

Little Brat's 391

Chapter 391: She Did Not Care

The Capital.

The hotel room was dead silent.

Ye Ci sat on the sofa, looking at the promotional news that was about to blow up her phone. Her face was pale and her whole body was trembling slightly.

She thought that after the events of the past few days, her endurance had improved a lot.

However, it was only now that she realized that when a huge blow came, she was still vulnerable.

She knew every word on the notice but seeing it all put together like this, she was completely dumbfounded.

Bang!

The door was suddenly pushed open from the outside.

Ye Ming's face looked like a storm cloud.

Ye Ci shrank back, subconsciously trying to hide.

However, Ye Ming seemed to be extremely angry. Instead of exploding immediately, his voice was frighteningly cold.

"Didn't you say that everything had been deleted?"

Ye Ci subconsciously shook her head.

“I, I don’t know... There was clearly nothing left on it!”

She was so frightened that she could not even cry.

Her chest felt as if it had been stifled, and she could hardly breathe. She felt dizzy, feeling chilled to the bone.

She subconsciously crossed her arms.

“I really didn’t... I really didn’t!”

Clearly, she knew how big the implications of this matter were, so why would she be so careless?

After receiving the email, she had memorized the test paper in the attachment and quickly destroyed it.

After that, she also wiped away all relevant information.

She had repeatedly confirmed that the contents of the document had been destroyed and could not be restored.

How could they still have been discovered!?

If she had known that this would happen, why would she still have handed over the computer!?

Ye Ming stared at her. After a long while, he took a deep breath.

At this point, it was useless to lose his temper now.

His phone lit up. It was a call from Zhou Fei.

Ye Ming adjusted his breathing before picking up.

He tapped on the public speaker.

“Teacher Zhou.”

Zhou Fei’s voice came from the other end.

“Mr. Ye, have you seen the report of the Organizing Committee’s investigation results?”

“Yes.”

“It’s like this. The organizing committee invited experts from the Ministry of Public Security to recover the data on Ye Ci’s and Qin Guang’s computers and confirm the leak. In addition, they may need you to come over and cooperate with the rest of the investigation.”

...

Once the announcement was made, the amount of discussion on the Internet was astonishing.

Over at Yunzhou Second High School, the atmosphere had become restless and chaotic for the whole afternoon.

No one was in the mood to study, since all their attention was focused on this matter.

There were also quite a number of people who came to First Class. They stood in the corridor to try and peer into the classroom.

Since Ye Ci had not returned yet, they were looking at Ning Li.

After all, this matter involved the Ye family, so it was inevitable that she would be mentioned.

However, Ning Li did not care about this at all. She continued to read quietly in her seat.

“Hey, do you guys think the Ye family will be in trouble this time?”

“This matter is such a big deal. How can it be fine?”

“That’s hard to say. I heard that the Ye family has quite a wide network... Besides, look at how calm Ning Li is. Does it look like something bad will happen to the Ye family?”

“Don’t joke around. She has never had a good relationship with the Ye family. I guess she doesn’t care at all.”

“But, isn’t she still under her mother’s custody?”

“Who knows...? Anyway, with her grades, she won’t have to worry about the future.”

Faint voices came from the corridor, making all kinds of comments.

When Pei Song came out of the office, he saw many people from the other classes standing in the corridor outside First Class.

Boys and girls alike had gathered there, but all of them were looking at the same person.

Curiosity, surprise, inquisitiveness, gossip...

All their expressions were different.

He frowned.

“Excuse me.”

The clear and cold voice of a young man rang out in the corridor. It was neither light nor heavy, but somehow carried an indescribable aura.

Everyone fell silent and turned around in shock. When they saw that it was Pei Song, they tactfully stepped aside.

A few of the girls blushed.

The boys, on the other hand, felt that Pei Song’s aura was a little dangerous and instinctively stepped back.

The noisy corridor fell into a strange silence.

Pei Song walked into the classroom and went up to the podium.

He was holding a stack of papers in his hand.

“Chemistry quiz. The papers will be collected in one hour.”

A few mournful howls came from the classroom.

However, this was not the first time. Despite everyone’s mournful sighs, they quickly packed up their things and prepared for the exam.

Pei Song began to hand out the papers.

One by one, the papers were passed out all the way to the back row.

The classroom quieted down. Only the rustling of a pen across a piece of paper could be heard clearly.

The group of people in the corridor was a little confused.

“No, why is First Class so fierce? They said it was just a small test, but is it really a small test?”

“That seems to be a test that has been specially prepared for them, right? I heard that they started doing this at the end of last semester. They only studied for the exam at night.”

“They don’t even have an invigilator?”

“Tsk, is there a need for an invigilator in First Class?”

Pei Song looked outside, his eyes cold and indifferent behind his glasses.

Then, he walked over and closed the front door of the classroom. He looked at the people who were sitting by the window and said in a flat voice, “Kang Xiaoyu, Liu Yu, Shang Meng, close the window.”

He was the class monitor, so of course, his words could be put to good use.

Those few students immediately cooperated and closed the window.

The sound outside was cut off.

Everyone realized that they were being chased away.

The people in the corridor looked at each other awkwardly.

Pei Song raised his eyes and looked over at them quietly.

The gathering of people there could not take it anymore and started to drag each other away.

The area was finally clear.

Pei Song withdrew his gaze and walked towards his seat.

He pulled out his chair and glanced to the side.

Ning Li was answering a question with her head lowered. A few strands of her hair were hanging down, swaying gently against the side of her snow-white face.

He pulled out his chair and spread out the paper with a calm expression.

Chapter 392: I Only Threw a Floating Board

Twenty minutes later, Ning Li finished answering the last question and capped her pen.

She looked up at the clock in the classroom.

“Class monitor, I’m handing in my paper.”

She turned her head to look at Pei Song.

The papers for the tests were basically the responsibility of Pei Song and the representatives for each subject.

Pei Song looked at her.

Ning Li always completed her tests papers very quickly. However, she rarely handed in her paper in advance for tests during the evening self-study classes. Usually, she would just put it aside and wait for it to be collected when she was done.

He asked, "Do you have something else to do?"

Ning Li nodded.

"I asked for leave from the class teacher this afternoon."

Initially, she had not intended on attending the evening self-study session. However, before she could pack her things and leave, Pei Song had arrived with the test papers.

She had decided to complete it anyway.

Pei Song nodded and took her paper.

"Okay."

Since the Ye family was currently in a special situation, it was very easy for her to apply for leave.

Ning Li handed in her papers and simply packed her backpack.

Many people in the classroom turned to look at her.

First of all, Ning Li's results were impeccable. Secondly, it had been confirmed that the Ye family had been involved in the leaked papers incident today. No one found it strange that Ning Li was leaving early.

Ning Li left through the back door of the classroom.

...

As she walked out of the gate of Second High School, Ning Li heard a familiar voice.

"Sister Li!"

Ning Li turned her head and saw Wei Songze walking over from not far away. He asked with a grin, "Sister Li, why did you only just come out?"

Ning Li's reply was brief and concise.

"There was a chemistry test."

Wei Songze's smile froze. "Just pretend I didn't ask."

Actually, he had only waited for an extra twenty minutes or so, so it had merely been a casual question.

But since this was Ning Li's answer, he did not know how to respond to it.

'Was your chemistry test really that short?

'You're just embarrassing yourself.'

"Where's the painting?" Ning Li asked.

Wei Songze scratched his head.

“It’s in the studio.”

His own house was relatively small, and the environment was noisy. Later, he had rented a small apartment to act as his own studio.

In the past, he had always carried his paintings to Ning Li to ask for her advice. It had become much more convenient when Ning Li had come to Yunzhou.

However, she had been very busy lately, so he did not mention this.

This time, he had specifically waited until she had gotten the results of the competition.

“Sister Li, if you have something else to do, you can go another day.”

Ning Li raised her eyebrows.

“What else do I have to do?”

Wei Songze coughed.

“Just... the matter regarding the Ye family.”

Although Sister Li and the Ye family had never had a good relationship, it was unlikely that it would not have any impact at all.

Right now, not only was there an uproar on the Internet, it was also a mess in real life.

“There’s no need to be concerned.”

Ning Li raised her chin.

“Let’s go take a look at your paintings.”

When Wei Songze heard her say this, he also felt relieved and smiled again.

“Sure!”

...

When they arrived at Wei Songze’s studio, he took out four paintings for Ning Li to see.

“Sister Li, these are all recent paintings. Please take a look.”

Wei Songze placed the paintings in order and stood to the side.

Ning Li nodded.

A moment later, Wei Songze suddenly thought of something and could not help but ask, “Sister Li, I didn’t ask before. How did you know Qin Guang’s phone number?”

Ning Li said lightly, “Isn’t it posted on the Xijing University of Technology’s official website?”

“Eh? Is that so?” Wei Songze was stunned. “No, what I meant was... there are so many teachers listed. How did you pick him?”

Some time ago, Ning Li had asked him to write a small program.

This small program would pop up on Ye Ci's computer web page. The content was very simple. It was a small advertisement about the sale of the physics competition test papers.

The ad was the kind that looked very inferior.

Most people would choose to ignore such things.

That had been the case for Ye Ci. At first, she had not bothered about it at all and had clicked it off.

However, after the Winter Camp, she had realized that her level was not even close to the others.

She had been at the bottom of several tests, and her scores were extremely embarrassing.

It was also because of this that the Winter Camp teacher had suspected that there was something wrong with her preliminary results, and had even revealed the matter of Ning Li and the notebook.

After this incident, she had felt very regretful, but Ning Li was obviously not willing to lend her the second notebook.

The pressure on her had increased day by day. Finally, she had found a way to find the page again.

The moment she tried to contact the number on the page, Wei Songze knew.

Then, he had quickly sent a message to Ning Li. Ning Li had rushed back to Yunzhou from the Capital.

This had only been the beginning. Things had not gone very smoothly after that.

After all, Qin Guang had not sent that small advertisement himself.

For security reasons, Ye Ci had initially contacted him using a new number.

However, after waiting for a long time, there had been no reply.

Ye Ci felt that this must have been a lie, so she had simply given up.

By this time, Ning Li had already returned. She had resolutely and cleanly rejected Ye Ming's request for the second notebook and had stated that she would not help tutor Ye Ci anymore.

Both Ye Ci and Ye Ming were in a difficult situation.

In desperation, that number had finally replied to the message.

She had asked Ye Ming to look up the number. Only then did she realize that this person was actually an Associate Professor in the Physics Department of Xijing University of Technology. He was also one of the members of the organizing committee of the National Physics Competition this time.

He had full access to that final exam paper.

After confirming this, Ye Ming had stepped forward and taken over the rest of the matter.

No one knew exactly how they had discussed it, including Ye Ci.

However, on the third day, she had received an email.

It was an email with the final exam paper attached.

That had led to the series of things that had followed.

Ning Li smiled as she surveyed his painting.

“Who asked this Associate Professor to be so ‘famous’? I was just giving him a way out. If he wanted to do this himself, then he can’t blame anyone else.”

Qin Guang was a very interesting person.

He had come from a humble background and relied on his own hard work. At the age of thirty-five, he had been awarded the title of Associate Professor at Xijing University of Technology. It could be said that he was young and promising, with a bright future ahead of him.

However, he was too radical and greedy.

Perhaps it was because he was afraid of being poor, or perhaps it was because he had lived a life of being looked down upon by others in the past. He had self-esteem issues and was very prideful, and especially valued money.

The title of Associate Professor of the Physics Department at Xijing University of Technology sounded very decent, but his research direction was more theoretical. This resulted in him not having any projects that could make money on his hands.

He would easily fall for any temptation that he was offered.

In his other life, he had been exposed as causing a leak in the competition two years later.

After the matter had been exposed, everyone found out that he had been secretly collecting money through various means.

It could be said that he was insatiably greedy.

Ning Li had used the simplest, most rudimentary method to casually throw a floating board into the middle of the river.

As long as Qin Guang was not greedy, or if the Ye family had not cared about their reputation, or were not concerned about a guaranteed entrance to the competition, they would not have been able to step onto this floating board at the same time.

Now, the floating board had overturned, and all the people who had been standing on it had fallen into the river.

Chapter 393: See You When You Look Up

“You’re right.”

Wei Songze rubbed his chin,

“But it’s hard to imagine that the Ye family went to all these lengths. It’s just a competition, how did it end up like this?”

Ning Li smiled without saying anything.

They had come this far not just for a competition, but more for their reputation.

The Ye family was a famous family in Yunzhou, and they were very particular about their appearance.

If Ye Ci had not signed up for the competition, it would have been fine. With her normal results, she could have taken the college entrance examination and entered one of the top universities in the country.

However, she had insisted on signing up for it.

Now, everyone was speculating that she had signed up to get that guaranteed spot.

Only Ning Li knew that Ye Ci had signed up to beat her.

From the day she had stepped into the Ye family, no, perhaps from the day she had known about her existence, Ye Ci had already treated her as her imaginary enemy.

Ning Li had taken many years in her previous life to figure this out.

Ye Ci's hostility toward her had mostly been because of Su Yuan.

Her biological mother had passed away so early, so she had no memory of her at all.

However, since she had been seven years old, Su Yuan had come into the Ye family.

Su Yuan seemed to have endless patience and smiles for her.

For ten years, all her concepts about motherhood had come from Su Yuan.

So, when she found out that Su Yuan actually had a biological daughter, she had been unwilling to accept it.

She did not want Ning Li to take away what belonged to her.

This included Su Yuan, the attention of others, and all the glory.

The more outstanding Ning Li was, the difficult it had been for her to accept.

Therefore, when Ning Li had participated in the physics competition, she also had to participate.

She had to prove that she was not inferior to Ning Li.

Since she was young, she had always been the most dazzling one in the crowd. Why should she be relegated to becoming the foil when Ning Li came?

She looked down on Ning Li from the bottom of her heart.

Many emotions had interweaved. Ye Ci had made one wrong step and then another, and another, until she got to where she was today.

“There’s something wrong with the spatial structure here.”

Ning Li held a pen and pointed.

Wei Songze put away those thoughts and focused on looking over.

...

An hour later, Ning Li and Wei Songze left the studio together.

It was already completely dark, and the street lamps were lit up.

Wei Songze asked, “Sister Li, where are you going back to later?”

Ning Li looked at the time.

“The Ye family home.”

“You’re going back to the Ye family home?”

Wei Songze was a little surprised,

“Ye Ci and the others should be going back soon, right? Don’t tell me you’re going to continue staying at the Ye family home in the future?”

After this incident, when Ye Ci came back, she would definitely shed all pretense of cordiality with Ning Li.

How Could Ning Li continue to stay in the Ye family then?

Wei Songze felt that it was not very good situation.

“Sister Li, why don’t you go to the rented house? There are only three months left until the college entrance exam. It will be over soon.”

After the college entrance exam was over, with her ability, wouldn’t she be able to go wherever she wanted to go?

Moreover, after she had become an adult, no one would have the right to control her anymore.

When that time came, she would be able to fly freely in the sky. How great would that be?

Ning Li raised her eyebrows slightly.

“Why not?”

Wei Songze saw that she was not joking, and his expression cracked.

“No, Sister Li, surely it’ll be too uncomfortable to have to constantly stay alert!”

After all, that was someone else’s territory. She would be at a disadvantage.

“Yeah, it will be interesting to see them every day.”

Ning Li smiled slightly, and her clear peach blossom eyes curved into a moving arc,

“Who would be more uncomfortable? That’s hard to say.”

...

At ten o’clock in the evening, Ning Li returned to the Ye family home.

Su Yuan was still awake. She was sitting in the living room, talking on the phone with someone.

When she saw that Ning Li had returned, her expression changed.

Ning Li went upstairs.

Aunt Zhao had already been fired, so she could not find a suitable replacement for a while, so Su Yuan could only hire a part-time worker.

The rich and powerful families were always looking for good workers. Also, with the current situation of the Ye family, they had to be even more cautious.

The villa was extremely quiet.

Seeing that Ning Li was about to go up, Su Yuan hurriedly hung up the phone and shouted,

“Ning Li!”

Ning Li stood still and turned around.

“What’s the matter?”

Her expression was as calm as usual, and her tone was light, no different from usual.

It was as if she was not affected by these things at all.

This caused Su Yuan to not know where to start.

After a long while, she said, “Where did you go yesterday? After such a big incident at home, how could you still be running around?”

Ning Li’s expression was indifferent.

“My room was turned upside down yesterday so I couldn’t stay there. Thus, I went out to find another place to sleep. Besides, the Ye family is currently facing other troubles... do you think that I can solve the problem by being anxious?”

Su Yuan was speechless.

She had read the official report which had confirmed Ye Ci’s involvement in the matter. Moreover, even Ye Ming had been invited to cooperate with the investigation today.

She had been busy taking care of Ye Cheng and also with having to deal with several matters in Yunzhou. Thus, she was also exhausted.

She had become even more annoyed when Ning Li had not come back yesterday. When she had seen her, she had spoken without thinking.

However, after thinking about it carefully, what Ning Li had said was not unreasonable.

She was just a senior high school student. With the Ye family's matter being so big, how could she help with anything?

Ning Li sized her up.

It had only been a few days, yet Su Yuan looked like she had aged by several years.

After living a luxurious life as part of the Ye family for the past ten years, she had always looked delicate refined.

However, the moment she faced a storm, she found that she was unable cope and quickly became haggard.

She was like the dodder flower that had clung to the Ye family. Without the Ye family, she would only be crushed into the mud.

That was why she was so anxious and worried.

In fact, from the beginning to the end, the person she cared about the most, was herself.

The corner of Ning Li's lips curved slightly as she turned around and returned to her room.

Su Yuan wanted to stop her, but her phone had lit up again.

...

After Ning Li had called the police, she had got someone to clean up the room again.

The glass candy jar on the table, and the balloons that Lu Huaiyu had given her that had been tied to the corner of the room had already been taken away the day before and placed in the rented house.

Right now, there was really nothing else left here.

She put down her backpack, read some books, washed up, and went to bed to rest.

This was the most peaceful night's sleep she had had since she had come to the Ye family.

...

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

Ning Li went to and from school as per normal every day. Su Yuan left early and returned late, probably busy with matters concerning the Ye family.

After the announcement of the leak, many of the Ye family's collaborations had been affected.

Some of the troubles that could have been solved by relying on connections were now at the center of the storm, and they were no longer useful.

In the midst of that, there had also been a small incident.

Ye Cheng must have heard some bad rumors in school and had gotten into a fight with a classmate, directly breaking the bridge of his nose.

This was another matter that Su Yuan had been forced to deal with again.

He went to a private noble primary school, and his classmates were all rich and noble.

In the past, if he had caused trouble, the school would have been reconciled and would have turned a blind eye to it.

But now, with the Ye family's situation, of course, they could not be bothered to give face to them.

As a result, Ye Cheng had been suspended from classes for a week and ordered to go home to reflect on his behavior.

On the afternoon of the third day, Ye Ming and Ye Ci finally returned to Yunzhou.

Chapter 394: Suspension

After Ye Ming had returned, he immediately rushed to the company.

In less than ten days, a series of troubles had come, one after another. The situation in Yunzhou was a mess.

Ye Ci went into her bedroom and did not come out.

At first, Su Yuan was still a little worried. She had knocked on the door twice, intending on going in to take a look.

However, Ye Ci had not opened the door. All she said was that she was tired and wanted to rest.

Su Yuan thought about how she had just been punished and how she had been severely abused by the Internet. This trip to the Capital had indeed damaged her body and spirit, so she did not ask any more questions and had left her alone.

After the evening self-study session, when Ning Li returned to the Ye family, it was already close to ten o'clock.

She had just arrived at the door when she heard Ye Ming and Su Yuan talking in the living room.

"So, the leak didn't involve you?"

Su Yuan's voice came from inside. She was obviously relieved.

"That's good, that's good..."

Ning Li stopped in her tracks.

Ye Ming's tone was still low and cold.

"Don't be so happy. This time, it was only because they could not find any conclusive evidence. Someone else has been sent to investigate it now. It wasn't easy to get this result. However, Ye Ci's side has been thoroughly investigated. No matter what, her name could not be cleared. The Ye family will still be implicated."

Su Yuan let out an "Ah".

However, she also understood that this was already the best result that they could obtain at the moment.

After a long while, she said.

"No matter what, you're finally clear. That's a good thing, at least."

Ye Ming seemed to sneer.

Clear?

That was easy to say.

"Ye Ci is my daughter. Do you really think that she has no influence at all?"

He had been in the business world for decades and could be considered an extremely shrewd and cunning person.

Therefore, from the beginning to the end, he had been very careful about any matters related to Qin Guang, which was why he had not left any fatal evidence.

However, it was impossible to say that there were no traces at all.

It was just that it was not enough to drag him down.

He had spent a lot of effort to erase this tiny trace and had barely managed to escape.

However, the conclusion on Ye Ci's end was confirmed. There really was no other way.

Moreover, anyone with a bit of brains could guess that he had definitely been involved in this.

Su Yuan was worried.

"What else can we do now? Jinsheng was given a month to make some amendments, and several collaborative projects were turned down by others for various reasons. This..."

She usually did not interfere in the matters of Ye Ming's company, but she still had a certain understanding of it.

Moreover, this information could not be hidden at all. All she needed to do was ask around and find out.

The impact of the leak incident was far more serious than she had expected.

Ye Ming was silent for a moment before he said, "So be it. Fortunately, those few projects are not too big. In addition, I have personally gone to ask today. Jinsheng's problem is not considered serious. It can be reopened when it expires. Most importantly, the Qinghe Bridge project is not affected."

Qinghe Bridge was currently the largest project of Ye Ming's company. Since it was led by the Yunzhou city government, it had a strong background.

It was precisely because of this that the Ye family could continue to move forward steadily despite suffering such a huge storm.

As long as they had this in hand, the Ye family's foundation would still be stable.

Hearing his words, Su Yuan's anxiety and worry finally eased.

"Yes, yes. There's still Qinghe Bridge."

The storm of public opinion would eventually pass.

The most important thing was to ensure the fundamental interests.

As long as everything went smoothly at Qinghe Bridge, the Ye family did not have to worry too much.

"Where's Lil Cheng?"

Ye Ming pinched the bridge of his nose as he asked her tiredly.

"Previously, you said that he had been suspended. What happened exactly?"

Su Yuan briefly explained the matter to him.

“... and that’s about it. Actually, I think it’s not necessarily a bad idea to let Lil Cheng rest at home for a few days. The situation at school is rather complicated right now. After a few days, I’ll send him back. It should be better.”

Su Yuan was being tactful, but Ye Ming knew what she meant.

The news of Ye Ci cheating and leaking the questions had spread all over the Internet. How could the parents of the students not know about it?

It was hard to guarantee that no one would say anything in front of their own children.

It was only because of this that the children had followed suit and started arguing. They had even started fighting with Ye Cheng at school.

When the incident had calmed down a little, the situation might improve.

Ye Ming frowned. He was very unhappy.

However, after thinking about it carefully, he knew that what Su Yuan said was not without reason.

At the moment, this was indeed the most appropriate way to deal with the situation.

“Then, that’s it for now. Also, you should teach him better in the future. Don’t cause trouble so rashly.”

There were already enough things to do at home.

Su Yuan replied, “I know that. Don’t worry.”

Ye Ming looked at the second floor, his expression slightly focused, as if he was thinking about something.

After a long while, he said, "Oh right, please go to school tomorrow and help Lil Ci take a leave of absence."

"A leave of absence?"

Su Yuan's voice raised by an octave. She quickly realized that she had lost her composure and quickly lowered her voice.

"Why is she taking a leave of absence? She's going to take the college entrance exam in three months!"

Ye Ming leaned against the sofa, his entire person was very tired.

"She's just taking a leave of absence, not quitting school. I pleaded with Second High to keep her academic status. With her current state, how can she go back to school? Let her rest at home for a few days, and then we'll find her a—"

Before he could finish, the door to the bedroom on the second floor suddenly opened.

Ye Ci stood behind the handrail of the stairs, her face full of disbelief.

"Dad, what did you say!? You want me to quit school!?"

Chapter 395: Famous Painting

Ye Ming frowned.

"What else? Can you still go back to Second High?"

Ye Ci was instantly speechless.

She thought of the accusations and insults on the Internet.

Every word was extremely unpleasant.

How much better could Second High be?

“But, but...”

She muttered in a daze.

At this point, she did not know what to do.

“Other than taking a break from school, do you have a better choice? Do you know how much effort I put in to keep your academic status?”

Ye Ming was also suppressing his anger.

He had been begging people everywhere recently and now he owed God knows how many favors!

The Ye family had been developing very well all these years. He had long been used to being high and mighty, but now he had to humbly ask for help. He still had a bellyful of anger that he had nowhere to vent!

Ye Ci bit her lip hard.

Su Yuan tried to smooth things over.

“Lil Ci, your father is doing this for your own good. Look at all the things that have happened recently. You haven’t even had a good sleep. It’s a good time to take advantage of this time to recuperate.”

Ye Ci's hand gripped the railing tightly. Her knuckles had gone red and white.

After a while, she asked, "Then... then how long do I have to stay out of school?"

Ye Ming pressed the space between his eyebrows.

"I'm not sure yet. I'll find someone to contact the agent later. You'll need to prepare to study abroad."

When she said this, Su Yuan and Ye Ci were both shocked.

"Study abroad?"

Ye Ci's first reaction was to refuse.

"Dad, I don't want to go abroad!"

Her ideal school was Xijing University. All these years, she had been working hard and striving for this goal.

Even if she could not go to Xijing University, she could still go to the top three universities in the country.

In any case, she had never thought of going abroad to study at a university.

"Do you think this is a question of whether you want to or not?"

Ye Ming seemed to have run out of patience. He suddenly stood up and picked up a teacup from the coffee table and threw it to the ground.

Bang!

The teacup instantly broke into pieces!

Su Yuan was so scared that she hurriedly took two steps back with a panicked look on her face.

Ye Ci cringed as well.

Ye Ming raised his hand and pointed at Ye Ci, his voice cold and stern.

“Ye Ci! Wake up! The matter of cheating and leaking the question has become so big, do you think any other university in the country would be willing to accept you!?”

If Ye Ci had not yet turned eighteen, the result would have been even worse than this!

She could afford to have a stain on her reputation, but he could not!

“The Ye family’s reputation has been ruined by you. What more do you want!?”

At the moment, even without mentioning any others, just the aristocratic families in Yunzhou alone were laughing at them behind their backs!

Ye Ci’s lips trembled slightly, and her face was frighteningly pale.

Su Yuan stood at the side, one hand supporting the sofa and the other clutching her chest. Her eyes were filled with anxiety and fear, and she was unable to utter a single word.

Suddenly, a sharp scream was heard.

Ye Cheng had woken up at some point and run out in a hurry. When he saw this scene, he was so angry that his face had turned red.

“Dad! I won’t allow you to scold sister like this!”

The moment the anger that Ye Ming had suppressed for such a long time finally exploded, it was almost out of control.

When he heard Ye Cheng talk back to him like this, his face darkened.

“This is not your place to interrupt! Get back to your room!”

Ye Cheng was Ye Ming’s only son. Usually, Ye Ming had always doted on him, even indulging and spoiling him.

If not, Ye Cheng would not have been raised to have a temper that was so arrogant and willful.

This was the first time he had gotten so angry at Ye Cheng.

Ye Cheng was also stunned, and his whole body froze to the spot.

Only then did Su Yuan come back to her senses and hurriedly walked over.

She did not dare to provoke Ye Ming now. She did not even dare to try to persuade him. She could only walk over to Ye Cheng’s side and grab his shoulder, wanting to push him back.

As she pushed him, she scolded him in a low voice.

“Lil Cheng, how dare you talk to your father like that? Go back to your room quickly!”

Ye Cheng stood there stubbornly without moving.

He was only ten years old this year, but being a chubby child, Su Yuan could not do anything to him as he stood there.

After the initial shock, he finally came to a realization. He then opened his mouth and started to cry.

The spacious and luxurious villa was in a mess, and his ear-piercing cry echoed in the air.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open from the outside.

Ning Li walked in from the outside, and her footsteps paused slightly.

Looking at this absurd and embarrassing scene, her expression was as calm as ever. She raised her eyebrows slightly, as if she was sizing up and appreciating it.

It was as if what was presented in front of her was a masterpiece that needed to be appreciated.

Other than Ye Cheng who was still crying, the other three had frozen and fallen into dead silence.

This scene was extremely embarrassing.

No one had expected that Ning Li would come back at this time and accidentally encountered this scene!

However, she seemed unaffected. Her gaze swept past the faces of the few of them one by one before she lifted her legs and walked upstairs.

Her expression was calm, her shoulders and back were straight, and her figure was slender.

The girl's footsteps were very soft, but at this moment, every step she took seemed to be particularly ear-piercing and clear.

It was as if everything around her had nothing to do with her.

Ye Ci stared at her as she walked upstairs, the distance between them getting closer and closer.

The resentment and anger in her heart almost burst out of her chest!

However, Ning Li did not seem to notice it at all. She did not even give her a superfluous look as she brushed past her.

“You’re very pleased with yourself, aren’t you?”

As the two of them brushed past each other, Ye Ci suddenly spoke in a low voice.

Her words seemed to be squeezed out of the gaps between her teeth, one word at a time, with unconcealed hatred and resentment.

“Ning Li, are you crazy with joy at seeing me reduced to such a state?”

Chapter 396: Why Would I Bother With Him

Ning Li stopped in her tracks and turned her head to look at her.

Ye Ci’s delicate and gentle face had become a little twisted due to hatred and madness.

It was no longer as beautiful and proud as before. Instead, it made people feel nauseous.

“What are you talking about? I don’t understand.”

Ning Li said faintly.

However, this faint voice seemed to have given Ye Ci a great stimulus.

“Why are you pretending?”

Her voice suddenly became sharp, and she raised her hand to slap Ning Li’s face!

Ning Li narrowed her eyes, and a cold light appeared in her eyes. She grabbed her wrist.

Her fingers were clearly long and slender, but they were extremely strong.

Ye Ci could not struggle at all. She only felt that her wrist was being held in pain.

“Let go of me! Do you think I don’t know what you’re thinking?! Ning Li, you were obviously the one who had stuffed that thing into my sleeve on purpose! Why are you pretending to be innocent? !”

As she spoke, her other hand was about to move again.

Ning Li pushed her away.

Ye Ci staggered back a few steps and almost fell to the ground.

Ning Li’s eyes were extremely cold:

“If you want to go crazy, forgive me for not having the interest in accompanying you.”

“You!”

All the blood in Ye Ci’s body surged to her head. All of her rationality had already been washed away.

She quickly walked forward as if she really intended to fight with Ning Li.

“Ye Ci!”

Ye Ming shouted in a deep voice and suddenly called out to her,

“What are you doing!”

Ye Ci’s tears gushed out in an instant, accompanied by endless grievance and resentment,

“It’s her! I told you, it’s her fault! Why don’t you believe me?”

She had never been as powerless and desperate as she was now.

She had already gotten hold of the original test paper, how could she have been so stupid as to prepare another cheat sheet!?

However, because she had found the email that should have disappeared completely on her computer, all her arguments had become ridiculous.

She did not know how Ning Li had come up with that cheat sheet, but other than Ning Li, no one else had the motive to do it!

Veins were popping out on Ye Ming’s forehead.

“Ye Ci! Look at what you look like now!”

This was the daughter that he had carefully nurtured for more than ten years!

All of her upbringing had disappeared, and she seemed to have lost control of her mind and was behaving like a lunatic!

It had already come to this point, and the notice had already been sent out. Instead of thinking about what she should do next, she was still struggling with these things!

Now, he really felt that Ye Ci was not normal.

Ye Ci felt as if a heavy stone was pressing down on her chest. Endless emotions surged, but she could not vent them out, no matter what.

She sobbed until she choked. One hand was pressed firmly on her chest. Her body trembled uncontrollably, and even breathing became difficult.

“Why don’t you all believe me? Why?”

Her vision blurred, and hot tears streamed down her face. Her whole body was chilled to the bone.

Perhaps it was because her outburst had been too sudden and too violent.

Ye Sheng, who had been wailing earlier, was so shocked that he had forgotten to cry. He stared blankly at everything.

In his memory, his sister had always been gentle and generous. This was the first time he had seen her like this.

After all, he was only ten years old. Seeing the mess at home, he finally could not help but feel uneasy and fearful. He subconsciously grabbed Su Yuan's sleeve and gripped it tightly.

However, Su Yuan was no better than him.

Before this, she had never thought that the Ye family would be in such a mess one day.

She could only pretend to be calm. She used a little more strength in her hands and urged Ye Cheng to go back to his room. She did not want him to see this scene again.

It was already chaotic enough here!

Ye Cheng turned around stiffly. However, he had just taken a step when he suddenly thought of something and turned around abruptly to look at Ning Li.

"It's all because of you! Nothing good has happened to our family ever since you came! You're a jinx! Why aren't you leaving yet?!"

He shouted this sentence very loudly. Everyone had heard it clearly.

Dead silence.

However, Ning Li did not seem to be embarrassed by his words.

Her expression was calm, and she turned her head to look at Ye Ming.

"Uncle Ye, it seems that my existence has indeed caused you a lot of trouble. Since the Ye family can not tolerate me, I will pack my things and leave now."

As she spoke, she turned around and walked towards her own room.

“Wait!”

Ning Li turned around.

Ye Ming took a deep breath,

“Ye Ci can’t control her emotions now, and Ye Cheng isn’t sensible either. You don’t have to take their words to heart.

“Since you’ve come to the Ye family, there’s been no reason to simply chase you out. You can stay here without any worry.”

With that, he looked at Ye Cheng again.

“Are you still not apologizing?”

Ye Cheng could not believe it.

“What right do you have to make me apologize?! I don’t want to apologize to her! Dad, you used to love me and my sister very much!”

As he spoke, he was angry and sad at the same time. He turned around and ran back to his room.

“Lil Cheng!”

Su Yuan panicked and hurriedly chased after him.

Bang!

Ye Cheng slammed the door hard.

Su Yuan was shocked and she had almost gotten hurt.

However, she could not care less about herself. She just banged on the door.

“Lil Cheng! You—”

Ye Sheng roared.

“Leave me alone!”

Su Yuan choked on his words and did not know what to do.

Ye Ming’s face was cold.

“This is the good son that you’ve raised! Look at how spoiled he is!”

His words were full of reproach and dissatisfaction toward Su Yuan.

Su Yuan’s lips moved. It was not easy for her to suppress the urge to argue with him, but she felt extremely aggrieved in her heart.

Her son had not been born to her alone, and his temper had not been spoiled by her alone. Now, however, everything had been blamed on her!

Besides, wasn’t the main problem that had caused such a ruckus been the exam leak??

If Ye Ming had not done this, then how could so much trouble have been caused?

Su Yuan suppressed the many emotions in her heart and did not say a word.

Ning Li stood upstairs and looked at the scene expressionlessly.

From what she remembered, Su Yuan had a very arrogant temper. She would make a fuss if she was even just slightly dissatisfied.

Every time she had quarreled with Ning Haizhou, she had never shown any weakness.

However, now in the Ye family, even if Ye Ming scolded her to the point that she was useless, she still would not answer back. She endured it all.

The corners of Ning Li's lips curled up into a slight mocking smile.

In his heart, Ye Ming could not wait for her to leave the Ye family immediately, but he would not do that.

Especially now.

The Ye family had caused a scandal, and Ye Ci's future was ruined. Yet, she had just won first place in the National Overall Score in the physics competition.

If she were to leave now, what would the outsiders think?

The Ye family did not even have such a tolerance for people.

How could Ye Ming leave such a bad impression on others?

Therefore, even if he felt extremely disgusted and uncomfortable, he had to endure it all.

He had had to blame Ye Ci and reprimand Su Yuan. Not only would he make Ye Cheng apologize, but he would also personally ask Ning Li to stay.

This should give a very feeling.

Ning Li smiled.

“Uncle Ye worries too much.. Ye Cheng is still young. Why would I bother with him?”

Chapter 397: Second High School

Ye Ming was livid.

“Ye Ci, go back to your room right now and reflect on yourself!”

Ye Ci wiped away the tears on her face and stared at Ning Li with bloodshot eyes.

At this point, she knew that it was useless to say anything more.

Everything had already been set in stone.

Ning Li had boundless glory, and countless praises and glory greeted her.

While she...

As if sensing her gaze, Ning Li suddenly turned around and looked over at her.

Their eyes met.

Then, she heard Ning Li say softly,

“In that case, I’ll go back and rest first. I still have class tomorrow.”

As she spoke, she started to walk towards her room.

When she passed by Ye Ci again, she paused.

“Good night, everyone.”

Ye Ci was so angry that her vision went black.

However, Ning Li had already returned to her room.

With a click, the door was locked, easily blocking out all the chaos and disputes.

...

That night, the Ye family was in a state of chaos.

Apart from Ning Li, no one else had slept well.

...

The next morning, Ning Li packed her backpack and went out. Coincidentally, she encountered Ye Ci.

She had probably not slept well the whole night. The dark circles under her eyes were very heavy, and her eyes were bloodshot. She also looked very listless.

When she looked at Ning Li, she looked particularly gloomy and cold.

Ning Li turned a blind eye and went downstairs.

Ye Ming was not at home, and Ye Sheng did not seem to be up yet.

Only Su Yuan stood alone in the living room.

Her makeup today was a little heavier than usual, but it still could not hide her haggard and tired face.

“Lil Ci, you should go to school today too.”

She was going to Second High to help Ye Ci apply for a suspension, so naturally, Ye Ci naturally had to go as well.

Ye Ci’s face was very cold.

“I don’t want to go with her.”

She was obviously referring to Ning Li.

After last night, she and Ning Li had completely fallen out.

So now, she really could not be bothered to put on any pretense.

Su Yuan frowned.

“Since we’re all going to the school anyway, it’s more convenient for us to go together.”

Last night, Ye Ming had specifically told her that at this time, she should try her best to take care of Ning Li.

He did not want to hear any more messy rumors.

Of course, Su Yuan understood what he meant.

So now, she could only refuse Ye Ci’s request.

Ye Ci’s expression stiffened.

Ning Li said lightly, “Since Ye Ci doesn’t want to go with me, I can take a taxi to school myself.”

Ye Ci sneered.

At this time, Ning Li was still putting on an act.

“Then, let’s listen to Mom.”

Wasn’t it just taking a car together? What was such a big deal about it?

As she spoke, she took the lead to out of the door.

The car stopped outside the villa’s main entrance. Zhou Hua was already waiting in the car.

Ye Ci went straight to the front passenger seat.

Ning Li followed at a leisurely pace. Su Yuan sighed and walked to the back to sit in the back seat with Ning Li.

The car started.

There was silence all the way.

Twenty minutes later, Zhou Hua parked the car at the intersection not far from the entrance of Second High School.

Ning Li pushed the door open and got out.

Ye Ci's hand was on the car door. She looked up at the window, but she suddenly stopped.

It was the morning rush hour, and the students who came and went on the road were all wearing Second High school uniforms.

The crowd was surging.

Ye Ci felt an unspeakable deep fear in her heart.

"Lil Ci?"

Su Yuan was actually not willing to come, but it was impossible not to do this.

Ye Ci said, "Mom, it's still early. The teacher is probably not here yet. Let's go over later."

Su Yuan hesitated for a moment before agreeing.

Ye Ci heaved a sigh of relief. She leaned against the back of her seat and looked out of the car window. Ning Li had already walked towards the school gate. Her figure quickly disappeared among the large group of students.

At this moment, Ye Ci felt like a mouse that could not be seen in the light. She could only hide like a coward here, feeling extremely humiliated.

However, at the same time, she knew clearly that this time was indeed not the best choice.

Once she had impulsively gotten out of the car, what kind of looks would those people give her? What would they say about her?

She did not dare to take a gamble.

...

“Ning Li!”

When she reached the school gate, Ning Li just happened to bump into He Xiaochen.

She happily greeted Ning Li, then subconsciously looked behind her and asked in a strange manner,

“Hey, Ning Li, why isn’t that car leaving yet?”

She knew that it was the Ye family’s car. It had been responsible for picking up and dropping off Ye Ci and Ning Li.

Logically speaking, they should have gone back after dropping them off.

Before Ning Li could say anything, a few discussions came from behind them.

“Is it true that Ye Ci came to school?”

“I saw it with my own eyes! Are you serious? ! Hey, did you see that car over there? Ye Ci is sitting inside!”

“Where... I can’t see anything...”

“The window was opened just now. I saw it. It’s Ye Ci. Wasn’t that Ning Li in front? They came together.”

“Together? Then why did only Ning Li get out of the car?”

“Hahaha! Are you stupid? There are so many people now. Does Ye Ci have the nerve to come over? She probably wants to wait until there’s no one else.”

“She actually still dares to come to school...”

The person who spoke clicked his tongue.

The rest of the words did not need to be said. Everyone naturally understood.

He Xiaochen winked at Ning Li and whispered,

“Ning Li, did Ye Ci really come with you?”

“Yes.”

Hearing her affirmative answer, He Xiaochen could not hide her shock.

She looked over there again before following Ning Li into the school.

In fact, she had the same thoughts as those people.

However, she did not want to gossip in front of Ning Li, so she rarely talked about related topics.

Seeing that Ning Li looked calm and did not seem to take it to heart, she thought about it and decided to suppress her words and talk about something else.

“By the way, are we going to do a random recitation in Chinese class today?”

...

He Xiaochen did not gossip, but it did not mean that other people were the same.

After the morning of self-study had ended, the news of Ye Ci returning to school had spread throughout Second High School.

In the classroom and in the corridor, almost all the students were discussing this matter.

Some of the braver ones had even come directly to First Class.

They probably wanted to wait for Ye Ci to appear.

The people in First Class restrained themselves a lot, but the atmosphere in the classroom was still obviously different from usual.

The air was filled with an inexplicable restlessness.

Lin Zhouyang looked at the empty seat in front of him, feeling as if he was in a daze for a long time.

However, even until the first class had begun, Ye Ci still had not shown up.

Many people started to discuss in whispers.

“Didn’t they say that ye Ci came to school today? Why hasn’t she shown up until now?”

“Isn’t that simple? Just ask Ning Li directly!”

“You’re so toxic! You know her relationship with the Ye family. How could I still ask her these questions? Would I not be just making things difficult for myself?”

...

Probably because Ning Li’s usual indifferent attitude towards Ye Ci and the Ye family had long been deeply rooted in people’s hearts, no one really went to talk to her about this.

However, this question was finally answered after the first class had ended.

Ye Ci had not come to the classroom, but had gone to the administrative building instead.

Chapter 398: What Does It Have to Do With You

“Why did she go to the administrative building?”

Everyone looked surprised.

The girl who had spoken looked around before she lowered her voice.

"I went there to deliver some materials and accidentally bumped into her. In addition to Ye Ci, her mother had also come. I heard that... Ye Ci is going to take a leave of absence."

Hearing this, everyone was shocked.

"A leave of absence?"

"Really?"

"Then, does that mean she won't come to school anymore?"

"Why do I feel that she took a leave of absence just because she didn't want to come to school?"

The group of people were discussing animatedly.

This speculation quickly received a lot of agreement.

"I think so too!"

"Me too—"

"Tsk, if I were her, I would indeed be too ashamed to continue staying in Second High School. But no, I'm not her. After all, I don't have the ability to get the original questions for the finals of the national competition..."

"Speaking of which, the Ye family is really amazing. Even in this state, they still managed to keep Ye Ci's academic status? I thought she would be expelled, no matter what."

“Even if she’s not expelled, then she should be suspended from school. That stain would then forever remain in her file. Which university would still accept her then?”

As they spoke, several people occasionally looked in Ning Li’s direction.

However, Ning Li’s expression remained very calm. She had been sitting in her seat answering questions and could not see anything.

Someone could not help but mutter.

“They’e all family. The difference between both sisters is too big...”

The person next to her smiled and said, “Sigh, Ning Li and the Ye family aren’t related by blood, right? She can’t be considered a sister to Ye Ci. If only she had been half as good as Ning Li, she wouldn’t have reached this stage, right?”

Lin Zhouyang could not take it anymore. He turned around and said to Ren Qian, “Ren Qian, I’m going out first. When the teacher asks about it later, just say that I went to the toilet.”

Ren Qian glanced at him.

“Are you going to the administrative building?”

Lin Zhouyang felt a little awkward after his worries were exposed.

“I’ll be back soon. I’m leaving.”

After saying that, he did not bother with Ren Qian and got up to leave.

Ren Qian shook his head.

"I really don't know what is going on."

A boy in front called out to Ren Qian.

"Ren Qian! You haven't cleaned the blackboard yet!"

Ren Qian, "..."

Ever since he had gotten his guaranteed acceptance, everyone in the class had automatically given him these miscellaneous chores.

Now, he came to school every day to clean the blackboard and sweep the floor.

He leaned back on his chair and picked up a book and spun it out of boredom.

"Why are you treating me like some kind of free labor every day? If I don't do it today, whose turn is it to be on duty?"

The boy looked at the duty schedule.

"It should be He Xiaochen today."

Ren Qian was stunned and turned his head to look to the side.

He Xiaochen was leaning over to Ning Li's side, as if she was asking about a biological genetic problem.

"Mm-hmm... mm-hmm... so the ratio of black rabbits and white rabbits crossing each other after ten generations of gray rabbits..."

She supported her face with one hand without reading the paper. She stared at Ning Li the whole time, and the infatuation on her face almost overflowing.

Ren Qian, “...”

The boy shouted at He Xiaochen.

“He—”

Ren Qian sighed, put down the book, stood up, and muttered.

“What kind of tiring life is this?”

...

Lin Zhouyang went to the administrative building.

Since he did not know which office Ye Ci had gone to, he waited beside the small flower bed on the first floor.

The bell rang and the second class began.

The students on the campus all returned to their classrooms, and the surroundings became quiet and empty.

After waiting for about half an hour, he finally saw Ye Ci coming down from upstairs.

He was just about to go over when he saw Su Yuan following beside Ye Ci.

Lin Zhouyang hesitated for a moment but did not go over.

Su Yuan was holding a file bag in her hand while Ye Ci was carrying her schoolbag. Her head was lowered slightly and she looked very tired.

“Lil Ci, do you need mommy to go with you?”

Su Yuan asked.

Ye Ci shook her head.

“I can go alone. Please wait for me in the car first.”

The suspension procedures had been completed, but she still had some things left in the classroom.

She had originally wanted to ask Cheng Xiangxiang to help her take them back, but she had sent several messages to Cheng Xiangxiang and received no reply.

In fact, she already had a clear feeling that Cheng Xiangxiang had been deliberately reducing her contact with her recently.

Whether it was due to her own initiative or because she had been reminded by her family, it could be expected that they really could not be the same as before.

This matter made Ye Ci feel very disappointed.

So after thinking about it, she decided to go and get the things back herself.

She looked at her phone. The second class was almost over. She just had to wait until the break between classes to go to the classroom.

Su Yuan saw her firm attitude, so she nodded.

“Okay, then mom will leave first.”

With that, she took the file bag and left.

When she was far away, Ye Ci turned around and was about to walk in the direction of the teaching building.

However, she bumped into Lin Zhouyang after taking only a few steps.

“Ye Ci.”

Looking at Lin Zhouyang who had suddenly walked out from behind the small flower bed, Ye Ci was shocked.

After she came back to her senses, she frowned.

“Why are you here?”

She did not want to see any familiar faces now, but Lin Zhouyang had obviously waiting for her here.

Realizing this, she felt a little disgusted, and her tone became impatient.

Lin Zhouyang was stunned.

Initially, he felt very uncomfortable when he saw Ye Ci’s haggard appearance.

But before he could say anything, the disgust in Ye Ci’s eyes was clearly displayed.

The words that he had prepared were suddenly stuck in his throat and could not be said.

After a moment, he said nervously,

“I... I didn’t have anything to do, so I just wanted to see how you were...”

Ye Ci looked at him coldly and suddenly sneered.

“Why do you care what happens to me?”

1

Chapter 399: I Really Liked You in the Past

Lin Zhouyang was stunned.

He knew that Ye Ci did not return his feelings, but they had been classmates for many years, and Ye Ci had never spoken to him in such a tone.

His heart felt like it was stuffed with a ball of wet cotton.

However, when he thought of the recent things that had happened to Ye Ci, it seemed to be understandable that she was in a bad mood.

He had seen how awful the people on the Internet had been.

“I. . . Don’t misunderstand, I’m just a little worried about you...” he said hesitantly, “Ye Ci, how long will you be taking a leave of absence?”

The college entrance exam was in three months, but the people in the class were right. With Ye Ci's current condition, it would be difficult for her to go to a better university.

Ye Ci ignored him and turned to leave.

In the past, she might have acted gentle and generous, but now that she was going to quit school, why should she waste time on such an insignificant person?

Lin Zhouyang was very conflicted.

He could see that Ye Ci did not want to say a word to him now, but...

After all, he had secretly liked her for many years. How could he not feel uncomfortable seeing Ye Ci's current appearance?

After a moment, he quickly followed after her.

"Ye Ci, you... If you're unhappy and want to find someone to talk to, you can—"

Ye Ci suddenly stood still, turned around, and looked him up and down.

"Lin Zhouyang, do you want me to be happy?"

Lin Zhouyang felt that her question was a little abrupt, and he felt a little embarrassed. However, looking at Ye Ci, he still nodded his head.

"Okay."

Ye Ci suddenly laughed.

“Okay, then you go over now and slap Ning Li a few times in front of everyone. If you do that, I’ll be happy.”

Lin Zhouyang was instantly dumbfounded.

He reacted silently for a long time before he found his voice again.

“... Ye... Ye Ci, what did you say?”

Ye Ci took a step forward.

“What? You don’t want to?”

Lin Zhouyang pursed his lips tightly.

Ye Ci sneered.

“Did you know that she secretly slipped that cheat sheet to me? It’s all because of her that I’ve become like this! If you really like me, wouldn’t you even help me with such a small thing?”

Ye Ci clearly knew that her future was ruined.

From now on, she might not even step through the gates of Yunzhou Second High School.

Since she had no scruples, she could not be bothered to pretend any longer.

Lin Zhouyang looked at her and felt that this familiar face had suddenly become extremely unfamiliar at this moment.

The notice of the National Organizing Committee had already been issued. Those things had indeed been done by Ye Ci.

Previously, he had just not wanted to believe it because he had liked Ye Ci so much.

However, it had been very clear in his heart. If the evidence wasn't conclusive, how could there have been such a result?

He could see that she was sad, his heart also felt uncomfortable.

He had never thought that Ye Ci would actually say such a thing.

Everyone could see what Ning Li's results were like.

She was ranked first in the country by her own ability.

All along, although she did not have a good relationship with Ye Ci, she had never done anything.

However, Ye Ci had previously deliberately led everyone to misunderstand that Ning Li was unwilling to lend her notes.

The fact was, Ning Li did not even take notes.

One by one, one by one...

Lin Zhouyang's face was pale. After a long time, he said in a low voice,

"Ye Ci, I really liked you in the past."

Ye Ci was stunned, then she sneered.

“If you don’t want to, then forget it.”

Then, she turned around and left.

Lin Zhouyang did not chase after her.

...

During the break.

The students had all gone to the playground to do exercises.

Seeing that there was finally no one in the teaching building, Ye Ci went up the stairs.

She came to the back door of First Class and looked inside.

The classroom was empty and there was no one in it.

Only then did Ye Ci go in. She went to her seat and packed her things.

There were a few books and a stack of papers on the table.

She took a look and found that they had been newly issued in the past few days, and most of them were the test papers that Second High School had printed themselves.

Looking at the glaring words “Yunzhou Second High School” on it, she paused for a moment before angrily crumpling them into a ball and threw them all into the garbage bin.

In the belly of the table were the miscellaneous things that she had placed inside before.

She took those things out, one by one, and stuffed them into her schoolbag.

Suddenly, she realized that something was wrong and opened the physics textbook.

On the title page, there were a few eye-piercing red words: Shameless!!!

Her heart skipped a beat, and she saw some small words written on the side.

The handwriting was different, and it had obviously been written by different people.

—The results stolen by cheating are not yours after all!

—Second High's face has been completely humiliated by you! I feel ashamed to have had a classmate like you!

—I really misjudged you in the past!

—Get lost!

The dense handwriting seemed to form an invisible giant net that surrounded her and became tighter and tighter.

Ye Ci's heart started to beat faster and faster. Finally, she could not help but tear that page out of the book!

Rip...

She quickly tore that page into pieces!

However, she soon discovered that there was still more on the second page!

A strong sense of unease welled up in her heart. She quickly opened up the other books, and sure enough, they were also filled with accusations and ridicule!

The hand that Ye Ci used to hold the books trembled slightly.

For a moment, she even wanted to throw all these books away!

Suddenly, however, there was a noise coming from the corridor.

Ye Ci's heart instantly tensed up. The class break had ended! Everyone was back!

She could not care less about anything else. In a panic, she quickly stuffed everything into her school bag.

However, the more she panicked she was, the more confused she became.

The zipper of her school bag had just been pulled halfway when the back door of the classroom was pushed open.

"Hahaha! Didn't you guys see the old class just now—"

All the voices suddenly seemed to have been put on pause and stopped abruptly.

Ye Ci's entire body stiffened.

After a moment, someone called out.

“Ye Ci?”

Chapter 400: Reputation Completely Destroyed

2

This was the first time everyone had seen Ye Ci since the cheating scandal had blown up.

They had thought that she would not appear after she had gone to the administrative building to apply for a leave of absence. Who would have guessed that she would actually come back?

Dead silence.

A group of people had gathered at the back door of the classroom. They were all stunned and did not move for a long time.

However, their gazes all fell on Ye Ci.

Ye Ci felt as if there was a ray of light on her back, and her mind went blank for a short while.

The thing she had worried about the most had happened!

The air seemed to freeze.

Someone shouted from behind.

“Eh? Why isn’t the person in front going in? Don’t block the road!”

An unidentified person replied with, “Ye Ci is here.”

This time, even the noise in the corridor had disappeared.

Some people walked to the window, and some went to the front door.

Not only First Class, but the other classes had also heard the news and did not bother going back to their own classrooms. They had all came over.

Ye Ci finally came back to her senses. She lowered her head and quickly packed her things, ready to leave.

However, because she had moved too quickly, the zipper of her schoolbag was stuck.

The sound from outside kept entering her ears.

“Is it really Ye Ci?”

“Let me see, it seems to be her.”

“Didn’t you say that she went to the administrative building? Did she actually came to First Class?”

“She seems to be taking something. I guess she’s really going to take a break from school...”

“She still has the face to come? Is her skin really that thick!”

...

The more Ye Ci heard, the more anxious she became. In the end, she exerted too much force with her hand, and with a crack, the zipper broke.

She froze.

Looking at the schoolbag that could no longer be closed properly, she felt that it was extremely ironic.

It was as if she had been desperately trying to hide those things, yet in the end, everything was still exposed.

All of her past fame, honor, and glory were now stained with dirt and had become a huge joke!

The students walked in one after another.

“Ye Ci, long time no see.”

A girl greeted her, but her smile was very subtle.

Ye Ci did not say anything. She picked up her bag and was about to leave.

“Eh? Why are you ignoring me?”

The girl pulled out her chair, but her gaze was still on Ye Ci. Her voice was neither soft nor heavy,

“No matter what, we are all classmates— Oh, I almost forgot. It shouldn’t count now, right?”

A few people beside her laughed and echoed.

“Don’t! We can’t possibly reach the level of such a ‘classmate’!”

“That’s right.”

“She’s very famous now. She’s not the same as before.”

In the announcement issued by the National Organizing Committee, it had clearly mentioned that Ye Ci, was from Yunzhou Second High School.

This could be considered to have tarnished the reputation of Second High, and it was the kind thing that everyone knew about.

The students of Second High, especially the students in First Class of the Senior Year, were mostly disgusted by this matter.

As long as one was brought out, it was very likely that they would be pulled by others and asked, “Yunzhou Second High School, First Class of the Senior Year, that Ye Ci who leaked the exam questions and cheated, is she from your class?”

Therefore, everyone was extremely displeased with Ye Ci now.

Ye Ci was so angry that her body was trembling slightly, and her face was mottled red and white.

She finally could not hold it in anymore. She raised her eyes and stared at those people. She asked coldly,

“Have you said enough?!”

This question was sharp and abrupt. The classroom fell silent.

After a moment, the girl raised her eyebrows.

“No. I haven’t even asked yet. How does it feel to be caught with a cheat sheet in the middle of a national physics competition? Anyway, the class hasn’t started yet. Ye Ci, can you tell us about it?”

Ye Ci's lips turned pale in an instant.

Someone outside the classroom joined in the jeering and raised his voice to reply:

"Hey! Let's talk about it first. How did you get the national final exam questions? I can't even get the monthly exam papers, so I came specially to ask for advice! Ye Ci, be more generous and teach us too?"

As soon as these words were said, the people outside burst into laughter.

"You were really courting death! How did you dare to cheat in the monthly exam? You're really not afraid of being heard by Old Zhang!"

"Hey, hey, hey! I was just joking, why take it so seriously? Is this something that an ordinary person can do? I don't have that ability!"

"However, you were too showy..."

"What? I'm willing to learn, but it depends on whether Ye Ci is willing to teach or not, right?"

...

Ye Ci's ears buzzed, and her vision went black.

The space around her seemed to be constantly contracting, making it hard for her to breathe.

As she stood there, there were clearly many people around her, but she felt terribly lonely and cold.

She had to go... ! She could not stay in this place anymore!

This was the only thought in her mind.

Without saying a word, she hugged her bag tightly and walked out.

However, there were too many people around, and it was very crowded.

In her rush, someone bumped her arm hard.

Her arms loosened, and the bag in her arms fell to the ground. The things inside also fell to the ground in an instant.

It was a mess.

...

Ye Ci really wanted to leave this place immediately and never appear in front of these people again.

A strong sense of humiliation surged into her heart, almost causing her to break down.

Everyone was looking at her.

Some were mocking, some were contemptuous, some were gloating, and some did not care at all...

Suddenly, she paused, and saw Cheng Xiangxiang standing in the crowd.

Cheng Xiangxiang exchanged a glance with her, and then quickly averted her gaze.

She did not know if it was because of guilt or something else.

After the news of Ye Ci cheating had spread on the Internet, she had not believe it at first, but after the punishment had come out, she had nothing left to say.

In fact, at that time, she had still wanted to find an opportunity to contact Ye Ci and comfort her.

But who would have known that there would be the issue of a leak later?

Her parents had gone into action together and warned her sternly not to have any more contact with Ye Ci.

She could not persuade them otherwise and had felt that what they said made sense.

Ye Ci and the Ye family were now in a quagmire.

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Anyone who was involved with them could be dragged down together.

Why?

Ye Ci squatted down to pick up the things expressionlessly.

No one went up to help.

Ning Li stood behind the crowd and quietly watched this familiar scene.

Ye Ci stuffed the last book into her bag and got up to leave.

Suddenly, she seemed to feel something and raised her head to look at Ning Li.

Ning Li's expression was indifferent and cold. The moment she met her eyes, the corners of her lips curved slightly.

...

Ye Ci left the school building in a sorry state.

She lowered her head and walked quickly to the school gate. Her footsteps were hurried.

When she passed the bulletin board, she suddenly saw a touch of red out of the corner of her eye.

She subconsciously stopped and looked over.

A bright and festive news bulletin had been posted at the center of the bulletin board.

It was the news bulletin that Ning Li had obtained the first overall score in the national competition.

There was also a photo of her on it.

Pei Song and Ren Qian had also been posted next to it.

However, her photo was still the most eye-catching.

Ye Ci stared at it intently.

However, there were people beside her who had noticed her and were pointing at her.

She took a deep breath and turned around to leave.

...

When she returned to the car, Su Yuan noticed that she did not look well and asked her a few questions with concern. However, Ye Ci did not say anything. She closed her eyes and looked listless.

That night, Ye Ci developed a high fever and was sent to the Central Hospital.