

Little Brat's 411

Chapter 411: Thank You to Your School, for Broadening My Horizons

He was obviously smiling, but Ning Li somehow sensed a hint of coldness in his clear and indifferent words.

She coughed lightly.

“Second Brother, let’s go. The parent-teacher meeting is about to begin.”

Her intuition told her that it was best to leave this place as soon as possible.

As for Zhou Cheng, she just had to ignore him—

“Has such a thing happened before?”

Lu Huaiyu had suddenly looked over and asked this question casually.

Ning Li could clearly feel his gaze on her.

She could not quite understand his current emotions.

“... No.”

Ning Li spoke stiffly and quickly pulled out an excuse.

“Our school has always been quite strict in this area.”

She had thought that Zhou Cheng would give up after she had rejected him yesterday.

Who would have known that he would actually do such a thing today!

Also, it just so happened that Lu Huaiyu was here to encounter him as well!

Lu Huaiyu chuckled.

“Is that so? Why do I feel that this isn’t the case?”

Ning Li, “...”

She really could not clear her name even if she jumped into the Yellow River.

“Second Brother, it’s true. In the past, most of them sent love letters—”

“They?”

Lu Huaiyu had quickly caught on to the main point. The word had come out of his mouth in his typical low and lazy tone. He had dragged out the ending tone a little giving it an indescribable meaning.

“...”

Ning Li tactfully shut her mouth.

She really regretted coming out to pick Lu Huaiyu up.

No, she should not have even asked him to help her with the parent-teacher conference.

If that were the case, she would not have run into such a scene of social death.

Helpless, she could only reach out to grab his sleeve.

“Second Brother.”

She pulled him gently.

All the words converged on this gentle pull.

Lu Huaiyu lowered his eyes and his gaze fell on her hand that was clutching his shirt.

Her fingers were slender and fair, soft and beautiful.

He patted her head.

“Let’s go to the parent-teacher conference first.”

The tense atmosphere finally dissipated.

Ning Li heaved a sigh of relief in her heart and followed him to the teaching building.

She let go of his hand, but when she saw the cool profile of the man beside her, she tugged on the corner of his jacket on his arm.

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows.

...

Zhou Cheng's public confession had not only been heard by the many students on the field, but also by the senior year teaching building.

Therefore, the entire Second High School was in an uproar.

"D*mn! What was that just now? Did I hear wrongly? Did someone make a confession to Ning Li through some kind of broadcast?"

"I heard it too! I think it was a sophomore student who did it?"

"Kids nowadays are really fierce... Do they even dare to do that in their sophomore year? Today's sports meet is also the senior high school parent-teacher meeting. All the teachers and leaders in the school are here, right?"

"Tsk, he must be very hard-headed."

"I just don't know about Ning Li..."

Up and down the several floors of the senior year's teaching building, all the students were discussing this matter in groups of three or five.

As they were speaking, someone saw Ning Li return and immediately shot a look at the person next to her.

—The main character is here!

The originally noisy teaching building quickly fell into a strange silence.

Everyone looked at Ning Li and the young man beside her.

Everyone gasped in unison.

Oh no, Zhou Cheng's confession seems to have been heard by Ning Li's family!

"What's wrong with Zhou Cheng's brain?" Ren Qian stood in the corridor outside First Class and could not help but snicker. "Which girl's family could possibly accept this? He's really not afraid of death!"

He Xiaochen nodded in agreement when she heard this.

"The junior students nowadays are so unaware of themselves. Does he think that he'll be able to impress our great beauty Ning Li just by making such a confession?"

She simply had no strength to retort.

"Not to mention other things, even that face doesn't deserve it!"

Zhou Cheng was indeed considered handsome among ordinary people.

However, when placed together with Ning Li's divine face, he was instantly set off.

Pei Song stood beside the two of them, his expression remaining indifferent.

Actually, he did not care about what Zhou Cheng had done.

Even if he made such a big show today, Ning Li might still not even bother to remember his name later on.

His gaze fell on Ning Li.

She was walking beside Lu Huaiyu. The distance between the two of them was neither too far nor too close, but when she came nearer, her hand could be seen holding on to the sleeve of his coat.

Her head was lowered slightly and she remained quiet, like a child who had done something wrong. She looked like she was holding onto an adult's hand and was refusing to let go.

Pei Song pursed his lips slightly.

Perhaps even she herself did not realize that she was different when she faced Lu Huaiyu as opposed to when she faced other people.

If it was with anyone else, she would not be like this...

This girl was precious.

Anyone who knew that their own girl was being pursued so passionately in school would definitely not be happy.

Moreover, this was Lu Huaiyu.

...

Ning Li followed Lu Huaiyu to the stairs.

She bumped into Geng Haifan and immediately released her hand from the jacket.

"Teacher Geng."

Lu Huaiyu lowered his eyes before looking up again at Geng Haifan.

Geng Haifan had come out to look for Ning Li.

God only knew how much he had wanted to flip the table on the spot when he had heard the confession on the radio in the office!

The school had clearly banned puppy love and had always been very strict with related issues. Who would have known that Zhou Cheng would be so impudent!

Most importantly, if it had been anyone else, it would have been fine, but it had to be Ning Li!

The leaders of Second High School and the teachers of various subjects all attached great importance to Ning Li. During the period after the Ye family's accident, all they had wanted to do was to try their best to stabilize her emotions and state, they had wanted to ensure that she could perform normally in the college entrance examination.

In the end, everything was messed up by Zhou Cheng!

Seeing Lu Huaiyu, Geng Haifan's heart was filled with guilt.

"Mr. Lu, I'm really sorry about what happened today..."

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

"You're too kind, Teacher Geng. It's my turn to thank your school for letting me broaden my horizons."

Chapter 412: You're Not the Only One Who Likes Her

Geng Haifan, "..."

He coughed, feeling very embarrassed.

“That... that... I just contacted their form teacher. Regarding this matter, we will definitely take it seriously and deal with it accordingly! We will give Ning Li and Mr. Lu an explanation.”

In fact, he had thought about a lot of ways to make his explanation, but when he was in front of Lu Huaiyu, he realized that those words were very difficult to say.

Although Lu Huaiyu was very young, he had an aura about him. Even if he just stood there without saying or doing anything, he still made people feel a faint sense of awe.

Not to mention, this time, the fault was on their end.

Ning Li watched from the side.

Actually, she did not really care about this matter.

If it had been a normal day, she would just have listened to it, but she would not have taken it to heart.

However, it just so happened that Lu Huaiyu had also been here today.

Now it seemed as if this matter was... not so easy to move on from.

She tilted her head and looked at Lu Huaiyu.

However, at this moment, his expression remained normal as per usual. Nothing was revealed.

He raised his hand and looked at his watch.

“The parent-teacher conference is about to begin. Let’s get busy with this first. We’ll talk about the rest later.”

He was clearly much younger than Geng Haifan, but he carried a sense of nobility deep in his bones. In addition, he had been in a high position for a long time, so he naturally took the initiative in the conversation.

Hearing this, Geng Haifan heaved a sigh of relief.

Earlier, when Lu Huaiyu had come over, his expression and his aura had been cold. He had been worried that this matter would be difficult to handle.

Fortunately, Lu Huaiyu had given him a way out.

“Mr. Lu, please.”

Lu Huaiyu looked at Ning Li.

“Wait for me outside the classroom.”

Ning Li, “Oh.”

With that, Lu Huaiyu followed Geng Haifan into the First Class classroom.

Many people in the corridor looked over.

Ning Li walked to the back door of First Class and pulled out a chair to sit down on.

She took her phone out, intending on playing a game to pass the time. However, she was a little impatient and could not get into it, no matter how hard she tried.

She simply put her phone away and leaned against the back of the chair.

“Ning Li.”

He Xiaochen walked over quietly. She gave the rest of the classroom a look and lowered her voice, “Your Second Brother also heard Zhou Cheng’s confession?”

Ning Li replied with a “Hmm”.

He had made it so ostentatious that the entire Second High School had heard it.

What was even more awkward was that not only had Lu Huaiyu heard it, he had also heard it with her at the side of the field.

Zhou Cheng had obviously seen her there, so he had deliberately chosen that time to go up on stage.

He Xiaochen looked at her sympathetically.

“This... your Second Brother should be quite angry, right?”

Previously, when Ning Li and Pei Song had been rumored to be having a puppy love, he had come over.

That had just been a photo and a rumor which actually did not count as anything, but this— The whole school knew about it.

“It should be... alright.”

Ning Li said with some uncertainty.

He Xiaochen sat down next to her.

“It doesn’t matter if your Second Brother is angry or not, I think the whole school is about to go crazy. This junior brother is too tactless.”

Ning Li did not say anything.

The matter had already happened, nothing could change it.

He Xiaochen looked at her and comforted her.

“Don’t worry! In the end, this matter is all that junior’s fault! Even if the school wants to deal with it, it will definitely only be aimed at him. It won’t implicate you.”

Ning Li was too innocent.

“Don’t take it to heart!”

He Xiaochen smiled.

Ning Li rubbed her temples.

She did not actually care about this at all.

She was... thinking about Lu Huaiyu.

...

After Zhou Cheng had made his confession, he had been taken to the office before he could attend the awards ceremony.

Only the other students on campus were still happily talking about it.

...

The parent-teacher meeting this time lasted for a full hour.

First, Geng Haifan had analyzed the results, then focused on the matter of college entrance exam application.

Finally, he looked around the classroom.

“That’s about it. Parents, if you have anything else you want to ask, you can bring it up.”

As soon as he had finished speaking, a low and lazy man’s voice sounded in the classroom.

“Everything else is easy to talk about. There’s only one point: it’s near the college entrance exam, so the students’ time and energy are very precious. I hope that your school can strengthen the management of the relevant aspects and not let other messy things interfere with the students’ minds.

“Especially... puppy love.”

A layer of sweat covered Geng Haifan’s forehead.

However, before he could say anything, the other parents sitting below quickly echoed this sentiment.

“Yeah, this matter is quite important!”

“That’s right, that’s right. It’s even more important at this time that we can’t relax on this matter!”

“It seems like there was a public confession on the radio today? This will affect the childrens’ studies!”

“That’s right...”

When the incident had happened, many parents had also been present.

Young people were easily stirred up by such things.

It was reasonable for parents to be worried.

Even if Lu Huaiyu had not mentioned it, there were still a few parents who had been prepared to talk about it.

Geng Haifan silently sighed. He could only reassure them one by one, repeatedly ensuring that the school would handle this matter seriously and resolutely preventing similar incidents from happening again. Only then did the parents gradually calm down.

After that, other parents raised other questions, and Geng Haifan patiently answered them in detail.

Eventually, the parents came out of the classroom one after another.

Geng Haifan and Lu Huaiyu stayed behind.

Ning Li turned her head and vaguely heard them mention Zhou Cheng’s name.

Then, she saw the two people walking towards her.

She stood up.

“Second Brother.”

Geng Haifan rubbed his hands together and said, "Ning Li, I've contacted their form teacher. He said that Zhou Cheng is willing to apologize to you in person, and Mr. Lu agrees. What do you think?"

Ning Li was a little surprised.

Lu Huaiyu and this...

Geng Haifan added, "His punishment depends on your attitude to a certain extent. So..."

So, she still had to go this time.

She nodded.

...

As soon as Ning Li had walked into the office, she saw Zhou Cheng standing there with his head lowered.

A middle-aged man stood in front of him, holding a teacup and talking until his mouth was dry.

"Old Liu."

Geng Haifan called out.

The middle-aged man immediately looked over, and Zhou Cheng also raised his head.

"This is Ning Li, and this is her second brother, Mr. Lu."

After Geng Haifan introduced his identity, the middle-aged man looked apologetic.

"I'm really sorry that our class student has caused you so much trouble... Zhou Cheng! Quickly come over and apologize!"

Zhou Cheng took a step over.

Even though he had been reprimanded, his expression remained relaxed.

Young people were always rebellious.

He looked at Ning Li and said, "Senior Ning Li, I'm sorry for disturbing you. But... I still have to say, I just like you."

His homeroom teacher immediately glared at him.

"Zhou Cheng!"

At this moment, Zhou Cheng was being exceptionally stubborn.

He raised his head slightly, carrying the spirit of a young man.

"Teacher, I think it's not wrong to like someone."

"You—"

The atmosphere in the office instantly tensed up!

Suddenly, a soft laugh broke the dead silence.

Lu Huaiyu tilted his head slightly and looked at Zhou Cheng. He raised his eyebrows slightly and gave a faint smile.

“You’re not the only one who likes her.”

Chapter 413: Lu Huaiyu, You’re Too Difficult to Coax

Ning Li’s heart skipped a beat, and she subconsciously turned her head to look at Lu Huaiyu.

He had one hand in his pocket, and his posture was languid and relaxed. He had a faint smile on his lips, and the corners of his eyes and brows projected a chilliness.

“It’s not wrong to like someone. But if the act of you liking the person causes trouble for others, then... there’s nothing to be proud of.”

Lu Huaiyu’s voice was cold and unhurried.

He was very tall, and he carried a man’s unique cold aura around him. Standing in front of Zhou Cheng like this, he naturally carried a strong sense of oppression.

His words were sharp and direct, which crushed Zhou Cheng mercilessly.

These words seemed to poke at Zhou Cheng, causing the pride on his face to instantly fade, and his expression wavered.

Of course, he knew that after what he had done today, he had brought trouble to Ning Li.

At first, he had felt that he was not wrong, but now...

“Science student, the highest score to date is 668, the best ranking in the grade is only in eleventh place. Participated in the school sports long-distance running team in junior high school, but ultimately, failed to be selected for the city team. He applied for the second year of the high school’s competitive class, but stopped short at the preliminary round.”

Lu Huaiyu stated all this slowly.

Everyone present was shocked.

In such a short time, Lu Huaiyu had actually obtained such detailed personal information about Zhou Cheng!

As he spoke, his crimson thin lips raised slightly into an arc.

“Although she has the freedom to like whoever she wants, with this kind of capital, you still want her to disregard it, and ask her to give you a chance.

“Young student, you really have the guts to say that.”

Ning Li was extremely outstanding.

Compared to the average person, Zhou Cheng could be considered pretty good. He was likely to be held up as an example of a good child by most parents to their own children. However, there was still a big gap between him and Ning Li.

Originally, Lu Huaiyu had not wanted to argue with a sophomore.

He could not really be bothered to make it seem like he was bullying someone for no reason.

However, after he had arrived, he realized that Zhou Cheng was taking himself too seriously.

Ning Li was about to take her college entrance exam in two months. Everyone knew that this was a crucial time.

Zhou Cheng, on the other hand, only cared about his feelings of love without thinking about the consequences of his open confession, especially since there was a high school senior's parent-teacher conference today.

The students did not mind, but would parents feel the same way?

From the beginning to the end, he had not thought about Ning Li at all.

Up until now, he still had not known how to reflect on his own actions. In the name of "liking" her, he had taken the high ground and refused to admit his mistakes.

Zhou Cheng's face had turned pale after hearing Lu Huaiyu's words.

That man was cold and arrogant, with a seemingly languid and relaxed attitude. His eyes clearly said, "Are you even worthy?"

Most importantly, he had thought about it carefully and now realized that he really was not worthy of Ning Li. Moreover, what he had done was indeed very selfish.

His lips twitched and he finally lowered his head.

"... I'm sorry."

The office was quiet for a moment.

Geng Haifan came out to smooth things over.

"This... Ning Li, you see this matter here... Zhou Cheng is still a sophomore, after all..."

Ning Li knew what he wanted to say.

Zhou Cheng was the top student of the sophomore year, and he was also a seedling that the school was focused on nurturing.

If possible, they still hoped that they could turn this big issue into a smaller one and reduce the punishment for Zhou Cheng as much as possible.

And the key to this was her.

She nodded and said, "Teacher Geng, Teacher Liu, I'll leave the follow-up of this matter entirely to the school to handle."

Geng Haifan asked, "Ning Li, do you mean that... you won't pursue this matter?"

Although he was asking Ning Li, his eyes were looking at Lu Huaiyu.

It was obvious that Lu Huaiyu was not someone to be trifled with.

"Yes."

Ning Li gave an affirmative answer, her voice calm,

"After all, he didn't cause any disturbance to me."

The air froze for a moment.

Everyone could understand what Ning Li meant. She had not even considered Zhou Cheng at all, so why would she be disturbed by this matter?

Zhou Cheng lowered his face, unable to hide his frustration and disappointment.

The two class teachers looked at each other in embarrassment.

Lu Huaiyu, on the other hand, felt the faint coldness around him disappear in an instant.

He glanced at Ning Li and smiled.

This little girl was really smart.

...

Ning Li sent Lu Huaiyu off.

The sports meet was over, and the last group of people on the field were tidying up.

The two walked side by side. Many people on the campus were looking in their direction, their expressions subtly curious.

Everyone knew that Zhou Cheng had confessed to Ning Li in public. In the end, he had just happened to coincide his actions with the high school senior parent-teacher meeting, and also while Ning Li's Second Brother had been present.

It seemed that he had just come out of the office, but no one knew what the result had been.

Ning Li followed Lu Huaiyu by his side.

Lu Huaiyu had not said much after leaving the office.

Ning Li really felt that she had been a little bit wronged.

After all, she could not be blamed for this, right?

However, Lu Huaiyu was clearly not in a good mood.

She was the one who invited him over to help with the parent-teacher conference. If not for this, he would not have witnessed this scene.

Ning Li thought for a moment and decided to change the topic.

“Second Brother, what did Teacher Geng tell you at the parent-teacher conference?”

Lu Huaiyu was indifferent.

“He said that in the future, your school will strengthen its management and resolutely prevent similar incidents from happening again so as not to affect other students.”

Ning Li, “...”

She struggled for a moment before speaking up again.

“Then, then about the matter of applying...”

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

“Your teacher said that he hopes that you can all perform steadily and get into the ideal university. He would be very happy if you applied to Xijing University. After all, it’s the top university in the country. The classmates and friends you will meet will generally be of a higher quality.”

Ning Li, “...”

Lu Huaiyu was obviously still very reluctant to change the topic of Zhou Cheng to the topic of applying to Xijing University...

She glanced at Lu Huaiyu, feeling a little frustrated. She could not help but mutter and complain in a low voice, "You're just too difficult to coax..."

Lu Huaiyu stopped in his tracks.

Chapter 414: If You Don't Coax Me, Who Else Can You Coax?

He turned around and raised his eyebrows slightly.

"What?"

Ning Li, "!!!"

Why had she spoken out loud what she had been thinking?!

Facing Lu Huaiyu and the light gaze that had landed on her, Ning Li quickly regained her desire to live.

She opened her eyes wide, looking innocent.

"What? I didn't say anything."

Lu Huaiyu looked at her.

Her small face was fair and clear, clean and beautiful. Her peach blossom eyes, light and moist, as she looked over at him.

Not many people could resist such a pair of eyes, or even such a person.

It was no wonder that people liked her.

He narrowed his eyes and then laughed.

“Don’t you dislike him?”

Ning Li felt that his question was inexplicable.

Wasn’t it very obvious that she did not like Zhou Cheng?

Moreover, she had stated it very clearly in the office just now.

“Yeah.”

She said, “He’s a sophomore. I didn’t even know him before this.”

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

“Ah Li, do you know that there’s a word that means the difference between closeness and distance?”

Ning Li was stunned.

Lu Huaiyu lowered his head slightly and looked at her on the same level.

The April evening sunlight was warm and brilliant.

The shadows of the trees swayed and reflected in his eyes. They were deep yet shallow, as if they were smiling.

He chuckled and said, "If you don't coax me, who else can you coax?"

...

The results of Zhou Cheng's punishment came out the next day: a severe warning from the school and a 5,000-word review.

On Ning Li's part, she did not seem to be affected at all.

At first, people had been very passionate about discussing this matter in private. However, seeing that the person involved did not take it seriously and that the school was starting to crack down on them, everyone gradually put the matter aside.

At night, even the small forest at the school seemed to be much quieter. No one went out for a walk after dinner.

What a joke. Who would dare try to challenge the wind at this time?

Zhou Cheng, on the other hand, was a typical example. Every day, he would go to the field to pick up trash. This was also one of his punishments.

The school's attitude was clear.

Finally, everyone stopped.

...

On Saturday night, Ning Li went to the house that she had rented.

She went to the bedroom facing north and looked at the building opposite through the small telescope that had been set up in the room.

The house, which had been quiet and dark all year round, was now lit, and the curtains were half-closed.

Ning Li observed it quietly for a while before the curtains were pulled shut.

She was not in a hurry. She calmly got up, went back to the master bedroom, and turned on the computer.

She inserted a memory card and moved the files that were inside to a folder on the desktop.

Then, she opened the document.

This was an unfinished paper.

With the data processing results from Fino Lab, the latter part was much easier to write.

An hour later, she turned off the computer.

Her phone lit up.

She picked it up and took a look. It was a message from Lu Huaiyu.

He was going back to the Capital tomorrow.

Ning Li did not pay much attention at first. However, just as she was about to start typing, she suddenly remembered something.

The day after tomorrow was Lu Huaiyu's birthday.

April 17th.

This had to be the reason why he was going back to the Capital, right?

She thought for a moment and asked him when he would return to Yunzhou.

Lu Huaiyu looked at the line of words, his slender fingers tapping gently on the screen.

In the past, no matter where he went, she would only answer obediently and rarely ask about anything else. She would not take the initiative to ask him when he would return.

This was something rare.

The corners of his lips curved slightly.

[There are still some things that need to be settled in Yunzhou. I will return in the afternoon the day after tomorrow.]

Ning Li was a little surprised.

She had thought that he would be going back to the Capital for his birthday to spend some time with his family. She had not expected him to be so busy.

She replied with an "Okay".

...

At 9:30 pm, Ning Li returned to the Ye family home.

As usual, Ye Ming was not at home.

His company seemed to be quite busy recently. He spent more than half of the week away from home.

The matter of the exam questions being leaked had caused quite a big impact on the Ye family. Now, he put almost all of his energy into the Qinghe Bridge project.

Ye Cheng was lying on the sofa playing with his phone. Su Yuan was sitting at the side, talking about him going to his equestrian class the next day.

“... Lil Cheng, you haven’t gone to the equestrian class for two weeks. You can’t drag this out any longer. No matter what, you have to go tomorrow.”

Su Yuan’s voice was unusually stern.

Under normal circumstances, she was normally very indulgent and tolerant of Ye Cheng.

Sometimes, when Ye Cheng threw a tantrum, she would turn a blind eye and just let him be.

However, ever since Ye Ci’s incident, her attitude had also changed.

Ye Ci’s reputation was now completely ruined. At least in Yunzhou, the aristocratic families there would no longer accept her.

After all, she was Ye Ci’s mother. Of course, she would inevitably be implicated.

Recently, many of the ladies and wives had reduced their contact with her, intentionally or unintentionally distancing themselves from her.

If not for the fact that the Ye family was still around, they would not even give her this little bit of face.

Su Yuan had gone out and suffered a few times. Gradually, she became even less willing to join them.

Thus, she could only put all her energy into nurturing Ye Cheng.

After all, he was her biological son, and also the only son of the Ye family.

With the Ye family in such a state, if Ye Cheng did not do his best, she would be ridiculed to death by those people when she went out.

Therefore, she had hardened her heart and given Ye Sheng this rare bit of attitude.

However, Ye Sheng did not take it seriously at all.

He lay on the sofa, his hands sliding back and forth on the phone screen. The sound of intense gunfighting could be heard.

His eyes did not even move away from the screen.

"I'm not feeling well. I don't want to go."

Su Yuan frowned.

"That's what you said the last two times. The doctor said that there's nothing wrong with your body. You have to go tomorrow. Don't give me any more excuses! Look at the other people your age. They're all very outstanding. You can't possibly not know how to do anything, right?"

Ye Cheng was most impatient to hear this, and his voice became much louder.

"What are you going to do? You don't even know how badly those people talk! I'm not going!"

Su Yuan was stunned.

“What?”

Ye Cheng turned off his phone and said to her, “What else could it be about? It’s all our family’s stupid matters!”

At first, he had not believed that Ye Ci had cheated at all, much less that the matter of the leak had anything to do with her.

However, his classmates, friends, and even his teachers had all said the same thing.

Every time they looked at him, they looked very...

Ye Cheng was ten years old this year. He still did not understand how serious this matter was, but he could keenly sense the change in the attitude of the people around him.

One sentence, two sentences, once, twice.

He was used to being arrogant in the past. How could he tolerate this kind of treatment now?

Otherwise, he would not have fought with his classmates and broken their noses.

As for the equestrian class, those who attended it with him did not give him any face at all. Their words were very harsh, and they had even joined forces to isolate him.

He had reluctantly gone once and refused to go again.

Su Yuan opened her mouth and said after a long while, “What do you care what they say? You yourself are outstanding. Isn’t that better than anything else? When the time comes, what will they say about you?”

Ye Cheng sneered and suddenly looked at Ning Li who had just walked in.

“Aren’t her grades very good? However, I don’t see you and dad liking her very much either, right?”

Chapter 415: Birthday

There was a moment of dead silence in the living room.

Su Yuan followed his line of sight and saw Ning Li pushing the door open and entering. Her expression was extremely calm.

Ye Cheng’s words made her extremely embarrassed. After a long while, she finally said, “Ning Li, you’re back.”

Ning Li gave a faint “Hmm” and raised her feet to walk upstairs. It was as if she did not care about what had just happened.

However, the more she acted like this, the more upset Su Yuan became.

This was because everyone in the family knew that Ye Cheng was right.

His words had been blunt to the point of piercing the ear, directly piercing through the layer of disguise on the surface and tearing apart the seemingly complete painting, leaving no room for anyone.

Ever since Ning Li had entered Yunzhou Second High School, she had gotten first place in all the examinations and had even gotten full marks in the National Physics Competition.

Such results were indeed excellent.

She was even much better than Ye Ci had ever been in the past.

In order to train Ye Ci, the Ye family had invested a lot of money and energy.

Dancing, painting, equestrian...

They had hoped that she would become one of the best among the daughters of the Yunzhou aristocratic families.

She had been repeatedly praised by others so often, that both Su Yuan and Ye Ming had felt so proud.

However, Su Yuan could not accept Ning Li's excellence in peace.

For ten years, for a whole decade, she had forced herself to forget that she still had this daughter. She had not returned to Lincheng even once and had vowed to cut off her whole past.

That failed marriage had only left her with embarrassment and humiliation.

Those were the days that she did not want to recall in her life.

She only wanted to live a relaxed and decent life as Mrs. Ye.

However, Ning Li had finally made a reappearance.

In the ten years of her absence, Ning Li had grown up to become what she was today.

Ning Li was very outstanding. With such results, she was the envy of countless people.

However, what did that have to do with her? What did it have to do with the Ye Family?

Ning Li was her daughter, but everyone knew that custody had fallen to her and she had needed to take her over only because she was underage.

As for the Ye family...

Ning Li was not a daughter of the Ye family.

She had nothing to do with the Ye family at all.

Looking at the slender and straight back, Su Yuan pursed her lips and frowned at Ye Cheng.

“She is her, and you are you! Do you still have the mood to think about this? Your class teacher said that your grades have dropped again recently!”

...

Ning Li walked to the second floor and left Su Yuan’s reprimand and Ye Cheng’s rebellion behind.

She did not even turn her head. She was too lazy to bother.

When she passed Ye Ci’s room, she heard someone talking inside.

Ye Ming had recently helped Ye Ci to hire a tutor to help her study and prepare for studying abroad.

Ye Ci had no hope of going to a good university in the country.

Fortunately, the Ye family still had family resources and connections. With more effort and means, they could help her apply for a university with a good ranking abroad.

Ye Ci had been very quiet recently.

On one hand, her physical and mental state were not very good, and she was recuperating in all aspects.

On the other hand, she was busy with preparations to study abroad.

After the initial breakdown and craziness, she had also realized that this was the last option for her at the moment.

Ning Li went to school early and left late. Ye Ci was also busy. Although they lived in the same house, the number of times they encountered each other was not much, and communication was almost down to zero.

Everything seemed to have returned to calmness.

Ning Li glanced at the door. Without stopping, she went back to her room.

...

April 17th, Monday.

Noon, the Lu family.

Lu Huaiyu was having lunch with Old Master Lu.

Old Master Lu kept muttering, "You only came back for one day this time. Your birthday is not even over yet, and you're going back to Yunzhou?"

Lu Huaiyu responded with a "Hmm".

Old Master Lu knew that he did not like people, so he did not mention having a big birthday party.

However, he could not help but feel reluctant to let him leave just like that.

“Sigh.”

Old Master Lu let out a long sigh.

“Your parents and your brother are each busier than the last. It’s not easy for you to come back this time, yet you’re leaving again now.”

Before Lu Huaiyu could speak, a message popped up on his phone.

It was from Ning Li.

[Second Brother, do you have the first edition of Gai Nie’s ‘Sunspot’?]

Lu Huaiyu and his thin lips twitched.

[It’s in Yunding Fenghua study, the third floor of the westernmost bookshelf. You can go and get it yourself.]

After sending the message, he put down his phone and picked up a piece of brisket. Then, he said unhurriedly, “Ah Li wants to celebrate my birthday.”

“You said you— What!?”

Old Master Lu was instantly energized.

“Really?”

Lu Huaiyu said, “Hmm.”.

Otherwise, he would not be going back today.

Old Master Lu turned his head to look at Fang Qingyun.

“Qingyun? Qingyun! What time did you say the flight was for Huaiyu? It’s at three o’clock, right? Quick, can you see if there’s an earlier flight? Can we change the booking?”

Lu Huaiyu, “...”

Fang Qingyun was in a difficult position:

“Old Master, it’s too late to get an earlier one now.”

Old Master Lu put down his chopsticks and urged.

“Don’t eat, don’t eat! Hurry up and leave! Where’s your luggage? Oh right, you didn’t bring it, right? That’s good, hurry up and leave!”

Lu Huaiyu, “...”

He swallowed the beef brisket and saw Old Master Lu standing at the door, the door wide open.

“Eh? Why aren’t you leaving yet? Hurry up and go back for your birthday!”

Lu Huaiyu closed his eyes and pressed between his brows, resigned to his fate:

“Got it.”

...

After the afternoon classes ended, Ning Li applied for the evening self-study leave.

She went to the supermarket to buy some things before taking a taxi to Yunding Fenghua.

The villa was pitch black since Lu Huaiyu had not returned yet.

She entered the password, pushed the door, and entered.

Chapter 416: Car Accident

Ning Li put her things in the kitchen and went upstairs first.

Following Lu Huaiyu's directions, she found the book "Sunspot", took it downstairs, and put it on the living room coffee table with her backpack.

Then, she went to the kitchen and took out the things that she had bought in turn.

Low-gluten flour, light cream, strawberries, and so on.

She was going to make a small birthday cake.

Lu Huaiyu was a person who did not lack anything.

She had thought about it and felt that there was nothing to give, so she might as well give this.

She melted the butter, mixed it with the flour, and beat the light cream away.

The rich, sweet smell of milk gradually wafted around.

Fortunately, even though Lu Huaiyu rarely cooked, the house was big enough and the kitchen utensils were all available. Anything that she needed for baking could be found here.

She put the mold in the oven and set a time to wait for the cake to be ready.

After doing all this, she looked at the time. It was already past seven o'clock.

However, Lu Huaiyu had not returned yet.

He had said that it would be in the afternoon, but he had not specified what time it would be.

Ning Li sat down on the high stool at the kitchen island and opened the book to read.

...

Lu Huaiyu's flight had been delayed.

By the time the plane had landed in Yunzhou, it was already eight o'clock in the evening.

He walked out of the airport and bumped into Gu Tinglan at the exit.

"Second Master Lu."

Gu Tinglan seemed to be returning to Yunzhou from the Capital, but the two of them had not been on the same flight. Coincidentally, because Lu Huaiyu's flight had been delayed, they had bumped into each other.

It had been a long time since they had seen each other.

“Doctor Gu.”

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

Compared to him traveling light, Gu Tinglan was also pulling along a suitcase that looked very heavy.

Gu Tinglan sized Lu Huaiyu up and smiled.

“It seems that Second Master Lu has been in a good mood recently.”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows but did not deny it. His gaze swept past his suitcase.

“Doctor Gu, you’re in such a hurry. Is there an urgent matter?”

Gu Tinglan shook his head.

“That’s not it. I just decided to stay in Lincheng for a while, so I brought a little more stuff.”

This was a decision that he had made after some discussion with his big brother and the others.

This was in case there was some kind of breakthrough in the investigation.

Lu Huaiyu nodded his head in understanding.

He looked at his watch.

“I still have some things to do at home, so I won’t talk much. See you another day.”

Gu Tinglan laughed.

This was Yunzhou, not the Capital.

Although Lu Huaiyu had real estate here, not every building was qualified to be called “home.”

The reference in his words was undoubtedly Yunding Fenghua.

Moreover, if he remembered correctly, today was Lu Huaiyu’s birthday.

Yet, he had rushed back to Yunzhou from the Capital.

The reason was really self-evident.

“How will Second Master return home? Is Cheng Xiyue coming to pick you up?”

“No,” Lu Huaiyu said. “He’s on a business trip.”

Gu Tinglan had originally planned to leave, but when he heard this, he stopped walking.

“In that case... Shall I give Second Master a lift?”

...

Gu Tinglan had stayed abroad for a long time and was used to driving.

Therefore, every time he came to Yunzhou, he would rent a car, saving him trouble and effort.

Only Gu Siyang could do something as simple as towing a car for thousands of miles.

The black car sped along the airport at high speed.

Gu Tinglan held the steering wheel and glanced at Lu Huaiyu, who was sitting in the passenger seat.

“It’s your birthday today. Is Second Master still that busy?”

Lu Huaiyu smiled but did not take to heart the ridicule in his words.

“It’s okay.”

He took out his phone and asked Ning Li if she was still in Yunding Fenghua.

After making sure that she had not left yet, he had asked her to wait a little longer. It just so happened that he had brought a gift back from the Capital and he intended on giving it to her as well.

Ning Li agreed.

Gu Tinglan watched from the side.

Lu Huaiyu’s condition was better than he had expected.

He suddenly thought of something and laughed.

“Is the person in that hand-drawn drawing Ning Li?”

Lu Huaiyu paused and raised his eyes to look at him. His deep eyes narrowed slightly.

Gu Tinglan did not seem to notice the cold and dangerous feeling coming from him. Instead, his smile deepened.

“It seems that I guessed correctly.”

From the New Year until now, rumors about Lu Huaiyu being in love with a young man had spread all over the place.

At that time, he had already had this suspicion.

Although everyone was saying that Lu Huaiyu and the person he seemed to be pining for was a young man, other than Ning Li, he really could not think of anyone who fit the bill.

It was just that he had not had the time to ask. Today, they had just so happened to bump into each other and now he had confirmed his suspicions.

“She still doesn’t know?”

Lu Huaiyu closed his eyes and restrained the dangerous aura on his body.

It was obvious that he had tacitly agreed.

Gu Tinglan’s smile faded slightly.

“Then, when do you plan to tell her?”

Lu Huaiyu was silent for a while.

“There’s no rush for now.”

There was only one more month before the college entrance exam, so it was not a good time.

Anyway, there was still a long, long time for the two of them in the future.

Gu Tinglan understood what he meant. After a moment of silence, he sighed and said with a smile, "Second Master has really put in a lot of effort."

Lu Huaiyu was noncommittal. He closed his eyes to take a nap.

Suddenly, a strong light flashed in front of them.

Gu Tinglan turned his face sideways and frowned.

He looked at the dazzling light and saw two cars parked on the road ahead on the left.

One of the cars was double-flashing, while the door of the other driver's car had been heavily dented. It seemed that the car had been in an accident when it changed lanes.

The traffic police had arrived and cordoned off the area around them.

The sound of an ambulance could be heard in the distance.

The ground was a mess, and a pool of blood could be vaguely seen.

Gu Tinglan's eyelids twitched. He immediately looked at Lu Huaiyu beside him and saw that he had opened his eyes at some point and was looking at the scene expressionlessly.

His eyes were deep and dark.

Chapter 417: Second Brother, Happy Birthday

Gu Tinglan tightened his grip on the steering wheel.

“Second Master?”

Lu Huaiyu was still staring in the direction of the accident, his expression unmoved.

Gu Tinglan frowned and raised his voice slightly.

“Lu Huaiyu?”

His voice finally seemed to have brought Lu Huaiyu back to his senses.

He shifted his gaze and leaned against the back of the chair. He raised his head slightly and closed his eyes, concealing all the ripples in his eyes.

“It’s okay. Let’s go.”

There was a hint of a deep and hoarse tone in his voice, as if he was suppressing something.

Gu Tinglan continued to drive forward, bypassing the scene of the accident.

When they were quite some distance away, he looked in the rearview mirror.

Under the dark night, he could only see the blurry outline and the lights.

Lu Huaiyu sat in the passenger seat, remaining silent.

Gu Tinglan thought for a moment and asked, “Are you really okay?”

He really had not expected to see such a scene here.

After a while, Lu Huaiyu replied.

“Yes.”

Gu Tinglan felt that it was still a bit dangerous for him to be in this state.

“Why don’t you follow me back first?”

He asked tentatively.

Only then did Lu Huaiyu open his eyes.

The color of his pupils was very deep and his emotions could not be seen clearly. There seemed to be a thin layer of frost between his brows.

“There’s no need.”

Gu Tinglan could hear his insistence and frowned slightly, but in the end, he did not ask any further.

...

When they arrived at Yunding Fenghua, it was already ten o’clock in the evening.

Gu Tinglan parked the car in front of the villa and looked over there, his expression slightly solemn.

The lights were on in the villa.

Someone was there.

He had a vague suspicion in his heart.

At this time, the only person who could stay at Yunding Fenghua... Well, there was only one person that it could be.

Lu Huaiyu had already pushed open the door and gotten out of the car.

“Thank you.”

Gu Tinglan stopped him.

“Lu Huaiyu.”

Lu Huaiyu stopped in his tracks and turned around to look at him.

Gu Tinglan looked at him through the car window.

The lights in the villa outlined Lu Huaiyu’s tall and straight figure.

He was facing the light, his face half-hidden in the shadows. It was half-light and half-dark, so he could not be seen clearly.

Gu Tinglan said, “Please convey my regards to Ning Li.”

Lu Huaiyu looked at him for a moment, and a faint smile appeared on his lips.

“Okay.”

With that, he turned around and walked towards the villa.

Gu Tinglan sat in the car for a long time. He didn't start the car again until Lu Huaiyu had entered the villa.

...

Ning Li was sitting in the living room reading a book.

When she heard the noise coming from the door, she realized that Lu Huaiyu had probably returned.

She put down the book, stood up, and walked over.

Lu Huaiyu was changing his shoes at the entrance.

"Second Brother, you're back."

Ning Li called out to him.

Lu Huaiyu raised his head, his eyes slightly dark.

Ning Li was suddenly stunned.

Lu Huaiyu... seemed to be a little different.

However, this feeling only lasted for a moment. Lu Huai quickly walked over.

"Have you been waiting long?"

His tone was as unhurried as usual. He raised his hand and gently tapped her forehead, his fingertips feeling slightly hot.

The subtle feeling in Ning Li's heart quickly dissipated.

She shook her head.

"No, I was reading just now."

Lu Huaiyu walked inside. He casually glanced in the direction of the living room and saw the book on the coffee table.

The corners of his lips curved slightly as he explained, "The plane was late, so I came back a little later."

Ning Li nodded and recalled that there seemed to have been a car outside just now.

"Is Brother Xiyue with you?"

"It was Gu Tinglan."

Lu Huaiyu walked over and took a bottle of ice water from the fridge.

"He asked me to send you his regards."

As he said this, he unscrewed the bottle cap.

The cold liquid flowed down his throat. The coldness eroded and finally suppressed the faint irritation.

"Doctor Gu? Has he also returned to Yunzhou?"

Ning Li had not seen him for a long time. As she was asking, her gaze suddenly focused.

Lu Huaiyu was leaning against the fridge, his long legs slightly bent. The bottle of ice water was soon empty. The drops of water dripped down along his protruding Adam's apple. The trace of the water was faintly glowing, the water droplets eventually entering the open collar of his shirt, leaving a small wet patch on his collarbone.

She suddenly remembered that she had seen a similar scene in a previous video.

At that time, her ears had turned red even though they had been separated by the screen. Now that she was standing not far away from him, the impact of seeing it with her own eyes was too great.

Lu Huaiyu nodded. He thought for a moment and said, "No, he was going to Lincheng."

Ning Li blinked.

Gu Tinglan had been investigating something in Lincheng. When he had returned to the Capital, there had been no news for a long time. She thought that he had already finished his work.

She had not expected him to go again at this time.

"It seems that Lincheng is quite important to Doctor Gu."

Otherwise, he would not have spent so much time and effort to be there.

Lu Huaiyu put down the water bottle and walked over.

Ning Li was standing on one side of the kitchen island. He took a few steps forward and stood in front of her.

“Ning Li.”

He looked down at her from above. Then, as if he felt that the distance was too far, he bent his elbow on the kitchen island and leaned forward.

The distance between the two of them instantly closed, and their breathing could be heard clearly.

He tilted his head slightly, his voice low and slow, his words hitting her eardrums.

“Why are you always asking about others?”

Ning Li was stunned.

She met Lu Huaiyu’s gaze. His current appearance was no different from usual, but his eyes were very deep, as if something was surging below the seemingly calm surface of the lake.

It was also like a storm that had been dormant for a long time, faintly releasing a trace of a breeze.

He had a beautiful face, and his entire body exuded a noble and undisciplined aura. Also, he always carried a distant and unapproachable aura.

However, at this moment, he... was very different. His brows and eyes were relaxed, and there was a smile on the corner of his lips. However, there was an indescribable extreme temptation and danger in his eyes.

She had seen such a gaze before.

She frowned slightly and leaned forward a little. The tip of her perky nose twitched, but she did not smell any alcohol.

“Second Brother, you didn’t drink, did you?”

She asked uncertainly.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her, his eyes fell on her red and full lips, and his Adam's apple rolled. Then he smiled and said, "No."

Ning Li thought for a moment.

Well, it was his birthday after all. It was not appropriate for her to keep talking about Gu Tinglan.

She said, "Second Brother, wait a minute. I have a gift for you."

As she said that, she turned around and walked to the side.

Lu Huaiyu's gaze followed her.

Then, he saw Ning Li bring over a small strawberry cake.

The cake was roughly only six inches wide, but it had been made very delicately. It was double-layered, with strawberries on the middle and the top.

A rich sweet fragrance assailed his nostrils.

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows slightly.

"You made it yourself?"

"Yes."

Ning Li put the cake down and lit two candles on it. Remembering that the lights were still on, she went over and turned off the lights.

The surroundings instantly darkened, leaving only the floor lamp in the living room, with a faint dim light remaining.

She walked back and looked at Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu was also looking at her.

The candlelight shone in his eyes, bright and moving.

She could even hear his shallow breathing and smell the clear scent of cedar on his body.

Her lips curved and formed small dimples on her face as she said softly, "Happy Birthday, Second Brother."

Chapter 418: I Like It, Brother

In the quiet and dim room, the young girl's voice was soft and sweet.

Lu Huaiyu fixed his gaze upon her. Seeing the dimples beside her lips, he smiled carelessly.

He did not know if he would get drunk if he kissed her.

Fortunately, the light was dim, so she could not see the greed in his eyes that was difficult to hide.

Seeing that he had not moved, Ning Li reminded him again.

“Second Brother, you can make your wish now.”

Lu Huaiyu came back to his senses and straightened his body slightly. He raised his hand and tugged at his collar.

He said, “I’ll give it to you.”

Ning Li was stunned. “What?”

“I said, I’ll give it to you.”

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

“You can make this wish.”

Ning Li’s eyes widened slightly.

“But... this is Second Brother’s birthday.”

Of course, this birthday wish had to be made by him.

Lu Huaiyu walked around the kitchen island, pulled over the stool next to her, and sat beside her.

His legs were very long. One of his legs was propped on the stool, while the other leg was slightly bent. His elbow was pressed on the table, and he turned his head to look at her.

There was only an arm’s length between the two of them.

However, he still seemed to feel that it was a little far, so he raised his hand and pulled her stool over to him.

Ning Li's feet were placed on the foot of the stool. Without checking for a moment, she was brought over.

The distance between them was now even closer. His long legs easily crossed over to her side, almost wrapping her in his arms.

Then, he propped her up with one hand and said lazily, "I don't have any wishes to make."

Usually, whatever he wanted, he had always taken it for himself.

For this, he would never hesitate to rack his brains and devise all sorts of plans.

However, Ning Li was different.

"Don't kids have a lot of things that they want and wish For?"

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows slightly.

"I'll give it to you. You can have whatever you want."

The distance between them was very close. Ning Li could even feel the vigorous heat coming from the man's body.

When he spoke, his breath, voice, and appearance were all within reach.

Ning Li moved back slightly.

"I don't want much either. Besides, didn't Second Brother give me one before?"

She was talking about the day when they had seen the shooting star.

Lu Huaiyu narrowed his eyes and chuckled.

"I think so. What was that wish? I think you haven't told me yet."

Ning Li held her breath and tightened her fingers slightly. She averted her gaze and did not look at him again.

"... Hmm."

Lu Huaiyu laughed and finally could not help but pinch her face.

"Ah Li, what wish is so mysterious that you're hiding it from me so tightly?"

Ning Li did not say anything.

Lu Huaiyu knew that she did not want to say anything, so he did not ask any further. He raised his chin.

"Since you covered it so tightly, I'll give you another one. Do you want it?"

Ning Li took a look. The candle on the cake was already half-burned.

"Yes."

As she spoke, she pressed her palms together and closed her eyes.

Lu Huaiyu was sizing her up from the side.

He did not know what wish she had made, but she seemed to be very serious.

After a moment, Ning Li opened her eyes.

“It’s done.”

Lu Huaiyu leaned over and blew out the candle.

The light was even dimmer.

She could even feel his shoulders gently pressing against hers. The scorching heat on his body was also clearly discernible.

However, he quickly retreated.

Ning Li turned around.

“I’ll turn on the lights.”

As soon as she said that, her phone that was beside her suddenly lit up.

She casually took it to take a look. It was a Weibo link that had been sent by He Xiaochen.

[Ahhhhhhh Ning Li... Quickly, look at my brother’s latest stage performance! It’s so cool!]

She did not need to ask her to know which brother she was referring to.

She moved her finger and was about to click on it.

Lu Huaiyu asked casually, "Is that your deskmate?"

Ning Li stopped her hand and intentionally covered that line of words.

"Yes, she's been chasing a new idol crush recently."

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

Ning Li was about to quit and look at it later, but He Xiaochen sent another string of photos in a row.

The chatbox on her phone was quickly flooded, so fast that it was almost blinding.

Lu Huaiyu glanced over.

It seemed normal for girls to chat with each other.

So, he only responded with "Hmm".

"It seems that your deskmate likes him a lot."

Ning Li cleared her throat and pressed her phone down. She decided to leave the chat first.

However, as she moved her fingers, He Xiaochen's excited voice came from the phone.

"Ahhhhh! Ning Li, look! Look! My brother is so handsome and I love him!"

Passionate and wild.

Ning Li froze.

He Xiaochen had actually sent a voice message!

She had even accidentally clicked on it!

By the time she reacted, with the intention of cutting it off, it was too late.

In the spacious, dark and quiet room, only He Xiaochen's voice lingered.

Ning Li, "..."

Lu Huaiyu finally looked over.

Even though there was only a floor lamp in the distance, and the light was very dim, Ning Li could clearly see Lu Huaiyu's expression.

He reached out his hand.

Ning Li subconsciously hid her phone behind her back.

The moment she did this, she regretted it.

Why did he make her feel so guilty?

It was obvious that He Xiaochen was chasing after her own idol. She had not done anything!

However, it was already too late.

In Lu Huaiyu's eyes, this action had a different meaning.

He raised his eyebrows, leaned over, and wrapped his arm around her side.

However, he did not take her phone. He merely leaned against the side of her stool, looking as if he was holding her in his arms.

Lu Huaiyu leaned close to her ear and asked in a low and languid voice,

"Do you like this young brother?"

The suffocating pressure came again.

When he spoke, his breath landed on her neck, feeling slightly hot.

It was very similar to the scene in her distant memory where he had laid beside her and whispered.

Ning Li lowered her head slightly.

"No."

Out of the blue, she said softly, "I like..."

"Brother."

Chapter 419: Grow Up Quickly, Baby

As soon as she finished speaking, the whole room fell silent.

The scene seemed to freeze, even the wind and light were still.

Ning Li's eyelids drooped slightly, and her thick and long eyelashes fluttered slightly.

Her voice had been so soft, but it had been clear enough.

It seemed like a long time had passed, but it also seemed to have passed just a moment ago.

Lu Huaiyu tilted his head slightly, and his hot breath fell on her delicate earlobe and slender neck.

Through his open shirt collar, Ning Li could see his delicate and straight collarbone.

His Adam's apple bobbed, and he suddenly laughed.

"Ah Li, I'm a little regretful."

Ning Li was stunned, and she subconsciously turned her head to look at him.

"What?"

Lu Huaiyu's gaze fell on her lips, and his eyes were very intense. He lowered his voice, and his voice was low and husky.

"I shouldn't have given you that wish just now."

Now, he had something that he wanted.

That want was now out of control, almost breaking through his rationality.

Ning Li opened her eyes. Her peach blossom eyes were sparkling, moist, and bright.

Even though Lu Huaiyu had not said what that wish was, she seemed to... know.

In the face of his burning and extremely aggressive gaze, her earlier impudence instantly dissipated.

She paused for a moment before saying, "Second Brother, you haven't eaten your cake yet."

As she spoke, she turned slightly and brought the small cake over.

"How big of a piece do you want?"

She asked.

Lu Huaiyu stepped back slightly.

"Both are fine."

As he spoke, he took the strawberry that had been placed in the middle of the small cake and casually brought it to Ning Li's lips.

Ning Li tilted her head.

"Second Brother, this strawberry is for you."

The birthday boy was the most important, so of course, he should be first in line.

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

“Help me test if it’s sweet or not.”

Ning Li hesitated for a moment, then she opened her lips slightly and took a bite.

The sweet juice exploded between her lips and teeth.

She nodded, her voice unclear.

“Yes, it’s quite sweet—”

Before she could finish her sentence, Lu Huaiyu suddenly approached her. His warm and powerful palm grabbed the back of her head, not allowing her to move anymore. Then, he tilted his head and bent his head, moving closer to her

Ning Li’s voice suddenly stopped, and her beautiful and clean peach blossom eyes widened.

Lu Huaiyu bit the strawberry.

The tip of his nose lightly brushed against her, and his hot breath intersected with hers. His thin lips were no more than a hair’s breadth away from hers.

Ning Li was completely stunned, and her mind went blank.

In the next moment, Lu Huaiyu stepped back a little, as if he was savoring the taste of the half strawberry he had just eaten.

The cream on the strawberry had smudged onto the corner of his lips.

He stared straight at her, the tip of his tongue hooked slightly, and the sweet cream was sucked into his lips and teeth.

Even though the night was dim, Ning Li could still see his handsome and noble appearance beneath the dim yellow light.

He had always appeared to be cold and ascetic, and completely untouchable.

However, at the moment, he had a smile on his face. His thin lips curled up, and the ambiguity almost broke through the night.

Ning Li's gaze was subconsciously attracted to him. With just a glance, her heart started beating rapidly.

She wanted to look away, but for some reason, she could not move.

After a while, Lu Huaiyu slowly smiled.

"It is quite sweet."

Ning Li was stunned, and her face instantly became hot!

The palm of Lu Huaiyu's hand that was supporting the back of her head moved slightly forward and landed on the side of her face.

The temperature of his palm was exceptionally hot. Wherever it brushed past, it seemed to bring about a string of sparks.

In the end, his slender and well-proportioned fingers gently pinched her face.

He said, "In the future, I'll let you eat all the strawberry tips, then I'll eat the rest, okay?"

Ning Li's face was already red. She could only continue staring at him like that, without any reaction.

That gaze was very similar to the night that she had stayed in his master bedroom when she had been drunk on a snowy night.

Lu Huaiyu was extremely agitated.

He lowered his head and let out a breath. After a long while, he raised his head again.

He looked into her eyes, his desire and greed almost impossible to hide.

He said in a slightly hoarse voice, "Please grow up quickly..."

"Baby."

Chapter 420: She Said Yes

His voice fell on her ear and easily aroused her heart.

Ning Li finally knew what was different about Lu Huaiyu tonight.

He seemed to have broken away from a layer of invisible shackles and spread out all his emotions and thoughts.

So, everything seemed obvious now.

He clearly had not been drinking.

Perhaps, this was the real him.

He had dragged out his last word, with a unique patience and coaxing that no one else had.

His gaze was so direct that Ning Li felt that her heart seemed to have been burned.

Her face was flushed red, and her eyes were moist.

Lu Huaiyu felt extremely hot beneath her gaze. Finally, he could not help but raise his hand to cover her eyes.

In an instant, her vision fell into darkness.

Her ears heard his deep and hoarse voice.

“Is that okay?”

After a long time, Ning Li nodded her head gently.

Good.

...

Ning Li returned to the Ye family home.

She went back to her room to wash up, changed into her pajamas, and went to bed, preparing to sleep.

She used the back of her hand to touch her face. It still seemed a little hot.

She laid down for a long time but did not fall asleep.

Her mind seemed to be full of thoughts, but it also seemed to be empty.

She got up and opened the window.

The evening breeze in April was slightly cool. She took a deep breath and felt that the surging emotions in her chest had slightly dissipated.

She casually picked up her phone and realized that Lu Huaiyu had posted an update on his WeChat Moments.

There was still no text, only a picture.

In the picture was a strawberry cake. In the middle, there was clearly a strawberry missing.

Obviously, it had been eaten.

Many images appeared in front of her eyes.

She stared at the picture for a while and soon received a message from Lu Huaiyu.

“Good night, Ah Li.”

This time, he had sent a voice message.

Ning Li listened to it and gently rubbed her ears.

She typed one sentence.

[Good night, Second Brother.]

After replying to his message, she clicked on Lu Huaiyu's profile picture.

He had only posted two Moments in total.

One was the strawberry cake from today, and the other was the rib soup from last time.

She turned off her phone, returned to her bed, pulled up the quilt, and muttered softly.

"Lu Huaiyu.

"Good night."

...

Lu Huaiyu's Moments once again stirred up a huge wave in the hearts of countless people.

The Second Master of the Lu family came from a noble family in the Capital. He had always been extremely picky when it came to food and clothing. He was noble, aloof, proud, and was very difficult to serve.

But now, he had made this kind of post.

Wasn't it just a small strawberry cake?

What was so precious about it?

Cheng Xiyue, who was currently on a business trip in Lincheng, laughed coldly when faced with this photo. Then, he proceeded to order a large strawberry salad takeaway meal for himself.

1

Wasn't it just strawberries! Who didn't have them?

Twenty minutes later, the Young Master Cheng received his takeaway meal.

The strawberry salad looked very good, and the shop owner was especially considerate, giving him three sets of cutlery.

A minute later, Young Master Cheng indignantly threw two of the cutlery sets into the trash can.

Huh!

When Gu Tinglan saw this post on WeChat Moments, he heaved a sigh of relief.

After thinking for a long time, he could not help but shake his head and smile again, massaging the space between his brows as he felt a slight headache coming on.

Ning Li was more important to Lu Huaiyu than he had expected.

Even after encountering such a scene today, Lu Huaiyu had still been able to post such a picture on his WeChat Moments...

He just did not know whether it was good or bad for this to continue...

His phone suddenly vibrated. It was a message from Gu Siyang.

[Uncle, what's going on with Second Master Lu's WeChat Moments?]

Before Gu Tinglan could think of a reply, he saw another message from the other side.

[Even he is starting to be so frugal. Could it be that there's something wrong with the Lu Family?]

Gu Tinglan took a deep breath.

He suddenly felt that it would be better for him to show more concern for his own family when he had the time.

How had such a brat appeared in the Gu family?

He had endured it again and again. In the end, however, he could not endure it anymore and called Gu Tingfeng, who was thousands of miles away.

"Big Brother, have you and sister-in-law taken Gu Siyang to be tested for his intelligence before?"

1

...

At the end of April, the entire city of Yunzhou was going through the second mock exam.

Compared to the first mock exam, the difficulty of the exam this time was much higher.

After the final paper, countless students came out of the examination hall and sighed.

"The exam this time was too difficult!?"

“My mom even told me not to rush it. I’m dying of laughter. I feel like I didn’t learn anything at all.”

“Forget it, forget it. Let’s just leave it to fate!”

The crowd was bustling.

Ning Li went to have dinner and returned to the classroom at night.

Today was Friday. The exam papers would be graded tomorrow, so the evening self-study and the morning classes had been canceled. It could be considered as giving the students a short break.

Some of the people who were about to leave were speechless when they saw Ning Li go back to read. Then, they silently walked back in as well.

1

In First Class’ classroom, everyone began to lower their heads and study.

When the students from the other classes saw this, they gave a thumbs up from afar and were filled with respect.

—Look at First Class! This awareness! It’s amazing!

If you didn’t go to a good university, who else could?

It wasn’t until the evening self-study ended that Ning Li packed her backpack, stood up, and left.

...

At night, the moment she returned to the Ye residence and pushed open the door, Ning Li sensed that something was wrong.

The living room on the first floor was empty and quiet.

However, the corner of the coffee table was broken, as if it had been smashed by something.

Ning Li looked at it and narrowed her eyes.

She remembered clearly that the last time Ye Ming had lost his temper, he had smashed a teacup but had not left this mark on the coffee table.

By the looks of it, it seemed to have been newly made.

Suddenly, the sound of something falling to the ground came from the master bedroom on the first floor.

Following that, Su Yuan's sharp and sorrowful cry was heard.

"Ye Ming! How could you do this to me?!"

This voice could be heard very clearly in the spacious villa.

Ning Li's expression was indifferent.

Oh.

So, this was the day.