

## Little Brat's 661

### Chapter 661 What Are You Thinking About

Almost involuntarily, he looked back.

The door was already open and Ning Li was getting out of the bus along with everyone else. She was carrying a black backpack and her hair had been tied up in a bun, making her look even taller and more slender. Her face was clean and beautiful.

Even though he could not tell what the person in front had said, he saw her look up and smile.

Shen Zhijin could clearly hear the sound of his heart beating hard.

He called out.

“Ning Li.”

Ning Li turned her head when she heard him, with a hint of a smile still on her face.

“Teacher Shen?”

Shen Zhijin was about to speak, but the people behind him also came near to Ning Li.

She did not want to block the door, so she got out of the bus first.

Shen Zhijin walked towards the back door.

When Tang Yu saw this, he called out to him.

“Zhijin, where are you going?”

The students were to get off the bus here, but the professors still had some follow-up arrangements and had to go to the administrative building.

Shen Zhijin stopped in his tracks.

“Wait for me for a moment.”

Then, he got out of the bus too.

When Ning Li saw him get off, she felt a little strange.

Logically speaking, Shen Zhijin should not have gotten out of the bus with them, right?

Moreover, it seemed like he had wanted to say something to her just now.

Shen Zhijin stood in front of her and his gaze fell on her face.

However, when he met her clear and clean eyes, he suddenly did not know how to speak. There seemed to be endless emotions in his chest that were colliding back and forth, but he was unable to capture and control them. Ning Li saw that his expression was a little strange, so she asked again, “Teacher Shen, what’s wrong?”

Shen Zhijin’s throat tightened.

“What you just said... When is your birthday?”

Ning Li was stunned.

Shen Zhijin had gotten out of the bus just to ask her this question?

However, it looked like there was more to his reason for asking this question.

She said, "June 26th."

Shen Zhijin had read the information on Ning Li's background before.

The first time he had known of Ning Li had been from Xu Yin.

She was the one who had taken over the small astronomical monitoring station in Lincheng.

She was from Lincheng.

Shen Zhijin held his breath.

"You—"

Before he could finish, Ning Li's phone vibrated.

She looked down and saw that it was an unknown number.

She decided to cancel the call.

However, the other party persisted and continued to call.

Shen Zhijin said, "You should take the call first."

Ning Li hesitated for a moment, took two steps to the side, and picked up the call.

“Hello.”

There was dead silence on the other end of the phone.

However, Ning Li sensed something and her eyes narrowed slightly.

A moment later, Ye Ci’s voice filled with resentment was heard.

“Ning Li, you must be very happy to see me reduced to this state, right?”

During this period of time, she had sacrificed so much just to make Tao Siwen happy. Every day, she had been forced to endure the feeling of nausea and fawn over that disgusting man.

However, she had really had enough of her days of poverty!

She had wanted so badly to go back to the life she used to live and turn her life around again!

Therefore, she had tried her best to cling to this person.

She had thought that everything was going to be better, but unexpectedly, Tao Siwen’s wife had somehow found out.

What she had not expected was that Tao Siwen, who had seemed so powerful, was actually afraid of his wife. Not only did he not dare to refute her, but he had also even blamed Ye Ci for everything!

In Feiyang Mall, she had been stripped naked and slapped in public. It had been an extreme humiliation!

She did not dare to go online. Everyone was hurling abuse at her. There were also photos and videos of her that she found unbearable which had spread almost all over the Internet.

She did not even dare to go out. She was afraid of being recognized as she walked on the road, pointed at, and mocked.

After the incident, she had once tried to look for Tao Siwen, but found that she had been blocked.

Even now, his wife was still up to her tricks and had distributed countless flyers in her neighborhood.

Her name, cell phone number, and half-naked photos had been printed on them!

Now, she could only hide in her small rented house every day and live like a mouse that could not see the light of day!

She was almost going crazy!

However, both she and Tao Siwen had clearly been very careful. How had his wife found out about this so quickly? After thinking about it, she could only think of one person— Ning Li! After all, Ning Li had once seen her get into Tao Siwen's car with her own eyes!

Ning Li spoke with an indifferent tone of voice.

"You chose this path yourself, didn't you?"

Ye Ci's voice was sharp.

"So, it really was you! And, the forgiveness letter from before, you thought of a way to get it as well, right? Ning Li, you deliberately let them release me, didn't you?!"

Previously, she had only been glad that she had not been locked up. In hindsight, she now finally understood that it had not been that simple.

Ning Li had wanted her to come out and experience this painful torture! “Ning Li, why are you so vicious?! Don’t you feel uneasy when you sleep at night?!” Ning Li laughed. “Thanks to you, I sleep very well.” Ye Ci was full of anger but had nowhere to vent it. Her voice trembled.

“Ning Li, aren’t you afraid that mom will find out about this? If she finds out that you are such a person—”

“Yes, the last time she came to the school to look for me, she should have already realized what kind of person I am.”

Ning Li’s tone was calm. The corners of her lips curled up slightly, but there was not the slightest hint of a smile at the corners of her eyes and brows.

Ye Ci’s voice came to an abrupt stop. After a long time, she finally sneered, full of ridicule and resentment.

“Ning Li, a person like you who is even capable of harming your own biological mother to such an extent shows just how ruthless you are!” Ning Li smiled and said in a calm voice, “You’re too polite. She’s your mother. Have you forgotten? I told you before that I wouldn’t compete with you in this matter. That was the way it was, is, and always was be.”

A dead silence fell upon Ye Ci’s end.

Shen Zhijin was standing nearby but could not hear what the person on the other end of the phone was saying.

However, he clearly saw the corner of Ning Li’s lips slowly curl up with a calm and extremely cold smile.

He heard her say softly, “My mother was long gone since I was six years old.”

Her light voice came with the early winter wind.

Shen Zhijin suddenly felt a chill all over his body, as if something was about to break.

He stood rooted to the ground in a daze, his eyes gradually losing focus. Ning Li did not give Ye Ci another chance to speak. Instead, she ended the call and blocked her.

Then, she turned around to look at Shen Zhijin, but she was stunned.

Shen Zhijin's expression seemed to be...

"Teacher Shen?"

Ning Li walked over and called out to him.

Shen Zhijin came back to his senses.

For a moment, Ning Li seemed to see that something was breaking in his eyes.

But soon, he put away all his expressions and returned to his usual cold and indifferent look.

"Teacher Shen, you asked me about my birthday just now. Is there a problem?"

Shen Zhijin's hand slowly tightened.

"No. I just thought it was a little coincidental."

As he spoke, the corners of his lips pursed slightly,

“That’s also Tangtang’s birthday.”

Ning Li’s lips moved slightly.

So that was what it was...

“Zhijin?”

Tang Yu called out to him from the bus.

Shen Zhijin said, “You may go back now.”

After saying that, he turned around and returned to the bus.

The car started.

Shen Zhijin sat down by the window and looked outside with a calm expression on his face.

Only his knuckles were slightly pale due to the exertion.

He closed his eyes. Shen Zhijin, why are you being delusional?

Chapter 662 He Must Miss Her Very Much

As Ning Li watched the bus leave, she recalled Shen Zhijin’s expression from just now which caused her to feel some complicated emotions in her heart.

Tangtang.



Was that his daughter?

It turned out that she and Tangtang had the same birthday. It was no wonder that he had reacted that way after hearing it.

Ning Li remembered Xu Yin's words and frowned slightly.

He must... miss her very much.

She pursed her lips, gathered her thoughts, and walked towards the dormitory.

At the Gu residence in Hong Kong City.

Gu Siqi and Gu Sicheng were talking to Old Madam Gu.

They had not been back for a long time, and Old Madam Gu had greatly missed them.

Old Madam Gu asked with a smile, "Did you have fun traveling to Haicheng this time?"

The two brothers nodded in unison.

"Yes!"

Gu Siqi said, "Grandma, I don't think you know, but we met Sister Ah Li in Haicheng!"

"Ah Li?" Old Madam Gu was stunned. "She went to Haicheng too?"

"Yes! I think she went to Hua University as a student representative of Xijing University. Then, we happened to meet her at Hua University. What a coincidence!"

Old Madam Gu said with a smile, "I see. I told you that Ah Li has always been outstanding."

"Oh right, we also met—" Gu Sicheng seemed to have thought of something, and a hint of hesitation appeared on his small face. He lowered his voice slightly. "We also met Fourth Uncle."

Old Madam Gu was stunned.

"Zhijin?"

"Yes."

Old Madam Gu paused for a moment, and her thoughts drifted far away.

After a while, she smiled faintly again.

"That's true. After all, it's Zhijin. By the way, did you greet him?"

Gu Sicheng glanced at his brother before replying honestly, "We asked Sister Ah Li to send our regards on our behalf."

Old Madam Gu patted his head.

"Well, that's good. Does your father know about this?"

The two brothers shook their heads.

How would they dare to let him know?!

Old Madam Gu nodded.

Second Brother had a bad temper. It was better not to let him know about these things.

Gu Siqi and Gu Sicheng were still relatively young, so they did not know much about the affairs between adults. They only knew that the relationship between their family and their fourth uncle was very tense, and they had not had much contact over the years. It was better not to mention these things.

Gu Siqi rolled his eyes, took his phone out, and handed it over as if he was presenting a treasure.

“Oh yes, we even invited Sister Ah Li over for dinner. Sister Ah Li was so happy that she even specially posted it on her WeChat Moments! Look! This is a photo that we took!”

Old Madam Gu opened the photo and was momentarily stunned.

The photo that Ning Li had posted showed her smiling as she chatted with Gu Sicheng. It was a very well-taken photo, and their expressions were very natural. Even though they were separated by the screen, it was not difficult to feel the happy and harmonious atmosphere.

The girl in the photo had her head tilted slightly, her eyes smiling and her dimples shallow.

She restrained the sharpness and coldness on her body, revealing a rare softness.

Old Madam Gu was lost in her thoughts as she looked at the photo. She stroked it with her fingers and did not speak for a long time.

“Grandmother, isn’t this a very nicely taken photo?” Gu Sicheng bent his head over and said with a little pride.

After all, in the photo, it showed him talking to Sister Ah Li!

Old Madam Gu smiled and softly replied, "It's nice."

It was really nice.

"Ah Qing."

Old Master Gu walked over and noticed the photo in the phone.

He stopped in his tracks.

Old Madam Gu looked up.

"Farewell, Brother."

Old Master Gu lowered his voice.

"I heard from Tinglan that Ah Li will be coming to Hong Kong City again soon."

Old Madam Gu laughed.

"Okay."

The Capital, Jinshui No. 1 Courtyard.

Gu Tingfeng looked at his phone with a dark expression on his face. Liang Su pushed the door open and entered the room. When she saw him like this, she asked, "What's wrong? Did Siyang upset you again?"

"It's not him, it's Second Brother."

Gu Tingfeng put his phone down and sneered, "He's really something!" Liang Su walked over and picked up her phone to take a look. She saw Ning Li's WeChat Moments.

She gave an objective evaluation. "The photos are really good." Gu Tingfeng, "... So what if they had two sons?! They were just taking advantage of their young age!

Hmph!

How shameless!

"Two against one, he's not very polite, right? Tell me, what kind of person is he?!"

Liang Su was silent for a moment before gently speaking to him in a soothing tone. "What are you angry about?"

"Third Brother hasn't even gotten married

yet."

At Gu Media.

Several senior executives walked out of the meeting room and looked at each other, all drenched in a cold sweat.

"What happened to Third Master today? Which one of you committed a crime? Old Zhou, was it

you?"

"Why are you looking at me? I don't know either! Besides, our finance department has always been doing well. How could it be my fault?"

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“Then what’s going on? How long has it been since the Third Master was angry? He was clearly in a good mood a few days ago...”

Before he could finish his sentence, the door to the meeting room was pushed open again.

Gu Tingyun walked out expressionlessly. Everyone immediately shut up and watched Gu Tingyun return to the president’s office.

After his figure completely disappeared behind the door, everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

“Forget it, forget it. Just pay more attention for the next few days!”

In the office.

Gu Tingyun stared at Ning Li’s WeChat Moments on his phone for a long time before he let out a snort.

In the blink of an eye, Friday had arrived.

After class, Ning Li accompanied Lu Huaiyu back to Rongyue Residence.

After having a meal and taking a shower, Ning Li changed into her pajamas and sat on the sofa to play with her phone. Lu Huaiyu sat beside her and helped her blow-dry her hair. “Master will be discharged from the hospital tomorrow. Fortunately, his body is recovering well.”

This could be considered to have solved one of Ning Li’s worries.

Lu Huaiyu responded with a “hmm” and scooped her into his arms. He pinched her chin and kissed the corner of her lips as if he was rewarding her.

He smiled and said, “Speaking of which, it’s all thanks to Ah Li. Fortunately, you took Elder Mei for a checkup at that time.”

Ning Li rubbed against his neck before suddenly thinking of something.

“By the way, Second Brother, it looks like I haven’t visited Grandpa Lu for a while. I wonder how he’s been recently?”

Lu Huaiyu’s eyebrows raised slightly.

“Grandpa has been... living quite a fulfilling life these days.”

Chapter 663 First Snow

Fulfilling?

Ning Li felt that this description was a little inexplicable.

“I plan to pick Master up from the hospital tomorrow. Second Brother, would you like to come along?”

Lu Huaiyu’s lips curved into a smile as he tilted his head to look at her. “As the family member of Elder Mei’s disciple, of course, I have to go on this occasion.” Ning Li, “...”

Had he forgotten about what had happened when he last went to the First Affiliated Hospital?

She didn’t know where his confidence came from...

She said, "Then when we go tomorrow, if Master says something, just remember what I said to you the first time."

Lu Huaiyu looked at her with a faint smile. He bent his head closer and looked into her eyes.

"You know it's not easy for me to marry a wife."

Ning Li's ears were slightly warm. She hooked her arms around his neck and kissed him on the side of his face. "Then you need to work hard."

Lu Huaiyu could not help but laugh.

"Alright."

Early Saturday morning, Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu made their way to the First Affiliated Hospital.

Mei Yanqing's scans were clear. The news that he would be discharged had been tightly sealed.

According to the previous arrangements, Yu Pingchuan and Ning Li would be in charge of the discharge this time.

They had just arrived outside the ward, but before they could knock on the door and enter, they heard Elder Mei talking.

"No, no! I made the wrong move just now. Let's start again!"

Then, a patient voice sounded.

"Mei Yanqing! How many times have you regretted your moves in this game of chess? Let me tell you, don't go too far!"



Ning Li was stunned. Old Master Lu?

Subconsciously, she looked up at Lu Huaiyu, but he did not look surprised at all. It was as if he had already expected this.

Elder Mei raised his voice.

“I only misread it, alright? Lu Qishan, if you’re able to play this game, then play it. If you’re not, then just leave right now! No one will stop you!”

The corners of Ning Li’s eyes twitched.

Elder Mei was famous for his fiery temper, and his mouth was unforgiving. She had not expected him to quarrel with Old Master Lu today.

Although these two had a good relationship, Elder Mei was indeed...

She was worried that they would make too much of a big fuss, so she raised her hand to knock on the door.

However, before her hand had even landed on the door, she heard Old Master Lu mutter to himself, “If you want to play, then let’s play. What are you arguing for? But this is the last time. I won’t yield to you again after this!”

However, these words did not appease Elder Mei. Instead, they made him even angrier.

He sneered.

“Yield? Lu Qishan, do I need you to yield?! Forget it! This chess game is meaningless! Pingchuan, Pingchuan? Call Ah Li!”

Old Master Lu hurriedly said, "Eh, eh? In-law! In-law! Why are you angry? I merely said that in passing. I made a mistake! A mistake! Who doesn't make mistakes? Hehe... You play, you play!"

Elder Mei was furious. "Who's your in-law?!"

Ning Li, "..."

She finally understood what Lu Huaiyu had said yesterday.

This was really quite... fulfilling...

She glanced at Lu Huaiyu.

The corners of Lu Huaiyu's lips curled up slightly

"It looks like Grandpa and Elder Mei are having a good chat." Ning Li, "...". She silently sympathized with Old Master Lu in her heart and finally knocked on the door.

Knock, knock.

"Master, it's me."

The various voices inside the door suddenly stopped and were followed by the messy sounds of packing.

Then, Yu Pingchuan came over to open the door. When he saw Ning Li, it was as if he had seen his savior.

"Ah Li, you're here!"

He had been tortured to death by these two people for the past few days!

Ning Li looked into the ward.

Elder Mei was sitting on the bed, covered with a blanket. Old Master Lu was sitting beside him, holding a half-opened orange in his hand.

The two of them looked at her at the same time.

“Ah Li.”

“Ah Li is here?”

The two of them smiled quietly.

Ning Li was silent for a moment.

“Master, you should pack up and get ready to leave the hospital.”

“Also, Grandpa Lu, you have a chess piece in your sleeve.”

Elder Mei was unwilling to allow Old Master Lu and Lu Huaiyu to send him back with them.

However, because Ning Li was also there, he had to try and curb his temper and return to Jinse Bay with them.

However, this harmonious atmosphere did not last long. Half an hour later, Old Master Lu and Lu Huaiyu were both driven out together.

Looking at the tightly shut door, Old Master Lu spoke resentfully.

“Seriously, the older you are, the more temperamental you are! I’ve never seen someone so difficult to please!”

Lu Huaiyu was silent for a moment, but he still sensibly reminded him.

“Grandpa, if you hadn’t kept asking about the flowers and wine for the engagement, Elder Mei wouldn’t have kicked us out.”

Old Master Lu choked for a moment.

“But... But didn’t I do it to show respect?! Besides, I’ve already screened the list of choices for a few rounds before I even came up with the final list for him to choose from. Have I not saved him so much trouble?!”

Lu Huaiyu’s expression was expressionless. “You even asked what you should wear on the day of the wedding.”

Old Master Lu’s imposing manner instantly weakened.

“I was only asking casually...”

Lu Huaiyu did not say anything.

The cold wind blew. Fang Qingyun looked at the two of them hesitantly.

“Old Master, Second Master, shall we go back now then?”

It was such a pity that they could not have dinner with Elder Mei and Ah Li...

As Lu Huaiyu thought of this, he turned to look at Old Master Lu and said seriously, "Actually, I think it would be great if you wore a Tang suit that day."

Ning Li stayed at Jinse Bay all day before getting ready to leave after dinner.

She walked out of Jinse Bay to hail a taxi by the roadside.

As she was waiting for the taxi, she felt a touch of coolness on her forehead.

She was stunned. When she looked up, she found that it was snowing.

It was already December. The weather in the Capital was very cold, and the first snow had come early.

After a few minutes, the taxi arrived and she got in.

It was a snowy day so the driver drove slowly, and the traffic on the roads was especially congested. An hour later, Ning Li arrived at school and found that the snow here was exceptionally heavy. The ground was already piled with thick snow, making it very difficult for the vehicle to drive through.

With only a few hundred meters left, Ning Li got out of the car, intending on walking back.

Just then, she raised her head and accidentally saw a familiar figure walking out of a flower shop on the right.

Shen Zhijin.

He was holding a bunch of red camellias in his arms.

The light from the flower shop reflected off the snow on the ground, outlining his tall and straight figure.

Ning Li called out, "Teacher Shen."

Hearing this, Shen Zhijin looked up.

However, in the very next moment, his expression changed!

"Ning Li! Be careful!"

Almost at the same time, a frigid cold wind suddenly attacked from behind!

Ning Li's heart suddenly jumped!

Chapter 664 Stop Watch

She immediately dodged to the side!

Swoosh!

A steel pipe, borne by a strong wind, brushed past her cheek!

Ning Li's heart suddenly tightened!

Three men had unknowingly rushed out from the dark and narrow alley at the side and silently came up behind her!

The person who had rushed to the front had a strong figure, a fierce face, and a vicious expression.

Seeing that his attack had missed, he immediately raised his wrist and waved the steel pipe in his hand again, charging straight for Ning Li's face!

The two people following behind him also quickly rushed forward and surrounded Ning Li on both sides.

The three of them attacked Ning Li at the same time!

A vicious look flashed across Ning Li's eyes. Instead of retreating, she advanced forward and closed in on them!

She lowered her body as the steel pipe swung over her head, bringing with it a strong wind that almost made her scalp go numb! In the next moment, she grabbed the wrist of the man in the middle and pulled it forcefully!

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At first, the man did not think much of it. However, Ning Li's strength was much greater than he had expected. Moreover, her movements were so agile that it was simply difficult to control.

Before he could react, his entire body had already been pulled down by Ning Li!

Ning Li did not hesitate and raised her knee towards him!

The man let out a muffled groan and a pained expression appeared on his face.

At the same time, he loosened his grip and the steel pipe fell to the ground.

Ning Li kicked him away and conveniently bent down to pick up the steel pipe on the ground.

A gust of cold wind came from the left and back!

Ning Li's eyes were ice-cold as she quickly turned around and counterattacked!

Clang!

The steel pipe collided fiercely, almost causing the person's arm to go numb!

The man was shocked. Clearly, he had not expected that Ning Li would actually be able to take this blow.

However, at this moment, the man on the right quickly followed up and aimed to smash the back of Ning Li's head!

Ning Li's heart tightened.

In this situation, it was already too late for her to counterattack!

She quickly made a judgment and staggered the placement of her feet slightly as she tried to take the blow with her shoulders and back.

As long as she could avoid the vital parts—

However, the expected heavy blow did not land.

Bang! A muffled sound was heard.

Ning Li suddenly turned her head and saw Shen Zhijin standing behind her.

The man's steel pipe smashed heavily towards Shen Zhijin's left arm!

Vaguely, Ning Li heard a slight sound. However, at this time, she did not have time to think carefully. Almost subconsciously, she moved forward at an even faster speed and directly kicked the knee of the man who was close to her!



His face instantly turned pale as he lost control of his legs and fell to his knees on the ground.

She immediately looked at Shen Zhijin and saw that he had already seized the man's steel pipe.

After losing his weapon, the man turned around to run away but Shen Zhijin did not hesitate and immediately hit him on the back!

The man staggered and fell to the ground.

"Teacher Shen!"

Ning Li looked at his left arm worriedly.

That attack had been so vicious, he...

Just then, the man who had been knocked down by Ning Li at the beginning rushed over again! "Go to hell!"

Ning Li turned around and saw a cold glint flash past! –The man had actually brought a dagger! At the moment, he was extremely close, and it was almost impossible to dodge!

Ning Li was about to move when she suddenly felt a strong force pulling her back.

Swish!

The man's dagger cut right through Shen Zhijin's sleeve and a streak of blood quickly spread out!

Shen Zhijin's expression was extremely cold. He shielded Ning Li closely behind him as he raised his foot and kicked the other person right in the chest!

Everything had happened in just a matter of moments.

Due to the falling snow, there were very few pedestrians on the road. Fortunately, there were a few shops on the street. Noticing the commotion, a few people ran over to help.

The three men were quickly subdued by everyone and someone called the police.

“Professor Shen, are you alright?”

A middle-aged man rushed over and looked at Shen Zhijin with a worried expression on his face.

They were all shop owners near the school, so of course, they knew him.

Shen Zhijin shook his head.

“I’m fine.”

“How can you be fine? Your arm has been cut!”

The man said anxiously.

Ning Li’s heart skipped a beat. She looked over and saw that Shen Zhijin’s left arm was stained with a large amount of blood.

Shen Zhijin looked down and his expression suddenly changed.

He quickly turned back and looked around in the snow. A hint of panic appeared on his usually calm face.

“Professor Shen, shall I send you to the hospital?” The middle-aged man asked worriedly.

Shen Zhijin did not answer him.

He walked forward and looked for something on the ground.

Ning Li moved forward.

“Teacher Shen, what are you looking for?”

Shen Zhijin pursed his lips tightly.

The snow was still falling, and the ground was covered with a thick layer of snow.

He walked through the snow, as if he was completely unaware of his surroundings. He was only focused on looking for something anxiously.

Finally, his gaze was fixed on a certain spot. His brows relaxed, and the nervous and helpless aura around him gradually dissipated.

He bent down and stretched out his hand.

The dark red blood had already completely soaked his sleeve. The blood had spread out from his sleeve. A drop of blood flowed down along his slender and pale hand and silently fell into the snow, melting into a small red puddle.

He seemed to be unaware of it as he picked something up.

Ning Li’s mind jolted.

The watch.

It was the watch that Shen Zhijin had been wearing on his left wrist that had already stopped moving. After picking the watch up with his hand, he finally heaved a sigh of relief.

However, it was at this moment that he realized that his left hand was already covered in a mess of blood, and the watchband was stained with blood.

He frowned slightly, and a hint of pity and guilt welled up in his eyes.

Then, he carefully wiped the watch with a corner of his relatively clean shirt, but there some traces were still left behind.

The blood on his left hand was still silently dripping

He still seemed to be completely unaware as he kept his head lowered and continued to wipe the blood on the watch band away seriously and stubbornly.

Again and again.

For some reason, Ning Li suddenly felt an indescribable pain in her heart.

She walked over and stood beside Shen Zhijin. "Teacher Shen, let's go to the doctor first--"

Her voice suddenly stopped, and her gaze fell on Shen Zhijin's left wrist in shock.

Perhaps it was because he had made a move earlier, but the cuff of his sleeve had slipped a little, revealing a tough and well-jointed wrist.

It was very beautiful.

However, an old scar could be seen stretched across it. Without the cover of the Watch, the scar was silent and open, as if it wanted to tear everything apart and destroy everything.

Ning Li's heart felt as if it had been hit by something hard. She froze and looked up at Shen Zhijin.

So that was...

His deepest secret that was hidden beneath the watch.

Chapter 665 Back Then

The First Affiliated Hospital of Xijing University.

Shen Zhijin was taken to the operating theater.

The cut was very deep. The only blessing was that there was no fracture. Ning Li stood in the corridor and leaned against the cold wall. Her head was lowered slightly, and people came and went around her. When Lu Huaiyu arrived, this was what he saw.

His heart ached, and he quickly walked over.

"Ah Li."

Ning Li slowly raised her head.

"Second Brother."

Lu Huaiyu frowned.

“How are you? Are you hurt?”

Ning Li shook her head.

“I’m fine, it’s just that Teacher Shen...”

She pursed her lips.

“His arm was cut.” Lu Huaiyu hugged her tightly, his chin pressed against her forehead as he caressed her back.

He closed his eyes to hide the violence in his eyes and tried his best to make his voice sound gentle and calm.

“Good girl, it’s okay now.”

Ning Li raised her arms and wrapped them around his trim waist, rubbed her face against his firm and flat chest.

The familiar cedar fragrance filled the tip of her nose. The tense string in her mind finally relaxed a little.

The chill in her body seemed to be dispelled.

Lu Huaiyu said, “I’ve already called Chief Liu. Those three people have already been detained. The results of the interrogation will come out as soon as possible.” Those three people had obviously come prepared, but Ning Li did not know them.

However, there was a high probability that someone had hired them.

As for who that person was... She could already make a rough guess. Now, they could only go through the process.

Ning Li replied with a “Hmm”. Her voice was very soft.

Lu Huaiyu stepped back a little and kissed the space between her eyebrows. He looked into her eyes and coaxed her in a low voice.

“Ah Li, be good. Don’t think about that anymore. Just leave it all to me, hmm?”

Ning Li nodded.

She grabbed his clothes and said softly, “... I’m just a little worried about Teacher Shen.”

Shen Zhijin had paid such a painful price for saving her.

He had not even hesitated at all to step in front of her.

Lu Huaiyu looked in the direction of the operating theater.

The sound of hurried footsteps could be heard. “Ah Li.”

Ning Li turned around and saw several people rushing over.

The person in the middle was Xu Yin. Ning Li knew the people beside him. They were also the leaders and teachers of Xijing University.

Ning Li had been ambushed a few hundred meters away from the school and Shen Zhijin had also gotten injured.

The nature of the attack was bad, and its impact was huge.

“Teacher Xu.”

Ning Li withdrew from Lu Huaiyu’s embrace.

Xu Yin scrutinized her first. Only after making sure that she was safe and sound did he heave a sigh of relief.

“How is Zhijin now?”

Ning Li told him about Shen Zhijin’s injury.

Xu Yin sighed.

“Then let’s wait first. I hope the surgery goes well.”

He looked at Ning Li again and advised, “Ah Li, don’t blame yourself too much over this matter.”

Ning Li paused and nodded lightly.

The waiting time seemed to be exceptionally

long.

More and more people came over, yet Ning Li still did not see any of Shen Zhijin’s family members.

After a long while, she could not help but ask, “Teacher Xu, why is Teacher Shen’s family

not...”



Xu Yin was momentarily stunned before he spoke with a softer voice.

“Zhijin is the only child. Ever since the academician Shen and his wife passed away a few years ago, he has always been a loner.”

Ning Li was stunned but did not ask any further questions.

However, Xu Yin looked at her hesitantly.

Ning Li noticed it.

“Teacher Xu, what... Did you want to say something?”

Xu Yin looked at her with a complicated gaze before letting out a long sigh.

“It’s nothing. I just feel that Zhijin is...”

Ning Li pursed her lips slightly.

She could actually guess what Xu Yin meant.

Although she was currently following Shen Zhijin on his experiments, in reality, she was not truly his official student.

However, he did not hesitate to help her.

Ning Li recalled the words that Shen Zhijin had said to her a few days ago when he had asked her about her birthday.

She said, "Teacher Xu, I believe that the reason Teacher Shen helped me like this is because his daughter and I share the same birthday."

Xu Yin was shocked and his brows were tightly knitted together. After a long while, he slowly said, "No wonder..."

Ning Li still felt that something was amiss.

"But, it's only because it's the same birthday..."

"Ah Li."

Xu Yin interrupted her and looked at her with a complicated gaze,

"There's one more thing that you might not know. Zhijin's child was also born in Lincheng."

The lights in the operating room were finally extinguished.

Shen Zhijin was then sent to a normal ward.

Xu Yin asked Lu Huaiyu to send Ning Li home first. After all, she had suffered quite a shock today, and it would not be good for her to continue to stay at the hospital. Ning Li knew that she would not be of much help even if she stayed here. After confirming that Shen Zhijin's surgery had been completed successfully, she followed Lu Huaiyu back to Rongyue Residence.

That night, she did not sleep well.

The next morning, she made breakfast and accompanied Lu Huaiyu to First Affiliated Hospital.

The door of the ward was ajar, leaving it open a crack.

Ning Li was about to knock on the door when she heard a voice from inside.

“Zhijin, you saved her because she looks similar to her, right?”

Ning Li recognized the owner of the voice: Shi

Ying.

She paused.

Shen Zhijin’s voice was slightly hoarse, but it was still calm and clear.

“I want to rest. You can go back now.” Shi Ying looked at the man in front of her and suddenly felt powerless.

“It’s been so many years. Zhijin, you—“

She did not complete her sentence.

After a moment of silence, Shi Ying turned around to leave.

When she opened the door and saw Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu, her expression froze.

Her gaze lingered on Ning Li for a moment, as countless emotions seemed to be surging in her eyes. However, in the end, she did not say anything and left.

Ning Li looked into the ward.

Sitting by the bed, Shen Zhijin did not seem to realize that they had arrived. The morning sun shone through the window, casting a layer of light on his handsome and clean face.

Dressed in a hospital gown, his lips were a little pale, and the usual coldness and alienation had faded a little.

His head was lowered slightly as he stared at the watch quietly. His expression was fragile and serious.

It was as if time seemed to have stopped.

Ning Li recalled Xu Yin's words from yesterday.

The fire had burned so badly that almost the whole building had been destroyed. Among the three people who had died, one was Zhijin's wife, and the other had been his daughter, who had been born just a day earlier. After the fire had been put out, the firemen had found the bodies of her and her daughter. It was said that they had suffocated to death.

She had been found with extensive burns on her body, with the child still held tightly in her arms. There were no burns on the child's body, but it was a pity that she had not survived either.

—Later, Shen Zhijin attempted to commit suicide by slitting his wrists in his home.

Chapter 666 A Bowl of Porridge

Ning Li knocked on the door.

Knock, knock.

Shen Zhijin came back to his senses and looked up.

"Teacher Shen."

Ning Li walked over. Lu Huaiyu followed behind her and placed a thermos on the bedside table.

Ning Li said, "This is some porridge that I cooked for you. I hope you will have some." Shen Zhijin's gaze swept over the thermos and nodded lightly. "Thank you."

His expression looked calm and indifferent, as if all the vulnerability and silent aura that surrounded him as he stared at the watch earlier had only been an illusion.

Lu Huaiyu opened the thermos bucket before Ning Li scooped out a bowl of porridge and handed it to Shen Zhijin.

Shen Zhijin smiled faintly.

"It's just a small injury. There's no need for so much fuss."

The wound was ten centimeters long and it was very deep. How could it be considered a small injury?

Ning Li pursed her lips.

"You saved me. This is what I should do."

She was still holding the bowl of porridge in her hand.

Shen Zhijin looked up at her.

There seemed to be a subtle confrontation between the two of them.

After a while, Shen Zhijin compromised and took it with his uninjured right hand. Lu Huaiyu opened the small table over the hospital bed.

Shen Zhijin thanked him.

The wound on his left arm had been stitched up and wrapped with white gauze. Although there was no fracture, it would not be good to exert too much strength for a period of time. The doctor advised him to take good care of it.

The fragrance wafted throughout the room, and as the warm porridge entered his stomach, the warmth spread through the rest of his body.

Ning Li casually pulled a chair next to him.

“I’m not sure if it suits your taste.”

Shen Zhijin paused.

“Ning Li.”

He raised his eyes slightly and looked at her with gentle eyes.

“You don’t have to feel guilty. Even if it wasn’t me, there were other people who were there that day who would have come forward to help.”

Ning Li shook her head.

“But it was you who helped me, not the others.”

There were no ifs.

In this world, there had never been any ifs.

Seeing her stubbornness, Shen Zhijin shook his head and smiled.

The little girl had a stubborn personality. No matter what he said, it would probably be useless, so he might as well not talk about it.

He changed the subject.

“So, who were those people yesterday? Why did they attack you?”

As he said this, he furrowed his brows slightly, and his expression turned cold. At that time, he had been standing in front of Ning Li, and he had seen everything clearly. The three people had suddenly rushed out from the side alley. They had held steel pipes in their hands and rushed towards Ning Li without any hesitation.

It was obvious that they had planned it beforehand and had deliberately set up an ambush there.

Ning Li was usually busy with her studies and experiments. Who could she have possibly offended this time?

“Ye Ci.”

Ning Li said lightly. After the incident yesterday, the three people had immediately been escorted back to the police station.

Later, Lu Huaiyu had personally come forward to pressure the police. They had interrogated them that night to find out everything.

Shen Zhijin searched through his mind for this name and quickly remembered something.

Wasn't that Ning Li's stepfather's daughter?

He had never bothered about such things, but he had a very good memory. He had heard Yan Qiu and the others mention it before occasionally, which was why he remembered it.

“Was that the person who called you on the day we returned to Xijing University?”.

Ning Li had not expected Shen Zhijin to be able to guess this, so she nodded.

“Yes.”

Hearing this name, Lu Huaiyu’s expression became a lot fainter, and a faint coldness appeared in his eyes. “Those three men have criminal records, and they are the kind of people who will do anything for money. Ye Ci spent 300,000 yuan to hire them to attack Ah Li.”

Money could make even the devil move the millstone.

These people had been wandering outside the red line of the law all year round. For money, they were willing to do anything.

“Their original plan had been to kidnap Ah Li and take her away. But when it snowed, they decided to attack her instead.”

If the plan was not completed, they would not be able to receive the money.

10icy.

After some discussion, they had decided to teach Ning Li a lesson and collect some interest. At least they would have something to show for their efforts when they went back. At that time, there were few people on the road and the sky was dark. Would it not be easy for three strong men to take care of an eighteen or nineteen-year-old girl?



However, they had not expected Ning Li to have pretty good fighting skills, and Shen Zhijin happened to be there as well.

Hence, it ended up like this.

The three men were also cunning. In order to mitigate their crimes, they had not hesitated to expose Ye Ci and had put all the blame on her.

Shen Zhijin frowned even more at the thought that Ye Ci could actually do such a thing.

If it had not been for the fact that he had been there, if there had not been people around, if Ning Li herself had not dodged that fatal blow in time...

The consequences would have been unimaginable.

He looked at Ning Li.

So, she lived in such danger every day but never mentioned it?

Lu Huaiyu continued, "But Teacher Shen, don't worry. At last, Ye Ci was arrested in her rented house."

With Shen Zhijin involved and Lu Huaiyu making an appearance, the efficiency of the police was extremely high.

Ye Ci had probably not expected the matter to be exposed so quickly. She had been stunned when she was arrested.

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

"I believe that the police will soon give a fair result."

The authorities had said that Ye Ci had refused to admit her guilt in the beginning and had continuously insisted that she had been wrongly accused. She had also said that Ning Li must have framed her, or set this up, etc.

It was not until the police had thrown the evidence down in front of her that she had finally stopped.

It is believed that during this period of time, her days inside should be very “good”.

Hearing that Ye Ci had been arrested, Shen Zhijin was relieved.

No matter what, it was really hard to guard against being watched by a person who was hiding in the shadows.

Perhaps Ning Li could dodge the bullet once, but she might not be able to avoid it every time.

Thinking of this, Shen Zhijin suddenly looked at Ning Li. At that time, the situation had been dangerous, so he had not thought too much about it. However, now that he thought about it, he realized something.

That did not seem to have been the first time that Ning Li had been involved in a fight.

This had not been an ordinary petty fight, but a truly violent collision. He remembered clearly that at that time, the three men approached with steel pipes. The one in the middle had tried to smash Ning Li’s head without even saying a word.

In such a dangerous and urgent situation, Ning Li had actually managed to dodge the blow successfully.

Later, as she had fought with those men, it was not difficult to see that she had not learned it professionally.

She had dodged nimbly, and her attacks were steady and ruthless.

It was obvious that she had gained experience through a lot of practice.

Previously, Shen Zhijin had only known that her parents had divorced when she was young, and she had been dependent on her grandmother. Her family had been in a difficult financial situation, so she had started to think of ways to work and earn money to support her family at a very early age.

But now, he truly realized that with her family background, there had probably been more to the hardships she had experienced in the past few years.

The fact that she had no money had probably been her most insignificant hardship.

Yet, this year, she had only just turned 18 years old.

Shen Zhijin put down the spoon as he felt a slight bitterness on the tip of his tongue. Ning Li did not know what he was thinking at the moment and said, "Teacher Shen, I think you will need to recuperate for a while. If you don't mind, I would like to continue to help you with some matters during this period of time. Is that okay with you?"

Chapter 667 Presents for Tangtang

Some time ago, Yan Qiu had undergone an appendicitis operation. Ning Li had temporarily taken his place and become Shen Zhijin's assistant.

Now that Yan Qiu had almost recovered, Shen Zhijin had gotten injured instead.

In fact, when Shen Zhijin had been hospitalized after getting injured, the school had already taken action as quickly as possible.

Many of his responsibilities had been postponed and delayed.

However, even so, there were still some things that he needed to personally handle.

However, with his current physical condition, it was not appropriate for him to be overworked.

Ning Li had thought about it and wanted to take the initiative to take on some tasks that were within her ability to reduce Shen Zhijin's burden as much as possible.

After all, he had gotten injured while trying to save her.

Shen Zhijin seemed to be a little surprised when he heard this.

Ning Li had been his assistant for a period of time. Her ability was beyond description, and she had a great understanding of much of the contents of his work.

She was indeed the most suitable candidate.

He lowered his eyes and pondered for a moment before finally nodding.

"Okay."

After visiting Shen Zhijin, Ning Li and Lu Huaiyu left the hospital.

On the way, Ning Li kept looking at her phone. Since the previous night, she had received a lot of calls and messages from people asking about this matter.

She had reported her safety to each one. After everything had been settled, she held her breath and looked out of the window.

"Ah Li."

Lu Huaiyu's voice was deep and gentle.

“Are you sleepy? Why don’t you rest for a while?”

After the experience yesterday, she had been busy dealing with all sorts of things. She probably had not slept well at all.

Ning Li tilted her head and leaned on his shoulder.

“I’m very sleepy, but I can’t sleep.”

She said softly.

Lu Huaiyu pulled her into his embrace and gently stroked her hair.

Ning Li was a little lost in thought.

After a long while, she said, “Teacher Shen is really good to his wife and daughter, right?”

Lu Huaiyu did not speak. He held her hand and kissed it.

Ning Li closed her eyes and intertwined her fingers with his.

As promised, Ning Li cooperated with Yan Qiu to help Shen Zhijin with his affairs for the next few days.

Apart from this, Ning Li would also bring food to the hospital when she was free.

Shen Zhijin had initially refused. However, he could not persuade Ning Li otherwise and eventually had to compromise quietly.

Fortunately, Shen Zhijin's wounds had recovered well and he was soon discharged.

However, he spent most of his time recuperating at home, and most of his work was done online.

That morning, Ning Li was testing the data in the laboratory when Yan Qiu walked in.

"Junior Sister."

Ning Li turned around and saw Yan Qiu holding a sealed document bag in his hand.

Yan Qiu asked, "Junior Sister?"

"Junior Sister, this is the contract for the new batch of astronomical telescopes that the Purple Star Observatory just sent over. The boss needs to personally sign it. I should be the one to go, but Dean Bi has called for a meeting at the last minute. I'm afraid I won't be able to make it in time. If you're free now, could you help me send it over?"

Ning Li checked the device she was working at.

"Sure, the testing on my data will be finished in fifteen minutes. I'll go after it's done."

Yan Qiu smiled and handed over the sealed document bag.

"Thank you, Junior Sister! Then I'll take my leave first, alright?"

Ning Li accepted the document bag and nodded.

Seeing Yan Qiu turn around and leave, she suddenly thought of something.

"Senior Brother, wait."

Yan Qiu turned around.

“What’s wrong?”

Ning Li said, “I don’t know Teacher Shen’s address.”

“Oh, about that, I’ll send it to you later!”

After all, Yan Qiu had been with Shen Zhijin for a long time, so he obviously knew all this very well.

“Thank you, Senior Brother.”

Yan Qiu waved his hand elegantly and left.

Soon, Ning Li received a message on WeChat.

She took a look and saw that it was from Yan Qiu.

[ Skyleaf City, building No. 2,901. ]

Ning Li stared at the screen of the device and finished checking the last set of data.

Drop—

She turned off the device, put away her things, and put the sealed document bag in her backpack.

Skyleaf City was a high-end residential area near Xijing University. It was only a ten-minute drive away.

Many teachers from Xijing University had bought houses there, so it was convenient for them to go to work.

Every year, Shen Zhijin did not spend much time in the country. However, this was where he basically lived whenever he returned to the country.

Ning Li got out of the taxi and went to the security booth.

However, before she could explain why she had come, the guard recognized her.

“Ning Li? You’re here to see Professor Shen, right?” Ning Li was stunned for a moment and nodded.

What she did not know was that after experiencing so many things in the past, many people at Xijing University, including their family members, already knew who she was.

The guard chuckled and said, “Okay, just register here. By the way, do you need me to call Professor Shen’s home for you?”

Shen Zhijin knew that Yan Qiu would be coming to deliver the contract.

At the thought of this, Ning Li shook her head and declined politely.

“Thank you, no need. I’ll make my way there directly.”

After that, she registered her information and walked into the residential area.

She quickly found the second building and took the elevator upstairs.

It was a large, flat floor with one staircase.



She went to the ninth floor and rang the doorbell.

After a few minutes, the door was opened and Shen Zhijin appeared behind the door.

He was stunned when he saw Ning Li.

“Ning Li?”

“Teacher Shen. Senior Brother Yan Qiu said that Dean Bi called for a meeting at the last minute, so he asked me to deliver this contract to you,” Ning Li explained.

Shen Zhijin understood and took the sealed document bag.

“Please, come in.”

Ning Li followed him into the house.

“Take a seat first. I’ll bring it back to you after I finish reading and signing it.”

Shen Zhijin poured her a glass of water.

Ning Li nodded and sat down on the sofa.

“Thank you, Teacher Shen.”

Shen Zhijin turned around and entered the study, supposedly to get a pen.

Ning Li looked around.

She had assumed that the house would be very simple and empty because Shen Zhijin lived alone.

However... It was actually quite different from what she had imagined.

On the coffee table in the living room, there was an exquisite bone china tea set.

In the vase on the dining table, there was a bunch of blooming red camellias.

There were a few paintings hanging on the wall, some traditional Chinese paintings, and some hand-drawn cartoons.

On the balcony, there was a log-colored rattan chair, on which was a white pony doll. An easel had been placed beside it.

After sitting for a while, Ning Li stood up and walked to the paintings. It was obvious that they had all been painted by the fourth Miss Gu.

Ning Li looked at them quietly for a while, before turning her head and noticing a transparent glass cabinet on the other side of the wall.

The cabinet had been neatly divided into several staggered small spaces, with all kinds of small objects inside.

Ning Li saw a familiar thing in a space in the upper right corner.

It was Lin Fengmian's TO sign album.

She suddenly realized something and looked more closely at the space in front of her again.

She had been quite far away earlier, so she had not seen it clearly. Now that she was close, she finally saw what was inside.

Colorful building blocks, a piggy bank in the shape of a big-headed doll, a nebula comic strip, a crystal hair clip, a blue skirted curly-haired doll, a music box, book slips, small binoculars...

The album had been placed in the last frame.

Chapter 668 Perhaps It Was Not a Delusion

The sound of footsteps came from behind.

Ning Li turned around and saw Shen Zhijin holding the sealed document bag in his hand.

Seeing that Ning Li was looking at the gift in the glass cabinet, he was momentarily stunned, but quickly recovered.

“It’s signed.”

He handed the thing over.

Ning Li walked over and took it with both hands.

She hesitated for a moment before asking, “Teacher Shen, how has your recovery been like?”

Shen Zhijin smiled faintly.

“I’m almost completely healed. I’ll be back to school in two days.”

Ning Li heaved a sigh of relief.

“That’s good. Then... Teacher Shen, I’ll take my leave first, okay?”

Shen Zhijin nodded.

“This has been hard on you.”

Ning Li shook her head. “It’s not hard, it’s my duty.”

Then, she placed the sealed document bag into her backpack and walked out of the door.

Shen Zhijin walked her to the door.

Ning Li turned around to say goodbye. From the corner of her eyes, she saw a corner of the transparent glass cabinet.

Then, she looked at Shen Zhijin.

“Have a good rest.”

On the way back to school, Ning Li received a call from Gu Siqi and his brother.

“Sister Li.” Gu Sicheng sounded especially obedient on the phone. “Previously, you said you would come to Hong Kong City when you had the time. Why has it been so long yet you haven’t come?”

They had been waiting for a long time.

Ning Li rubbed the space between her eyebrows helplessly.

“I’m sorry. I was going to go there as soon as possible, but something happened recently and I’ve been busy, so I haven’t got the time.”

The Gu family was actually aware of the situation here. In fact, they were the first ones to have received the news.

She had received a lot of calls and messages at that time.

Gu Siyang had even suggested sending a few bodyguards from LY, which she had firmly refused.

However, these two young brothers had probably not been told.

“I see...” Gu Sicheng could not hide his disappointment. “Alright then.”

However, he also knew that if this was what Ning Li had said, there was no other way around it.

Gu Siqi took the phone.

“Sister Ah Li, how about we go to the Capital to look for you in a few days’ time? It just so happens that we’ll be on vacation soon!”

Ning Li thought about it.

Shen Zhijin would be able to go back to school in a few days and gradually resume his work.

By then, as his assistant, she would finally have some free time.

She nodded.

“Okay.”

Wednesday.

Early in the morning, Ning Li arrived at 601 and saw that Yan Qiu and the other two were already there.

She looked at them strangely.

“Senior Brother, why are you guys here so early?”

Usually, she would be the first to arrive, but she had not expected to be the last to arrive today.

Yan Qiu was adjusting the equipment when he heard this.

“Today is the first group meeting since the boss got injured. Of course, we have to take it seriously!”

Fu Niannian was holding his computer, with faint dark circles under his eyes. It was obvious that he had stayed up all night again. He let out a long sigh.

“Isn’t that right? During the period when the boss wasn’t around, the progress of my experiment and thesis was very uncertain. Now that the boss is finally coming back, it can finally be saved!”

Tang Yi moved closer to Ning Li.

“Junior Sister, quickly help me take a look again. Is there any problem with this PowerPoint presentation”

Ning Li was helpless. “Senior Brother, you’ve already asked me to help you take a look three times. I can confirm that there’s no problem.”

“That’s good, that’s good.”

Tang Yi patted his chest.

“I don’t want the boss to suddenly come to the realization that I’m useless due to this period of his absence.”

Ning Li, “...”

She turned on the computer.

Shen Zhijin’s importance to the entire project team was quite evident. Even though she and Yan Qiu had fully cooperated with each other, some of the content still needed Shen Zhijin’s return before it could be pushed forward.

In fact, there were quite a number of things that had been delayed or even stopped because of his injury.

Fortunately, the injury had not endangered Shen Zhijin’s life, and his recovery had been very smooth.

Otherwise, she really did not know—

The familiar sound of footsteps came.

They turned around and saw that it was Shen Zhijin.

Compared to before, he looked a little thinner, and his handsome and clean face looked more cold and distant.

However, this did not affect the excited mood of Yan Qiu and the others.

They still had a future with the boss!

Shen Zhijin pulled out a chair and sat down.

“Let’s each report the progress during this period of time. Yan Qiu, you go first.”

Due to a further delay in the process, the time taken for the report this time had also taken a little longer than before.

By the time the group meeting ended, it was already past twelve o’clock.

Now that Shen Zhijin had returned, everyone felt a lot more at ease, and their mood had improved as well.

Yan Qiu suggested that they go out for a meal together that night.

“How about some hot pot?”

Fu Niannian put down his computer and said seriously, “I agree with all of you.”

Tang Yi nodded repeatedly.

“Yes, yes, yes! I’m all for it!”

They quickly came to an agreement and turned to look at Ning Li at the same time.

Ning Li said, “Sure, I—”

Before she could finish her sentence, her phone rang



She looked down at the caller ID and frowned.

Yan Qiu noticed that she did not look too good, so he curiously asked, "Junior Sister, what's wrong?"

Ning Li's expression returned to normal.

"Nothing, I'm going out to take a call."

As she spoke, she walked out.

She came to a corner of the empty corridor and picked up the call.

"Hello."

A polite man's voice came from the receiver.

"Hello, are you Ning Li?"

"Yes."

"Hello, we're from Lincheng Second Prison. Your father, Ning Haizhou, had a heart attack yesterday and was sent to Lincheng Central Hospital. But you don't have to worry. After resuscitation, he's now out of danger. However, the overall situation is still not very optimistic. Since you're his only immediate relative, it's best for you to come back as soon as possible if it's convenient for you."

Ning Li's hand tightened slightly.

"Okay, I got it. Thank you."

Ning Li returned to the laboratory.

“Senior Brother, I probably won’t be able to have dinner with you guys tonight.”

As Ning Li spoke, she packed up her backpack.

The others looked at each other.

“Why? Little Junior Sister, do you have something else?”

“Yes. I might have to take a leave of absence.”

Ning Li zipped up her bag.

Fu Niannian could not help but ask, “Is it very serious? Do you need our help?”

“Thank you, Senior Brother, but there’s no need,” Ning Li said, “My dad had a heart attack. I’ll be making a trip back to Lincheng.”

The others were shocked. They had not expected this to happen. “Is that so? Then, then... How is he now?” As the eldest senior brother, Yan Qiu continued to question further.

“He’s been resuscitated so he should be fine.”

Ning Li’s voice was very calm.

Yan Qiu and the others did not say anything, but looked at her with worried expressions.

Ning Li guessed their thoughts and said, “Senior Brother, don’t worry. Actually, my grandmother also died of a heart attack. My father has already turned the situation around, so there shouldn’t be any problems for the time being.”

Tang Yi was surprised. "Could it be that it's hereditary within your family?"

"It's just that the heart function isn't too good. The genetic predisposition is relatively small."

"Then, Junior Sister, you—"

Ning Li smiled.

"I've had a checkup, and there's nothing wrong with my heart."

Only then did the others feel relieved.

Ning Li bid them farewell and intended on looking for Shen Zhijin to ask for leave.

However, just as she took a step forward and turned around, she saw Shen Zhijin standing just outside the door. They did not know when he had arrived. In fact, they had actually not noticed him.

However, the timing was just right.

Ning Li walked over and said, "Teacher Shen, I would like to apply for a leave of absence."

Shen Zhijin did not say anything.

His gaze was fixed on Ning Li. The words he had heard just now continued to echo in his ears. In his chest, his heart was gradually beating uncontrollably.

Ning Li felt that he was acting a little strange.

“Teacher Shen—“.

“Ning Li.”

Shen Zhijin’s throat tightened as if he had used up all his strength. He enunciated each word carefully, “You were born in Lincheng Third People’s Hospital, right?”

Chapter 669 If Fate is Merciful, Give Me Back My Tangtang

His heart was beating wildly out of control, almost tearing his chest apart and jumping out of it.

There seemed to be a huge roar echoing in his ears, knocking on the last layer of his weak rationality that he was struggling to hold on to.

His hands were clenched tightly, and his knuckles were white. He did not know how much effort it took to make his voice sound as calm as possible.

As he stared at Ning Li, his whole body tensed up. All his attention was focused on her.

He was waiting for her answer.

It was as if he was waiting for fate to make a judgment.

Ning Li was stunned as she looked at Shen Zhijin.

She could clearly feel that his behavior was very different from usual.

No, or rather, he was like a completely different person altogether.

A hint of confusion flashed across her eyes, but she still gave an answer.

“Yes.”

Yes.

She had said, yes.

At this moment, Shen Zhijin could clearly feel the blood in his body rushing to his heart.

The surrounding scenery became blurry, and all the sounds dispersed.

A moment of blankness even appeared in his mind.

Then, countless images and sounds surged over, tearing apart this blankness and silence!

ess

— I’m allergic to peanuts.

— How can there be such a person like Little Junior Sister, who has such outstanding talent in physics and painting at the same time?

— I didn’t expect Professor Shen’s daughter to be so beautiful.

‘I didn’t expect Professor Shen’s daughter to be so beautiful.’

Shen Zhijin stood frozen to the spot, not moving for a long time, as if he was falling into a dream.

Yes, how could it be so coincidental? How could it be so coincidental?

She was allergic to peanuts, just like Yinyin.

She had an amazing talent for physics and painting

She had eyebrows that were similar to his, and when she smiled, the curve of her lips was the same as Yinyin's.

Her birthday was June 26th.

Shen Zhijin's fingers trembled slightly, and his chest hurt so much that it made it difficult for him to breathe.

It was not that he had never had a dream, it was not that he had never been greedy, and it was not that he had never questioned any 'what ifs'.

However, in the endless years that had passed, he would wake up in the middle of the night again and again and sit alone in the empty and quiet room until dawn.

He would buy up all the camellias in the city and speak the words that would never be answered.

Whether it was joy or sorrow, they had all become ruins that could only be buried at the bottom of his heart.

How could he even dare to think about it?

How could he dare to have such extravagant hopes? He would beg fate to give him back the last ray of light with compassion after it had resolutely crushed all of his flesh and bones.

Ning Li looked at Shen Zhijin. Seeing that he had not responded for a long time, she softly called out, "Teacher Shen, what's wrong?"

She paused for a moment before asking,

“How did you know that I was born in the Third People’s Hospital of Lincheng?”

As she spoke, she saw that there seemed to be endless waves surging in Shen Zhijin’s eyes.

Suddenly, he smiled.

However, that smile was very faint, and there was a faint redness in the corners of his eyes.

He said, “Tangtang was born there, how could I not know?”

Ning Li was stunned. ‘Tangtang?’

‘The same birthday, the same hospital?’

Her lips moved.

“... What a coincidence.”

“Ning Li.”

Shen Zhijin’s eyes were extremely deep as he looked at her, and his voice was very soft as he spoke.

“Tangtang was born with a very serious congenital heart disease.”

In this world, there were people who were not related by blood but looked very similar.

More or less, it seemed to be just an illusion.

There were also many people who were allergic to peanuts.

Whether they were mild or severe, they were actually just similarities.

Therefore, even though she had been here for so long, he had never dared to think about it.

He had only thought that the resemblances that Ning Li had to both him and Yinyin were coincidental.

But if Tangtang and her grandma and father also had such subtle similarities...

Then...

A line could extend freely and go in any direction.

But when the two lines intersected, there was only one definite point.

He wandered in the vast expanse of blank space, wandering left and right of that line, never daring to go forward or take a step closer.

Finally, he now saw that intersection.

In the endless darkness, after enduring through the years, he was finally able to glimpse a bit of daylight.

Ning Li looked at Shen Zhijin in a daze. For a while, the thoughts in her mind were very chaotic.

At first, Shen Zhijin's words sounded very unusual.



However, when she thought about it carefully, they contained a huge amount of information.

More importantly, he was saying these words to her now.

He was saying that both she and Tangtang had been born in the same hospital on the same day.

He was saying that she had so many similarities with him and Miss Gu.

He was saying that Tangtang had the same heart problems as her grandmother and father.

An extremely absurd guess suddenly appeared in her mind.

That guess made her freeze to the spot.

It was like a river that had burst its banks and rushed over, washing away all rationality.

It was as if her brain had suddenly stopped functioning. Everything had come to a standstill until even thinking had become difficult.

She tried hard to piece his words together, gradually piecing together an impossible possibility.

After a long while, she found her voice again.

“... Teacher Shen, what do you mean by saying this to me?”

She heard a slight tremor in the tail end of her voice.

Shen Zhijin looked at her.

Ning Li had been following him for several months. He was very familiar with this beautiful and clean face.

However, at this moment, it was as if he had seen it for the first time. He looked at it carefully.

It was as if it was going to be engraved into the bottom of his heart, leaving a deep imprint.

“Ning Li.”

He said softly, “I want to ask you for two favors.”

“First, I’ll go to Lincheng with you to see Ning Haizhou.

“Second, if Tangtang is still alive, can you help me get her back?”

Chapter 670 Paternity Test

If Tangtang was still alive.

Ning Li’s lips moved slightly. She wanted to say something, but her throat was dry and she could not say a word.

Her chest felt as if it was being weighed down by a huge rock. Even her breathing brought a slight pain to her chest.

After some time had passed, she finally said, “Okay.”

The Lu family.

Lu Huaiyu and Old Master Lu were playing chess with each other in the study room.

During this period of time, Old Master Lu had suffered a lot under Elder Mei, but he had not dared to fight back. He could only vent it on his grandson to make up for it.

“Hey, wait, I made the wrong move!” Said Old Master Lu as he pulled a black chess piece back.

Lu Huaiyu merely raised his eyebrows slightly, having already been used to it.

“It looks like you’ve learned a lot from Elder Mei.”

Old Master Lu choked.

“Didn’t I do it for your sake? In-laws these days are getting more and more difficult to serve!”

If it were not for Ah Li, he would surely have stood up to Mei Yanqing!

Lu Huaiyu laughed.

“Yes, you’re right.”

Old Master Lu stared at the chessboard and switched positions.

Lu Huaiyu’s phone vibrated.

He looked at it and picked it up.

“Ah Li?”

Old Master Lu looked up.

However, the very next moment, Lu Huaiyu's expression changed slightly.

After a while, he said, "I've got it. Wait for me there. I'll be right over."

After saying that, he ended the phone call and quickly stood up.

Old Master Lu rarely saw him like this. He could not help but ask, "What's wrong? Is something going on with Ah Li?"

Lu Huaiyu picked up his jacket. Hearing the questions, he stopped in his tracks and turned around.

"Ah Li and Teacher Shen are going to do a paternity test."

Hong Kong City, the Gu residence.

Old Master Gu and Old Madam Gu were sitting together and sipping tea.

Not far away, Gu Tingchuan was walking over with Gu Siqi and Gu Sicheng.

Both of them were dressed in riding clothes and seemed to have just returned from the Dutian Racecourse.

Gu Siqi looked up at him.

"Dad, who rode better today, me or my brother?"

The two of them had competed in a small race. He had been slightly ahead of Gu Sicheng by a length.

However, Gu Sicheng's riding posture seemed to fit the standard more than his.

That was why he had asked this question.

Hearing this, Gu Sicheng also looked over curiously.

Gu Tingchuan snorted.

"You're both about the same. Same as—"

He paused, but still could not bring himself to pronounce Ning Li's name.

However, the two brothers were smart and quickly guessed what he meant.

"Dad, are you trying to say that Sister Ah Li's horsemanship is the best?"

Gu Sicheng looked at him eagerly.

"We told her that we would go to the Capital to have some fun with her! How about tomorrow?"

Gu Tingchuan wavered for a moment, seemingly in thought.

As they were speaking, they came to stand before Old Master Gu and Old Madam Gu.

Old Madam Gu asked with a smile, "Sicheng, what are you talking about? Why are you so happy?"

Gu Sicheng leaned over.

"Grandmother, we were talking about going to the Capital to look for Sister Ah Li!"

Old Madam Gu came to a realization and smiled kindly.

“Sure, you guys—”

“Old Master.”

A middle-aged man suddenly walked over with quick steps. He was holding a cell phone in his hand, and his expression was solemn and complicated.

His gaze swept past Old Madam Gu and Gu Tingchuan, and he seemed to be a little hesitant.

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Old Master Gu asked, “What’s wrong?” “What’s wrong? Speak.” The middle-aged man bowed slightly, lowered his eyebrows, and narrowed his eyes as he handed the cell phone over.

“Mr. Shen is calling.”

There was silence after he said that.

To the Gu family, ‘Mr. Shen’ naturally only meant that one person. Gu Tingchuan furrowed his brows tightly.

“Why is he calling?!”

Old Madam Gu glanced at him.

“Tingchuan.”

Gu Tingchuan endured it for a while before suppressing the anger in his heart. However, he still looked unhappy.

The expression on Old Master Gu's face faded a lot.

All these years, Shen Zhijin had rarely called this number. This time... He did not know the reason why.

He took the phone.

After a moment, his expression suddenly changed. "What did you say?"

This cry was so sudden that everyone present was shocked. Everyone turned to stare at him.

Old Master Gu's expression changed. It was hard to fathom.

"I've got it."

With that, he hung up the phone.

Old Madam Gu saw that his expression was not right. She frowned.

"Brother Ci, what's wrong?" Old Master Gu did not move and he seemed to be in a trance.

He held the phone tightly in his hand.

He closed his eyes. No emotion could be seen on his face.

Old Madam Gu was a little worried. She called out again, "Brother Ci?"

When Gu Tingchuan saw this, his brows furrowed even more tightly, and his face sank.

“Father, is he—”

Before he could finish, Old Master Gu finally opened his eyes and said in a deep voice, “Qi Yang, prepare the private plane that we will immediately be heading to the Capital.”

It was not just Qi Yang who was shocked. Everyone else was shocked too.

What was going on? Why did he suddenly want to go to the Capital?

Old Master Gu turned his head and looked at Old Madam Gu.

“Ah Qing.”

He paused for a moment before suppressing the many emotions that were churning in his heart. He enunciated each word clearly, “Tangtang might still be alive.”

Old Madam Gu was stunned. It was as if she had not reacted yet.

“What?”

Gu Tingchuan was also shocked. “Tangtang is still alive? But back then, she and yinyin—”

Old Master Gu stood up.

“There’s a possibility that Ning Li might be Tangtang.”

Two hours later, three private planes landed on the tarmac of Jinshui No. 1 Courtyard in the Capital.



At an identification agency in the Capital.

Ning Li and Shen Zhijin sat facing each other in the spacious hall.

The atmosphere was quiet.

Ning Li had her head lowered slightly. Her eyes were a little out of focus. No one knew what she was thinking about.

There seemed to be a lot of images flashing through her mind, either clear or blurry, but it also seemed to be nothing, leaving only a large blank space.

Lu Huaiyu was standing not far away next to a middle-aged man. The man was the head of this identification agency, Sang Yuan.

Sang Yuan could not help but ask, "Second Master, do you still want to wait?"

When he had answered Lu Huaiyu's call previously, he had immediately cleared out the entire identification agency. However, even when they had arrived, they still did not draw blood for a long time. Instead, they had waited.

It had been so long...

Lu Huaiyu's gaze fell on Ning Li. He frowned slightly and nodded.

"Mm. I'll wait."

Just then, there was a sound from outside the door.

Sang Yuan subconsciously looked up, and his eyebrows twitched violently.

Outside the glass door, a number of top-class luxury cars were slowly driving in. Then, they lined up in a row, blocking the whole entrance.