

Little Brat's 671

Chapter 671 You're Back

A tall figure alighted from the car on the left. It was a man who looked to be in his forties.

He first glanced over as if he was looking for something. Finally, his gaze paused for a moment on the two people who were sitting in the hall, with a complicated expression on his face.

Sang Yuan's heart skipped a beat when he saw him.

"Isn't that Gu—"

Gu Tingfeng

In the past few years, the Gu family had gradually transferred a portion of their businesses to the Capital, and Gu Tingfeng had stayed in the Capital for a longer period of time.

This master of the Gu family was famous, and many people knew who he was, him included.

Behind Gu Tingfeng was his wife, Liang Su. Seeing these two people, Sang Yuan was even more shocked.

What was going on today? Why had these two people come at the same time—

Soon, however, he realized that his shock had been a little premature.

After Gu Tingfeng had gotten out of the car, other people also got out of the cars on both sides.

The second master of the Gu family, Gu Tingchuan.

The third master of the Gu family, Gu Tingyun.

The fifth master of the Gu family, Gu Tinglan.

And finally, the young master of the Gu family, Gu Siyang, who got out of the red supercar at the end of the line.

Gu Tingfeng was the first to come to the car in the middle and opened the car door respectfully.

Sang Yuan's eyebrows twitched.

It was almost impossible for there to be a person who could make the master of the Gu family open the car door for them.

In the next moment, an old man in a black tang suit, with white hair and a hale and hearty spirit, got out of the car.

Then, he turned around and reached his hand out to help an old lady with her hair in a bun and dressed in a cheongsam get out of the car.

Sang Yuan immediately gasped.

This was...

The whole Gu family of Hong Kong City had come?!

He finally realized what was going on and turned around abruptly to look at the two people on the other side of the hall.

Shen Zhijin had already stood up and was looking out of the door.

Ning Li also seemed to sense something and looked up.

The Gu family was coming this way.

The glass door opened automatically.

Ning Li felt several pairs of eyes staring at her.

She curled her fingers and finally got up.

At this moment, in the hall of the identification center, both sides were facing each other.

Ning Li and Shen Zhijin stood together, while the Gu family members stood opposite them.

The air seemed to freeze. In the vast space, it was so quiet that one could even hear a pin drop.

Since that accident eighteen years ago, this was the first time Shen Zhijin had officially met the members of the Gu family.

Many long years had passed. Time and time again, in the chaos at dawn, he had constantly woken up in the middle of the night.

A big fire had burned those days and nights into ashes, leaving only the remaining black ashes. They were light and heavy, covering the long track that he had walked with them in the past.

As if to cover everything up silently, after only one meeting, it was determined that they would stay far away from each other.

However, in the end, fate seemed to be willing to take care of them and pull them back together again.

Thus, at this moment, they met again.

The scene was silent.

The moment Old Madam Gu saw Ning Li and Shen Zhijin standing together, her eyes turned red.

The Gu brothers also had complicated expressions on their faces.

Liang Su sighed softly.

Gu Siyang stood in the corner, with a look of shock and bewilderment on his face. He consciously kept quiet.

He had been having his lunch outside when he had received a phone call.

However, he had later found out that he was not the only one. Almost everyone in the Gu family had gathered in the Capital.

His family and uncle happened to be here, so it had been much more convenient for them.

His third uncle, who was having a meeting at the Gu family's media company, had immediately canceled the meeting. His second uncle had even canceled all of his plans for the next few days and flown to the Capital from Hong Kong City together with Old Master Gu and Old Madam Gu.

Now, out of the whole Gu family, the two twin brothers were not in attendance. Due to their young ages, they had been left in the villa at Jinshui No. 1 Courtyard. Their second aunt had also stayed there to look after them and did not come over.

Everyone else was here...

...for Ning Li.

Lu Huaiyu's gaze swept over the Gu family before looking over at Shen Zhijin and Ning Li.

In the end, the gap that had existed for several years still could not be easily overcome.

After thinking for a moment, he then took the lead to lead Sang Yuan forward.

"Old Master Gu, Old Madam Gu. This is the director of the identification center, Sang Yuan."

Sang Yuan was rarely nervous.

He had already been very shocked that Lu Huaiyu himself had come here today.

He had never expected this matter to actually involve the Gu family of Hong Kong City!

He quickly greeted them.

Old Master Gu held Old Madam Gu's hand tightly and finally said slowly, "Let's begin."

In the main hall of the identification center, the members of the Gu family took their seats, one by one.

Lu Huaiyu was making a call just outside the door.

The hall was quiet, and everyone had different expressions on their faces.

Gu Siyang was an impatient person. He sat there for a while until he could not take it anymore. He moved closer to Liang Su and asked in a low voice, "Mom, is Ning Li really Fourth Aunt's daughter?"

Liang Su was silent for a moment.

"The results aren't out yet, but..."

But, it was too coincidental.

One thing could be considered a coincidence, and two might be fate.

But, what about three? Or more?

With the convergence of so many similarities, they had become irrefutable clues and evidence.

Moreover, with Shen Zhijin's personality, if he was not confident enough, he would not have come here, and he would not have called the old man.

So now, all they had to do was wait.

Gu Siyang recalled everything that had happened in Hong Kong City and could not help but nod.

That's right. After all, they had already come this far...

The sound of footsteps came from the corridor, and everyone looked up at the same time.

Ning Li and Shen Zhijin walked out together, as Sang Yuan walked beside them.

Sang Yuan approached the Gu family. At the same time, Lu Huaiyu also ended his call and came in through the door.

He asked, "When will the results of the test be out?"

Sang Yuan quickly said, "The two blood samples have been collected. The results will be out tomorrow."

Lu Huaiyu felt relieved and nodded.

Old Mrs. Gu stood up and finally could not help but call out.

"Ah Li."

Looking at her red eyes, Ning Li's lips moved.

"Old Mrs. Gu."

Tears welled up in Old Madam Gu's eyes, as if she wanted to say something. However, as all kinds of emotions interweaved in her heart, ultimately, she was unable to say a single word.

She took a step forward and held Ning Li's hand. She held back her tears and choked on her sobs as she repeatedly shake her head.

It should not have been.

It should not have been called that.

How had she only known about it now?

Why had she only come now?

Back in Hong Kong City, she should have recognized her the moment she had seen her.

Ning Li's chest seemed to be blocked by something as an indescribable pain surged up.

However, her entire body seemed to be frozen. Even moving her fingers became extremely difficult.

Now that the whole world had turned upside down and the walls had collapsed, she seemed to be unable to do anything.

Suddenly, a boiling hot tear fell on her hand, causing her to tremble slightly.

It seemed as if even her heart was trembling.

She opened her mouth and said softly, "Please don't cry anymore."

As if she had shattered an invisible barrier in an instant, Old Madam Gu raised her eyes to look at her. Her eyes were red and her voice was hoarse.

"So, it turns out that Yinyin had already told me that it was you who had returned. It was you who had returned."

So, there would finally be a response after all the waiting

So, after countless years of trials and tribulations, she was finally willing to return that tiny sliver of hope.

Chapter 672 Waiting

Ning Li suddenly felt a lump in her throat.

She lowered her eyes, and her breathing seemed to go quiet for a moment.

Then, she raised her other hand and wiped away Old Madam Gu's tears.

The hot, wet heat almost melted the scar on her heart.

Gu Tingfeng took the initiative to step forward and said, "Mother, the appraisal has been done. Let's just wait for the results to be released tomorrow. Let's take the Tangtang... take Ah Li home first?"

His words finally reminded everyone present.

Old Madam Gu finally came back to her senses and nodded repeatedly.

"Yes, yes, let's go back first. Let's go back first."

Gu Tingfeng looked at Ning Li and said, "Ah Li, we have prepared a room at Jinshui No. 1 Courtyard for you. The car is outside. Let's go now."

Ning Li's lips moved slightly. Before she could say anything, she suddenly heard Shen Zhijin speak up beside her.

His tone was flat, but his voice was clear and determined.

"She will go back with me today."

Ning Li turned her head and looked at Shen Zhijin.

The expression on his handsome and clean face was as calm as ever. However, under that calmness, there seemed to be endless undercurrents surging.

There was a stubbornness in the tone of his voice like never before.

As far as Ning Li could remember, Shen Zhijin had always maintained a proud and aloof demeanor.

Most of the time, he did not seem to care about anything, and nothing could cause him to become too emotional.

As a result, this often made him look like someone who was indifferent.

This was especially true when he faced the Gu family. With them, he seemed to have put away all his temper and sharp edges.

However, at this time, he had finally stopped giving in and compromising, revealing the pride and sharpness buried deep in his bones.

Gu Tingfeng frowned.

“Shen Zhijin, what are you talking about?”

Shen Zhijin’s gaze was cold.

“I said, she has to go home with me today.”

There was still one more night before the results would come out tomorrow.

He had to guard her without leaving her side.

Some mistakes had been made once, and the price that had been paid was already painful enough.

He had spent half of his life trying to atone for that one mistake.

Now, he would never let it go.

Sensing his determination, Gu Tingfeng frowned even more.

No one spoke, and the atmosphere suddenly became tense.

It was as if there was an invisible string between Shen Zhijin and the Gu family.

No one was willing to let go.

Lu Huaiyu's gaze swept across everyone who was present before he moved to Ning Li's side.

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“Ah Li.”

He called her name, his voice low and gentle, “Where would you like to go back to?”

It did not matter who won this battle between the Gu family and Shen Zhijin.

To him, only she was the most important thing

Her will was more important than anything else.

His voice finally reminded everyone present.

Old Madam Gu gently patted Ning Li's hand and said, "Yes, yes. Let's listen to Ah Li. Ah Li can go wherever she wants to go, okay?"

Ning Li raised her eyes and glanced at Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu said gently, "I just spoke to Elder Mei on the phone. He said that if you want to go over, he can wait for you at any time."

Elder Mei and the others had originally wanted to come over. However, they had worried that there would be too many people, which would unnecessarily add to the trouble and pressure on her, so they held themselves back and waited at Jinse Bay.

Ning Li was silent for a moment. "I would like to return to the Shuiyuan Shijia."

Only a few hours had passed since the time Shen Zhijin had approached her about this matter that afternoon.

However, to her, it felt as if a lifetime had passed.

Countless images flashed back and forth in her mind, almost giving her a splitting headache.

Before the results came out, she did not know where she should go.

She was not even sure who she was.

Hearing her answer, everyone was stunned.

Lu Huaiyu said, "Okay."

After a long while, Old Master Gu said, "Then, let's go back to Shuiyuan Shijia first and let Ah Li have a good rest."

He let out a sigh of relief. No matter how much the other members of the Gu family disagreed, they could not refute him.

Shen Zhijin looked at Ning Li.

He could confront the Gu family, but he could not say no to her.

At this moment, all his perseverance could not beat a single "I want to" from her.

His Adam's apple rolled, and his voice was slightly hoarse as he spoke.

"Okay."

The deadlock was broken. There was finally a unified answer to the question of where to stay tonight.

The group of people walked out of the entrance of the identification center.

Looking at the cars lined up in a row in the courtyard, Ning Li pursed her lips slightly.

She had come with Shen Zhijin, and Lu Huaiyu had arrived shortly after.

After that the Gu family had arrived...

These cars...

None of them seemed suitable for her to follow.

The others looked over, obviously waiting for her to make a choice.

After a moment, she suddenly turned her head and shouted to the side.

“Gu Siyang.”

Gu Siyang was startled when he was suddenly called, and he subconsciously answered, “Hey!”

“Lend me your car for a while.”

“Huh? Oh, oh! Okay, okay!”

Gu Siyang fumbled for his car keys and hurriedly handed them over.

The moment he handed the car keys to Ning Li, Gu Siyang instantly felt that all the gazes around her were focused on him.

The corners of his eyes twitched.

The pressure was too great... The death stare from his old father especially made him feel as if there was a knife at his back.

His strong desire to survive forced him to speak. “Ning Li, shall I go with you?” Ning Li looked at him indifferently.

“Please lend me the car for a day. I’ll drive myself back.”

Gu Siyang quickly said, “Hey! Okay! You can drive it for as long as you want!”

Ning Li thanked him and walked towards the supercar that was parked at the very end.

She unlocked it, got into the car, and fastened her seatbelt.

Almost at the same time, Lu Huaiyu returned to his black Bentley.

Shen Zhijin also got into his car.

Old Master Gu said, “Let’s send Ah Li back.”

After he said that, everyone from the Gu family got into their cars.

The red supercar slowly drove out. After that, the long line of luxury cars followed closely behind.

It was already evening and the sun was setting, dyeing the horizon a warm orange.

The cold wind blew.

However, Ning Li did not feel cold. Instead, she felt that she would be more awake this way.

She felt as if she had thought of so many things, and it was also as if she had thought of nothing at all.

On both sides of the road, the street lamps were lit.

Many passers-by looked over, unable to hide the shock on their faces.

In the Capital, luxury cars were not rare.

However, there were few that were of such high quality, especially since so many of them had appeared all at once.

All the cars followed closely behind the red supercar, maintaining a distance that was neither too far nor too close.

Half an hour later, Ning Li arrived at Shuiyuan Shijia.

This was probably the first time the security guard had seen such an astonishing lineup of luxury cars. He did not ask any questions but immediately let them pass.

Ning Li parked the car downstairs and got out of the car to say goodbye to each of them.

“Old Master Gu, Old Madam Gu, you’ve been on the road all day. Please go back and rest early.”

Then it was Gu Tingfeng and the others.

Finally, it was Shen Zhijin.

Ning Li stood outside the car window and looked at Shen Zhijin quietly for a moment.

“Teacher Shen, goodbye.”

Shen Zhijin replied with a “Hmm”.

Ning Li then turned around and went upstairs.

She entered the elevator alone and went back to the ninth floor. She opened the door and entered the house.

Click.

The door was locked from the inside.

She closed her eyes and leaned against the door for a while.

After some time, she finally opened her eyes and walked towards the living room.

She was about to close the curtains when she accidentally glanced downstairs. Suddenly, her gaze froze.

All the cars were still parked downstairs and waiting in silence.

Chapter 673 I'm Sorry

The night was getting darker and darker. The headlights on the car seemed to tear a hole in the cold night.

Ning Li stood by the floor-to-ceiling window and watched this scene quietly.

She took a light breath. From her nasal cavity to her trachea, then to her chest and heart, there was an oppressive pain that almost made her shudder.

After a while, her cold limbs gradually warmed up and she finally seemed to have regained some consciousness.

Then, she turned around and went downstairs again.

Lu Huaiyu was talking on the phone as he sat in the car.

“Well, we’ll take her to Lincheng.”

Knock, knock.

Lu Huaiyu looked up and saw Ning Li standing outside the window.

He ended the phone call, then pushed the door open and got out of the car.

“Ah Li?”

Ning Li shook her head.

“Second Brother, you should go back first.”

Lu Huaiyu turned around. Seeing the cars parked in sequence behind them, how could he not guess her thoughts?

He withdrew his gaze and looked down at her. His gaze swept across her face carefully.

In fact, ever since she received the call, she had barely said anything. Even her emotions had rarely been revealed.

Perhaps it was because everything had happened so suddenly that she had yet to react.

Just as he was about to speak, his gaze met her eyes which caused him to pause.

After a moment, he gave in and nodded.

“Okay.”

The black Bentley turned around and drove out first.

Then, Ning Li came to the car of Old Master Gu and the others.

Upon seeing her, Old Madam Gu hurriedly said,

“Why did Ah Li come down again?”

Ning Li saw that her eyes were still red.

Both of these people were already quite elderly. Their bodies were probably not able to cope after having traveled so much today, especially Old Madam Gu. Ning Li pursed her lips slightly and said, “The two of you should go back first.”

Afraid that they would refuse, she added on, “Please don’t make me worry, okay?”

As soon as she said this, it worked.

Old Madam Gu was still a little reluctant, so Old Master Gu patted her hand.

“Okay, let’s listen to Ah Li. We’ll come again early tomorrow.”

Old Madam Gu agreed.

Ning Li stepped back and waited for the car to leave before she walked towards the back.

Initially, Gu Tingfeng had been reluctant to leave, but considering that he still had to go back to take care of the two elders, he finally compromised and followed Liang Su back.

Then, it was Gu Tingchuan.

“Second Uncle Gu,” Ning Li called out, “It’s very late, please don’t wait here anymore.”

Gu Tingchuan frowned and said in a deep voice, “I’ve waited for so many years. Waiting one more day isn’t too bad.”

He was a cold and stubborn man. As soon as he said that, Ning Li knew that she could not persuade him anymore.

Instead, she moved on to Gu Tingyun.

However, Gu Tingyun refused to move as well. He looked at the time with a gentle expression on his face, he said, “There’s only a short while left. I don’t mind waiting for a while.”

Finally, it was Gu Tinglan’s turn.

After Gu Siyang had lent Ning Li his car, he had gotten into Gu Tinglan’s car.

“Doctor Gu.”

Gu Tinglan and Gu Siyang were both in the car and looked over at the same time.

Gu Tinglan stared at her for a while before smiling

“Don’t worry, I’ll take Siyang home in a while. There are still some things that need to be arranged in Lincheng.”

Ning Li nodded.

Finally, she came to Shen Zhijin’s car.

He was holding his phone and seemed to be looking at something.

When he heard the sound of movement, he looked up.

Ning Li's gaze swept across his phone. It seemed to be a photo.

"Teacher Shen."

Ning Li's hand tightened slightly.

"The weather is quite cold and your wound hasn't fully recovered. It's better if you go home."

For a long time, Shen Zhijin looked at her silently. Then, he smiled faintly.

His voice was very soft, as if it would be blown away by the wind in this cold winter night at any time.

"Ning Li, I don't have the right to ask you for anything, but I should have the right to wait for this night."

Ning Li went upstairs and turned on all the lights in the room.

The bright light filled the entire space until it was almost blinding.

She curled up on the sofa and hugged her knees as she sat, her eyes somewhat out of focus.

Everything in the past kept appearing in front of her eyes.

In her previous life.

In this life.

Grandma, Ning Haizhou, Su Yuan...

Shen Zhijin, Gu Tingyin...

In the end, it was herself.

—Ning Li.

—Tangtang.

She closed her eyes and rested her head on her knees. Her breathing was so light that it seemed like she was about to disappear.

Shen Zhijin waited downstairs.

Gu Tingchuan and Gu Tingyun did the same.

All three cars were silent, as if they were engaged in some kind of invisible confrontation.

Shen Zhijin looked at the phone again.

It was a photo.

That should have been her as a 13-year-old. In the dilapidated and mottled tube-shaped building, the dirty stagnant water had spread out in meandering water stains on the potholed ground. A few potted plants had toppled over, and the leaves drooped listlessly under the sun.

The edges of her t-shirt were ruffled, and her jeans had been washed until they were white.

The dust floated in the sunlight. She lifted her chin slightly, and her indifferent and arrogant gaze seemed to pass through the years, falling heavily on his heart.

As Shen Zhijin stared at the photo for a long time, a sharp pain spread from the depths of his heart, until it felt as if even his internal organs had begun to hurt.

He held the steering wheel tightly with one hand. As he exerted force, blue veins gradually appeared on the back of his hand.

— I have a student who has been writing a thesis that is quite close to your research direction. Would you like to take a look?

— Ah Li is very outstanding. She got a perfect score in the National Physics Competition and is also the top scorer in science in the M Province College Entrance Examination!

— Oh, right, she applied for the Department of Astronomy at Xijing University. I'm sure you will have the chance to meet her.

— That Ning Li? Her parents got divorced, then her father went to prison. Her mother remarried, and she was brought up by her grandmother.

— I heard that she used to earn her living expenses and tuition fees by working part-time.

Shen Zhijin finally could not take it anymore. He bent down slightly, and pain appeared between his handsome and clean eyebrows.

He pressed his forehead against his arm and closed his eyes tightly.

— In the past, my father owed someone his life and those people came to collect the debt. I couldn't pay them back, but I've still managed to live well until now, right?

— Ning Li! Do you really want me to kneel down and beg you to help your brother?! How could you be so cruel?!

— Teacher Shen, does this mean that Senior Brother Yan Qiu and I will be paid equally for our work?

— My birthday is June 26th.

— Thank you, Teacher Shen.

An endless chill invaded from all directions, trapping him tightly until he was unable to break free.

He thought of what she had said and how she had been alone that day, surrounded by so many people. He thought of the letter that she had torn apart and thrown into the trash can, and the steel pipe that had been used to smash at her.

Shen Zhijin's body trembled violently, and the pain almost tore him apart.

The cold watch pressed against his forehead, and it hurt.

How could it hurt so much?

How could it hurt so much?

A low, hoarse voice sounded in the car.

"I'm sorry... Yinyin... I'm sorry... Tangtang... I'm sorry..."

He repeated it again and again.

The lights in Ning Li's building were left on the whole night, from the darkness till dawn.

When the early morning came, several cars arrived downstairs to wait.

Ning Li got up from the sofa and washed up briefly.

She stared at herself in the mirror for a long time before she carried her backpack and went downstairs.

Just like yesterday, she chose to drive herself.

Half an hour later, the group arrived at the identification center.

Sang Yuan was already waiting with a sealed document bag in his hand.

That was the result of the paternity test for Ning Li and Shen Zhijin.

Chapter 674 Hello, Shen Tangtang

Ning Li's gaze lingered on it for a moment.

When Sang Yuan saw the crowd that was coming, he hesitated for a moment. However, in the end, he handed the paternity test results to Shen Zhijin first.

Naturally, the client who had requested for the paternity test had the right to know first.

Shen Zhijin reached out with his hand and took the sealed bag.

Everyone's gaze was focused on him.

Shen Zhijin had not slept the whole night, but he was not sleepy at all. Instead, he felt extremely awake.

In all these years, he had never been more awake than now.

He lowered his head slightly and opened the sealed bag with his slender fingers.

At the moment, his eyelids had drooped slightly. On his handsome and thin face, his expression was exceptionally calm.

However, his hand was trembling slightly.

He pulled out the thin paternity test report and his eyes finally landed on it.

He read each and every word extremely seriously, as if they had been deeply engraved in his heart.

His reading speed had always been extremely fast, but at this moment, everything seemed to have been deliberately slowed down.

The flow of time slowed down and became viscous. Finally, it stretched into long threads that wrapped around him.

His breathing and heartbeat seemed to have left his will at this moment.

He read the report for a very long time.

When he saw the appraisal opinion in the last column, his breathing stopped. Then, he finally heard the sound of his heart falling from the sky.

It was as if the ice-cold barrier had been broken. What he saw, heard, read, and thought finally rushed into his lonely wandering soul.

The universe was vast, and he was so small.

The world had once given him the best gift of his life, making him think that he was the luckiest person in the world. Then, it had cruelly taken everything back at an extremely painful price and told him that everything was just what he had thought.

Fate had played an extremely evil joke on him, giving him joy and fulfilling his dreams. However, in the end, he had been stripped of all his pride, crushed, and thrown into the dust.

He could no longer remember how long he had walked alone in the boundless darkness. All he remembered was the wind and frost, and the desolation on the ground.

He lingered between life and death, drifting between reality and fantasy.

The watch on his left wrist stood still, as if it could persuade him that time was still there on that day.

He had not lost everything on that day.

However, every time he took it off, the scar reminded him again and again, pulling back his past memories and grinding them to the extreme.

For a very, very long time, he did not know why he was still living like this.

Today, he had finally gotten the answer.

If the countless torments between then and now had all been for this moment...

Fate and time—

If they wanted his arrogance, he would give it.

If they wanted his pride, he would give it.

If they wanted him to suffer, wanted him to bleed, wanted him to kneel and beg for mercy...

He would give it.

He gave it.

He would kneel.

Everyone's eyes were on Shen Zhijin.

He held the report without moving for a long time, as if he had frozen to the spot.

Finally, Old Madam Gu could not help but call out.

"Zhijin."

Shen Zhijin came back to his senses and slowly raised his eyes.

He handed the report to Old Madam Gu.

However, his eyes were looking at Ning Li.

When their eyes met, Ning Li felt as if her heart had been hit by something. She felt that she already knew the answer. Old Madam Gu looked at the report and read the last few lines of the report over and over again. Hot tears streamed down her face.

Old Master Gu was standing beside her, so naturally, he had seen it all clearly.

He closed his eyes and let out a long breath.

The pain from the past that he had buried for so many years and had not dared to touch, finally poured out with this long sigh.

“Ah Li... Ah Li...”

Old Madam Gu called out her name with a sob,

“I knew that Yinyin would not lie to me, I knew it...”

Ning Li silently took the report.

She read it line by line.

Name, date of birth, blood sample collection.

Test results.

Analysis notes.

Finally—

Appraisal opinion:

According to the DNA test results, based on the analysis of the results of 16 different gene loci, the probability of establishing the biological paternity between Shen Zhijin and Ning Li is 99.9999%. After

excluding the interference from multiple identical cells, close relatives, and external sources, the results support the fact that Shen Zhijin is the biological father of Ning Li.

Ning Li stared at the last sentence as her slender fingers tightened, and her knuckles turned white.

From yesterday until now, it was not that she had not imagined this result.

However, now that the result was in front of her, the surging impact was much stronger than she had expected.

It was like a torrent rushing down and swallowing her in an instant.

Many images seemed to appear in front of her eyes and her ears were ringing.

— Her father is a murderer, so she must be a little murderer too! Her mother doesn't even want her anymore!

— Our Ah Li is the best child in the world.

— When you arrive at the Ye family, you'll have to change those bad habits of yours from before.

—You're the elder sister. What's wrong if you give in to your younger siblings??

— How could I have a daughter like you??

Those were the nightmares that she could not get rid of. They had haunted her day and night, forcing her into a desperate situation.

She had compromised so many times until she had been forced to the edge of the cliff, finally falling into the abyss.

From her previous life to this life.

She had told herself that what did not belong to her would still never belong to her in the end.

So it was better not to be demanding, better not to be delusional.

However, one day, she finally understood that everything had been wrong from the start.

Xu Yin's words echoed in her ears and gradually became a huge roar.

The fire had burned for a long time. Zhijin had rushed back and desperately rushed into the fire. It was only with great difficulty that the people around him had managed to pull him back.

His poor wife and daughter had been buried together in the fire. When their bodies were found, the child had still been tightly protected in her arms.

— Tangtang, for Tangtang.

— I hope she has no worries in her life.

Something seemed to collide violently within Ning Li's chest, blurring her vision and causing her ears to buzz.

It turned out that the album had been for her.

It turned out that the pony doll for the Mid-Autumn Festival had been for her.

It turned out that the candy and toys in the passenger seat compartment had been for her.

It turned out that the whole wall of gifts had been for her.

It turned out that she was not a weed that was struggling out of the mire and covered in mud.

There had also been people who had protected her as if she was a treasure. They had protected her in their arms until they had died, unwilling to let her feel any pain.

There were also people who had remembered her all through these years, through all the festivals and birthdays, and had meticulously given her gifts to please her.

Ning Li opened her eyes and the boiling hot tears finally fell.

Chapter 675 Don't You Want to Hug Tangtang

Old Madam Gu stepped forward and held her hand tightly, almost sobbing uncontrollably.

"My Ah Li... My Tangtang has suffered so much..."

When she saw this result, she was overjoyed, yet her heart ached even more.

She did not dare to think about how Ning Li had survived all these years.

While she was in Hong Kong City, she had accidentally overheard Ning Li mention that she used to draw people in the park to earn money. Later, she had found out what kind of background she had come from.

Her parents had divorced, her father had gone to prison, and her mother had remarried. For eleven years, she had been ignored by her mother.

How old had she been when she had learned to go out and earn money?

She had never had a normal, simple and happy childhood, much less be pampered and spoiled.

Poverty, bullying, fighting, struggling.

For eighteen years.

The warm embrace dispelled the coldness around her, and Ning Li slowly came back to her senses.

She reached out and hugged Old Madam Gu back. Her lips moved, and she finally spoke in a soft voice.

“Grandma, don’t cry. Am I not fine?”

She was still alive. She was alive and well

now.

This was enough.

Hearing her call her that, Old Madam Gu’s tears fell even more fiercely. She touched her face.

“Ah Li is good... Our Ah Li is really the best...”

Old Master Gu patted her shoulder gently with slightly reddened eyes.

“Ah Qing, this is a great happy occasion. Why are you crying?”

As he spoke, he looked at Ning Li as if he wanted to say something. However, he felt as if there was something stuck in his throat.

After a long while, he said in a hoarse voice, “Ah Li... Very good, very good!”

Her equestrian skills were so good.

She was the top scorer in the M province’s science college entrance examination.

She loved drawing and was good at it too, just like Yinyin.

When she smiled, she was as beautiful and moving as Yinyin.

That was enough, it was really enough.

What more could one ask for?

What else could be better than this?

Ning Li’s lips curved slightly.

“Thank you, Grandfather.”

Old Master Gu’s throat choked up. He could not speak anymore and only nodded his head vigorously.

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The report was passed on to Gu Tingfeng and the others, one after another. In the end, everyone was relieved.

For this moment, all the waiting was worth it.

Gu Tingfeng stood by the side. His heart was filled with joy, excitement, and love. Finally, he could not help but say, "Ah Li, quickly come and acknowledge me. Don't call me by the wrong name again in the future." Ning Li called out, "First Uncle." Gu Tingchuan quickly responded, "Hey!"

He immediately frowned.

With a momentary lapse of attention, he had allowed his elder brother to steal the show again!

After all, he had waited downstairs the whole of last night!

He coughed heavily and looked at Ning Li.

"Ah Li, Siqi and Sicheng are both at home. They don't know about this news yet. It just so happens that they have been talking about how they want to have some fun with you. Why don't you tell them this news yourself when we get home?"

Ning Li thought about it and felt that it was a good idea, so she nodded.

"Alright, I'll follow your suggestion, Second Uncle."

Gu Tingchuan was finally at ease.

Seeing this, Gu Tingyun snorted softly.

Ning Li happened to look over.

Gu Tingyun cooperated by starting to cough.

"Cough cough, cough cough—".

Ning Li frowned slightly.

“Third Uncle, do you have a cold?”

“Cough, cough, cough, it’s nothing, cough, cough...”

Gu Tingyun waved his hand, with a gentle expression on his face.

“I might have caught a cold last night, but it’s not serious. I’ll be fine after taking some medicine.”

Ning Li finally felt relieved.

“That’s good.”

She had been worried about this problem yesterday, and as expected, it was still...

Gu Tingchuan turned his head to look at Gu Tingyun. It was unbelievable how shameless he was.

He had waited the whole night too! Why had he not caught a cold?

He had not been coughing before. However, the moment Ning Li had acknowledged him, he had started coughing?!

—He really should take some medicine!

Gu Tingyun looked at him but did not mind his disdain. He gave a small smile.

At a time like this, what was there to be shy about?

Compared to his brothers, Gu Tinglan was the calmest.

After all, he was the one who was closest to Ning Li. “Ah Li,” he said with a smile, “Next time, don’t call me Doctor Gu anymore.”

Ning Li paused.

“Got it, Little Uncle.”

Gu Siyang finally could not hold it in anymore and rushed forward.

“Me! And me!”

He was going crazy from holding it in!

He had been forced to wait for his grandparents, his father, and a few uncles first.

Finally, it was his turn!

He looked at Ning Li with tears in his eyes.

“Don’t call me Boss anymore! I’m your cousin! Cousin!”

Ning Li was silent for a moment. “When did I... call you Boss?”

Gu Siyang, “???”

“No... But we already signed the contract...” Gu Siyang said pitifully, “So, that was our relationship!”

Old Master Gu suddenly said, "Siyang."

Gu Siyang turned his head. "Huh? Grandfather?"

Old Master Gu asked,

"How much money did your company take from Ah Li? Quickly spit it out."

Gu Siyang, "???"

Wait, wasn't he supposed to be the wisest person in the family?!

He was the one who had signed Ning Li long ago. Who else in the family was the most supportive of Ning Li than him?!

Without hearing Gu Siyang's reply, Old Master Gu said again, "Forget it, just bring me the contract later. I'll take a look at it myself."

Gu Siyang, "..."

This was not the time to look down on how he dealt with his matters!

Gu Siyang grunted. "Oh."

In the end, he still struggled to give Ning Li a pleading look.

"Cousin, you can't just abandon me!"

Ning Li could not help but laugh.

“Yes, I know.”

As she spoke, she raised her head to look at Shen Zhijin, who was behind the crowd.

Everyone was surrounding her, except for him. He had not moved an inch since he had seen the report.

He was looking at her quietly from that distance.

It was as if he was far apart from all the joy and excitement.

Ning Li took a light breath and walked over.

Everyone noticed this and turned to look at Shen Zhijin as well.

Ning Li came to stand in front of him.

After a moment of silence, she held his hand and touched the icy-cold watch on his wrist with her fingertips.

Shen Zhijin’s fingers trembled slightly. Ning Li said softly, “Dad, aren’t you going to hug your Tangtang?”

Chapter 676 The Long Road to Chasing His Wife

It turned out that God had heard his prayers, day and night. After he had sacrificed everything that he had, God had finally been willing to return the light to him.

The drifting soul had returned and was finally tied to his hand.

Shen Zhijing's heart seemed to stop beating

for a moment.

For a moment, he almost thought that it was a dream.

No, he did not even dare to have such a dream.

However, the warmth coming from the hand that was touching him confirmed to him that it was true.

She was Tangtang.

She was back.

She said, "Dad, aren't you going to hug your Tangtang?"

Shen Zhijin felt a lump in his throat and finally raised his hand.

His voice was very low and very soft, like a traveler who had walked alone in the desert for too long. His voice was extremely dry and hoarse.

"Tangtang, let Daddy hug you."

He put his arms around her shoulders and hugged her tightly.

The huge black hole at the bottom of his heart, which had been eroded by the wind and rain for so many years, was finally filled up at this moment.

The sound of the wind stopped, and his soul was at peace.

Ning Li pressed her forehead against his chest and closed her eyes.

It turned out that he had missed her.

It turned out that the one minute of silence on the stage on the day of his lecture had been for her.

It turned out that not only the wound on his arm, but the old scar on his wrist had also been for her.

The tip of her nose was sore and her eyes were burning

Countless memories flashed through her mind, and her shoulders trembled slightly.

A tear gushed out and fell onto Shen Zhijin's chest, soaking through a small section of his clothes.

Through his winter clothes, Shen Zhijin could not feel this tear.

However, for some reason, the moment she had cried, he had known.

She was crying

His entire body froze, and a hint of panic and helplessness appeared in his eyes.

He moved his hand and finally raised it. Finally, after hesitating for a moment, he gently touched her back and clumsily patted it repeatedly.

"Tangtang, don't cry."

He spoke softly, reciting the things he had never had the chance to say in the past few years.

He had bought many gifts for her. Other people's daughters had them, so he had wanted her to have them too.

He could not have possibly known her preferences or her interests. He did not know if she liked these things. However, if he prepared more, there should be something there that she would treasure.

However, because he had been absent for eighteen years, even the most basic act of coaxing was extremely awkward.

Ning Li leaned against his chest for a long time. The many emotions that surged in her heart seemed to gradually calm down as he comforted her.

It was a subtle and indescribable feeling.

When she was in pain, he would be in pain as well.

So that was how it was.

So that was how it was to have a parental bond, to have the love and longing of a parent.

So that was how it was to regain what was lost. There was no better expectation than this.

She nuzzled her face against his chest before withdrawing herself.

She lowered her eyes slightly. It was not clear whether she was looking at his arm or his wrist.

After a moment, she asked softly, "Dad, does the wound still hurt?"

Shen Zhijin's eyelashes trembled slightly.

Everyone knew that in order to save her, he had gotten a cut on his arm.

At this moment, they also thought that she was asking about that particular wound.

However, during this period of time, she had constantly been by his side and was the clearest about the progress of his recovery.

The wound had already scabbed over and no longer hurt.

Yet, she had still asked this question.

He knew what she was actually asking.

After a moment, he shook his head and smiled. A faint smile appeared on his handsome and elegant face.

"It doesn't hurt anymore."

It doesn't hurt anymore.

When the members of the Gu family saw this scene, their expressions were also complicated.

How could they not have understood that what had happened back then had not been Shen Zhijin's fault?

However, after losing Yinyin and Tangtang, they had been overcome with grief and everyone had been wrapped up in their pain.

They had blamed Shen Zhijin for not taking good care of mother and daughter, while they blamed themselves as well.

They had thought that the chasm had been drawn and that they would be cut off from each other forever.

However... Tangtang was still alive.

She was back.

After experiencing countless torments and hardships, she had finally returned.

Lu Huaiyu stood to the side and observed quietly.

It had only been a day since yesterday, but his little girl's world had undergone such a drastic change.

He looked at her with deep eyes. He saw her surrounded by the Gu family and leaning into Shen Zhijin's arms.

He had seen her at a loss, he had seen her speechless and shocked, and he had finally seen her cry.

However, in the end, the truth had come out.

He heaved a sigh of relief. That dull pain in his chest also seemed to have finally dissipated, and his brows and eyes suffused with a smile.

From this moment on, there would be many, many people who would love her.

The phone rang, and he took it out to take a look. Cheng Xiyue was calling.

He answered the call.

“Hmm, go ahead.”

Cheng Xiyue said something over on the other end. Lu Huaiyu looked over at everyone and pondered for a moment.

“At the earliest, this afternoon. At the latest, tomorrow. Just send someone to keep an eye on them first.”

Hearing this, Old Master Gu and the others realized something and glanced at him.

Lu Huaiyu thanked Cheng Xiyue first before hanging up the phone.

Meeting everyone’s gazes, he said, “Everything on Lincheng’s end has already been arranged. Ning Haizhou is in the hospital and prison guards have been assigned to guard him alone. Su Yuan and Ye Cheng have also arrived there and are currently staying at the Cheng family’s hotel.”

He looked at his watch.

“We can set off at any time.”

Ever since he had received Ning Li’s call yesterday, Lu Huaiyu had already started making arrangements.

Although the Gu family was the number one family in Hong Kong City, it was not convenient for them to do things in Lincheng.

Besides, he, Shen Zhijin, and others were still in the Capital.

He had sent his own people to take action while he had asked Cheng Xiyue to set off from Yunzhou to Lincheng. The situation had basically been stabilized now, and they were only waiting for this side to pass.

Old Master Gu looked at him with slightly narrowed eyes.

One had to admit that Lu Huaiyu was indeed an outstanding man. Although he was young, his style of doing things was straightforward and decisive to the extreme.

Even someone as picky as him had to admit this point.

But—

“Thank you.”

Old Master Gu said in a low voice, “This favor, the Gu family will remember it.”

Lu Huaiyu paused for a moment, the corners of his thin lips slightly raised.

“It’s my duty.”

Old Master Gu stared at him.

Gu Tingfeng frowned.

Gu Tingchuan’s expression was cold.

Gu Tingyun laughed.

Gu Tinglan raised his eyebrows and said gently, "Father, Second Master Lu is my friend. It's indeed appropriate for him to help with this favor. Don't worry, I'll return this favor personally later."

The fifth master of the Gu family had always been a gentleman. He knew the right things to say and do to put others at ease.

It was the same at this moment. Only the words "my friend" were uttered with a hint of the gnashing of teeth.

The scene fell silent for a moment.

Gu Siyang silently took a step back. It was so f*cking cold! Lu Huaiyu heard this, but he did not seem to notice it at all.

He tilted his head slightly and his gaze fell on Ning Li. He smiled slightly.

"Naturally, Ah Li's business is my business. There's no need for any returning of favors."

Hearing this, Shen Zhijin finally looked up.

Lu Huaiyu asked, "Teacher Shen, when do you think is the right time to go?"

In this matter, of course, it was best for Shen Zhijin to decide.

Shen Zhijin looked at him, but did not immediately answer the question. Instead, he asked a rhetorical question, "When is... the right time?"

He paused and then looked at Ning Li. His expression was calm as he spoke with a flat tone of voice.

"You were already with him before you went to Xijing University?"

Chapter 677 In-Laws

Ning Li, "..."

She blinked and her eyes met Shen Zhijin's gaze. In a split second, she remembered something.

Previously, when Lu Huaiyu had accompanied her to the advanced math class and sent her back to the institute, he had hugged her and kissed her beneath the street lamp. They had bumped into Shen Zhijin at that time.

The space between her eyebrows twitched slightly and she coughed.

"... Ah."

It would be easy for Shen Zhijin to find out about this matter.

At that time, she had only felt embarrassed because it had happened in front of her teachers and elders. Who would have thought that one day, her identity would be reversed?

Now that she thought back to those things from back then, it was truly... an extraordinary sour feeling.

Shen Zhijin replied with a faint "hmm". It was not clear what he was feeling.

Ning Li tugged at his sleeve gently.

Shen Zhijin narrowed his eyes. Feeling sorry for his daughter, he decided not to continue to delve into this issue.

He looked at Lu Huaiyu.

“We’ll go over in the afternoon.”

In a room of water.

In a top-class private room, everyone was sitting around.

After the results of the paternity test had come out and the dust had settled, it could be considered that everyone had breathed a sigh of relief. They then discussed having a reunion dinner together.

Ning Li was sitting next to Old Madam Gu as she chatted with her.

As she spoke, she would look to her right from time to time.

Lu Huaiyu was talking to Old Master Gu and Shen Zhijin.

They seemed to be talking about Lincheng.

Old Master Gu’s expression was solemn, while Shen Zhijin’s gaze was cold.

Lu Huaiyu had not known much about the past between the Gu family and Shen Zhijin. However, after Ning Li’s background had been exposed, he had already started to investigate.

Combining his connections and the Cheng family’s connections in Lincheng with presence of the Gu family and Shen Zhijin, things would be much easier to handle.

Ning Li had been carried off by the wrong person. However, it was still uncertain whether it had been a mistake that had been caused by the hospital’s carelessness or because someone had deliberately done it.

The truth would only be known when they reached Lincheng.

“Sister Ah Li!”

Two cheerful voices suddenly came from the door.

Ning Li raised her head and saw the two young Gu twin brothers walking over excitedly.

Yun Jingrou followed behind them. When she saw Ning Li, she smiled.

She already knew that Ning Li was Shen Zhijin’s daughter, but she had not told the two brothers yet because she wanted to give them a surprise.

The two brothers quickly came over. They greeted Old Madam Gu first before looking at Ning Li.

Gu Sicheng asked, “Sister Ah Li, did you miss

us?”

Ning Li smiled.

“I did.”

Gu Siqi was about to say something when he turned her head and noticed Shen Zhijin. He was shocked.

“Fourth Uncle is here too?!”

He had blurted this out because he was too shocked.

After he had finished speaking, he realized something was wrong and looked at Old Madam Gu uneasily.

This... this was not a problem, right?

He really could not be blamed. After all, he had actually seen his fourth uncle and grandfather sitting together!

Gu Siyang walked over and smacked each of their heads.

"Are you still calling her Sister Ah Li?"

The two brothers covered their heads.

"Cousin! If we don't call her Sister Ah Li, then what should we call her?"

Ning Li's smile deepened.

"Well, it's a little troublesome to call me that. You can just call me cousin from now on."

"Okay! Si... Cousin?!"

Subconsciously, Gu Sicheng had been about to call her as usual, but then he quickly realized that something was wrong and his eyes widened in shock.

Gu Siqi was also stunned.

He looked at Ning Li, then at Shen Zhijin on the other end, and said in disbelief, "Cousin... Cousin is Fourth Uncle's daughter?!"

Gu Siyang chuckled.

“Boss’s reaction speed is pretty good.”

Hearing his affirmative answer, the two brothers were completely shocked. Then, excitement gradually appeared on their small faces.

“Sister Ah Li is truly a sister! No wonder everyone in the family came today!”

Then, wouldn’t they be able to visit her frequently in the future?!

Just then, some other people came to the door.

It was Mei Yanqing and Yu Pingchuan.

After the results of the paternity test had come out, Ning Li sent a message to Elder Mei.

When Old Master Gu had found out, he had insisted that she invite them over.

After all, Ning Li was now Mei Yanqing’s last disciple. In the past few years, Mei Yanqing and Yu Pingchuan had taken good care of Ning Li.

The Gu family would definitely remember this favor.

So today, to show their respect and gratitude, they had been invited to join the family reunion.

Ning Li stood up to receive them.

“Master, Senior Brother.”

Elder Mei had an emotional expression on his face as he looked at Ning Li.

Upon learning of Ning Li's true identity, even someone like him, who was used to many storms, had not been able to calm down for a long time.

Ning Li was his youngest disciple, and he had always treated her like his own granddaughter.

He knew best how much she had suffered and how much she had suffered.

Now, the bitterness had finally come to an end.

Ning Li said, "Master, your body has only just recovered. It's not good for you to travel back and forth like this."

Elder Mei waved his hand.

"Today is a special day! For Ah Li's sake, I had to come!"

Yu Pingchuan also smiled.

"That's right. The last time I went to Hong Kong City, how could I have imagined that you and the Gu family would have such a relationship?"

Ning Li felt a warmth in her heart.

"Thank you, Master, Senior Brother."

At that moment, Shen Zhijin walked over.

“Elder Mei, Teacher Yu.” Shen Zhijin’s expression was extremely serious. “Thank you for taking care of Ah Li previously.”

On the other side, Old Master Gu and the others came to receive them personally.

“Elder Mei, Pingchuan, please come in.”

Mei Yanqing was the oldest here. Furthermore, he was Ning Li’s master. Even Old Master Gu had to give way to him.

Mei Yanqing looked at Old Master Gu and then at Shen Zhijin.

“Both your families are indeed blessed—”.

Before he could finish, footsteps came from behind.

Everyone turned around and saw Old Master Lu walking over in a hurry.

The people there looked at each other for a moment.

Old Master Lu first saw Mei Yanqing standing at the door and immediately greeted him happily.

“In-laws!”

As soon as he finished speaking, the surroundings instantly quieted down.

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Sensing this subtle change in the atmosphere, Old Master Lu was stunned for a moment before he walked forward hesitantly.

As soon as he walked, he spotted Old Master

Gu.

Gu Ci?

So, that was Ah Li's grandfather?

He hurriedly called out again.

"In-law!"

The air froze.

Old Master Lu paused.

What was this... Why did these people react like this?!

Shifting his gaze slightly, only then did he see Shen Zhijin.

Shen Zhijin?

Ah Li's father?

This was the real deal!

Old Master Lu went forward in joy.

“Dear— Zhijin!”

Chapter 678 Killing the Competition

Lu Huaiyu, who was walking towards them, stopped in his tracks. He closed his eyes and pressed the space between his eyebrows.

After the old man had found out about the results of the appraisal, he had insisted on coming over personally.

Thinking that it was normal that the old man was concerned about this matter since it was indeed a big deal for Ah Li, he had agreed.

Now, however, it seemed that he was questioning whether this decision had been right or wrong.

In the silence, Ning Li took the initiative to speak, breaking the delicate deadlock.

“Ahem, Grandfather Lu.”

Old Master Lu looked at Ning Li. Thinking of all the things that had happened before, he felt both heartache and happiness.

It was just that there were too many in-laws.

However, in line with the principle of fairness and justice, not favoring one over the other, Old Master Lu had already decided in his heart that he would definitely have to treat everyone equally!

No, he had to pay extra attention to treating everyone equally!

Then, he walked forward with a smile.

“Why is everyone standing at the door? Let’s go in together! Today, Ah Li is going home. We have to celebrate properly, don’t we?”

Hearing his words, Old Master Gu’s eyebrows twitched.

Anyone who did not know better would still think that Ah Li was the granddaughter that the Lu family had just found instead!

Mei Yanqing could not be bothered to save the situation and just walked in.

With his movement, everyone finally followed and took their seats one by one.

On Ning Li’s left was Old Madam Gu, and on her right was Shen Zhijin.

Old Master Lu thought for a long time, but in the end, he decided to sit next to Shen Zhijin.

He had seen enough of Mei Yanqing’s ugly face. Gu Ci’s family was also lively, so it was probably best for him to win over Shen Zhijin. Moreover, Shen Zhijin had been the first to suspect Ning Li’s background.

If it had not been for him, who knew when the truth would have come out?

Lu Huaiyu smiled and sat down beside Old Master Lu.

He looked up at Ning Li.

Even though he could not sit next to her, watching her being loved and protected by so many people was more than enough.

As if sensing his gaze, Ning Li suddenly looked over.

Lu Huaiyu's thin lips twitched slightly.

It was hard for him to believe that his little girl was still thinking about him at this time.

Old Madam Gu picked up a piece of lotus root clip and placed it in Ning Li's bowl.

"I remember when we were in Hong Kong City, Ah Li liked to eat this."

At that time, Ning Li had accompanied Old Madam Gu for a good period of time, so Old Madam Gu had a certain understanding of her taste preferences.

Ning Li's smiled until her eyes curved.

"Thank you, Grandma."

Shen Zhijin looked over, his gaze fixed on the lotus root clip for a moment. Gu Tingfeng said, "Speaking of which, the last time Ah Li came over for a meal, she especially liked the cola chicken wings that Liang Su made."

Liang Su had a gentle smile on her face.

"In the future, if Ah Li wants to eat, she can come over anytime." Ning Li nodded. "Thank you, Uncle and Aunt."

Gu Siyang's eyes lit up.

"Mom, I Like your Kung Pao Chicken! Your culinary skills are getting better and better! Next time when I go home, I want to—"

Liang Su placed a piece of tofu into his bowl.

“Kung Pao chicken is so hard to make. Can’t you just order your own takeout?”

Gu Siyang, “...”

He should have known that he should not have any illusions...

Then, Gu Tingchuan seemingly unintentionally said, “Oh right, Ah Li, previously you mentioned that the cake given by Siqi and Sicheng’s school was delicious. I’ve asked around and found out that it was made by a private dessert shop in Haicheng. If you like it, I can ask them to send a copy of their list over later. Order whatever you want at any time. They can send it by air.”

Ning Li, “... Thank you, Second Uncle.”

Gu Tingyun suddenly put his glass down and said to Gu Tinglan, “I have a cold and I just took some medicine, so I won’t drink this wine.”

Gu Tinglan looked into his glass.

Then what was the reason you ordered an extra bottle of white wine?

Ning Li looked over.

“Third Uncle, are you feeling better?”

Gu Tingchuan narrowed his eyes and gave a contemptuous sneer.

Gu Tingyun turned a blind eye and smiled at Ning Li.

“Don’t worry, Ah Li. I’m much better now.”

Ning Li nodded. “That’s good.”

Gu Tingchuan sneered.

Gu Tinglan leaned against the back of his chair.

“Ah Li, when you accompanied Siyang and me for a walk in Lincheng, the mutton soup that we had tasted really good. It’s truly the best choice for winter.”

Ning Li thought for a while.

“Yeah, I miss Aunt Xu’s cooking too.”

All at the same time, the Gu brothers glanced at Gu Tinglan.

They had almost forgotten about this!

Both he and Ning Li knew each other before they had!

What’s more, they had even accompanied each other for a walk in Lincheng?!

How amazing! Shen Zhijin listened quietly without saying anything.

Ning Li sensed his silence and turned to look at him. Seeing that he barely touched his chopsticks, she asked, “Dad, why aren’t you eating?”

Since yesterday, he had probably not eaten properly. Not to mention, he had been waiting in the car all night...

Shen Zhijin paused and said, "It's not as delicious as Tangtang's cooking."

The dining table suddenly fell silent.

Ning Li said, "Then you should eat more first, or your body won't be able to endure it."

As she spoke, she added more vegetables to Shen Zhijin's bowl.

Shen Zhijin responded with a "hmm".

Gu Siyang looked around and silently gave him a thumbs up in his heart.

Very Good, kill the competition directly. Old Master Lu opened his mouth to add in his two cents as well.

"Actually, Ah Li likes—"

However, before he could finish speaking, he was suppressed by Lu Huaiyu.

At such a time, should he step up and become a live target?

Old Master Lu finally realized something and silently swallowed the rest of his words.

He silently sighed in his heart.

Sigh.

He had thought that dealing with Mei Yanqing was already difficult enough.

Ultimately, the Gu family was even more difficult to deal with!

And Shen Zhijin– why did he seem to be somewhat different from what he had expected?!

Nowadays, it was really not easy to find a granddaughter-in-law.

He was still pondering whether he should mention the engagement now or not?

Chapter 679 Goodbye

Old Master Gu did not give him this chance.

He looked at Ning Li.

“Ah Li, let’s go to Lincheng together this afternoon.”

Everyone had already discussed this matter.

However, Old Madam Gu’s health was not very good. It would be too tiring for her to travel back and forth like this.

She said, “Grandmother, you should stay in the Capital for now.”

Many people would be going to Lincheng this time. It would be enough to investigate the issue of her background.

Old Madam Gu shook her head with a smile.

“No, I want to go with Ah Li.”

Her expression and voice remained gentle, but the tone of her voice brooked no objections. It was obvious that she had already made up her mind.

Ning Li frowned slightly.

“But—”

“Ah Li.”

Old Madam Gu paused for a moment and said slowly, “Grandma wants to take a look.”

She wanted to see the place where she grew up, her past experiences, and everything that she had experienced.

Ning Li’s eyelids drooped slightly, but she eventually nodded.

“Okay.”

After lunch, Ning Li sent Elder Mei and Yu Pingchuan off.

Old Master Lu struggled for a long time, but he had not been able to find the right time to speak, so he could only give up for the time being

He felt that it would not be too late to mention it after Ning Li’s matter had been completely investigated.

Right, he would have to print a few more copies of the engagement planning booklet later.

All these in-laws had to be treated equally!

Thinking about that, Old Master Lu felt that everything would be fine. Then, he repeatedly told Lu Huaiyu to take good care of Ning Li while on their journey before returning home.

At 4:30 pm, three private planes landed at the Cheng family's private tarmac in Lincheng.

Cheng Xiyue was already waiting here.

Seeing the group of people gradually alighting from the planes, even Cheng Xiyue, who had long known the situation, could not help but secretly sigh. To be able to get the entire Gu family of Hong Kong City to mobilize was really...

His gaze fell on Ning Li, who was surrounded by everyone, and he clicked his tongue.

Who would have thought that she was actually the only young miss of the Gu family of Hong Kong City and Shen Zhijin's biological daughter?

With such an identity, it was not too much to say that she would be pampered.

Lu Huaiyu walked forward.

Cheng Xiyue cast a sympathetic gaze at him.

With the Gu family and Shen Zhijin's attitudes, if he wanted to marry Ning Li, he would really have to go through five hurdles and kill six generals. "The car has already been prepared. Please invite Old Master Gu and the others to board the car."

Cheng Xiyue said, "Ning Haizhou is in the hospital. He's being strictly guarded so it will be inconvenient to come out. I've already gotten someone to bring Su Yuan and Ye Cheng to the hospital."

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

“What about the medical staff that was in charge of delivering the child back then?”

“According to the information that we found earlier, there was a total of one doctor and two nurses at that time. That doctor died ten years ago. There was also a nurse who had an accident three years ago and drowned. Only one nurse is left, but fortunately, she’s in Lincheng.”

Cheng Xiyue looked at the time.

“She should already be in the hospital by now.”

Lu Huaiyu responded. “Then let’s go over now.”

A fleet of cars drove along the road.

Ning Li, Shen Zhijin, and Lu Huaiyu sat in Cheng Xiyue’s car.

The Gu family members followed behind in turn.

She looked out the window.

This was the place where she had lived for more than ten years and could not be more familiar with it.

However, she had never thought that she would return one day for such a reason.

For some reason, this place now seemed to have become unfamiliar as well.

Ning Li suddenly thought of something and turned her head to look at Shen Zhijin, who was sitting beside her.

He was looking out of the window on the other side, and his side profile was calm.

It was as if he was looking at something, but also as if he was thinking of something.

Ning Li pursed her lips slightly.

Actually, she had not had the opportunity to ask Shen Zhijin why they had come here back then, and had even given birth to her here.

As if he sensed her gaze, Shen Zhijin suddenly turned around and looked over.

Their eyes met.

Ning Li's heart moved.

"Dad, you... Why did you come here back then?"

When Shen Zhijin heard this question, his eyelids trembled slightly.

He lowered his eyelids to hide the pain in his eyes.

After a long while, he said slowly, "At that time, I was in charge of building an astronomical observation station here."

Ning Li was stunned. Then, she suddenly realized something and widened her eyes in shock.

"Astronomical observation station?"

There was only one astronomical observation station in Lincheng. It was the one that she had taken over from Xu Yin!

Shen Zhijin seemed to have guessed what she was thinking. He looked into her eyes and said calmly, "It was the one that you were in charge of later. At that time, not long after the project was launched, there was an accident. The project had been forced to be suspended before Teacher Xu eventually took over."

Forced to be suspended.

Ning Li's heart trembled slightly.

That seemed to be the time when he had slit his wrists to commit suicide.

He had been hovering between life and death, so how could he continue to do this?

No wonder...

No wonder he had always blamed himself for the mistakes of the past...

Ning Li fell silent. She had not expected fate to be so coincidental that the astronomical observation station that he had not completed had finally been handed over to her.

Shen Zhijin did not continue.

Every time this matter had been mentioned in the past, it had been a bone-chilling torture.

If Ning Li had not asked, he would not have talked about it, no matter what.

After that incident, he had never set foot here again for more than a decade.

The only thing he had not expected was that he had left Tangtang here.

Shen Zhijin looked out of the window. The scenery by the roadside kept regressing.

Compared to more than a decade ago, this place had changed a lot, almost subverting his memory.

As he got closer and closer to Lincheng Third People's Hospital, he silently closed his eyes.

Ning Li gently held his hand.

Shen Zhijin's eyebrows moved slightly.

Lincheng Third People's Hospital.

Lu Huaiyu had already sent people to take care of things and asked them to transfer Ning Haizhou from Lincheng's Central Hospital over here.

Cheng Xiyue parked the car and the group got out.

He had already been here before, so he was more familiar with this place.

As he walked forward, he explained, "Ning Haizhou is currently on the sixth floor, in a separate ward, so you won't have to worry about being disturbed."

He was a prisoner, so going outside for treatment was already special, not to mention that he was being specially taken care of at this time.

Ning Li did not say anything and merely followed him into the elevator.

It was not only her, but the closer they got, the quieter the whole group was.

Ding—

The elevator door opened, and Ning Li stepped out.

Lu Huaiyu suddenly asked, “Ah Li, do you want to meet with him alone first?”

Ning Li paused.

Old Master Gu and the others looked at each other.

“If Ah Li wants to...”

“Ning Li?!”

Before Ning Li could speak, a sharp and resentful voice was heard.

Ning Li looked up and saw Su Yuan standing not far away from the corridor.

Having not seen her for a while, she now looked much older and more haggard than before.

When she saw that it really was Ning Li, she suddenly became upset.

“It really is you?! So, you’re the one who brought me and Lil Cheng here, aren’t you?! Ning Li! How could you be so ruthless? Do you know what we’ve been through all this time? If anything happens to Lil Cheng and me, you’ll be the first—”.

The more she spoke, the more agitated she became. Recalling the many torments she had suffered during this period of time, her hatred towards Ning Li grew. She was about to charge forward.

Shen Zhijin took a step forward and stared at her with an extremely cold gaze.

“Please show some respect to my daughter.”

Chapter 680 Take a Guess, Do You Think He Knows

This sentence immediately made Su Yuan freeze on the spot.

She suddenly jerked to a halt, as if she had not reacted.

The man in front of her looked somewhat familiar. Su Yuan looked at him and searched in her mind for a long time before she finally remembered something.

Was this not Vice-Principal Shen from Xijing University?

At that time, she had gone to the school to ask Ning Li for help. It was this man who had helped Ning Li and had even asked the school security to take her away by force.

Why had he suddenly appeared here?

No, that was not the point. The point was— what had he just said?!

“You... your daughter?!”

Su Yuan’s gaze fell on Ning Li, who was standing at the side, as if she had heard a joke. She looked incredulous.

“What are you talking about?”

These words were so ridiculous that she almost laughed.

“Ning Li was born to me. How could she be your daughter?!”

Shen Zhijin’s gaze was fixed on Su Yuan, although the expression on his face did not change.

Based on her reaction, it was almost certain that she did not know that Ning Li had been carried away by the wrong person.

However, everything still needed to be verified.

He spoke coldly, enunciating each word carefully. “We have already done a paternity test. She is my biological daughter. She has no blood relationship with you. You are not her mother. You’re not worthy of her.”

The cold smile on Su Yuan’s face froze.

Just then, Old Master Gu and the others walked over from behind.

When they saw Su Yuan, the faces of the Gu family members turned extremely cold.

“So, this is Su Yuan?”

Old Master Gu’s voice was cold and deep.

Ever since he had received the call from Shen Zhijin, he had already asked people to look up any information on Ning Li.

He had already looked up everything that could be found, including all of her experiences over the years.

In fact, he had already known a little about Ning Li’s situation before, but it had not been that detailed.

This time, he had done a thorough check of everything

That included the childhood bullying from her classmates when she was young, fighting with others, skipping class so that she could work, cyber violence, and everything that she had experienced in the Ye family.

He did not even dare to show that information to Old Madam Gu.

When he saw Su Yuan, he was filled with conflicting emotions. If it were not for the fact that he still had to find out how all this had happened back then, Su Yuan might not even be standing here and talking right now.

Seeing such a lineup, Su Yuan finally realized that something was wrong.

Among the people in front of her, she only knew Lu Huaiyu and Cheng Xiyue. Including this time, she had only met Shen Zhijin twice.

As for the group behind, even if she did not know any of them, it did not stop her from seeing that these people definitely came from extraordinary backgrounds.

Who were they? Could it be that they had come with Ning Li?

Su Yuan's mind was in chaos.

The Gu family was the number one family in Hong Kong City. Old Master Gu had lived a life full of ups and downs. He had always been decisive and ruthless.

How could Su Yuan possibly withstand his questioning and accusations that were accompanied by biting cold anger? A deep sense of unease and fear surged into her heart, almost causing her to lose her balance.

"You, you— I don't know you!"

As Su Yuan said this, she turned around in a panic and was about to leave.

However, just as she took a step forward, a few men dressed in black, who looked like tall bodyguards, walked forward and blocked her way.

Su Yuan's heart trembled.

It was these people who had brought her and Ye Cheng to Lincheng yesterday!

It was also these people who had forcefully brought them to the hospital and put them under house arrest!

She had always thought that it was the Ye family's creditors who had taken this action, but at this moment, she realized that her guess was wrong!

She turned around to take a look and only then did she realize that the entire corridor, both the front and back entrances, had been blocked by people.

She had nowhere to go at all!

"What, what do you all want to do?!"

Su Yuan's face had gone pale.

No matter how slow she was, she knew that these people were definitely not people she could afford to provoke!

At a loss for words, she looked at Ning Li again and saw that she was standing there with a calm expression and indifferent eyes.

Su Yuan suddenly understood something. These people... Were they all here for Ning Li's sake?!

Ning Li stared at her for a while before saying calmly, "It seems that Madam Ye still doesn't know that her daughter was carried away by the wrong person?"

These words finally brought Su Yuan back to her senses.

They said that Ning Li was not her daughter? That a paternity test had already been done?!

Carried away by the wrong person... carried away by the wrong person?!

Su Yuan muttered in disbelief, "What did you mean by 'carried away by the wrong person'?"

Ning Li suddenly gave a light smile.

On the night that she had been waiting for the results of the paternity test, she had not slept the entire night. She had sat on the sofa and thought about a lot of things.

She had thought about her past life and thought about this life.

She thought about all kinds of things in the past. She thought about how Su Yuan had left all those years ago. She thought about how she had treated her coldly afterward.

In the end, a guess emerged in her heart.

Had Su Yuan known that she was not her daughter?

It was not only her. It was possible that everyone else might have already thought about this matter.

They might have thought that Su Yuan knew. However, she was certain that Su Yuan definitely had not known about this matter.

Su Yuan's reaction now was enough to prove this point.

If Su Yuan had known long ago, she would not have agreed to bring her into the Ye family.

Ning Li said lightly, "The Ning family's hearts are not very strong. You should know this, right?"

Su Yuan was suddenly stunned.

Of course she knew.

Ning Haizhou's mother had died of a heart attack. In the past, whenever Ning Haizhou had often stayed up late or been overworked, would occasionally say that his heart was not feeling well.

However, she had not paid much attention to

But now, what did Ning Li mean by this?

Meeting Su Yuan's stunned gaze, Ning Li said, "Your biological daughter had a congenital heart disease."

Su Yuan was stunned for a long time before her eyes slowly widened.

"How is that possible? How could I not have known that my daughter had a heart disease?"

"Yeah, how could you not know?"

Ning Li murmured softly and looked at the ward to the left.

Ning Haizhou was there.

“Then take a guess, do you think that he knows?”

In the ward, Ning Haizhou was still in a daze as he lay on the hospital bed.

He looked very haggard and weak since he had only undergone an operation not long ago.

The door was suddenly pushed open. He looked up and saw a familiar face.

“Ah Li?”

He tried to support himself to sit up, but soon found that there were people following Ning Li in.

He was the only patient in this ward which was already quite spacious.

However, as these people came in one after another, the space seemed to become a little crowded.

He sensed that something was wrong, and his movements became slow.

The inexplicable pressure in the air made him feel a little uneasy.

“Ning Haizhou?”

A cold and indifferent voice was heard.

Ning Haizhou followed the voice and saw a man standing next to Ning Li.

The atmosphere made him even more nervous. He could only turn to ask Ning Li, who was the only person he knew.

“Ah Li, who... who are these people?”

Ning Li looked at him quietly.

The man next to her took a step forward and stared at him.

“I am Ning Li’s biological father, Shen Zhijin.”

Ning Haizhou suddenly looked up sharply and his pupils constricted!