore off the dry cleaning label on the down jacket, before touching the right sleeve.

Then, she took out a small pair of scissors and cut open the seam on the sleeve.

The thread here had obviously been cut by someone, and the re-sewn seam was of inferior quality. There was almost no need for scissors, as it would come apart with a slight pull.

A piece of paper fell out.

She picked up the piece of paper, examined it for a while, and smiled.

This was so familiar.

In her previous life, it was this piece of paper that had been used as proof that she had cheated.

Once again, Ye Ci was using the same method.

She put away the piece of paper, folded the down jacket, and put it in the box.

...

At noon the next day, Zhou Fei and Ning Li boarded a flight to Beijing.

It was already afternoon when they arrived at Capital First High School.

The school had booked a hotel for them near Capital First High School.

Zhou Fei and Pei Song were in the same room, while Ning Li and Ye Ci were in the same room.

1

At night, the room was very quiet.

Ning Li was lying on the bed playing with her phone. Her luggage was casually placed aside and opened.

Ye Ci took a look and saw the red down jacket at the top. She was slightly relieved.

“Sister Ning Li, shall I go wash up first?”

Ning Li did not even raise her head.

“Yes.”

Chapter 350: Began

Ye Ci entered the bathroom.

Ning Li looked up and her gaze swept over Ye Ci's luggage.

Along the way, Ye Ci had kept a close watch on her own things and never opened her luggage in front of her.

After taking out the things that she needed, Ye Ci would immediately lock the luggage again.

Ning Li retracted her gaze.

After about half an hour, the sound of water stopped and Ye Ci walked out.

She seemed to have gotten used to Ning Li's cold attitude, so after tidying up briefly, she sat down at the table and continued to read.

The night passed quickly.

The next morning, Ning Li changed her clothes and prepared to go to the second floor of the hotel for breakfast.

Ye Ci was organizing her school bag. When she turned around and saw Ning Li's outfit, she was stunned.

"Sister Ning Li, why aren't you wearing that red down jacket?"

Ning Li was wearing the same beige down jacket that she had worn when she arrived yesterday.

Ning Li glanced at her.



Ye Ci hurriedly explained, "I just think that red can bring good luck. Look, the sweater I'm wearing underneath today is also red."

Ning Li raised her eyebrows.

"I think it's all pretty much the same."

Ye Ci wanted to say something but hesitated.

Knock, knock.

There was a knock on the door. It was Zhou Fei's voice.

"Ning Li, Ye Ci, are you up? Hurry up and go downstairs. We'll be going to the exam center after we finish eating."

Ning Li answered.

"Coming."

Ye Ci could only swallow the rest of her words and hurriedly carried her bag to follow.

...

In the restaurant on the second floor.

The hotel provided a buffet breakfast.

Zhou Fei and Pei Song had already arrived. When they saw Ning Li, Zhou Fei waved at them.

Ning Li walked over, put down her bag, and went to get the food.

Pei Song happened to be in line at the front. When he turned his head to see her, he nodded slightly and greeted her.

His gaze swept over Ning Li's plate and suddenly said, "The hot spring eggs cooked in this hotel are very famous. You should try it."

Ning Li was a little surprised. She then remembered that Pei Song was also considered half a Capital citizen, so it was not strange that he would know about this.

She nodded.

"Okay."

"Ning Li? Pei Song?"

A somewhat familiar voice sounded.

Ning Li turned her head and saw a person standing in the beverage area not far away.

Cao Jingxuan.

She was holding a banana milkshake in her hand as she walked over with a smile.

Just then, Ye Ci happened to come over as well and took the initiative to greet her.

"Good morning, Jingxuan."

From the looks of it, she was not surprised to bump into Cao Jingxuan here.

Ning Li's eyes twitched slightly.

"Are you staying here, too?"

"Yes."

Cao Jingxuan smiled generously,

"A few people who participated in our school's competition have homes that are far away from Capital First High School. In order to facilitate management of everyone, the school arranged for us to live here. I also only found out last night that you guys are staying here as well. However, since it was so late, I didn't go over to disturb you."

Ning Li understood.

"So..."

"Hey, do you not have anything to drink yet?" Cao Jingxuan said as she handed over the banana milkshake in her hand. "I haven't drunk this cup yet. Would you like to try it? People say it's quite delicious."

Ning Li declined politely.

"Thank you, but there's no need."

Cao Jingxuan insisted on handing it over.

“It’s okay. If you don’t like it after drinking it, just don’t finish it.”

Ning Li narrowed her eyes.

“There’s really no need—”

Bang— Crash!

Cao Jingxuan’s hand had suddenly slipped, and the small glass filled with the banana milkshake fell onto Ning Li’s plate.

Ning Li’s foot slipped, and her elbow turned slightly.

The dinner plate and the glass fell to the ground.

Pei Song grabbed Ning Li’s arm and pulled her away.

“Be careful!”

However, Ning Li was still a step too late and her clothes were stained.

Ye Ci, who was standing on the other side, was also affected.

The entire restaurant fell silent, with many people looking over.

Cao Jingxuan immediately apologized nervously and guiltily.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry! I didn’t do it on purpose! Ning Li, Ye Ci, are you guys okay?”

Pei Song glanced at Ning Li. Seeing that only her clothes had been affected, he quickly let go of her. When he looked at Cao Jingxuan, his expression grew even colder.

Ning Li looked at the marks on her clothes and frowned slightly.

Ye Ci's condition was worse than hers, but she still said immediately, "It's alright. Sister Ning Li and I have brought some clothes to change into. We can go back to the room to change."

Zhou Fei also walked over.

"What's wrong? Are you hurt?"

Ning Li shook her head.

"Teacher Zhou, I'll go up and change my clothes."

Zhou Fei was relieved when he heard what she said.

"That's good."

Soon, a waiter came over to clean up.

Ning Li and Ye Ci went back to their room.

Cao Jingxuan stood where she was, looking very guilty.

Zhou Fei looked at her.

"Are you from Capital First High School?"

Only then did Cao Jingxuan realize that he looked a little familiar.

“...Senior Zhou Fei?”

Zhou Fei and Lu Huaiyu had been in the same year. He was handsome, with a legendary academic record. His fame was almost second only to Lu Huaiyu’s.

That was why Cao Jingxuan was able to recognize him.

Zhou Fei put one hand in his pocket.

“Junior, if you like banana milkshake, just drink it yourself. If other people say they don’t want it, then it means they don’t want it. Do you understand?”

...

Ning Li and Ye Ci returned to their room.

Ning Li’s luggage was originally spread out at the side of the bed. She took off the jacket that she was wearing and changed into the red one.

Not only were Ye Ci’s clothes dirty, but even her hair had also been stained.

She went to the bathroom to clean up a little before coming out to unlock the password on her luggage. She then changed into an orange and white parker down jacket.

“She was too careless...”

As she changed her clothes, she was muttering softly as if she was also quite dissatisfied with this.

Ning Li said lightly, "She didn't do it on purpose."

Ye Ci tilted her head and glanced at her.

"Sister Ning Li, aren't you angry?"

"What's there to be angry about? There's not much time left, let's go."

Ning Li put her phone in her pocket and walked out.

Ye Ci locked her suitcase and scrambled the password again before following her out.

...

By the time Ning Li and Ye Ci had returned to the restaurant, Cao Jingxuan had already finished eating and left.

The two of them picked up their food again.

They quickly finished with breakfast and Zhou Fei brought them to Capital First High School.

As the exam venue, Capital First High School was having a special day off today.

At the school gate, Zhou Fei handed them their documents one by one.

"Go in, don't be nervous, just perform normally!"

Ning Li took the admission card and tightened her fingers slightly.

“Thank you, Teacher Zhou.”

Her phone vibrated. It was a message from Lu Huaiyu.

[ Have a good exam. There will be rewards. ]

As she pursed her lips, her dimples appeared.

[ Okay. ]

Then, she turned off her phone and walked forward.

...

There were a total of 52 examinees, all in the same large exam hall.

The invigilation of the final exam was very strict. Four teachers were invigilating the exam at the same time. Cameras were set up in the front and back of the classroom.

Everyone was checked at the entrance of the exam hall. All stationery was distributed since no one was allowed to carry their own.

The seats had been arranged at random.

Ning Li was in the last row of the third row.

Coincidentally, Pei Song was on her left, while Ye Ci was on her right.



Ning Li sat in her seat.

The classroom was very quiet.

The atmosphere was tense. Even those who knew each other stopped chatting with each other.

The bell rang, and everyone perked up.

The corners of her lips curled up.

Good.

Here we go.