

Little Brat's 451

Chapter 451: I Stole Someone Else's Treasure

A chicken leg was neatly chopped off by Yu Pingchuan.

Lu Huaiyu's eyebrows jumped.

Lin Yaohui quietly put down the spatula he was holding and made a silent exit.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang Bang Bang!

Yu Pingchuan raised the knife and swung it down. The kitchen knife was thrown into the air and landed on the chopping board with a bang.

The chicken was quickly chopped into eight pieces.

Lin Yaohui glanced over.

Tsk.

How bloody.

Ning Li was sitting outside, so she could clearly hear the commotion.

She hesitantly stood up, but Lin Yaohui had already walked over to stop her. He gestured to her and lowered his voice.

“Ah Li, it’s better if you don’t go in yet.”

Ning Li said hesitantly, “But... I see that Teacher Yu is very angry...”

Lin Yaohui sighed.

“It doesn’t matter if you eat the chestnut chicken or not, but I really don’t want to eat the chicken mince. You’d better just sit here!”

Ning Li, “...”

She thought his words over for a long time before finally sitting back down.

Looking over there, she saw Yu Pingchuan expressionlessly pointing at the chopped chicken and ordering Lu Huaiyu, “Wash these.

“Remember to wash them clean.”

Lu Huaiyu coughed lightly and rolled up his sleeves.

“Okay.”

...

Capital City, Lu family.

Old Master Lu put down his phone.

Fang Qingyun glanced at him and finally could not help but say, "Old Master, please put your smile away."

It was so wide that the two ends almost reached the back of his head. It was quite scary.

Only then did Old Master Lu realize that he had lost his composure. He tried but failed. Instead, his smile became even brighter.

Fang Qingyun, "..."

Old Master Lu straightened his collar and picked up his chopsticks again. He raised his voice and said, "Chunlan? Add another dish!"

I'm happy today! I have a good appetite too!

Fang Qingyun recalled Yu Pingchuan's tone on the other end of the line. It was not difficult for him to imagine what was happening on the other end right now.

He sighed and gave a reminder, "That... Old Master, Second Master is still at Elder Yu's side..."

He would probably have to do a lot to clean up that situation.

Old Master Lu waved his hand casually.

"Well, he did do something wrong, isn't that right? Don't worry about him!"

Besides, where would he have the time now?

“Oh right, later, make a list of the suitable venues in Capital City and Yunzhou for the engagement banquet. I’ll choose first.”

Fang Qingyun was silent for a moment. “Old Master, isn’t it a little early for that?”

“Aiya, you don’t know. There are still so many things to do here. Flowers, alcohol, and so on. All these things take a lot of time and energy to pick and choose. So, shouldn’t we hurry up first?”

As he said this, he could not help but click his tongue.

“The rascal has finally done something beautiful.”

...

Ning Li had never felt time pass so slowly before.

Yu Pingchuan and Lu Huaiyu had been in the kitchen for quite some time, and all sorts of never-ending clanging noises could be heard.

After a long time, Yu Pingchuan called Ning Li to eat.

Ning Li stood up and was about to go over to serve the dishes when Yu Pingchuan blocked her hand.

“How can you do this kind of work?”

The corners of Lu Huaiyu’s lips curled up slightly, and he walked over very consciously.

“Let me do it.”

Yu Pingchuan nudged Ning Li.

“Just go and sit down.”

Ning Li, “... Oh.”

She slowly sat down at the dining table.

Lu Huaiyu walked back and forth, even helping to set the table.

When all the dishes were served, all of them finally sat down.

Lu Huaiyu pulled out the chair next to Ning Li and was about to sit down when Yu Pingchuan looked up at him.

Lu Huaiyu paused and smiled. He tactfully walked around the table and went to the opposite side.

Yu Pingchuan raised his chin and pointed at the plate of unknown objects on the dining table.

“I haven’t thanked you for ‘taking care’ of Ah Li during this period of time. This dish was specially prepared for you. Please enjoy it.”

Ning Li looked over and raised her eyelids slightly.

Chestnut chicken.

The chestnut was burnt. As for the chicken...

She had never seen such a minced chestnut chicken...

Lu Huaiyu smiled and agreed.

“Thank you, Elder Yu.”

After saying that, he really placed the plate right in front of his view and started eating without a change in expression.

Lu Huaiyu was from a noble family in the Capital City, and he was arrogant and picky.

Normally, he would never touch these things.

Now, however, he did not seem to care.

Yu Pingchuan snorted.

Ning Li withdrew her gaze.

Yu Pingchuan narrowed his eyes and emphasized, “Ah Li’s hands are precious. She can never do these things.”

It was as if he had forgotten about how he had praised Ning Li’s skilled hands in front of Lu Huaiyu before.

Lu Huaiyu did not seem to remember that either. He smiled and replied, “Yes, I happen to know how to do these things. I can do them in the future.”

Yu Pingchuan choked.

He had wanted to show Lu Huaiyu his might, but he had unexpectedly found a loophole for him.

He snorted.

“Ah Li, you have been busy with classes in the past and have not gone out to meet many people. When you arrive in the Capital City, you’ll be able to go around more.”

Lu Huaiyu was calm and composed. He smiled warmly and said, “It just so happens that my work focus has shifted back to the Capital City. Whenever Ah Li wants to go somewhere, I can accompany her.”

Yu Pingchuan, “...”

His original intention was to say that it would be good for Ning Li to see more people, but then he remembered that this person was Lu Huaiyu. In the entire Capital City, there were not many people in the younger generation who could compare to him, so he could only swallow his words back down.

He looked at Ning Li.

“Ah Li, when it comes to dating, you must remember one thing: if the person makes you feel wronged, you must immediately break up. Don’t give them even the slightest chance, understand?”

1

Lu Huaiyu continued.

“Thank you for your guidance, Elder Yu. I will definitely pay more attention in the future. I won’t let Ah Li be unhappy, and I won’t let her feel wronged either.”

Yu Pingchuan, “...”

This meal was extremely torturous. Ning Li could not get a single word in, so she could only eat in silence.

After eating with great difficulty, Yu Pingchuan stood up and looked at Ning Li.

“Ah Li, come with me.”

Ning Li obediently stood up and glanced back at Lu Huaiyu again.

Lu Huaiyu gave her a reassuring look.

Only then did Ning Li follow Yu Pingchuan to his room.

...

After the door had closed, Ning Li looked at Yu Pingchuan.

“Teacher Yu.”

Yu Pingchuan looked at her with a complicated expression and asked, “Do you really like Lu Huaiyu?”

Ning Li nodded her head lightly.

Yu Pingchuan’s hand tapped on the table for a long while before he sighed.

“It’s fine as long as you like him. But remember to inform the Jinse Bay side later.”

Ning Li nodded.

“Yes, I know.”

Yu Pingchuan knew her well. After what had happened today, how could he not see that Ning Li really liked Lu Huaiyu?

He said, "Go and call Lu Huaiyu over."

...

Lu Huaiyu and Yu Pingchuan talked in the room for a full half an hour.

It was not known what they were talking about. After Yu Pingchuan came out, his expression looked better than before.

In the end, he had even agreed to let Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu return to Yunding Fenghua.

The two of them went downstairs.

The sky was already dark, and the street lamps were lit up.

Ning Li couldn't help but ask, "Second Brother, about that meal... Are you okay?"

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

"Why, are you feeling sad?"

Ning Li did not say anything.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her before taking her into his arms and stroking her hair.

"You should be."

He chuckled softly,

“I stole someone’s treasure.”

Chapter 452: This Is My Only Wife

Ning Li looked up at him.

“What was it that you and Teacher Yu talked about just now?”

Yu Pingchuan had obviously been furious today. Ning Li had even felt that his kitchen knife was about to land on Lu Huaiyu.

In the end, the two of them had gone into the room and talked for half an hour. After they had come out, Yu Pingchuan’s attitude had clearly improved.

She really could not imagine how Lu Huaiyu had done it.

She tugged at his clothes.

“Why did Teacher Yu agree to let me go back with you?”

Lu Huaiyu’s thin lips curved slightly.

“He didn’t say anything. Elder Yu asked about the situation earlier. Moreover, Elder Yu was actually very reasonable. It was only because today’s incident had happened too suddenly that he had such a big reaction. After he had calmed down, the situation was much better.”

He pinched her face gently.

“Most importantly, he dotes on you very much.”

No matter how angry he was, in the end, it was all because Yu Pingchuan care so much about Ning Li.

This was a very good thing.

Someone loved and doted on her.

His little girl was no longer an abandoned and unwanted child.

That was why he had accompanied her today. That was why he had gone to explain everything on the day he had just confirmed his relationship with Ning Li.

Yu Pingchuan was very important to Ning Li, so naturally, he was also very important to him.

Ning Li nodded. She finally felt relieved.

Yu Pingchuan had known Lu Huaiyu for many years. Yu Pingchuan knew what kind of person he was.

If it were not for the fact that he was indeed outstanding enough, it would have been useless no matter what he said.

Lu Huaiyu asked, “Would you like to take a walk?”

Ning Li replied with a “Hmm”.

This was a rare moment of leisure. So, it would be nice to walk together for a while.

She was about to walk forward when Lu Huaiyu called out to her.

“Wait.”

She turned her head in confusion.

“Second Brother?”

Lu Huaiyu looked at her, raised his eyebrows, and laughed.

“Why don’t you know to hold your boyfriend’s hand?”

1

Ning Li’s face heated up.

She had only just been with him, even though yesterday...

However, she had not completely changed her identity, and she was still not used to the way couples interacted.

She paused for a moment. Finally, she reached out her hand and gently grabbed his finger.

Compared to him, her hand was a few times smaller, slender and soft.

Thus, she only grabbed one of his index fingers and held it loosely.

“Okay...”

As she was speaking, Lu Huaiyu suddenly held her hand. Then, he gently and forcefully separated her slender fingers and intertwined them with his ten fingers.

He bent his head slightly and moved closer to her ear. His deep and lazy voice carried a hint of a smile.

“Why do you need your brother to teach you everything? Don’t you know how to do this?”

Ning Li held her tongue for a while. She felt as if she had been tricked by this man, yet she could not say anything to refute him.

What was the point of arguing about whether she knew how to do this or not?!

Feeling a little annoyed by his laughter, she turned around and was about to walk forward.

However, her hand was still holding onto his. Even though she had taken a step forward, the man stood still.

His strength was much stronger than hers, so it was really easy for him to do this.

“Lu Huaiyu, are you going to go or not?”

Lu Huaiyu looked at her flushed face and could not help but laugh. He then followed her and brushed his fingers against the back of her soft and delicate hand.

“Let’s go.”

He laughed jokingly.

“Wherever you go, I’ll go.”

Ning Li was suddenly stunned.

Not knowing what to think, she lowered her eyes slightly.

However, this emotion disappeared in an instant.

She followed beside him and walked side by side with him.

When they came out of the community, the two of them walked along the roadside. The moonlight made their shadows very long.

Ning Li turned her head and looked at the man beside her.

He was handsome and noble, with a stunning face.

His black hair was clean and neat. The lines from his brow to the bridge of his nose were perfect, and the line of his jaw was sharp and smooth.

It was just like the first time they had met.

However, at that time, she had never thought that this man would one day stand by her side with such a status.

“Ah Li.”

Lu Huaiyu suddenly called out to her.

Ning Li came back to her senses.

“Huh?”

Lu Huaiyu sighed softly.

“If you keep looking at me like that, I can’t guarantee that you’ll be able to leave the house tomorrow.”

Ning Li reacted for a moment before she understood what he meant, and she instantly became embarrassed.

After a long while, she finally said in a low voice, “I’m just looking at my boyfriend. Do you want to interfere with that too?”

Lu Huaiyu could not help but laugh.

“Sure. Anyway, your boyfriend is yours. You can look at him however you want.

“If you want something else, that’s fine too.”

...

By the time the two of them had returned to Yunding Fenghua, it was already past ten o’clock at night.

Ning Li returned to her room.

Lu Huaiyu went upstairs.

On the phone were a few missed calls from Cheng Xiyue and a long string of messages.

He casually flipped through them and only replied with one sentence.

[Hmm.]

Cheng Xiyue called again.

This time, Lu Huaiyu picked up.

Cheng Xiyue's voice was filled with shock.

"Lu Er, those few documents, are you serious?"

Lu Huaiyu poured a cup of water, his tone unhurried.

"Whether it's true or not, can't you read it for yourself?"

Cheng Xiyue did not speak for a long time.

After a long while, he asked, "Why didn't you pick up my calls just now?"

"I went to Yu's old home." Lu Huaiyu's words were concise, but he did not hide anything. "He was celebrating Ah Li's birthday today."

Cheng Xiyue instantly understood.

He asked with a complicated tone,

"So... Elder Yu knows as well?"

Lu Huaiyu replied, "Hmm."

"I've talked to him."

"Does Sister Ning Li Know?"

Lu Huaiyu drank a mouthful of water, and then said unhurriedly, "There's no need to tell her about these small matters."

"..."

Cheng Xiyue took a deep breath, and only after a long time did he let out a long sigh.

"Lu Er, you've... really fallen into sister Ning Li's hands."

Lu Huaiyu crossed his long legs and laughed lightly.

"Nonsense.

"This old man only has this one wife. If I don't dote on her, who else will I dote on?"

1

Chapter 453: Faith

Ning Li was lying on her bed when she saw the message that He Xiaochen had sent two hours ago.

[Ning Li! My brother's new album has been released! Hurry up and listen to it! It's so good!]

Ning Li clicked on the Joyful Listening app.

This was the most popular music app at the moment. Lin Fengmian's new album had been officially released on June 26th, which was today, at 8 pm.

As soon as she clicked on it, she saw the cover of Lin Fengmian's album.

It was also the cover of his new album.

The young man was wearing a torn black suit. He was standing sideways and raised his head slightly. The side of his face was perfect and exquisite.

His eyes were closed and his figure was thin. His short hair was messy, with a few streaks of blue. There was a small cross-shaped diamond earring on his left ear.

There was a tear mole at the end of his eye, giving him a pure yet seductive look.

A black ribbon had been wrapped around his slender white neck. It seemed to bind him tightly, but it also gave off a sense of abstinence and vulnerability.

Silver words hung above his head.

Faith.

—Faith.

His clothes were tattered and he was trapped in a cage.

However, in this darkness, he held his head high and closed his eyes. He prayed devoutly and struggled to look forward to the light, waiting for salvation.

There were a total of ten songs in this album, and the song with the same name, Faith, was the title track.

At the moment, the album had only been online for less than two hours, yet it had already rushed to the top of the new song chart, and its popularity had soared crazily.

That song had a little dark element, and the whole song was depressed and low, almost suffocating.

However, at the end of the song, it turned into a slow and melodious cello solo, and the youth's clean voice sang softly, as if all the pain and nightmares had been soothed.

The music gradually faded away, like a dream, and finally fell into a deep sleep.

In a short period of time, the number of comments had exceeded 100,000.

[Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah Little Brother is awesome!]

[It's so good! I want to play it on an endless loop!]

[I heard that all the lyrics and songs for this album had personally been written by Little Brother! At first, I was a little worried that because the album would be released in such a short period of time, the quality of the songs might not be as good as the previous single. But in the end... I was completely overthinking it! I'm crying tears of excitement!]

["I really cried listening to my brother's 'Faith'. What kind of experience did he have to go through to write such a song?"]

["Ditto, I cried listening to it too!"]

[“Upstairs + phone number!”]

...

Lin Fengmian had always been popular. Now that this album had been released, it demonstrated an extremely high level of music standards, and it immediately crushed all the major music charts.

Ning Li scrolled through Weibo a few times and saw that, as expected, three of the top five trending topics had been dominated by Lin Fengmian and his album.

The fans were overjoyed, and many passers-by were also attracted. The topic square was almost filled with praise.

Many people had previously thought that Lin Fengmian was just like a pretty vase that had become popular because of his face, but in reality, he did not have much strength.

However, when this album was released, it quickly slapped them in the face.

It contained ten songs, all of which were of high quality.

The popularity and depth of the songs were both high, and the styles of the songs were also varied.

With this album alone, he could directly leave the other popular idols far behind eating his dust.

She sent a message to Lin Fengmian.

[Nice.]

...

Haicheng, Huayi Entertainment headquarters.

It was late at night. In the conference room on the seventh floor of the building, everyone was sitting around.

Computers were placed in front of each of them, and their eyes and hands were constantly switching between computers and phones.

From time to time, joyful and excited voices could be heard.

“The online sales of the new album have broken a million! It’s a new record!”

“Six of the top 10 trending entries are related to us!”

“Faith has already occupied 16 music charts, including the Chinese Golden Songs chart and the Fenghua Hot Songs chart! The last person to be able to be ranked first on both charts was Su Liu from five years ago!”

These two charts were extremely valuable. For an average singer to be able to enter one of the Top 10 was already an achievement that was worth celebrating.

Su Liu was now a heavenly king in the music industry. Lin Fengmian’s new ability to achieve the same results as him was enough to prove his strength.

Wu Yuanfan looked at the pile of data.

Even though he knew about Lin Fengmian’s popularity, the popularity of this album had exceeded their expectations.

As Lin Fengmian’s manager, he had been really busy these past few days.

But at the same time, he was feeling more excited and happy.

He had been in this industry for twenty years, and the artists he had managed before had basically not been very popular.

The best one had been a second-rate actor.

Lin Fengmian was the first top-notch artiste under him.

He could not help but raise his head to look at the youth who was sitting in the corner of the meeting room.

He was wearing a loose black short-sleeved shirt and loose sports pants of the same color. He wore a baseball cap very low on his head, and only the high bridge of his nose and a touch of dark red lips could be seen.

Compared to the other people here, he seemed to be too quiet.

“Fengmian.”

The excitement in Wu Yuanfan’s voice was almost impossible to hide.

“Your album has completely gone viral!”

Lin Fengmian was lounging on a single-seater sofa, looking at his phone.

Hearing this, he raised his head and looked over, not looking particularly interested.

His exquisite eyebrows had been pressed down by the fine strands of his fringe and baseball cap, so his eyes could not be seen clearly.

He replied faintly and looked back down at his phone.

There was still no reply.

He felt a little anxious.

Actually, he had already sent the demo for her to listen to before, but today at eight o'clock, after the album had officially been released, he still solemnly sent the audio of all ten songs to her.

However, there had been no news from her end.

It was her birthday today, so she was probably busy...

That was what he thought to himself, but he could not bear to leave the dialog box.

When Wu Yuanfan saw his reaction, he clicked his tongue.

Lin Fengmian was different from all the other artistes he had taken on before.

He was only seventeen years old. Logically speaking, he should be young and very proud.

However, Lin Fengmian was not.

Most of the time, he was very quiet and rarely spoke. Apart from attending to work, he spent most of his remaining time writing songs or practicing his dance moves.

If it were anyone else at his age, they would have been completely caught up with their popularity.

However, Lin Fengmian had a calmness that did not match his age.

Or, it could be said that he did not seem to care about whether he was famous or not.

He loved the stage, but that was all.

Everyone was exclaiming at how easily he had ignited the huge amount of traffic on the search engines, and applauding his ability to win all the charts effortlessly just by releasing his first album.

Only he, who was at the center of the vortex, remained the calmest.

Just then, a message came from Lin Fengmian's phone.

[Nice.]

A staff member beside him could not hide his excitement as he shouted at Lin Fengmian.

"Fengmian, 'Faith' has sold more than 1.5 million copies! Everyone says it's nice!"

Wu Yuanfan shrugged his shoulders, thinking that Lin Fengmian probably would not care about this.

However, when he unintentionally looked up, he saw the youth sitting in the corner, his pursed lips finally raised into a faint arc.

"Oh, is that so?"

Chapter 454: I Drink Milk

It was rare to get a response from him.

However, most of the people present did not pay too much attention to it. They naturally felt that he should also be proud of this achievement.

Everyone was very happy. They were in a state of great joy.

No one noticed how different the youth's joy was from theirs.

Lin Fengmian stood up.

"I'll be going back first."

Wu Yuanfan nodded.

"The flight leaves for Beijing at 5 am tomorrow. You should rest well today."

Lin Fengmian had a lot of work coming up.

These were some things that they had already rejected several times.

He was not doing any acting, and he rarely appeared in variety shows.

However, these job offers happened to coincide with the release of his new album, so he had added more to the list, one after another.

His schedule was very full every day.

Hearing Wu Yuanfan's words, a female staff member beside him quietly glanced at Lin Fengmian and asked in a low voice, "Brother Fan, Fengmian's workload has been really heavy recently. Would you like to make some adjustments?"

She was a big sister fan herself. Seeing that Lin Fengmian could not even maintain his normal sleep every day, her heart ached.

Wu Yuanfan looked at the computer and pondered for a moment. He felt that what she said made sense, so he asked, "Fengmian, what do you think?"

Lin Fengmian put on his mask and looked at him quietly with his light brown eyes that were like crystal beads.

He shook his head.

"There's no need. Let's stick to the previous schedule."

Since Wu Yuanfan saw that he insisted, he did not pursue the subject.

After spending a few months together, he had already understood Lin Fengmian's temper.

Although he did not talk much and was a quiet person, he was also stubborn.

He would not change his mind easily.

"Okay."

Lin Fengmian went out, accompanied by his bodyguards and assistant.

No matter where he went, the paparazzi would keep an eye on him. Sometimes, he would even encounter an extremely crazy fan.

Therefore, the company had assigned more staff members to accompany him.

Lin Fengmian took the elevator down to the underground garage and got into the nanny van.

After he left, the rest of the people in the conference room continued to work overtime.

The female staff member who had spoken up earlier could not help but ask, "Brother Fan, why has Fengmian been in such a rush recently? Is there something else?"

Wu Yuanfan waved his hand:

"He asked for a leave of absence. So before that, he has to finish all this work first."

With Lin Fengmian's current situation, it was almost impossible for him to get a personal vacation.

However, he had been particularly insistent, and Wu Yuanfan could not refuse. After consulting with the company's upper management, he had finally agreed.

The price was that Lin Fengmian had to work continuously during this period of time.

"Forget it. If he wants to do this, then let him do it."

...

The next morning, Ning Li looked at herself in the mirror for a long time.

Some of the lighter traces had already basically gone. Some of the deeper ones were still a little obvious.

Fortunately, it was better than before. She tried to cover it up more, the result being that she could just barely pass the test.

She had a lot of things to do in the next few days.

There were some media interviews and some publicity events for Second High School.

She packed up her things and went outside. She saw Lu Huaiyu making breakfast.

Other than her birthday, he had tormented her for too long. He went home late and got up late. But other than that, he was always earlier than her.

She had helped with cooking before, but since she had moved into Yunding Fenghua, she had almost never cooked.

“Second Brother.”

She put her backpack aside and sat down at the dining table.

Lu Huaiyu handed her a glass of milk.

“Is there an interview today?”

Ning Li held the glass and took a sip.

“The last two.”

She was not interested in these things, but the fame of holding the title of provincial champion was too big, and all the media flocked to her.

Even if she could reject one, she still could not reject all of them.

Lu Huaiyu nodded, and casually lifted her shoulder-length hair.

“It seems to have almost faded?”

Ning Li nodded, and then complained in a low voice, with a little feeling of dissatisfaction.

“I covered it up. There are still a few places which will probably take a few days to go down.”

Lu Huaiyu chuckled, and his slightly calloused fingers gently stroked her delicate neck a few times.

“Still angry? Why don’t I let you bite me back?”

As he spoke, he really bent down and leaned over, waiting patiently.

Ning Li refused and turned away to drink her milk.

Lu Huaiyu asked with a smile, “You really don’t want to?”

Ning Li put down the cup and turned to look at him.

As he spoke, a smile could be seen teasing at the corner of his lips, and his Adam’s apple moved up and down. He looked extremely lazy and sexy.

There was a hint of teasing between his brows, as if he had already expected her answer. It was as if he was merely watching a child play.

A surge of energy suddenly surged in her heart.

This man seemed to always have victory in his grasp. Nothing could make him flustered.

Even this kind of thing was the same.

She suddenly grabbed the shirt on his chest and leaned over with her head held high.

Lu Huaiyu noticed her movements and his smile deepened. He tilted his head slightly in cooperation, as if he really wanted to allow her to leave a few marks to vent her anger.

However, in the next moment, his body suddenly froze.

Ning Li did not kiss his neck. Instead, she bit his Adam's apple.

Her lips and tongue were warm, wet, and smooth, as soft and sweet as he had tasted before.

Even with just a slight touch, all the hot and passionate memories of the other night were quickly brought back to him.

He held her waist with one hand, and his throat was dry. His Adam's apple could not help but move up and down.

Ning Li was a little dissatisfied. She frowned slightly and muttered, "Don't move."

As she spoke, she imitated his action that day and clumsily sucked and bit on his Adam's apple.

Her teeth carelessly brushed against his Adam's apple, bringing with them a slight pain.

After the pain, it became even more scalding and lingering.

Lu Huaiyu tightened his arms. He wanted to kiss her, but he could not bear to detach himself from this moment.

Ning Li bit down and then backed away. She saw that there was only a faint trace left on it.

It could not be compared to hers at all.

She stared at it, feeling a little annoyed.

—Was her method wrong?

“Forget it, let’s just leave it at that.”

She said.

After saying that, she picked up the cup again, intending to drink the last mouthful of milk.

Lu Huaiyu’s temples jumped. He ground his teeth and smiled.

“Forget it?”

How could he forget it just like this?

He held her chin and kissed her lips without any hesitation.

Ning Li raised her hand to block him.

“Lu Huaiyu, what are you doing?”

Lu Huaiyu sipped the milk from between her lips and teeth, replying in a very perfunctory manner.

“I’m drinking milk. What’s wrong?”

Chapter 455: He Was Different

Lu Huaiyu sucked the fragrant milk between her lips and tongue cleanly before he released her in satisfaction.

Ning Li’s face was red, and her peach blossom eyes were moist.

She wanted to defend herself, but she could not bring herself to say a word. Her chest rose and fell, as she found herself a little short of breath.

She could not do anything to him.

Lu Huaiyu liked the way she looked at him, but he did not dare to look at her for too long. He smiled and caressed the corner of her lips with his finger to comfort her.

“It’s fine. Isn’t everything fine here?”

He knew that she was about to go out, so he kept his thoughts to himself and restrained himself.

Looking at her lips, they seemed a little rosier than usual, but nothing else could be seen.

Hearing what he said, Ning Li felt that this man was even more unreliable. She turned around, picked up her bag, and went out of the door.

...

Yunzhou Second High School had achieved a complete victory in this college entrance exam.

Ning Li had obtained the first place in the province's science subjects with an astonishingly high score of 746, while Pei Song had obtained the second place in the province's science subjects with a score of 741, which was only five points away.

At the same time, the two of them were the only two examinees in the province who had obtained a score above 740.

The third place in the province was 728, which was more than ten points away from the two of them.

He Xiaochen was ranked third in Yunzhou City with 721 points and was ranked seventh in the province.

Such results were enough to make Yunzhou Second High School stand out among the rest.

The good news and banners had been posted up long ago, and the leaders and teachers of the entire Second High School were delighted.

Previously, Ning Li and Pei Song had given up their university contracts in the national competition. Many people had felt that it was a pity and had secretly ridiculed them, hoping that they would fail.

However, now that the results of the college entrance examination were out, everyone was finally convinced.

These two people indeed had the right to be arrogant if they wanted to be.

Other than Ning Li, Pei Song and He Xiaochen were also at Second High School. They were also being interviewed at the same time.

These three people were the top three in Yunzhou City. They were also classmates in the same class. It would be quite interesting to publicize them.

It was already noon when the relevant activities ended.

He Xiaochen pulled Ning Li's arm.

"Ning Li, would you like to go to the food street for lunch?"

In the future, when she went to university, she would not have many opportunities to come back here for lunch.

Ning Li nodded.

He Xiaochen glanced to the side.

Pei Song was not far away, as cold and distant as usual.

They had met today, and apart from greeting each other normally, they had barely spoken.

He Xiaochen sighed in her heart.

Her hunch had indeed been correct. Ning Li really had no romantic feelings for the class monitor.

She looked at Ning Li.

"I still want to eat ice cream today! Since you were the one who treated me before, this time, it'll be my turn to treat you!"

...

The two of them came to the small restaurant where they had had their first meal together.

It was already the end of June. The students were on holiday, so there were fewer people on the food street.

As He Xiaochen unwrapped her chopsticks, she asked, “Ning Li, you’ll be applying for university soon. Are you sure that the University of Xijing is your choice?”

Ning Li nodded.

The admissions teachers of Xijing University and Haicheng Hua University had been calling her frequently these past few days.

However, her mind had been set from the beginning, so she would not be changing it.

“Then, what major are you going to apply for?”

Ning Li replied, “The Astronomy Department.”

When He Xiaochen heard this answer, her eyes widened.

“What?! Not the Physics Department?”

She had thought that Ning Li would definitely apply for the Physics Department after having participated in the physics competition and going all the way to the top in the country.

In the end... she was choosing the Astronomy Department?

“Actually, it’s more or less the same,” Ning Li said. “Astrophysics can be considered an intersecting subject between astronomy and physics.”

The content of the subject was also quite similar.

“Astrophysics... No wonder!”

He Xiaochen recalled the various “extra-curricular books” that Ning Li had often had in her hands.

She had unintentionally glanced at them a few times. Indeed, they had all been related to astrophysics.

At that time, she had only thought that she was reading them for fun. She had not expected her to actually apply for this major in the end.

“What about you?” Ning Li asked.

He Xiaochen chuckled.

“The Foreign Language Department.”

Ning Li understood.

He Xiaochen’s talent for languages was very good. It was also within her expectations that she would choose this major.

“I heard that the class monitor is going to apply for the Law Department—”

Just as He Xiaochen said this, she suddenly remembered that Ning Li had already rejected Pei Song. She hurriedly covered her mouth.

Ning Li's expression remained the same.

"Is that so?"

In his previous life, Pei Song had indeed signed up for the Law Department of Xijing University.

At that time, his decision had shocked many people.

That was because at that time, he had signed the contract as the number one student in the national competition.

Even if he did not choose the Physics Department, he should have chosen a similar or similar science and technology major.

Ultimately, he had surprised everyone by choosing the Law Department.

Seeing that Ning Li did not seem to mind, He Xiaochen asked carefully, "... Ning Li, between you and the class monitor..."

"There's nothing between us." Ning Li's answer was simple and straightforward.

He Xiaochen had already thought of this answer, so she was not surprised to hear Ning Li say it herself.

However, she felt a little emotional.

Everyone was in the same class, and even their seats were next to each other. The class monitor liked Ning Li, yet she had not noticed it at all!

Her phone suddenly rang.

He Xiaochen glanced at it, and her expression suddenly became a little conflicted. She stared at the message that had popped up on her phone, as if she was having a headache over how to reply.

In the end, she simply flipped her phone back onto the table. Out of sight, out of mind.

Ning Li raised her eyebrows slightly.

She had seen the name of the person who had sent the message.

“Ren Qian?”

“Ah?”

He Xiaochen snapped back to her senses,

“What?”

Ning Li smiled.

Even though she did not say anything, He Xiaochen’s face still turned red.

She gently scratched her ears as if she had a headache.

She had already told Ning Li about Ren Qian confessing his feelings to her.

But now that it had suddenly been brought up, she still felt embarrassed.

Seeing her like this, Ning Li had already guessed the situation.

“It looks like you haven’t agreed yet.”

He Xiaochen bit her chopsticks and nodded.

She had no idea about such things before. Although she had occasionally received love letters or confessions in school, at that time, her heart had been filled with studying and chasing after celebrities, so she had rejected all of them.

However, this time the situation was a little different.

That was because she had never thought that Ren Qian would actually like her.

After Ren Qian had finished speaking that day, she had been flustered and nervous. All she said was that she needed to think about it.

However, up until now, she still had not thought it through yet.

Ren Qian did not seem to be in a hurry and did not pursue her regarding that matter anymore. It seemed that they had returned to the normal way of getting along with each other as classmates.

Even during this period of time, they did not have much contact.

Just now, Ren Qian had sent a message to ask her about her application.

He Xiaochen let out a long sigh.

“Sigh! It’s really troublesome to fall in love! Is our Weiwei’s movie not good, or is my brother’s album not good?”

Ning Li lowered her head as she ate.

He Xiaochen could not help but ask, "Ning Li, what do you think would be considered as liking someone?"

She did not know if she liked Ren Qian in that way, which was why she was taking so long to reply.

Ning Li's hand paused for a while before she said, "It's hard to say, but.... if you like someone, they should be very different in your eyes."

Chapter 456: Return to Lincheng Together

On July 3rd, the M Province College Entrance Examination Voluntary Registration system was opened.

It was evening.

Ning Li sat on the sofa in the living room, opened the web page, and logged into the web address.

The sound of footsteps came from the stairs. It was Lu Huaiyu coming downstairs.

Ning Li turned around.

"Second Brother, you're awake?"

Lu Huaiyu walked over with his long legs.

Ning Li looked at the time and said, "Second Brother, your afternoon naps seem to be getting shorter and shorter recently."

Previously, Lu Huaiyu would nap for about three hours in the afternoon.

During this period of time, it had gradually become two hours.

Today, it had only been one hour and forty minutes.

Lu Huaiyu smiled in reply.

He walked behind Ning Li and glanced at her computer.

“You want to go through the voluntary application?”

Ning Li nodded.

She had already communicated with Lu Huaiyu about this matter, so he was clear about the major that she had chosen.

Lu Huaiyu said, “Only this one?”

Ning Li replied with a “Hmm”.

She had mentioned this matter to Zhu Jingyuan while they had been at the Winter Camp. Thus, after the results had come out, the dean of the Astronomy Department of the University of Xijing’s Institute of Physics had personally called her.

This matter had been settled just like that.

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

“Alright.”

Since that was what she liked, he would let her go.

After Ning Li had filled out the form and confirmed that there were no problems, she pressed submit.

Just then, the phone that she had placed next to her lit up.

She glanced at it. It was actually Gu Tinglan's phone call.

Lu Huaiyu swept an indifferent glance over Gu Tinglan's name.

Ning Li picked up her phone.

Thus far, they had not had much contact with each other. Yet, for some reason, he was suddenly calling today.

"Doctor Gu?"

Gu Tinglan's gentle and smiling voice came from the phone.

"Ning Li."

Lu Huaiyu lounged on the sofa next to her.

Ning Li asked, "Doctor Gu, is there anything you need from me?"

Gu Tinglan smiled and said, "Nothing much. I just remembered that you should have completed your voluntary application today, right?"

“Yes.”

“Congratulations.”

When the results had been announced earlier, Gu Tinglan had already sent her a congratulatory message.

Today’s message meant that the matter of the college entrance examination had finally been settled.

What she needed to do next was to wait for the notice.

“Thank you, Doctor Gu.”

Ning Li felt that he probably had something to ask her.

Sure enough, Gu Tinglan paused for a moment and said, “I was wondering if you would have the time to take me around Lincheng some time soon?”

Ning Li was surprised.

She had talked about this with Gu Tinglan before.

At that time, he had just returned from abroad and traveled to Lincheng, as if he was investigating something.

At that time, he had known that she was from Lincheng, so he had casually mentioned that he wanted to wait for her to have the time to show him around Lincheng.

Unexpectedly, he had waited until the end of the college entrance exam.

He must have specifically picked the time when she had finished filling out her voluntary application to extend this invitation.

“It’s not a problem.”

Ning Li said.

Since she had agreed earlier, there was no reason for her to go back on her word. Besides, it was not a big deal.

However, Ning Li did not quite understand one thing: Gu Tinglan seemed to have already been to Lincheng several times. In total, he would have stayed there for quite a long time.

Lincheng was a small city with a small plot of land and a backward economic development. Gu Tinglan had been there for so long that it would not be a problem for him to visit the whole of Lincheng.

So hearing him mention this again, Ning Li was a little puzzled.

However, this was Gu Tinglan’s private matter, so it did not seem like there was a need to delve into it.

Hearing this, Lu Huaiyu bent over and picked up the glass of water that she had placed beside her.

Ning Li glanced at him. She wanted to remind him that it was hers, but seeing that he had already brought it to his lips, she did not say anything.

“It just so happens that I have more time to spare recently.”

Gu Tinglan laughed.

“Then, how about tomorrow?”

“Tomorrow?”

Ning Li thought for a moment before replying.

“Sure.”

Yunzhou was not far from Lincheng, and they could drive back and forth on the same day.

Although it was a bit sudden to set it for tomorrow, it did not really matter.

Lu Huaiyu drank a mouthful of water before putting down the cup.

Gu Tinglan paused for a moment. When he spoke again, there was a hint of understanding in his voice.

“I don’t know if Second Master Lu is free. If it’s convenient, I’d like to invite him to come as well.”

Ning Li looked at Lu Huaiyu.

“Second Brother, Doctor Gu asked if you would like to go to Lincheng with me tomorrow.”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows.

“Yes.”

Gu Tinglan could hear his voice clearly.

He smiled and replied.

“Then, it’s a deal.”

...

After hanging up the phone, Ning Li looked at Lu Huaiyu.

“Second Brother, do you know what Doctor Gu went to investigate in Lincheng?”

She was generally not curious about other people’s private matters. However, she felt that this matter was a little strange.

If she could understand the situation, it might make it more convenient to communicate.

Lu Huaiyu was silent for a moment.

“It seems that some things about his family have been going on for many years. However, the Gu family has always kept it a secret, so I’m not very clear about the specifics.”

Most of the Gu family’s businesses were abroad, while some were in Hong Kong.

In recent years, they had shifted some of their businesses back to China and started to focus on developing their businesses here.

In comparison, while the Lu family had deep roots in the Capital, the Gu family was also a top aristocratic family.

Therefore, if the Gu family wanted to keep something a secret, very few people would be able to find out about their situation.

Moreover, Lu Huaiyu was not interested in other people’s family matters.

Ning Li nodded thoughtfully.

If that was the case, then there was nothing to ask.

In her previous life, Lu Huaiyu and Gu Tinglan had had a close personal relationship.

However, in this life, the two of them had only known each other for a short time, so it was normal that Lu Huaiyu did not know.

...

The next morning, Gu Siyang drove a black car and stopped outside the front door of Yunding Fenghua.

Chapter 457: Peanuts

He had come specially to pick her up.

When Ning Li walked out and saw his expensive but low-profile car, she secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

"Ning Li!"

Gu Siyang was very happy to see Ning Li and greeted her from the window. When he saw Lu Huaiyu following behind her, his smile grew wider,

"Second Master Lu!"

Ning Li asked, "Young Master Gu is also going to Lincheng?"

Gu Siyang was a little surprised.

"Didn't my uncle tell you? I'm here to pick you guys up!"

Most people would not be able to order Gu Siyang around, but Gu Tinglan was the one who had given the order. Moreover, he had been tasked with picking Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu up.

He had agreed readily and had even woken up early.

Lu Huaiyu was carrying Ning Li's backpack. With his other hand, he opened the door to the backseat. Ning Li got into the car and he followed suit.

Gu Siyang turned his head to look behind.

"Second Master, are you not sitting in front?"

He had noticed before that when Cheng Xiyue was driving, Lu Huaiyu would sit in the front passenger seat.

Lu Huaiyu said, "Hmm."

Gu Siyang was not overly bothered to hear his reply.

"Alright then, let's go now!"

Saying this, he started the car.

Lu Huaiyu looked at Ning Li.

“Do you still want to take a nap?”

It was still quite early.

Ning Li shook her head.

Lu Huaiyu stroked her hair.

Gu Siyang accidentally saw this scene in the rearview mirror and was momentarily stunned.

Lu Huaiyu’s action had been extremely natural, and he had quickly retracted it.

Gu Siyang faintly felt that something was off, but he could not say it out loud.

However, he quickly threw this thought to the back of his mind.

He had actually come today for another very important matter.

He chuckled and asked with anticipation and excitement, “Oh right, Ning Li, have you seen the contract that I sent you previously?”

That was the contract that LY had specially made for Ning Li. Every clause had been personally reviewed by him, and he showed 120,000% sincerity.

1

He had sent the contract over on the day after Ning Li had finished her college entrance exam.

However, Ning Li had not replied.

In fact, he had wanted to hurry her up a long time ago, but Gu Tinglan had said that after Ning Li had finished her college entrance exam, she still had to wait for her results, fill out her application, and settle many other things. In addition, she had won the provincial best scholar award, so she was even busier. He had told him to wait.

Thus, Gu Siyang had waited until now.

He had come over as a chauffeur today with the intention of courting her.

Ning Li said, "I've seen it."

Gu Siyan's heart was left hanging in anticipation.

"Then, what are your thoughts about it?"

Ning Li thought for a moment. "There are two clauses that are a little problematic. I'll mark them and send them to you later."

So, did that mean that she had agreed?!

Gu Siyang said repeatedly,

"Sure, sure! As long as you agree, you can set any conditions that you want!"

Ning Li nodded lightly.

The smile on Gu Siyang's face was incomparably bright, and he was extremely happy and proud.

How difficult this had been!

He had pursued Ning Li for such a long time before he had finally gotten her to agree!

“Don’t worry! Later, I’ll get them to redraft a contract based on your revisions. If we hurry, we’ll be able to sign and settle it in a few days!”

Ning Li looked out of the window and nodded indifferently.

...

An hour and a half later, the group arrived in Lincheng.

Gu Tinglan was staying at the Xishi Hotel in the city center.

Gu Siyang parked the car at the entrance of the hotel and called Gu Tinglan, who came down very quickly.

He smiled to himself when he saw Lu Huaiyu and Ning Li sitting together in the back seat.

After a simple greeting, he got into the front passenger seat.

Ning Li asked, “Is there anywhere that Dr. Gu would like to go?”

Gu Tinglan thought for a moment.

“Let’s go to Chunfeng Road first.”

Chunfeng Road was a very famous street in Lincheng. The whole street was full of Republic of China-style buildings that were left over from the last century. It was one of the most popular attractions in Lincheng.

Ning Li paused.

“Has Dr. Gu not been there before?”

Gu Tinglan smiled and said, “Yes, but I was in such a hurry that I didn’t have time to look around.”

Ning Li nodded.

Gu Siyang started the car and headed for Chunfeng Road.

...

Half an hour later, Gu Siyang parked the car in the parking lot. The small group got out of the car and walked.

The buildings on both sides of Chunfeng Road were very historic. Even the flagstones on the ground were quite old. No cars were allowed to enter, so they could only walk.

The Lincheng government had used a lot of effort to maintain and repair this place. They had also attracted investment and opened various shops on both sides.

Now, this place could be considered a bustling commercial street.

In July, during the summer holiday season, there were a lot of people around and the weather was hot.

Fortunately, wutong trees had been planted on both sides of Chunfeng Road. The branches and leaves were lush and could disperse the heat slightly.

As Ning Li walked, she would introduce the buildings on both sides from time to time.

She had not specifically studied the contents of this area. However, she had grown up in Lincheng and had at least a rudimentary knowledge of them and was almost at ease with them.

Gu Tinglan listened very seriously.

However, Gu Siyang was not very interested in these things. He trailed behind them and lowered his head to look at his phone messages.

It had not been easy for him to wait until Ning Li had agreed to join LY. He had to make preparations for everything!

When they walked to a gray-green building in the middle, Ning Li said, "This is —"

"There's no need for this to be introduced."

Gu Tinglan smiled.

Ning Li was stunned.

When Gu Siyang heard this, he also raised her eyes to look over.

"Huh? Uncle, isn't this..."

Gu Tinglan turned around with a calm expression.

Gu Siyang immediately shut his mouth.

Ning Li was a little confused, but she did not ask any more questions.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her little face, which had gotten slightly sunburnt, and raised his hand to look at the time.

"It's noon. Shall we have lunch?"

There were quite a few restaurants on both sides.

They chose the one next to the grayish-green building.

They took their seats by the window, and soon, a waiter came over.

Probably because the waiter could tell that these people were either rich or noble, the waiter's attitude was also very cordial.

"The peanut tofu is our signature. Would you like to try it?"

"No."

"No."

"No."

All three voices rang out at the same time.

Except for Ning Li, the other three people had all rejected the suggestion at the same time.

There was a moment of silence.

The waiter was stunned. He probably had not expected to be rejected so easily.

Ning Li was also stunned.

Gu Siyang waved his hand.

“I don’t want anything with peanuts.”

Ning Li asked curiously, “Gu Siyang, are you also... allergic to peanuts?”

“No.”

Gu Siyang said casually, “However, peanuts are forbidden in our house.. We never order anything with peanuts, and we never buy them.”

Chapter 458: He Walked Through Every Street in Lincheng

He winked and grinned cheekily.

“We’re not even allowed to have anything that looks like peanuts.”

Ning Li was stunned.

The Gu family... why did they have such a strange rule?

Subconsciously, she glanced at Gu Tinglan.

She had heard him mention before that he had a friend who was allergic to peanuts, but now it seemed that... that friend of his was actually related to the Gu family?

Even if he did not like eating peanuts, surely he would not have gone to such an extent.

Gu Tinglan did not seem to want to say much. He took the menu and handed it to Ning Li as he smiled.

“See if there’s anything you want to eat.”

Seeing his attitude, Ning Li did not ask any more questions. Just as she was about to take it, a slender hand reached out from the side.

Lu Huaiyu took the menu from Gu Tinglan and opened it with a calm expression.

He ordered a few dishes, all according to Ning Li’s taste.

After living together for so long, he knew what Ning Li liked to eat and what she did not like to eat.

After ordering the food, he ordered two cups of iced strawberry juice.

Gu Siyang quickly said, “Me! And me! Please help me order one cup too—”

Lu Huaiyu handed over the menu and calmly said,

“Order it yourself.”

Gu Siyang, “...”

Gu Tinglan watched from the side and could not help but laugh.

Lu Huaiyu... This person was really...

Gu Siyang had been mercilessly rejected, so he could only obediently order a cup for himself.

"Uncle, what do you want to drink? Is it still peach juice?"

Gu Tinglan nodded.

Gu Siyang said to the waiter, "Two more cups of peach juice please!"

The waiter agreed and quickly left.

Ning Li was a little surprised. She had thought that Gu Siyang and Gu Tinglan would order lemon juice or something like that.

Peach juice... That did not seem to go well with these two young masters of the Gu family.

As if sensing her gaze, Gu Siyang looked up.

"What's wrong, Ning Li?"

Ning Li paused for a moment, the corners of her lips curving slightly.

"Nothing, I just didn't expect you guys to drink peach juice."

Gu Siyang said casually, "Oh, is that all? Of course, it's because my uncle likes peach juice! As for me, it's okay, I'm used to drinking it!"

Lu Huaiyu looked at Gu Tinglan with his brows slightly raised.

Ning Li was also stunned, inexplicably feeling that Gu Siyang's words subtly meant something.

It was not a big deal that Gu Tinglan liked peach juice. However, Gu Siyang had said that he was used to it...

"I heard that you signed up for Xijing University?"

Gu Tinglan interrupted Gu Siyang and changed the topic.

Ning Li nodded.

The juice was served very quickly.

Gu Siyang bit the straw and asked, "Hey Ning Li, by the way, what major did you sign up for?"

"The Astronomy Department."

Gu Siyang was shocked and immediately began to choke. He tilted his head and started coughing violently.

"The— cough— cough— astronomy— cough— cough— cough— Astronomy Department?!"

Almost at the same time, the gentle smile on Gu Tinglan's face disappeared, and his expression faded a lot.

Ning Li frowned slightly when she noticed the unusual reactions of both these people.

“What’s wrong? Is there a problem?”

Gu Siyang finally managed to catch his breath, his face having turned red.

“What... What’s wrong with your report? Why did you have to choose this?”

Ning Li was even more confused and asked in return, “Is this not a good major?”

Gu Siyang choked on her question and did not know how to answer for a moment.

After holding it in for a long time, he finally said,

“Not really, but... this... anyway, I think it’s average...”

He stammered and did not say what was wrong for a long time.

However, his expression did indeed show that he had a lot of opinions about this major.

“There are many better majors in Xijing University. Finance, Business Administration, Law. If you really want to do physics, there are many other options.”

Gu Tinglan leaned back in his chair. His expression had returned to his usual gentle look, but the elegant smile on the corners of his eyes and brows had completely disappeared,

“Whether it’s in terms of career prospects or anything else, the Astronomy Department doesn’t have any advantages. Your score was so high— Why did you have to choose the Astronomy Department?”

What he said was the truth.

The requirements for the Astronomy Department were high, the research content was boring, and the career choices in the future were also very narrow.

1

Ning Li could have totally made a better choice.

Anyway, with her grades, all the majors at Xijing University were at her disposal.

Who would have known that she would choose this one in the end?

“That’s the one she likes.”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyes slightly and said calmly, “That’s enough of a reason.”

There was no need to consider anything else. Her likes and wishes would always come first.

This reason alone was enough.

There was a moment of silence at the dining table, as if they were in a delicate confrontation.

However, it was only for a moment before Gu Tinglan laughed.

“Mm, that’s true. Since Ning Li chose this herself, then... that’s good too.”

His tone and expression returned to the appearance of an elegant and gentle young master, as if nothing had happened just now.

Gu Siyang shrank back, wishing he could escape on the spot.

What was he thinking that he had to ask this question?

The Astronomy Department!

Why did Ning Li want to report to the Astronomy Department?!

Fortunately, the waiter quickly began to serve the dishes, and the small incident earlier was quietly forgotten.

...

After finishing the meal, Ning Li asked, "Where do you want to go this afternoon, Dr. Gu?"

They had basically finished strolling along Chunfeng Road and only needed to see what Gu Tinglan's wishes were.

Gu Tinglan thought for a moment and said with a smile, "Let's just take a look around, or go to the places that you're more familiar with. After all, you're from Lincheng. Sometimes, it's better to go to the streets and alleys instead of the usual scenic spots."

It seemed that such places were more suitable to experience the life here.

Ning Li could roughly guess what he meant. Although she did not quite understand why he was so obsessed with Lincheng, she still agreed.

She thought for a moment.

"The Fence Alley two streets away from here is an old street in Lincheng. We can go there if Dr. Gu wants to."

Gu Tinglan smiled.

“You’re the tour guide. Of course, I’ll listen to you.”

Lu Huaiyu looked outside and bowed to Ning Li.

“I’m going out for a while.”

Ning Li did not understand, but she still nodded.

Lu Huaiyu got up.

After about ten minutes, he came back with—

An umbrella.

“Let’s go.”

He said.

...

The weather in Lincheng in July was hot and dry, especially in the afternoon. The sun was still too bright and warm.

The group walked out of Chunfeng Road and headed toward Fence Alley.

The street here was not covered by decades-old wutung trees. Even the ground was burning hot as they walked on the road.

Lu Huaiyu stood beside Ning Li and held an umbrella for her, casting a shade over her.

Gu Siyang's face was full of resentment.

"Why isn't there any shade on this road? It's too hot!"

Ning Li explained.

"This place was just renovated a few years ago. So was the landscaping."

The saplings there were not enough to look at.

Gu Siyang could not help but mutter.

"Why does Second Master Lu seem to be very familiar with this place?"

Before they had come outside, Lu Huaiyu had gone to buy an umbrella. It was obvious that he had long understood the situation here.

Gu Tinglan heard this and glanced at Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu's expression remained the same.

"I've been here before."

Ning Li tilted her head and raised her face slightly.

"Second Brother, you've been to Fence Alley too?"

Usually, outsiders would not pass through this place.

Lu Huaiyu's lips curved into a slight smile. "Mm."

It was not just Fence Alley.

He had walked through every street in Lincheng.

Chapter 459: Room

He had lightly brushed the matter off, but Ning Li did not care.

Gu Siyang looked at both sides of the street and finally went into a shop, bringing out two umbrellas.

He handed one of them to Gu Tinglan.

"Uncle, Here!"

Gu Tinglan looked at the bright yellow parasol with floral lace and frowned.

"No."

"Ah, Uncle, don't you want to use it? It's so hot!"

Gu Siyang's face was almost scrunched up from the sun.

“There’s nothing else available here. Don’t you want to just make do with it?”

Gu Tinglan was very insistent.

“You can use it yourself.”

Gu Siyang said, “Alright then.”

As he spoke, he opened the parasol and held it above his head.

The glaring and hot sunlight was blocked, and he instantly felt more comfortable.

Why should he be overly conscious about being embarrassed?

After all, he had almost been melted by the sun!

He gushed excitedly to Gu Tinglan.

“Uncle, the quality of this umbrella is really good! You—”

Gu Tinglan was expressionless.

“You stay away from me.”

...

Since Gu Siyang was holding a lacy flower umbrella, he was ordered to walk at the back, keeping a good distance from them.

Fortunately, Fence Alley was not very far away. After walking for a while, they soon arrived.

Ning Li raised her finger and pointed.

“The one in front is Fence Alley. It’s one of the few old streets in this area.”

Although Lincheng’s economy was backward, it had been developing gradually in collaboration with Yunzhou in recent years.

After Chunfeng Road had been established, even the nearby areas had begun to be demolished and rebuilt.

“Those who live here are all old residents of Lincheng, but I heard that Fence Alley is about to be demolished soon,” Ning Li said.

Gu Tinglan looked in the direction she was pointing and nodded.

From here, one could already see the bluestone pavement inside Fence Alley. There were some potted plants in front of the doors on both sides.

It was probably because it was too hot at the moment, so there weren’t many people coming and going.

It indeed had the air of a city life.

Gu Siyang suddenly said, “Eh, the building on the left is quite interesting.”

Ning Li’s gaze shifted slightly as she understood.

“That building was built more than ten years ago. Because there was a fire in the past, the entire building was burnt down. Later, the government took over and rebuilt this building.”

Gu Tinglan frowned slightly.

“A fire?”

“Yes.”

Ning Li recalled for a moment.

“It was probably around eighteen years ago. After that, it had taken three years before it had been completely demolished and renovated.”

Gu Siyang hissed.

“The entire building was burnt down? Then... wouldn’t the casualties have been very serious?”

“It seems like three people died and about eight or nine people were injured.”

Gu Siyang let out an “ah” sound.

Gu Tinglan looked at that building and frowned.

After a long while, he asked, “This was nearly twenty years ago. How is it that you remember it so clearly?”

Ning Li said casually, “Because I used to live nearby.”

When she said this, the rest of them were stunned.

Lu Huaiyu glanced at her.

He had long asked Cheng Xiyue to look up Ning Li's information.

All sorts of information had been gathered about her from her childhood to the present.

However, no mention had been made of this.

Although Gu Tinglan had not looked up Ning Li, he knew her pretty well.

"Didn't you live on Xin'an Road?"

In other words, that apartment block.

Ning Li paused.

"When my parents first got married, they rented a house here for a period of time."

Ning Haizhou really did not have any money. Even when Su Yuan had been about to give birth, he still had not had enough money to buy a house.

Therefore, at that time, they had rented a house nearby.

"Later, there was a fire here, so they moved away."

The fire had been so fierce that Su Yuan had been afraid and kept urging Ning Haizhou to buy a house.

Ning Haizhou had borrowed money from everywhere to finally solve this problem. He had then taken them to the apartment in the apartment building.

Gu Tinglan felt that something was wrong, but he could not say anything. He remained silent and looked at the building again.

He knew what Ning Li's original family had been like. He could tell that she did not really want to talk about those things.

So, he did not ask any more questions.

Gu Siyang listened from the side and scratched his head.

He was the young master of the Gu family. He had been born with nothing to worry about, and his family spoiled him.

Before this, he had almost never come into contact with such things, and he could not imagine what it was like to be poor.

Now that he heard Ning Li mention it, his tone was indifferent, as if he did not care about it. But when he thought about the situation back then, he felt a little sad.

Lu Huaiyu held her hand.

Ning Li shook her head gently at him.

It had indeed been a long time ago, and she did not remember much of it. She had only found out about it when she heard about it from her Grandma when she was older.

Gu Tinglan suddenly said, "Let's call it a day."

Ning Li asked, "Dr. Gu, are you not going to continue sightseeing?"

Gu Tinglan smiled.

"I suddenly remembered that I have to go back and deal with some things. Besides, I've already troubled you enough today. I'm tired after half a day. Let's talk about it tomorrow."

Ning Li did not have any objections.

The group returned to the Xishi Hotel just like that.

...

Xishi was the property of the Cheng family.

Gu Tinglan had stayed here for quite some time, so Gu Siyang went to the front desk to book a few rooms for them.

"Hello, three big bedrooms please."

The front desk lady was about to agree when she looked up and saw Lu Huaiyu. Her eyes lit up.

"Second Master Lu, you're here."

It seemed that she knew Lu Huaiyu.

With an eager smile on her face, she asked, "Will you be staying in the same room as before?"

Ning Li, who was standing at the side and playing with her phone, suddenly paused when she heard this.

She slowly raised her head and looked at Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu's hand that had been taking his identity card out suddenly stopped.

Then, she slowly asked, "Second Brother, do you.... have a room specially reserved here?"

Chapter 460: Follow Brother

Silence.

In the next moment, Lu Huaiyu calmly handed over his identity card.

"I had Cheng Xiyue withdraw from that room a long time ago. Didn't he explain it to you guys?"

The front desk lady was stunned.

Ah?

Every time Second Master Lu had come to this city before, he had always stayed here. Moreover, that room had always been prepared for him.

Although he had not come for a long time, the room had not been returned.

How could this be—

"Open up two more rooms please..."

As he said this, his knuckled fingers tapped the ID card on the table.

Tap...

"Next to each other."

His tone was languid as ever. However, when he looked over, his eyes were exceptionally deep, and there was an inexplicable sense of oppression.

The receptionist trembled inwardly and she subconsciously accepted it with both hands.

"Yes, Second Master Lu."

Only then did Lu Huaiyu turn back to look at Ning Li. "Ah Li, your ID card please."

Ning Li's gaze swept over him, and she took out her ID card from her pocket and handed it over.

The receptionist quickly accepted it and handed the room cards over.

"These are the room cards for the three of you. Please enjoy your stay."

...

Ning Li and the others took the elevator and went straight to the top floor.

The rooms on this floor were the most expensive in Xishe Hotel. Sometimes, even if one had money, they still would not be able to book a room here.

However, for Gu Tinglan or Lu Huaiyu, this was obviously not a problem.

Gu Tinglan and Gu Siyang's rooms were only a few steps away from the elevator.

Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu's rooms were in the other direction.

3606.

Ning Li checked the room card and came to the door of the room. She turned back to take a look.

Lu Huaiyu's room was right across from hers, 3608.

Ning Li raised her eyebrows.

"Second Brother, did you stay in this room before too?"

Lu Huaiyu put one hand in his pocket and coughed lightly.

"It was Cheng Xiyue who arranged everything. I don't really remember it."

Young Master Cheng naturally had absolute privileges over the Xishe Hotel.

Ning Li replied with an "Oh" before pushing the door open and entering her room.

Lu Huaiyu followed her in and pulled her wrist.

"Ah Li."

Naturally, he knew that it would be impossible to hide such a statement from her.

She was so smart that she would surely see through it.

Ning Li placed her backpack on the hallway cabinet at the side and turned around to look at him. Her peach blossom eyes were clear and bright.

Lu Huaiyu closed the door. His fingers gently caressed the inside of her wrist, as if he was considering how to speak.

Ning Li just stood there quietly.

After a long while, she said, "Second Brother, didn't you feel cold that day?"

She was talking about New Year's Day, the night that Lu Huaiyu had stayed at her home.

At that time, she had asked Lu Huaiyu if he had wanted to book a hotel room, but he had said that Xishe had been fully booked.

At that time, she had only thought that he was not used to other hotels, so she had taken the initiative to allow him to stay in her home.

She had not expected—

Lu Huaiyu looked at her and sighed softly.

"Ah Li, you should be angry. But with the situation that day, I could not let you stay at home alone."

Ning Li was slightly startled.

"Even if I had to do it again, I would still do the same."

As Lu Huaiyu spoke, he recalled the situation that day, and his eyes turned cold.

She did not know that when he had seen those people madly smashing and cursing at the door, the surging killing intent in his heart had almost broken through his rationality.

Behind the door had been his little girl.

He had tried to protect her as best as he could, never letting her fall or be burnt. He had been careful and mindful.

Ning Li, whom he loved so much, had been bullied to such an extent that it was like a place he could not see.

In the years before that, how many times had she experienced it? He did not dare to think about it, nor could he think about it.

In the past, when he had seen her file, it had only been a thin piece of paper regarding Su Yuan's departure and Ning Haizhou's car accident.

However, it was not until that day that he had finally known that beneath those few lines of words, how many unspeakable grievances and torments she had suffered in the past ten years.

Lu Huaiyu bent down slightly and laughed helplessly.

"But Ah Li, I didn't even have the right to stand in front of you and protect you at that time."

Therefore, he had only been able to think up such a clumsy excuse to stay by her side, not even moving an inch away from her.

Ning Li did not speak for a long time.

Just when Lu Huaiyu thought that she was still angry, she finally spoke.

“But it was too cold.”

Lu Huaiyu was stunned. “What?”

Ning Li lowered her head slightly and gently held his hand.

“I said, it was too cold at home that day.”

The house was very small and very old, and there had been no heating at that time.

She had only thought that he was not used to staying in other hotels, so she had told him to make do for the night.

However, if she had known earlier that this was the reason—

“I should have come out to stay.”

She said softly.

Lu Huaiyu was stunned for a while before he understood what she meant.

When he came back to his senses, he could not help but laugh.

“Stay with me? Alone? Wasn’t Ah Li afraid?”

Afraid of what?

Afraid that he had other thoughts, or afraid that it would not sound good if it had gotten out?

Or perhaps, there were many, many things.

Worry, worry, unease...

At that time, there had still been an extremely large distance between them.

How could he have borne it?

Ning Li shook her head gently.

"I wasn't afraid."

She said.

This person was Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu's mind was shaken. His Adam's apple rolled. After a moment, he pinched her chin, forcing her to raise her head and look into his eyes.

The corner of his lips held a casual smile. He coaxed her as if he was joking.

"Come, tell me, were you really not afraid? What if I had kidnapped you?"

Ning Li looked at him, almost looking into his eyes.

Then, just when Lu Huaiyu thought that she was not going to answer his teasing question, she said softly, "Then, I would go with Brother."