

Little Brat's 591

Chapter 591: Sister-In-Law

Ning Li understood almost instantly.

The only person with the surname Xu who had a grudge against her was that one.

Speaking of this, Lu Huaiyu's eyes turned cold, but the strength that he used to pinch her cheeks remained gentle.

"I didn't want to tell you too much about these things, but since you've already seen it, it's good that you know. But don't think too much about it, I'll take care of it."

Ning Li nodded.

Lu Huaiyu was rarely involved with matters within these circles, but as long as he wanted to, everything would be easy.

Some people just had to cause trouble for themselves, so they had only themselves to blame.

Lu Huaiyu spoke again.

"I'll accompany you to school later."

Ning Li looked at him in surprise.

"Today? Is Second Brother free?"

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

"Didn't I tell you yesterday that I'd be free today?"

He had kept this time free for her.

Ning Li nodded when she heard what he said.

“Okay.”

Just as she spoke, her phone rang. It was Gu Siyang.

She picked up the call.

“Hello?”

“Ning Li!”

Gu Siyang sounded very excited,

“No, no, I should call you Ning, right? Are you free today? I want to—”

“No.”

Ning Li cut him off cleanly.

Gu Siyang protested, “... I haven’t even said anything yet! You rejected me too quickly!”

Ning Li’s voice was calm.

“No training today, no driving, no looking at any cars. Any other questions?”

Gu Siyang ran his fingers through his hair.

“Awesome! I’m not looking for you today for LY! It’s a personal matter!”

Ning Li was still being held in Lu Huaiyu’s arms, so he heard what Gu Siyang said.

He raised his eyebrows.

“Has Young Master Gu been so free lately?”

Gu Siyang had never expected Lu Huaiyu to be beside Ning Li.

These words sounded polite and gentle, but for some reason, Gu Siyang felt a chill on his neck.

He immediately said, “No, no! It’s not for me! It’s my mother!”

Ning Li was really surprised this time.

“What?”

‘When she had been in Hong Kong City, she had met Gu Siyang’s mother, Gu Tingfeng’s wife, Liang Su.

Coming from a large family, she was a very gentle and intellectual woman.

However, she had spent most of her time with Old Madam Gu and Old Master Gu, so she had not had much interaction with Liang Su.

Why did she suddenly—

“Yes, it’s like this. My mother has always loved the dresses that you designed. When you appeared in the G&S show yesterday, she realized that you were Ning. Unfortunately, there was something else that she had to do yesterday so she was unable to attend the show. That meant that she missed meeting

you. She—”

Gu Siyang scratched his head.

“Hey, she would like your autograph!”

Ning Li, ”

Liang Su was a private high-quality jewelry designer who had her own independent brand. That meant that the two of them did have some similarities.

No wonder.

Asking for an autograph was probably just an excuse. What Liang Su wanted was to express her admiration for her.

The Gu family had been very good to her. That set of riding clothes especially had also been sent in the name of Liang Su.

Ning Li had been trying to think of finding an opportunity to express her thanks, but when she heard what Gu Siyang said, she agreed without hesitation.

“You’re all are too kind. It’s just a small matter. I’ll find an opportunity to personally deliver it.”

“No need, no need! My mother will be quite free these two days. It’s best if we see when it’s convenient for you! How about today?”

Ning Li paused.

“Thave an Advanced Math class this afternoon. I also have to go to the lab, but I’ll be free after all that.”

Gu Siyang immediately made a decision.

“Sure! Then let’s do it today! Later, we’ll pick you up at your school. Shall we have dinner together tonight?”

Ning Li agreed.

That afternoon, Lu Huaiyu accompanied Ning Li went back to Xijing University to attend classes.

The classroom was full of people, and people turned their heads from time to time.

Usually, when Lu Huaiyu was around, everyone’s eyes would be focused on his handsome face.

However, today was a little different. Most people were looking at Ning Li.

Luckily, Ning Li could still bear it.

Ever since her relationship with Lin Fengmian had been exposed, every time she had attended class, she more or less received this kind of gaze.

Thus, she was already used to it.

Now that Ning’s identity had been announced, it only made this kind of gaze even more intense.

She was unperturbed and was able to focus on the class.

Lu Huaiyu had originally planned to have dinner with her, but since Liang Su had already asked her out, he had given up the idea.

So, after Ning Li finished her class, he sent her to the downstairs of the institute’s laboratory and left.

‘As soon as Ning Li had returned to the laboratory, she was warmly welcomed by her senior brothers.

“Junior Sister! You’re finally back! Come and help me take a look. What’s wrong with this data?”

“Junior Sister, please look at mine first!”

Ning Li,

Yan Qiu walked in and knocked on Fu Niannian and Tang Yi’s heads.

“You only know how to ask for Junior Sister’s help. Those little dresses that Junior Sister designed are so beautiful, yet you don’t even know how to compliment them.”

As he spoke, he gave Ning Li a thumbs up.

“Junior Sister, that little dress is really beautiful.”

Ning Li was silent for a moment.

This was probably the best compliment that they could think of...

“Thank you, Senior Brother.”

Yan Qiu waved his hand.

“You’re welcome! Oh right, there’s an experimental analysis later. Please help me take a look.”

Ning Li, “.. Oh.”

By the time she had finished helping her senior brothers with these things, it was already close to six o’clock.

This was the time that she and Gu Siyang had agreed upon when he would accompany Liang Su to come over.

She changed out of her lab coat, said goodbye to Yan Qiu and the others, and carried her backpack downstairs.

Gu Siyang sent her a message saying that he was already waiting at the school entrance.

Ning Li headed over there.

Suddenly, she saw a familiar figure appear from around the corner.

It was Shen Zhijin.

“Teacher Shen.”

Ning Li called out.

Shen Zhijin looked over and nodded.

He seemed to be heading out of the school as well.

Recently, Shen Zhijin had been very busy and it was rare to see him. Ning Li quickly followed him and asked him a question about the experiment.

After listening to her question, Shen Zhijin was about to speak when he heard someone calling Ning Li’s name.

“Ah Li?”

Ning Li looked up and smiled.

“Mrs. Gu.”

Liang Su was also smiling gently, but when she saw the man beside her, her expression changed slightly.

Shen Zhijin stood still.

The atmosphere was subtle.

However, Liang Su's expression quickly returned to normal.

"Mr. Shen."

Sure enough, they knew each other...

Ning Li thought silently, as she saw Shen Zhijin give a slight nod towards Liang Su.

His voice was clear as he replied.

"Sister-in-law.."

Chapter 592: No One in the Gu Family Acknowledged Him

There was a moment of silence.

Ning Li was startled and subconsciously looked at Shen Zhijin.

Sister-in-law?

Had he actually called Liang Su 'sister-in-law'?!

Then, that meant that he and the Gu family—

Someone quickly came to Ning Li's mind: the fourth miss of the Gu family!

The only explanation for Shen Zhijin addressing Liang Su in that way was that he and the fourth miss of the Gu family—

That's right, Shen Zhijin was married, but his wife had passed away many years ago.

The fourth daughter of the Gu family had indeed passed away a long time ago.

The facts did match.

Ning Li's eyes widened slightly, and countless thoughts instantly emerged in her heart.

She had not carefully looked into Shen Zhijin's private affairs, so she had not known who his wife was.

She had not expected it to have been the fourth daughter of the Gu family?!

However, while they had been in Hong Kong City, the Gu family had never mentioned Shen Zhijin.

Even the horse trainer at the Dutian Racecourse would always refer to that person as the fourth daughter of the Gu family.

Anyone who heard it would think that the fourth daughter of the Gu family had been unmarried, as if Shen Zhijin had never appeared in her life before.

Shen Zhijin's expression was calm. The way he had called her "Sister-in-law" could not have been more natural.

Ning Li could not help but allow her gaze to fall on his hand. The wedding ring glowed faintly.

This...

There was a gentle and polite smile on Liang Su's face.

"Theard that Mr. Shen returned to the Capital some time ago. I didn't expect to bump into you today."

Her tone was gentle and polite, but it was also detached.

She didn't respond to Shen Zhijin calling her "Sister-in-law."

"It's been a long time. We should have a good catch-up, but it's not convenient today."

Liang Su smiled.

Anyone could tell that she was just being polite.

Shen Zhijin had returned to the Capital two months ago. Gu Tingfeng's family spent most of their time in the Capital now.

If they had really wanted to meet, why would they have delayed it until now?

Shen Zhijin was silent for a moment, not seeming to be surprised by Liang Su's attitude.

He nodded and said lightly, "I should have taken the initiative to visit, but Big Brother and Sister-in-law are busy, so I could not possibly disturb you too much. Sister-in-law, I'm sure you have some other matter to attend to first."

This was the first time Ning Li had heard Shen Zhijin talk to anyone with such an attitude and tone of voice.

He was a young genius, and he could be said to have achieved great heights in academic and scientific research. Now, he was one of the top physicists in the domestic and international physics circles.

The word "pride" had always been engraved in his bones.

But now...

Ning Li could not describe what she was feeling.

In short, the way Shen Zhijin was behaving was very different from usual.

Was all this because... of the fourth daughter of the Gu family?

Liang Su frowned slightly.

For so many years, Shen Zhijin had always said this.

He knew full well that the Gu family would not let him come to their house.

Yet, he remained as stubborn as ever. Every time they met, it would be the same as before.

She gathered her emotions and waved at Ning Li. The smile on her face became much warmer.

“Ah Li, let’s go.”

Shen Zhijin turned his head and glanced at Ning Li.

He had already known that Ning Li’s boyfriend was Lu Huaiyu, but he had never heard of her actually knowing the members of the Gu family.

Moreover, it was obvious that Liang Su was very close to her.

Ning Li responded by saying to Shen Zhijin, “Then... Teacher Shen, I’ll be taking my leave first, alright?”

Shen Zhijin replied with a “hmm”.

Only then did Ning Li move forward to walk to Liang Su’s side.

Liang Su smiled and moved to hold her hand.

“It’s been a long time since we last parted in Hong Kong City. Ah Li has become so beautiful. What would you like to eat today?”

The corner of Ning Li’s lips lifted.

“I’m fine with anything. I can go with your preference.”

“That won’t do. It’s a rare opportunity to be able to treat Ning to a meal, so of course, we have to choose carefully. How about the Jiutian Family? Or Fengdu?”

“Both are fine.”

Gu Siyang finally could not resist sticking his head out of the car window, saying happily, “Since Ning Li can’t choose, then I’ll choose! Mom, I want to eat at the barbecue restaurant on Xichun Road!”

Liang Su glanced at him indifferently.

“It’s greasy.”

Gu Siyang gave Ning Li a pitiful look.

“Ning Li! That restaurant is really delicious! I haven’t eaten it in a long time! Can we go eat that?”

Ning Li hesitated for a moment before nodding.

She was not very picky about these things. Since Gu Siyang had made a request, she could not refuse.

Then, she thought of Liang Su and said, "If Mrs. Gu doesn't like it, we can change it--"

"Why not?" Liang Su's attitude instantly took a 180-degree turn. She looked at Ning Li and said seriously, "I've been saying that Ah Li seems to have lost some weight recently and that should be remedied. Let's go to that one then."

'As she said that, she waved at Gu Siyang.

"Siyang, let's go to that one."

He knew it!

Gu Siyang stepped on the accelerator and the car drove away.

Ning Li unintentionally glanced at the rearview mirror, only to see that Shen Zhijin was still standing in the same spot.

He seemed to be looking their way without actually knowing what he was looking at. Then, he lowered his head slightly.

The people around him were coming and going. For some reason, his tall and lean figure seemed lonely and cold.

She recalled the scene just now.

She had not expected Shen Zhijin to have such a relationship with the Gu family.

The impression she had gotten was that Shen Zhijin should have treated his wife extremely well.

For so many years, he had been alone and had never married again.

He did not celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, yet he would go home with red camellias, a pony doll, and a rainbow lollipop on the eve of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

At first, she had not paid much attention to it, but now that she thought about it, she realized that those had been for the fourth miss of the Gu family.

It was for the person he had lost a long time ago. The one he would never forget every year.

So, why was the Gu family so resistant to him?

Liang Su was such a gentle and polite person. If even she had such an attitude towards Shen Zhijin, then the attitudes of the rest of the Gu family towards him would not even need mentioning.

Noticing that Ning Li seemed to be lost in her thoughts, Liang Su also looked over.

With this glance, she also saw the figure in the rearview mirror.

'As the car continued to move forward, Shen Zhijin's figure also became smaller and smaller, gradually becoming further and further away.

She sighed softly in her heart.

"Ah Li, why did you come out with him just now?" Liang Su weighed her words carefully, "You two... seem to be quite familiar with each other?"

She knew that Ning Li was from the Academy, and that Shen Zhijin was the honorary dean of the Academy. It was inevitable that the two of them would cross paths.

However, Ning Li was a freshman. Logically speaking, it was unlikely that she would come into contact with Shen Zhijin.

Ning Li came back to her senses and explained, "I am currently working on an experiment with Teacher Shen's new research team."

Liang Su finally came to a realization, but her emotions were a little complicated.

'When Ning Li had come to Xijing University to study astronomy, she was already... Who would have thought that she was now partially a student of Shen Zhijin?

Obviously, Shen Zhijin must have admired her very much, which was why he had made an exception.

If there were no obstacles later, after Ning Li finished her university credits, it would very likely mean that she would be studying under Shen Zhijin for her Ph.d.

This...

If the members of her family heard this, they would probably feel discontented again.

However, Ning Li was indeed very talented in physics. If she could have Shen Zhijin to guide her, her future would be limitless.

'The car turned right and Ning Li looked in the rearview mirror again.

Shen Zhijin finally turned around and left..

Chapter 593: All Girls Like It

Ning Li withdrew her gaze.

After today's accidental encounter, she had not expected there to be so much involvement.

She finally understood why Gu Tinglan and Gu Siyang had reacted that way when they had heard that she had enrolled in the astronomy department of Xijing University.

'They were so resistant to Shen Zhijin to such an extent that they even held a grudge against him in his professional field.

However, she did not know what it was about...

“Ning Li, the news that you’re Ning was a very well-kept secret!”

Gu Siyang noticed that the atmosphere in the car was not quite right. He blinked and opened his mouth to cheerfully change the topic.

“My mom found out about this yesterday, and she was so excited. She was insistent that I should invite you out for a meal!”

At the mention of this matter, the silent atmosphere instantly dissipated.

Liang Su smiled, shook her head, and sighed.

“It’s such a pity. G&S had sent the invitation early and I had originally planned to go over, but something came up and I was detained. In the end, I missed such a wonderful show.”

Later, she had watched the live broadcast of the big show again, and all that was left in her heart was admiration and amazement.

Ning Li was even more outstanding than anyone had expected.

She had an excellent aesthetic eye.

Ning Li thought for a moment and said, “I didn’t reveal my identity before because I was afraid of trouble.”

“I know! You had to take the college entrance exam at that time!”

Gu Siyang continued, his tone still full of resentment.

On this matter, he felt he was very experienced.

Ning Li coughed lightly.

‘That was not wrong...

Liang Su patted Ning Li’s hand, her brows relaxing.

“Ah Li did the right thing. You should just do what you need to do at the right time.”

If it had been anyone else who was valued so highly by G&S, they would have prioritized this matter first.

‘A designer who was independent of G&S but was highly praised by the entire G&S Group, what did such a status mean?

Fame, money, status, honor...

These were innumerable bonuses.

Liang Su was a high-end jewelry designer and knew a lot about the fashion industry.

She knew too well the huge benefits and temptations behind this.

With Ning Li’s talent, even if she gave up her studies and became a full-time designer, she could still lead a rich and glamorous life.

However, she did not seem to be affected in the slightest.

While she had become famous in the fashion industry, she had also scored the only full marks in the National Physics Competition and had later become the top scorer in the M province’s science college entrance examination.

It was really rare for a young girl who was only seventeen or eighteen years old to have such a calm mind.

'When Liang Susu thought of her background, she felt even more admiration and heartache for Ning Li.

She also chatted about aspects of fashion design with Ning Li.

High-end gowns and high-end jewelry intersected to a certain extent, and the two of them got along very well.

Gu Siyang, on the other hand, tried several times to interrupt but failed.

This situation had even continued until they arrived at the barbecue restaurant.

After being the driver, Gu Siyang had automatically taken on the responsibility of barbecuing the meat.

The thick-cut beef was sizzling and emitting an alluring fragrance.

His poor little heart finally received some comfort.

However, when he looked up and saw that Liang Su was chatting happily with Ning Li and that Liang Su had even served Ning Li some of the meat, he immediately felt that this meal did not smell as good anymore.

It had been many years since he had been served any food by his mother!

Gu Siyang said faintly, "Mom, did you forget that your son is also here?"

Liang Su then turned to look at him.

Gu Siyang was born to her. She was very clear about what he was thinking.

Considering that he was indeed her biological son, she finally showed some tenderness on her face.

She handed a pair of chopsticks to Gu Siyang and gently said, "Go eat by yourself."

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Gu Siyang,

Never mind!

Seeing that his mother had finally picked up some food for him, he endured it!

As he thought of this, he put the potato that Liang Su had given him into his mouth.

The spicy taste instantly filled his mouth.

Gu Siyang's entire body went numb.

"Mom! That was a piece of ginger!"

It was so big! Such a big piece of Ginger!

Liang Su looked at him again.

"Eh? Really? Then I didn't see it clearly. But eating ginger is good for your body. Don't waste it."

Gu Siyang, "..."

He bitterly swallowed the piece of ginger.

"Mom, Ning Li, can you guys talk about something that I can understand?"

Liang Su held her forehead helplessly.

“Why didn’t you inherit anything good from me? You’ve studied painting and fine arts for so many years, yet you still don’t understand anything.”

Gu Siyang was unconvinced.

“It’s all my dad’s fault! He doesn’t know anything either!”

Liang Su glanced at him.

“At least your dad can still be saved. After all, he did attend quite a few art exhibitions with your fourth aunt. But you...”

Gu Tingfeng indeed did not have any talent in this area, but Gu Tingyin had been different.

This also proved that there were members of the Gu family that still had genes in this area.

Unfortunately, Gu Siyang had not inherited any of it.

Upon hearing this, Ning Li’s heart felt slightly moved.

Sure enough, Gu Siyang instantly became listless. He bit his chopsticks and muttered, “How... How can I be compared to Fourth Aunt... Mom, you’re being too difficult!”

“It’s good that you know.”

Liang Su’s words successfully calmed Gu Siyang down, and she turned her head to chat with Ning Li again.

The meal ended in a harmonious atmosphere.

Gu Siyang, who had been the tool man', was obviously not included.

After the meal, Ning Li signed her autograph for Liang Su and extended an invitation to her next big show. Liang Su made up her mind to design and make a colored treasure ring for her.

Ning Li thought about it and agreed.

Gu Siyang and Liang Su then sent Ning Li back to school.

The next morning, Ning Li had no classes to attend, so she went to the laboratory.

'The question she had asked Shen Zhijin the day before had yet to be answered by him.

'As soon as she arrived at the laboratory, as expected, she saw a pile of small gifts.

At first, Lin Fengmian's fans had come to give her gifts. After she had explicitly rejected them a few times, the number of gifts had lessened.

However, when Ning's identity had been exposed, more gifts had come.

Fortunately, most of them were letters, so it was easier for Ning Li to organize them.

Just as she was packing up these things, Shen Zhijin came in.

Seeing the colorful letters and small gifts on Ning Li's desk, his eyes narrowed.

He had been abroad on business for some time and had only returned two days ago, so this was the first time he had seen this scene.

Fu Niannian was afraid that the boss would misunderstand, so he quickly helped to explain.

“Teacher Shen, these are all gifts from Little Junior Sister and her brother’s fans!”

Shen Zhijin looked at Ning Li.

“Fans?”

For a moment, Ning Li did not know how to properly explain it to him.

‘Tang Yi, who was beside her, raised his head from the computer and added, “That’s right! You might not know this, but Little Junior Sister and her brother are especially popular now! Especially her brother– I’m afraid that half of the girls in our school are his fans!”

As he spoke, he laughed.

“Seventeen or eighteen-year-old girls like these kinds of things the most!”

Shen Zhijin was slightly startled.

Ning Li said, “Teacher Shen, I’ll put these away very quickly.”

‘As she spoke, she put away those things.

Shen Zhijin suddenly asked, “All of them?”

Ning Li was stunned. “What?”

Shen Zhijin’s gaze fell on the pile of colorful gifts and letters. He paused for a moment before asking, “Do all young girls in their late teens... like these kinds of things?”

Chapter 594: You Sit In the Front

Shen Zhijin's question was a little abrupt.

After all, he did not seem like a person who would care about such things.

However, Ning Li quickly answered.

"Not all of them like it. Some people chase after stars, and some don't. There are some who like Fengmian, and some who don't like him. It depends on the person."

Shen Zhijin nodded thoughtfully.

His gaze lingered on the things on her desk for a moment.

Then... there was still the possibility of it being liked.

"There's no need to rush, just take your time to collect them."

He said.

The corners of Ning Li's lips curved up slightly.

"Thank you, Teacher Shen."

Just then Shen Zhijin withdrew his gaze, he thought of another matter.

"Oh, by the way, at three in the afternoon, there'll be a small joint meeting with the researchers at Fino Laboratory. You guys should stop the experiments that you're currently conducting first and go over there together."

Their research group had originally been formed by Xijing University's Institute of Physics and Fino Lab. Since its establishment, both sides had been responsible for different modules and for making progress together. This would be their first official meeting.

Fu Niannian and Tang Yi immediately agreed.

Shen Zhijin looked at Ning Li.

"Ning Li, you'll be going too."

Although Ning Li was only a freshman, she was still considered an official member of the research group.

Moreover, she had gone there with Xu Yin before.

"Alright."

Shen Zhijin entered the office.

On the other side, Ning Li finally packed up all the little gifts and put them away.

Fu Niannian flipped through the experiment logbook and teased with a smile.

"Sigh, our boss treats Junior Sister pretty well. If these things were to appear on our table... Tsk."

Tang Yi calmly reminded him.

"Second Senior Brother, if you can publish an article in Universe magazine at the age of sixteen like Little Junior Sister, the Boss would surely treat you pretty well too."

Fu Niannian said, "How many times have I told you not to call me Second Senior Brother!"

Ning Li was already used to the way they interacted with each other, so she pretended not to notice them.

Tang Yi turned his head and confidently said, "Little Junior Sister, don't you think so?"

Fu Niannian said indignantly, Bah! You only know how to look for Little Junior Sister to back you up!"

Tang Yi chuckled.

"Anyway, I'm about to finish my experiment. As for Second Senior Brother, I'm afraid you won't be able to finish yours today. Let's do it again tomorrow!"

The corners of Fu Niannian's eyes twitched.

Tang Yi turned off his computer and looked at Ning Li.

"Oh right, Little Junior Sister, you should be able to take the academic credits as soon as possible and take the Boss' Ph.D. exam in advance."

With Ning Li's qualifications, she could definitely qualify directly for the Ph.D. level. However, before that, she still had to obtain an undergraduate degree from Xijing University.

"If you're recruited, you'll be the youngest student under the Boss."

Speaking of this, Fu Niannian was also happy. He nodded repeatedly and said with a smile, "That's right, come and suffer the Boss's torture with us! It's painful but also pleasurable, it feels good!"

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Ning Li nodded.

"I've been thinking about this."

Although she was currently in the project team, she was not exactly Shen Zhijin's student.

The most convenient and also the best path to take was to follow Shen Zhijin.

"Or you can take the entrance exam for Fino Lab. The Bai City Headquarters is pretty good." Tang Yi said as he rubbed his chin.

If any others heard this, they would probably think it was ridiculous.

Ever since the establishment of the Bai City Headquarters of the Fino Laboratory, only three people had been recruited from the Hua region.

The first had been Shen Zhijin, the second had been Lu Huaiyu, and the last had been Jiang Ran.

It was obvious how difficult it was.

But now, Tang Yi was saying it as if it would definitely happen as long as Ning Li wanted to go.

Ning Li thought for a moment.

"Let's discuss that later."

The afternoon quickly arrived.

Ning Li finished organizing all the recent experimental contents. In the meantime, she also helped Fu Niannian and Tang Yi check if there were any errors in their data.

In fact, those who could catch Shen Zhijin's eye were undoubtedly talented in physics and scientific research.

However, in some aspects, Ning Li really had a standard that exceeded that of an ordinary person.

It was not something that one could catch up with through hard work and diligence.

Just like Shen Zhijin, it was due to a superior IQ.

In addition, this was the first joint meeting with the Fino Lab, so they certainly hoped that nothing would go wrong.

In addition, it also had a comforting effect.

Ning Li was now the mascot of the entire 601.

As long as she went through all the data, she would be able to immediately find the problem.

It was not just Fu Niannian and Tang Yi. Occasionally, even Yan Qiu would come and ask for help.

“Are you done? We should go now.”

Yan Qiu had come to the door, knocked on it, and urged the others.

Ning Li and the others immediately got up and followed him downstairs.

As they walked, Yan Qiu said, “Today, we’ll be receiving top-notch treatment. The Boss himself will be driving us there!”

There were a total of four students in the laboratory. It was neither too many nor too little.

The most convenient way to go was definitely in one car.

Fu Niannian and Tang Yi were both shocked.

“Really?!”

In fact, they all had their driver’s licenses. It would have been the same no matter who was driving.

However, who would have dared to expect Shen Zhijin to drive personally?

Yan Qiu was feeling smug.

“That’s right. Now you know the benefits of following the Boss?”

Ning Li, who was at the back, was also a little surprised when she heard this.

As they spoke, they went downstairs.

A black car was parked downstairs.

Shen Zhijin was standing beside the car door, but there was another person standing beside him.

It was a woman.

Ning Li glanced at her.

‘The woman looked to be in her thirties and was about 1.65 meters tall. She was wearing a white sweater and a light brown half-length skirt. She had slightly curly waist-length black hair which hung down her back.

She had a delicate and pretty face which she had applied light makeup and had an outstanding temperament.

She seemed to be talking to Shen Zhijin.

Shen Zhijin's back was facing them, so his expression could not be seen.

Hearing their voices, he turned around to take a look. He then spoke in an indifferent tone.

"My students are here. Excuse me."

The woman looked a little disappointed.

Shen Zhijin's gaze fell on Ning Li and the others.

"Ning Li will sit in the front.."

Chapter 595: Candy and Toys

Yan Qiu and the others obviously knew this woman and each of them greeted her successively.

"Professor Shi."

Shi Ying quickly adjusted her expression and nodded at them with a smile.

'When she saw Ning Li, she was stunned.

Sensing her gaze, Ning Li also called out.

"Professor Shi."

Shi Ying gathered her thoughts and nodded slightly. Then, she said to Shen Zhijin, 'I won't detain you any further then.'

Shen Zhijin got into the car.

Yan Qiu and the others got into the back seat automatically. Ning Li opened the door of the passenger seat.

'The car started and slowly drove away.

Shi Ying watched them leave. She frowned slightly and sighed after a long while.

Shen Zhijin's attitude was the same as always.

She had already known that this would be his answer, yet she had still wanted to personally come over to ask.

'There were some things that she knew were meaningless...

She turned around and left.

Xijing University was 50 minutes away from the Fino Laboratory.

Ning Li was sitting in the front passenger seat. When she looked up, she saw a display on the central console.

It was a pony with a colorful saddle on its body.

Ning Li thought of the Fourth Miss Gu.

She took a subtle glance at Shen Zhijin. She really did not know how he had gotten into such a mess with the Gu family.

And that woman just now...

If she had not guessed wrongly, it looked like she was interested in Shen Zhijin. Her eyes could not deceive anyone.

Actually, this was normal.

Looking at Shen Zhij

, there were surely many people who admired him.

However, Shen Zhijin's attitude was very cold.

Her phone suddenly lit up. She looked down and saw that Tang Yi had sent a message in their small group chat.

[That was Professor Shi Ying from the Philosophy Institute just now, wasn't it? Rumor has it that she's been interested in the boss for many years. It looks like it's true, doesn't it?]

Fu Niannian was extremely disgusted.

[Tang Yi, why are you so nosy?]

Tang Yi did not bother about him, and he made a special request to Yan Qiu.

[Eldest Senior Brother, you've been with the Boss for so long, so you should be quite clear about this, right? I heard that Professor Shi got a divorce a few years ago just because of the Boss.]

Yan Qiu only replied after a long while.

[What nonsense are you spouting? The Boss isn't close to her, and they don't even see each other more than twice in a year. Why are you listening to the rumors outside? If you listen to them again, I'll break your legs.]

Tang Yi replied with a "Chirp" emoji.

The conversation regarding this topic was thus ended.

Ning Li looked at it for a while before letting out a breath.

Fifty minutes later, the group arrived at Fino Laboratory.

There were already people waiting at the door.

Shen Zhijin was the head of Fino Laboratory, but he was more focused on the headquarters in Bai City. The branches in the Capital had basically been handed over to his subordinates.

Ning Li followed Shen Zhijin and the others out of the car and went to the conference room.

Shen Zhijin had already told them that this trip would just be a small-scale meeting, Everything would be kept as simple as possible.

Ning Li had been here before, and with Xu Yin's connections, many people already knew her.

Along the way, most of the people they met would greet her.

Yan Qiu could not help but laugh.

'Junior Sister, it looks like you're quite famous here.'

These were all people in the industry, so naturally, they understood what Ning Li's previous thesis meant.

Ning Li explained, "I've been here a few times before."

As they spoke, they had already arrived at the conference room.

Ning Li saw a familiar face— Jiang Ran.

She was not a member of this research group. Her attendance here today seemed to be to help prepare for the meeting.

Jiang Ran also spotted Ning Li.

A smile appeared on her face. She took a few steps forward and greeted Shen Zhijin first.

"Teacher Shen."

The tone of her voice was familiar.

She had spent some time at the Bai City Headquarters before. Compared to the other people in the branch, she was indeed more familiar with Shen Zhijin.

Shen Zhijin nodded.

Jiang Ran smiled and said, "I've been wanting to pay you a visit since I heard that you had returned to the country, but you've been so busy. I didn't expect that I would have to wait until today."

Compared to the other people's polite and respectful attitudes, Jiang Ran was indeed different.

As she spoke, she led everyone into the meeting room.

Shen Zhijin suddenly stopped in his tracks.

Jiang Ran asked in surprise, "Teacher Shen, what's wrong?"

Shen Zhijin said, "I left some information in the car."

Jiang Ran suddenly understood and said with a smile,

'It's alright. Why don't you go into the meeting room first and I'll go and get it for you?'

"There's no need."

Shen Zhijin tilted his head,

"Ning Li, please go and get it. The research report on quantum drops that I mentioned to you before is in the storage compartment on the passenger's side."

The smile on Jiang Ran's face froze, and she felt a little awkward.

Those documents belonged to Shen Zhijin. It was clear that he would not allow just anyone to take them.

Thus, she had taken the initiative to offer her help. However, she had not expected to be rejected by Shen Zhijin.

Instead, he had actually chosen Ning Li.

This... Did he already trust Ning Li that much?

However, she quickly returned to her normal self, as if nothing had happened.

Ning Li was a little surprised, but she still agreed.

'Okay.*

Shen Zhijin handed over the car keys, and immediately led Yan Qiu and the others into the meeting room.

Ning Li went downstairs to where Shen Zhijin's car was parked.

She unlocked it, went to the passenger seat, and opened the storage compartment.

There was a pile of information inside.

Ning Li flipped through it, found the one Shen Zhijin wanted, and was about to put the rest back.

She suddenly froze, staring momentarily.

There was more than just this information in the storage compartment.

There were also several...

Candy and toys at the bottom.

Taking a cursory glance, she saw a bright yellow whistle, a palm-sized rabbit doll, and a small pink-white telescope.

There seemed to be a picture book next to it on which she could vaguely see what seemed to be a nebula printed on the cover.

Piles of candy had been piled up together, hidden in this narrow and dim small storage compartment.

It was a little messy.

Ning Li was stunned for a moment.

This was Shen Zhijin's car, so these... Of course, these things were also his.

She looked at them for a while before carefully closing the storage compartment.

Chapter 596: I'm Allergic to Peanuts

When Ning Li returned to the conference room, everyone else had already arrived and was seated around the oval-shaped conference table.

Shen Zhijin sat in the main seat.

Ning Li walked over and handed over the information, before sitting down as well.

Shen Zhijin then said, 'Let's begin.'

Jiang Ran and the others heard him and tactfully left.

'When she closed the door, she could not help but turn around to look through the slight gap of the door.

The people sitting in the room were all extremely outstanding people.

Ning Li was the youngest one among them.

Previously, she had also applied to join this research group, but she had not been accepted.

Even if she was not Shen Zhijin's student, just being his subordinate researcher and following a project with him would add a lot of color to her resume.

Jiang Ran had always been outstanding since she was young. Otherwise, she would not have been able to enter the Bai City Headquarters of Fino Laboratory.

However, while she was there, she had followed another mentor instead of Shen Zhijin.

She had to admit that she felt rather regretful.

This time, she had finally had an opportunity and yet, she still had not been able to seize it.

'The two researchers beside her whispered a few words.

"Speaking of which, that Ning Li is really amazing. Her previous thesis was published smoothly, and now she has directly entered Teacher Shen's research group. She seems to be only eighteen? She really can't be compared..."

"Who says so? Furthermore, judging by the situation just now, it seems that Teacher Shen has already placed a lot of trust in her. I'm afraid that he is already treating her like his own student and is nurturing her."

"She's only in her first year. It looks like her future will be limitless... wonder if she will choose to enter the exam?"

As the person spoke, he looked at Jiang Ran and teased her with a smile,

"If she succeeds, our laboratory will have two talented girls from Xijing University."

These words could be considered as a small attempt to curry favor with Jiang Ran.

In fact, Jiang Ran was outstanding for someone so young. She even had a pretty face which made her very well-liked.

Ever since she had entered the Capital branch, she had been very popular and many people had chased after her.

However, at this moment, these words sounded very unpleasant to Jiang Ran's ears.

Yes.

Ning Li was also from Xijing University and she was also beautiful. Moreover, Ning Li had an even more outstanding talent in physics than she did.

She had interacted with Ning Lia few times before, so she knew very well that Ning Li's research ability was actually better than hers.

This was also the reason why Shen Zhijin had chosen Ning Li to enter the project team, but not her.

Jiang Ran forced a smile on her face.

The other person seemed to notice that Jiang Ran was not in a good mood, and hesitantly asked, "Jiang Ran, are you still regretting not being able to enter this project team?"

Many people knew that Jiang Ran had filled in the application form previously.

Jiang Ran tucked the strands of hair on her cheek behind her ear.

'Just alittle. After all, it is Teacher Shen's research group. However, since the matter has already been settled, it's in the past.'

As she spoke, she smiled.

"Let's hurry back and catch up on the progress. I still have a pile of data to process. If I don't finish it, I will have to work overtime again today."

The joint meeting lasted for nearly three hours, with only a ten-minute break in between.

Shen Zhijin occupied an absolutely dominant position. The entire meeting was very rich in content and had gone by at a very fast pace.

Anyone who was absent-minded or had a slower reaction would probably find it difficult to keep up.

When Shen Zhijin finally announced the end of the meeting, everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

It seemed that the people from the branch were looking for Shen Zhijin for something, so he got up and left first.

Only Ning Li and the others were left in the meeting room.

Fu Niannian moved closer to Ning Li and whispered, 'Little Junior Sister, how do you feel?'

Ning Li saw that he had taken a lot of notes during the meeting earlier. Now, he was looking exhausted, so she felt a little sympathetic.

"alittle tired... I guess."

Fu Niannian waved his hand and comforted her.

"It's okay, it's okay. The boss usually only does this on more important occasions. After a while, you'll slowly get used to it."

As he spoke, he nodded at the computer screen with a hint of pride.

"Don't worry! Your Senior Brother has already prepared the meeting notes for you!"

Ning Li was silent for a moment.

"Senior Brother, are the meeting notes a mandatory requirement?"

"Huh? No, it isn't, but it's much more convenient to write it down. Being able to read it more later might help you find the direction of the experiment later!"

Ning Li felt a little relieved.

“That’s good.”

“It is good, but I only wrote down 80% of it. I think that I’ll still have to think of a way to get the remaining 20%.”

Fu Niannian glanced at Tang Yi’s computer again.

“Junior Brother, did you manage to write it all down?”

Tang Yi turned his head to look at him with a pained expression and lowered his voice.

“I only managed to get half of it!”

Fu Niannian said, “... What’s the use of having you? I already made a deal with Junior Sister to organize the minutes from the meeting and send them to her!”

Tang Yi said, “Then let’s look for Eldest Senior Brother.”

Fu Niannian replied, “That works too.”

Ning Li tried to speak, “... Senior Brother, actually I...”

Before she could finish speaking, Fu Niannian’s hand had already landed on Yan Qiu’s shoulder.

Yan Qiu did not even turn his head back.

“Aiyah I’ve already sent it to your email! But I already told you in advance that I only remembered 90% of it. If I really missed something, please don’t blame me!”

Ding.

Ning Li looked at her computer and sure enough, she had received an email from Yan Qiu.

She opened it. It was indeed the minutes from the meeting that Yan Qiu had just finished taking notes.

He had been with Shen Zhijin for so long so he was already trained for it. He could almost completely write down and mark all the important points.

However, today, Shen Zhijin's pace had been a little faster, and he had still missed something.

Ning Li glanced at it a few times before her fair and slender fingers landed on the keyboard.

'The others did not pay much attention to her and began to communicate with the two researchers from Fino Lab.

After about fifteen minutes, Shen Zhijin returned.

He glanced at the conference room and calmly said,

"It's getting late. Let's have dinner here today before going back."

Yan Qiu and the others' eyes lit up.

Fino Laboratory was very rich, and the treatment was top-notch.

Because the researchers here came from all over the world, and everyone had different eating habits, the laboratory had specially hired a chef for them.

Although it was a cafeteria," the taste was even better than many dishes cooked by personal chefs outside.

The small group followed Shen Zhijin, accompanied by the other management of the laboratory, to eat.

'The 'cafeteria' was very spacious with simple and elegant decor.

Yan Qiu and the others were excited.

"Junior Sister! The food here is especially delicious! Braised pork with soy sauce, assorted vegetables, braised mutton ribs... It's all superb! Oh, and this— the peanut milkshake, you must try it!"

'As Yan Qiu said this, he moved to help Ning Li get one.

Ning Li shook her head and declined.

"Thank you, Senior Brother, but I can't eat this."

Shen Zhijin was just two steps ahead of them.

His gaze swept over the peanut milkshake, his gaze slightly focused.

A middle-aged man next to him smiled and said, "Zhijin, I remember that when you were in Bai City, this was your favorite."

Shen Zhijin's expression was calm, but he did not touch it.

Yan Qiu's voice came from behind.

"What? Little Junior Sister, you don't like this?"

The clear and melodious voice of a young girl rang out.

"No, it's just that I'm allergic to peanuts."

Shen Zhijin's fingers trembled slightly..

Chapter 597: Doesn't Like It Now

He turned around to take a look.

Ning Li had her head lowered slightly. Yan Qiu put the peanut milkshake back with a regretful look on his face.

"Eh? Then, won't Little Junior Sister miss out on a lot of delicious food?"

The corners of Ning Li's lips curled up as she nodded.

"Yeah. But Senior Brother can eat more on my behalf."

Shen Zhijin momentarily went into a trance.

"Jin! I really want to have a peanut milkshake! Please help me eat more!"

"Is the peanut cake especially delicious, Jin?"

"Jin, help me try this too. What's the taste and smell? Please smell it for me!"

"Zhijin, don't you want it?" The man next to him asked in surprise.

"Yes."

Shen Zhijin withdrew his gaze,

“I don’t like it now.”

The group of people sat down.

Shen Zhijin was with the other important people, while Ning Li and the others sat at another table next to them.

After the meal, Shen Zhijin left with his team.

By now, the sky was completely dark.

The streetlights on the road gradually lit up as the car quietly drove down the road.

Ning Li’s gaze swept over the storage compartment, but she did not know—

Bang!

A muffled sound was suddenly heard, and the body of the car instantly shook!

Shen Zhijin immediately turned the steering wheel!

Ning Li frowned.

The car slowly stopped by the side of the road.

“What’s wrong?”

Yan Qiu and the others were sitting in the back seat, and they were all shocked by the commotion.

“The car has a flat tire.”

“The car has a flat tire.”

The two replies rang out in the car at the same time.

Shen Zhijin turned his head to look at Ning Li, before releasing his seatbelt.

Ning Li pushed the door open and got out of the car almost at the same time.

The two of them walked to the right rear of the car at the same time.

Seeing this, Yan Qiu and the others also came back to their senses and followed them out.

“Why did this happen so suddenly?”

“What should we do? Should we call a tow truck?”

Shen Zhijin said, “There’s no need. There’s a spare tire in the trunk.”

As he spoke, he opened the trunk and took out the spare tire.

Ning Li also followed him and easily took the jack and several other items.

Shen Zhijin noticed it but did not say anything.

Yan Qiu’s reaction was rather quick. When he noticed the situation, he immediately set up the warning sign.

Ning Li followed Shen Zhijin and walked over. As they suspected, the rear tire on the right side of the car had burst.

While Shen Zhijin was checking the condition of the car, Ning Li had already set up the jack.

Fu Niannian was stunned.

“Junior Sister, you... have you done this before?”

This action seemed a little too familiar to her.

Ning Li paused.

“Yes. When I was back in my hometown, I would occasionally go to the garage to play, so I learned a thing or two while I was there.”

Changing a tire was something common, so there was nothing strange about it.

‘Tang Yi gave her a thumbs-up.

“Junior Sister, you’re amazing!”

“It’s pretty simple.”

Ning Li’s tone was calm.

Yan Qiu came over as well, as though he wanted to help.

“Teacher Shen, shall I do it?”

“There’s no need.”

'As Shen Zhijin spoke, he rolled his sleeves up and turned his head to take something.

Just as he stretched out his hand, a pair of gloves was handed over to him.

Shen Zhijin paused for a moment before taking it and putting it on.

The two of them did not communicate verbally at all, but their coordination was very good. The entire tire-changing process was very smooth.

Shen Zhijin stood up and took his gloves off.

"It's done."

Yan Qiu and the others were responsible for putting the damaged tire and tools back into the trunk.

Fu Niannian elbowed Yan Qiu and lowered his voice.

"Eldest Senior Brother, you have to reflect on yourself! You've been following the Boss for so long, yet you're not as good as Little Junior Sister!"

There had been no need for instructions, the entire process could not have been smoother.

Yan Qiu coughed lightly.

"Little Junior Sister is too smart, don't compare me to her!"

Not long after Ning Li had come to the laboratory, they had already realized this point.

From the initial shock, to becoming desensitized to it after that, to the comfort of following Little Junior Sister and enjoying life, their mentality had changed very smoothly.

What a joke! With their Little Junior Sister leading the way, what was the point of them staying there?

Tang Yi let out a long sigh.

“As expected, we can’t count on our Senior Brother. Luckily, we still have our Little Junior Sister.”

Otherwise, how could they stay with these two senior brothers who were scamming them!

Fu Niannian scoffed.

“Can’t a person just pursue something?”

As he spoke, he looked up and saw that Ning Li was about to get into the car, so he quickly took a few steps forward.

“Junior Sister, you’ve worked hard! Allow me to open the car door for you!”

Son of a b*tch!

An hour later, Shen Zhijin drove the car to Ning Li’s dormitory.

Ning Li got out of the car.

“Goodbye, Teacher Shen. Goodbye, Senior Brothers.”

Shen Zhijin did not drive away until she turned around and went upstairs.

The doctoral student’s dormitory was just a short distance away from this place.

Yan Qiu turned around to take a look, but he could no longer see Ning Li’s figure.

He smacked his lips.

“What is there that Little Junior Sister doesn’t know? I saw how skilled she was just now.”

Tang Yi said, “Didn’t little junior sister say that she played in the auto-repair factory and learned a little from that?!”

Fu Niannian stroked his chin in deep thought.

“This... but Little Junior Sister is only eighteen this year. Why would a young lady be interested in repairing cars? And I remember that her father caused an accident while he was drunk—”

As he said this, he suddenly realized what he said and abruptly stopped talking.

Yan Qiu frowned, and Tang Yi opened his mouth but did not say anything.

A strange silence settled inside the car.

‘When Ning Li had just entered the lab, Yan Qiu had privately warned them to try not to mention her family and past.

They were usually very careful. However, because they had encountered an emergency today, and since Ning Li had already gotten out of the car, he had unintentionally blurted it out in his relaxed state.

Everyone did not say anything else and consciously stopped talking about the topic.

Shen Zhijin looked at the rearview mirror and frowned slightly.

Previously, he had only had a basic understanding of Ning Li’s situation. He knew that she did not come from a good background. Her father was in prison, her mother had remarried, and she had been raised by her grandmother.

However, he had not known that her father had been sentenced for causing an accident while drunk.

He recalled the earlier scene where Ning Li was by his side and helped him change the tires.

He could tell that this was definitely not the first time she had done something like this. In fact, she had also followed him to check the condition of the car.

Yan Qiu and the others might not have noticed, but...

Ning Li seemed to know a lot about cars.

Fu Niannian's question was actually not without reason.

A young girl who had grown up in such a family environment, yet she did not have any resistance toward cars. Instead—

Had she really spent time in a place like the auto repair factory when she was very, very young...

Shen Zhijin closed his eyes.

Ning Li's life gradually became calm again.

She attended classes normally, did experiments, and occasionally went back to Shuiyuan Shijia to paint. Her schedule was very fulfilling.

On Wednesday morning, as usual, it was time for the 601 group meeting.

Ning Li carried her backpack as she headed there.

Just as she reached the lab building of the Institute of Physics, her cell phone rang.

She glanced at it and saw that it was an unknown number.

She immediately canceled the call.

However, the caller was very insistent, and quickly called her again.

Ning Li then picked up, but she did not say anything.

A familiar voice came from the receiver.

“Ning Li?”

Ning Li’s eyes turned cold..

Chapter 598: Debt Collection

She did not speak. The person on the other end waited for a moment before speaking nervously.

“Ning Li, this is your mother.”

Su Yuan’s voice was no longer as calm and proud as it used to be. Instead, it carried a trace of cautious pleading.

Ning Li’s brows furrowed slightly as her stomach churned.

“Madam Ye.”

She spoke coldly.

“Remember saying that there’s no longer any relationship between us. There’s no need to see each other again, and there’s no need to contact each other again.”

Su Yuan had expected this attitude from her.

If she had not been forced to do so, why else would she have been willing to be ridiculed by Ning Li?

She said anxiously, “Ning Li! Mom— I really have something urgent to talk to you about!”

As if she was worried that Ning Li would hang up the phone, she spoke quickly.

“Yes, it’s like this. A few days ago, your brother had a conflict with someone at school and stabbed him! The other party is currently in the hospital. Although he was saved, he still needs a huge amount of medical fees. You know what our family’s situation is like now. Where will we be able to find the money? So... So... I wanted to see if you could help—”

Ning Li sneered.

“Madam Ye, so you called me today to ask for money?”

Su Yuan was irritated by her laughter.

What kind of life had Ning Li lived in the past, and what kind of life was she living now?

On the day she had gone to bring Ning Li back to Yunzhou, her first reaction when she saw Ning Li in the cafe was that her clothes and shoes were too cheap.

Then, when Ning Li had walked into the Ye family’s villa just like that, all she had felt was embarrassment and humiliation.

That had been a symbol of her failed marriage and her embarrassing past.

She had never thought that she would have to come to Ning Li for money one day.

But now, there was really no other way.

“You... You’re a top designer now. The pay from G&S should be pretty good, right?”

Su Yuan spoke carefully, “Ning Li, this bit of money is nothing to you now, is it? Even if you have resentment towards your mother, Lil Cheng is your biological brother! Do you really have the heart to do that?”

In fact, she had never thought of asking Ning Li for this money.

After the incident with Ye Cheng, the other party’s parents had demanded a lot of money and had even threatened to teach them a lesson if they could not get it together as soon as possible.

The Ye family had completely fallen and all their assets were frozen. Su Yuan herself did not have any skills and did not know how to make money at all.

For the past few months, she had been living by selling off her previous luxury goods, including clothes and jewelry.

However, that was ultimately not a long-term solution.

She had to support herself and Ye Cheng, and now there was Ye Ci as well.

The situation had already been difficult enough, but who knew that Ye Cheng would actually cause such a disaster!

Her former friends had long since cut ties with her, and even Ye Ting had been implicated by the Ye family. She was very unpopular with her husband’s side of the family, as if she was in the midst of a divorce and could not be bothered with her at all.

Then suddenly, the news had suddenly broken out—

Ning Li was actually Ning!

The designer that was currently the most sought after by the top luxury group, G&S!

This bit of money was not even worth mentioning to her at all.

The more those people had pressed her, the more pressured she had become. Su Yuan had not been able to take it anymore and had finally decided to look for Ning Li.

Su Yuan had known that if she used her own number to call Ning Li, Ning Li would definitely not pick up. Thus, she had deliberately used a new number.

Ning Li's lips curled into a cold smile as she gave an objective evaluation.

"Stabbed someone? Then, it sounds like he's quite capable."

She had fought countless times since she was young, but it had never gotten to this point.

Ye Cheng was only eleven years old now, yet he had actually dared to use a knife.

"Since it's his own fault, then he should bear the responsibility. I have no obligation to help. If Madam Ye has nothing else to say, I'll be hanging up. Don't call again in the future. I don't have much patience."

Hearing Ning Li's firm refusal, Su Yuan immediately panicked.

"How can you not have an obligation to help? He's your blood brother!"

Ning Li's lips curved slightly.

Blood was thicker than water.

There was nothing more ironic than Su Yuan saying these four words to her.

“Actually, Madam Ye, you don’t have to worry so much.” Ning Li’s tone was gentle. “Isn’t it just a matter of owing some money? If they want it, you can give it to them or not. Everything will pass after a while.”

A gentle breeze blew, blowing the girl’s wavy hair.

Shen Zhijin was walking over from afar when he noticed a tall and slender figure standing under a parasol tree. The shadow of the tree swayed and the early autumn sunlight shone through the leaves, scattering mottled light on the ground.

She was carrying a black backpack. Her shoulders and back were straight, like a resilient pine that would never bend.

His footsteps paused slightly.

The next moment, he heard her exceptionally calm voice.

“Back then, my father owed someone his life. When those people came to collect his debt of life, I couldn’t pay them back. Haven’t I lived well until today?”

She seemed to be smiling.

“Compared to that, Madam Ye, you only owe a little money. What’s the big deal about it?”

Su Yuan was momentarily speechless.

However, at this time, she could not think of anything else.

“So, you really don’t intend to help?”

Her emotions had become agitated, and her voice had turned shrill.

“Ning Li! How could you do this?! That Lin Fengmian clearly has no blood relationship with you, yet you’re willing to help him so much! Why is it that when it comes to your brother, you’re not even willing to help him with such a small favor? How can you be so heartless?!”

She knew that Ning Li resented her, so she had brought up Ye Cheng.

However, she did not know that these words were even more harsh to Ning Li’s ears.

Not only had she tried to implicate her alone. Now, she was even trying to pull Lin Fengmian down.

Who had given her the right to say these words?

Ning Li’s voice turned cold.

“You don’t have the right to judge me. It’s my freedom to help whoever I want and not to help anyone. Madam Ye, since you have the time, you should think of other ways. There’s no need to waste your time on me.

“If you call again in the future, I’ll call the police and report you for harassment. For everyone’s sake, Madam Ye should be smarter.”

After saying that, Ning Li did not say anything more. She hung up the phone and blocked the call.

Just as she was about to turn around and go upstairs, she suddenly noticed something.

She turned her head and saw a familiar face.

Shen Zhijin.

Her brows furrowed slightly. She did not know how much Shen Zhijin had heard.

It was not that she was worried about others hearing this. It was just that... She felt troubled.

The Ye family's messy matters, the origins of her own terrible family... Even she herself was extremely annoyed.

For so many years, every time anyone found out about her family's matters, all their reactions would either be ridicule, contempt, resentment, or sympathy.

No matter what it was, she did not like it.

Shen Zhijin walked over. His elegant and cold face was calm as usual.

"Why aren't you going up yet? You're going to be late for the group meeting."

He was behaving as usual.

For some reason, Ning Li suddenly felt relieved.

She pursed her lips into a faint smile.

"Yes, right away."

Shen Zhijin nodded and walked forward.

Ning Li tightened the strap on her backpack and followed him...

Chapter 599: Xijing Art School

Ning Li followed Shen Zhijin upstairs.

Yan Qiu and the others had already arrived in Room 601.

Tang Yi joked, "Little Junior Sister came a little late today!"

Usually, Ning Li came very early, and this was the first time she had ever been delayed.

Ning Li pulled out a chair beside him and sat down, before taking out her computer.

Hearing this, she smiled and said lightly, "Yeah, I had to answer a call at the last minute, so I came up a little late."

Shen Zhijin glanced at her.

At the moment, Ning Li's brows were relaxed, and the corners of her lips had curled into a smile. It looked as if she had really just picked up a very ordinary phone call.

If he had not heard it with his own ears, no one would have known what kind of trouble she was facing.

He asked, "Tang Yi, how much of your paper have you written?"

Having been reminded by his boss, Tang Yi immediately came back to his senses and subconsciously sat up straight.

"I've already written more than half of it. There are still two more sets of experiments left. The paper will be almost done when I'm done with them."

Shen Zhijin nodded.

"I'll give you two weeks more then."

The corners of Tang Yi's eyes twitched, but he braced himself and answered affirmatively.

“Okay.”

Shen Zhijin sat down and flipped through the information that Yan Qiu had just handed over.

“Yan Qiu, T’I’ll start with you today.”

The group meeting lasted the entire morning.

Just as Shen Zhijin left, Tang Yi let out a mournful howl.

“Two weeks! Boss isn’t asking for my thesis, he’s asking for my life!”

He was just like a baby in the doctorate program, why did he have to bear such great pressure?!

Fu Niannian gloated and patted his shoulder.

“Be content with that. At least the Boss gave you some time to prepare. If it was like Vice Dean Zhou, he would ask today and then expect it tomorrow... Tsk.”

Tang Yi looked up at him.

“The Boss said that this article will be submitted to The Astronomical Journal.”

Fu Niannian paused and slowly withdrew his hand.

... Forget I said anything then.”

His thesis would also be published. It was known that Shen Zhijin was the most demanding in the Institute of Physics.

For core journals of this standard, as long as others published two papers during their Ph.D. period, they would be able to meet the graduation criteria.

However, in Shen Zhijin's case, this was only the beginning.

With a top-notch professor in the industry, there was nothing more satisfying than this.

Yan Qiu said, "Didn't I send you the minutes from the last meeting? The Boss mentioned something about your experiment in the middle of it. You can look for it. Maybe it'll help you work faster."

Tang Yi spread out on the chair.

"Eldest Senior Brother, do you think I didn't think of this already? But there's no record of it! I've already read it back and forth several times, but I still couldn't find it!"

Yan Qiu was stunned. "Oh? Did I not remember? Then—"

"Senior Brother, I happen to remember that part. If you need it, I can send it to your email."

Ning Li suddenly said.

The rest of them looked at her with strange expressions.

Fu Niannian asked, "Junior Sister, didn't you... not write anything down that day?"

He still remembered how exhausted he had been that day. He had typed with both hands the entire time, almost without stopping.

As for Ning Li, since the meeting started and after she turned on the computer, she had not done anything.

Now she was saying that she remembered?

Ning Li nodded. "I remembered a part of it. Later on, I made some minor changes to Eldest Senior Brother's meeting record."

As she spoke, her fingers tapped on the keyboard a few times before she looked at Tang Yi.

"I've sent the email. Senior Brother Tang Yi, can you take a look?"

Tang Yi looked at his computer and saw that there was indeed an additional email.

He opened it and his eyes slowly widened.

After a long while, he turned his neck stiffly.

... Junior Sister, did you... memorize everything?!"

She had not done anything that day!

This... Everything had been written down in her mind?!

Was she some kind of a living printer??

Yan Qiu and Fu Niannian were curious, so they went over as well. They were stunned after they saw it.

After a long while, Fu Niannian sighed.

"Forget it. There's a difference between the immortal and the mortal. I think it's better if I just think about what to eat for lunch."

Yan Qiu and Tang Yi nodded in agreement.

“What would Junior Sister like to eat? Let us all give you a treat!”

Ning Li was about to speak when her phone suddenly vibrated.

She picked it up and took a look. It was a message from Yu Pingchuan.

{ Ah Li, your ‘Summer Cicada’ has been sold, setting a new record: Six million. }

Ning Li blinked her eyes.

She had expected that the painting would fetch a new price, but she had not expected it to be so high.

The ones she had sold previously had only sold for more than ten million in total.

[Who is the buyer?]

[The other party did not reveal his identity. }

It was within her expectations.

Ning Li did not mind much about this matter. After all, the painting had successfully been sold.

Yu Pingchuan invited her to have dinner with him at Shuiyuan Shijia.

Ning Li had not seen him for a long time, so she agreed.

{ Then, I’ll go to the supermarket in the afternoon... }

'As she was typing, she received another message from Wei Songze, inviting her to look at the painting.

After thinking for a moment, she looked at her class schedule. There was only one class that afternoon.

[T'll look for you at the Xijing Art School in the afternoon. }

Yu Pingchuan would also be teaching there today. After that, they could go back together.

'Wei Songze could not be more surprised and immediately agreed.

[Then, Sister Li, let me know when you're about to arrive. I'll go to the west gate to pick you up! }

The Xijing Art School was not far from here, but it was not that close either.

It would take nearly half an hour by bicycle.

If the students on either side wanted to choose any classes from the opposite campus, they would usually need to set aside some time for themselves.

She deleted the line of words in the dialog box with Yu Pingchuan. She planned to look for him directly after meeting with Wei Songze.

After settling this matter, she raised her head.

"Let's go to the cafeteria then."

That afternoon's general astronomy class ended at 4:30 pm.

Ning Li packed her things up and took a taxi to Xijing Art Academy.

The campus of Xijing Art School was very large, and the buildings were very unique. The scenery at this campus was more charming than that of the Xijing University campus.

Ning Li showed her student ID card and successfully entered the gate.

However, Wei Songze was not there.

She called Wei Songze but it took him a while to answer.

"I'm here. Where are you?"

Wei Songze sounded apologetic:

"Sister Li, my teacher called me to work at the last minute. It'll probably take another half an hour. Why don't you go to Area A of the painting studio first and wait for me there? I'll be there soon!"

"Okay."

After hanging up, Ning Li looked around before walking toward the studio.

The painting studio of Xijing Academy of Fine Arts was a separate building that had been divided into several sections.

Most people who came here for the first time would take a long time to find their way around.

However, she was not one of those people.

As they were walking forward, a disdainful voice suddenly came from the side.

"That painting by Tree's Shadow is worth six million?!"

Chapter 600: Tree's Shadow

I

Ning Li turned around and saw a few students walking her way.

There were two girls and a boy.

'The girl in the middle was about 1.7 meters tall, with long, straight black hair and she was wearing a beige trenchcoat. With her bright eyes and white teeth, she looked pure and beautiful.

The short-haired girl on her left was exquisitely made-up and had a luxury brand bracelet on her wrist which was particularly eye-catching.

The boy on her right was about 1.8 meters tall. He was thin and wore half-rimmed glasses. He looked like a refined and cultured person.

The one who had spoken was the short-haired girl.

"Sheng Ruxue, your painting is not much worse than Tree's Shadow's painting. Why is his painting so expensive?"

Sheng Ruxue smiled and shook her head gently.

"Tree's Shadow has been famous for a long time. How can I be compared with him?"

"Why not?"

Shang Wenwen sneered.

"He's good at oil painting, and you're good at oil painting. I saw his painting two years ago, and it was just so-so. A few hundred thousand is not bad, but the new painting this time was sold for six million. I really don't know what the buyer was thinking."

As she spoke, she shrugged.

“I think the one you painted last month was better than his.”

“You said the same thing the year before last as well.”

Sheng Ruxue smiled.

“A lot of time has passed. His skills must be better than before.”

“Not necessarily.” Xue Bingyu also spoke. “Drawing is still a matter of talent. Some people may be at the peak of their creativity in the early years. It doesn’t mean that they will improve later.”

He looked at Sheng Ruxue with unconcealable fondness in his eyes.

“Not everyone can be like you, Ruxue. The more you paint, the better you get.”

“That’s right! This year, Teacher Wang Yan only recruited only one disciple... You!”

When Shang Wenwen mentioned this, a look of envy appeared on her face,

“Who doesn’t know that Teacher Wang Yan has very high standards? Many people tried very hard to pull strings to be chosen. It’s difficult to even ask him for advice. The fact that you were able to catch his eye is enough to prove your excellence!”

Wang Yan was a professor at Xijing Art School. He was good at oil painting and was very famous.

On one hand, it was because he was indeed very capable. On the other hand, it was because he had been Yu Pingchuan’s only disciple.

“That’s Teacher Wang Yan...”

Xue Bingyu also sighed.

Sheng Ruxue was Wang Yan's third disciple. There had been a senior brother and a senior sister before her.

This relationship between a master and a disciple was different from the relationship between a teacher and a student in the school.

The former kind of relationship needed to be formally acknowledged by offering tea to the master.

Compared to the latter, the former had a deeper and closer relationship.

There were three major factions in the domestic painting industry. Yu Pingchuan was the representative of the Qing School, and his status was very important.

Sheng Ruxue had become Wang Yan's disciple, which also meant that she had become a member of the Qing School.

Just this alone was enough to attract the envy of countless people.

This almost meant that she had already stepped into the top painting circle in the country.

Sheng Ruxue also pursed her lips and smiled.

Shang Wenwen asked curiously, "By the way, since you've studied painting with Teacher Wang Yan. Have you ever heard him evaluate one of Tree's Shadow's paintings?"

Tree's Shadow had appeared out of nowhere more than two years ago. A copy of "Kiss" had been auctioned off at a high price of 1.8 million yuan.

This price was actually not high compared to a real master painter.

However, the key point was that before this, Tree's Shadow had just been an unknown painter.

That had been his first painting and it had sold at such a high price. Thus, that could be considered a “high price.”

Once this matter had gotten out, it had shook the entire art world.

The name Tree’s Shadow then quickly became famous.

However, this person was very mysterious. He had never shown his face in public, nor did he accept any interviews.

As a result, many people still had many speculations about him.

Sheng Ruxue shook her head.

“No.”

“How could there be none?”

Shang Wenwen and Xue Bingyu were both very surprised.

“Teacher Wang Yan is also an oil painting master. Did he never mention Tree’s Shadow?”

Even if he did not know the artist personally, evaluating a painting could not be simpler.

“He really didn’t.”

Sheng Ruxue recalled for a while.

“Remember once, a student imitated one of Tree’s Shadow’s paintings and brought it to Teacher Wang Yan to be critiqued. After it was over, that student casually Tree’s Shadow and even asked Teacher Wang Yan what he thought of him. But Teacher Wang Yan didn’t say anything.”

“Tsee... then it must be because Teacher Wang Yan doesn’t like him.”

shang Wenwen pursed her lips.

“No one would like someone who imitates their own style, right?”

Sheng Ruxue’s lips moved, but she did not say anything.

‘There were indeed some people in the industry who commented that Tree’s Shadow’s style was similar to Wang Yan’s.

However, there were also people who said that compared to Wang Yan, Tree’s Shadow was more like Yu Pingchuan.

There were different opinions.

Sheng Ruxue said, “Forget it, let’s not talk about this. I’m almost out of paint, so I’m going to buy some. Do you want to come with me?”

Shang Wenwen was surprised.

“Didn’t you just buy some not long ago? Why are you using it up so quickly?”

Sheng Ruxue said softly, “Lately, Teacher Yu had rarely stayed in the Capital for a long period of time. Teacher Wang Yan said that he wanted me to prepare a painting and send it to be seen by Teacher Yu. So—”

“Really?! Teacher Yu will personally be going to see the painting? No wonder...”

The two immediately understood.

It was such a rare opportunity. Sheng Ruxue definitely wanted the best painting to be sent over.

“alright then, I’ll go with you! I’m not even counting on Teacher Yu. I just hope that Teacher Wang Yan can take a look at mine when he has time...”

As the few of them were talking, Sheng Ruxue suddenly felt that Xue Bingyu was a little distracted.

“Bingyu? What are you looking at—”

She followed Xue Bingyu’s line of sight.

A tall, slender, beautiful girl was standing not far away.

She looked somewhat familiar..