

Little Brat's 841

Chapter 841: She Was More Important Than Anything Else

According to their original arrangements, Shen Li was to be coming alone, so they had booked just one room.

Unexpectedly, Lu Huaiyu had also come along.

Edmund's thought process was actually very simple. Since Lu Huaiyu was here to accompany Shen Li, and they were a couple, he felt that was only normal for them to stay together.

After all, anyone with eyes could see that these two people had a good relationship, so it was only natural for them to have this kind of arrangement.

Shen Li remained silent.

She looked at Edmund blankly.

Shen Zhijin would be coming over later. Was he trying to get her to be sent away with this kind of arrangement?

Edmund did not understand Shen Li's gaze, so he directed an enquiring look at Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu seemed to be a little surprised as well. After a moment of reaction, he could not help but laugh.

When he looked at Shen Li, he saw that she was staring at Edmund with a very tense face.

Edmund noticed both of their reactions and finally realized something.

Why did they seem... unwilling?

Smiling, Lu Huaiyu said, "There's no need. We have two separate rooms."

Since this was his answer, Edmund could only nod in response.

A few minutes later, Edmund personally accompanied the two of them upstairs.

The two rooms were adjacent to each other and were both on the 36th floor.

Shen Li would be in 3601, Lu Huaiyu would be in 3602.

Considering that they had been on an eight-hour international flight, they had to be very tired at the moment. Since they had to be jet lagged, Edmund did not want to bother them too much.

Lu Huaiyu cupped Shen Li's face.

"You should take a shower and have a good rest."

Shen Li nodded and said, "Second Brother too."

She had at least managed to get some sleep on the plane, but it seemed as if Lu Huaiyu had not slept much.

When they were in their home country, he had to have a nap every afternoon. Today, he had found it difficult to fall asleep, but the circumstances had not allowed him to worry about these things.

However, he did not know if it would affect him later on...

"Hmm," replied Lu Huaiyu and turned to leave.

His room was just next door, so it was just a few steps away.

Lu Huaiyu was about to swipe his card to open the door when he suddenly noticed that Edmund was looking at him.

With a slight start, he quickly turned around.

“Mr. Edmund, is there anything else?”

Edmund looked like he wanted to say something but was holding himself back. After a slight hesitation, he said, “It’s nothing. I’m just a little surprised that the two of you don’t want to stay in the same room.”

He was from Bai City and thought that since the two of them were in love, it would be a natural thing for them to stay together.

Lu Huaiyu raised his brows slightly.

“Mr. Edmund, in what way do you see that I don’t want to?”

Edmund was stunned.

He knew it!

Anyone could tell how much Lu Huaiyu liked her.

“Then—”

Lu Huaiyu gave a faint smile.

“But I care for her.

“Everything about her is more important than me.”

This included his thoughts, what he thought about, as well as himself.

...

Edmund quickly left, and Lu Huaiyu entered his room.

After locking the door, he casually placed his suitcase at the entrance and came to stand before the window.

The afternoon sun shone through the floor-to-ceiling window. Standing here, he could look down over most of Bai City.

He raised his hand and tugged at the collar of his shirt.

According to his biological clock, he should have already been asleep a few hours ago.

However, he had still been on the plane at that time, and being unable to fall asleep in such an environment, he had endured until now.

Countless fragments of images flashed in his mind, which gave him a faint headache again.

His fingers moved his fingers gently, as if the warmth of her soft cheeks still lingered there.

This made the air that seemed to be stuck between his chest and abdomen calm down a little.

He stood there for a while, then he turned around and went to the bathroom.

...

Shen Li woke up after only having one hour of sleep.

Since she had slept on the plane and had not slept much more this time, she simply got up and took her computer out of her suitcase.

She went to the table, pulled out a chair, sat down, and turned on her computer.

There was an email in her mailbox. It was from Shen Zhijin and concerned her thesis.

In fact, the completion of her thesis was so good that even someone as strict and serious as Shen Zhijin had only picked out a few minor issues.

Following his advice, she made the final revisions to the thesis before sending it back.

The email was immediately accepted and checked by Shen Zhijin.

Then, Shen Li's phone rang and she saw that it was Shen Zhijin who was calling.

Shen Li answered the call.

"Dad?"

"Tangtang, why are you still awake at this hour? Don't you want to adjust your jet lag?"

Shen Zhijin asked.

He had already known the arrival time of Shen Li's flight in Bai City. However, he had thought that she would be very busy, so he had not called her. He had wanted to wait until she had gotten some rest first.

"It's okay. I slept on the plane for a while and rested a while after. I saw your email when I woke up so I decided to make the revisions to my thesis."

Only then did Shen Zhijin feel slightly relieved.

"How's Bai City?"

Shen Li smiled.

"It feels pretty good. But I might not have time to go to your place today, so I'll have to wait a little first."

Shen Zhijin knew that her showcase with G&S was about to start soon, so naturally, he would not rush her.

"That's fine. Tangtang should settle her own matters first."

Shen Li chatted with Shen Zhijin for a while. After confirming that he would be coming the day after tomorrow, she ended the call.

She clicked open her schedule, with the intention of freeing up some time for the day after tomorrow.

Soon, Shen Zhijin sent her a message saying that her thesis could be submitted.

Shen Li replied, "Okay."

Then, she tapped on the keyboard a few times and submitted her second thesis to the Universe.

A notification alert rang out from her phone, so she turned off her computer and saw that she had received a message from George.

He was asking her if she was awake yet. The rehearsal for the G&S showcase was about to start. He wanted to see if she wanted to go over to the venue to view it and see if there were any adjustments that needed to be made.

Shen Li thought for a moment and decided to go.

George was very happy and quickly replied, "Okay, I'll come and pick you up!"

Shen Li sent a message to Lu Huaiyu to let him know that she would be going to watch the rehearsal, then she quickly packed up her things and left the room.

However, she did not go down immediately. Instead, she knocked on the door of Lu Huaiyu's room that was next door.

No one answered.

Chapter 842: Who Are You Looking At

Shen Li took her phone out and glanced at it. She had just sent a message to Lu Huaiyu, yet he had not replied yet.

Could he still be sleeping?

After thinking for a moment, she sent another message to Lu Huaiyu, explaining that she would be attending the rehearsal for the G&S show and would be back later.

There still seemed to be no movement in there.

After waiting for a short while at the door, Shen Li decided that he had to be fast asleep, so she did not continue to knock on the door and turned around to leave.

...

After going downstairs, Shen Li waited in the hotel lobby for ten minutes before George arrived in his car.

As usual, he was in an eye-catching and stylish supercar.

He sat in the car and smiled at Shen Li in a very ostentatious manner.

“Ning!”

Many of the people who were around looked over.

It would be really difficult not to recognize George’s face.

After hearing him call out, many people’s attention quickly shifted to Shen Li.

Shen Li was at a loss for words.

She really felt the urge to call Gu Siyang over so that she could see for herself which of these two people was more flashy.

“Huh? Is Second Master Lu not coming with you?”

George seemed surprised to see that Shen Li had come alone.

Shen Li glanced at the two-seater supercar.

“What? So, did you drive this car here so that I could drive Second Brother over to watch the rehearsal?”

The smile on George’s face froze and he coughed lightly.

“I was just kidding! After all, he accompanied you all the way from the Capital to Bai City. Now, you’re going to watch the rehearsal, but he’s not coming with you?”

“Second Brother is resting,” said Shen Li as she got into the passenger seat.

George remembered that Lu Huaiyu had indeed been busy taking care of Shen Li on the journey here, so he understood.

“Alright!”

He started the car and drove forward.

Shen Li turned her head to look at him.

“But, didn’t you go home earlier? I thought that I would be going to the rehearsal together with Edmund.”

A look of pain immediately appeared on George’s handsome face.

“Dear, it wasn’t easy for me to escape.”

Shen Li was silent for a moment. “Yes, I can see that.”

George was silent.

He sighed in slight irritation.

“Do you know how many pictures of ladies and socialites I saw in the hour that I went back? My eyes have almost gone completely blurry.”

George was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Compton. Naturally, the couple doted on him greatly. Most of the time, they respected all of George’s wishes and thoughts.

All except for one thing— marriage.

“I’ve already told them that I don’t want to get married, yet they still insist on introducing me to all kinds of marriage partners.”

George felt depressed just at the mention of this.

It would definitely be very beneficial for a person to be able to marry into the family that owned G&S.

However, George did not like it.

He did not like this arrangement, and he did not feel anything for the women that he was matchmade with.

He had already been playing around for quite some time. If not for fashion week this time, he probably would not have even come back.

If it were not for the fact that he was taking Ning to the rehearsal, he would have been trapped at home today.

Thus, he was being particularly active at the moment.

Shen Li nodded in understanding.

George was such a character. If he was forced into marriage, it would probably be very painful for him.

“Forget it, let’s not talk about this anymore, and let’s just look forward to the rehearsal later.”

As George said this, his mood lightened and he clearly looked much happier.

“You’ve only watched it on the video before, but it’s better to watch it live than through the screen. Ning, your design this time is really...”

George clicked his tongue.

“Amazing.”

...

The Bai City Fashion Week would run for half a month. During this period, there would be a total of hundreds of fashion shows.

The venues were also relatively scattered according to the brand’s rank and style,

This year, the G&S show would be held at the Sigri Museum, just one street from the Bai City Cathedral.

At this time of the year, Bai City was always very lively.

At first glance, among the people who were coming and going, the proportion of models in the crowd is very high.

In addition, photographers and other people were also everywhere.

In short, even the air was filled with a sense of fashion and luxury.

As George's car passed by, it attracted the attention of many.

Shen Li pressed down the front of her baseball cap until half of her small face was hidden in its shadow.

However, with her long, wavy hair and the part of her beautiful face that was exposed, it was not difficult to guess her identity.

"Is that Ning?"

"I think so!"

"I heard that she only just arrived this afternoon, so I suppose she's going to watch the rehearsal for G&S' show now?"

"I think so. I wonder what their design theme will be this time. I'm really curious!"

"Her previous shows have been very successful. This time will probably be no exception..."

In the fashion industry, the status of designers was very high.

Therefore, Shen Li's appearance had immediately attracted the crowd's attention.

This situation even continued until they arrived at the show venue.

The square in front of the Sigri Museum was crowded with people.

All the models that were participating in this show had gathered here. All of them had excellent figures and were dressed exquisitely.

The moment George's car appeared, it immediately attracted their attention.

However, their attention was soon attracted by Shen Li, who was next to him.

Shen Li pushed the car door open and got out of the car.

She was wearing a baseball cap on her head, a white t-shirt, and a black casual coat over it. The cuffs had been rolled up to reveal her slender, white wrists.

She looked cold and aloof, but she carried herself with a natural sense of pride.

There seemed to be an innate aura around her.

Many people were stunned.

Most of the people present today were models who had been hired externally by G&S. Thus, very few of them had actually seen Shen Li in person before.

The only they knew was that the designer that G&S was very strongly promoting had only turned eighteen years old this year and that she was still in university.

They had not expected the real person to be so... Wow!

Shen Li looked up.

"Why have they not gone in yet?"

George had also gotten out of the car and walked over to her side. Hearing this, he smiled and explained, "Aren't we all just waiting for you? The designer hasn't arrived yet, so how can the rehearsal begin?"

Shen Li raised her chin.

“Let’s go then.”

Saying this, she took the lead and walked inside.

The crowd of models was stunned by her aura. Everyone quieted down as their gazes followed her.

Just then, a voice suddenly came from the left side at the back.

“Ms. Ronai, who are you looking at?”

Shen Li stopped in her tracks.

Chapter 843: The Berkshire Family

However, this action only lasted for a moment. She quickly recovered and continued to walk forward.

George did not seem to have noticed what was said and followed Shen Li into the museum.

The models followed closely behind.

Shen Li’s figure quickly disappeared behind the door.

Not far away, a young boy stood beside a man who looked to be in his sixties. The man was white-haired and he carried himself with an elegant air. The young boy was following the older man’s gaze as he looked in the direction of the museum strangely.

The young boy called out again.

“Teacher Ronai?”

Only then did Ronai come back to his senses and shake his head.

“It’s nothing. I’m probably seeing things.”

He spoke with a standard Leland accent.

Lu Senze noticed that the older man was still looking in that direction. It was as if he was looking for someone, but at the same time, he seemed to be lost in thought.

He could not tell what the man was thinking about, but his expression carried a rare hint of nostalgia and disappointment.

Such an expression rarely appeared on the face of this world-class oil painter.

Lu Senze had been studying painting with him for a year, but he had never seen such an expression on his face before.

It looked very complicated.

So, after thinking for a moment, he added a little more information.

“Teacher, that’s where the G&S show will be held for this year’s Bai City Fashion Week. The man who just passed by is the Crown Prince of G&S, George. They must be going in for their rehearsal.”

Ronai suddenly asked, “Who was the person next to George?”

Of course he knew who George was, but the other one...

Lu Senze was stunned. He had not expected that the man's focus had not been on George, but on the person next to him.

He thought about it.

"She looks like a pretty young girl, and she was personally being accompanied by George... If I'm not mistaken, I believe it's Ning."

"Ning?"

"Yes. She's the designer that G&S has been working with for more than a year. I believe you should have heard about it."

Ronai nodded.

Of course, he had heard of Ning before. However, he had never seen her in person before.

In fact, they had not been far away from each other just now, but George and Ning had been surrounded by too many people. With their backs facing them, they could not be seen clearly. All they had been able to see was a tall, slender back and part of a small side profile.

Lu Senze looked at the time and reminded him, "Teacher, it's almost time for your appointment with Mr. Craig."

"Hmm," Ronai responded, as the expression on his became a little lighter.

Lu Senze knew that he was not really keen on meeting with Craig, because he could easily guess why Craig had invited him this time.

The Bai City Fashion Association was about to admit a new member.

As the capital of the world's fashion trends, Bai City's status was undeniable.

Founded a hundred years ago, the Bai City Fashion Association had long been the most authoritative existence in the world's fashion circle.

They were the ones that defined luxury, couture, fashion, and trends.

All brands were committed to winning their recognition.

It was especially true for the newly founded brands. The only way for them to truly occupy a place in the luxury fashion world was to be recognized by them.

The Bai City Fashion Association had originally been co-founded by a number of luxury brand founders and top designers.

Over time, the association had grown, and later to avoid trouble, the association decided to keep the total number of members at thirteen.

These thirteen members were appointed for life, and new members would only be elected if they committed a big mistake or died.

A few months ago, a member of the Association had passed away from an illness, so there was now a vacancy.

It was customary for the Bai Cheng Fashion Association to choose a suitable candidate after fashion week, based on the performance of the major brands and designers that year.

This was the Bai Cheng Fashion Association. Once one crossed that threshold to become a member, it would be of great significance to both the brand and the individual.

Therefore, all parties were eyeing this membership slot.

Unfortunately, Ronai was the current president of the Bai City Fashion Association.

Therefore, during this period of time, hordes of people were trying to build a relationship with him by trying their best to curry favor with him.

Ronai was tired of it. He refused as many as he could.

However, there were some people who were not that easy to refuse, such as Craig.

Craig was currently one of the twelve remaining members. He had also been Ronai's friend for many years.

Therefore, even though he knew that Craig had ulterior motives for this meal, Ronai could not refuse him and was forced to accept his invitation.

After taking a few steps forward, he could not help but turn to look back.

The museum doors had already closed, and the figure he had been staring at had completely disappeared.

Lu Senze turned back to him. After some thought, he felt that only one guess he could make.

"Teacher, do you also like Ning's design?"

Ronai looked at him. "Also?"

Lu Senze nodded.

“That’s right! I’ve watched all of her previous showcases! Even through the videos, the showcases have such a huge aesthetic and sensational power. I can’t imagine how impactful it would be if I were to watched it live... Wasn’t that why you were looking at her earlier?”

Ronai paused but did not answer his question directly. All she said was, “Yes, her design truly does have a special aura.”

Her talent was unquestionable.

If not, even someone as proud and picky as George would not give her such special treatment.

Lu Senze chuckled.

“It’s rare to hear you praise someone like that!”

Ronai was an oil painter, and also the head of the Berkshire family.

His great-grandfather, Eugene Berkshire had been the founder of the Bai City Fashion Association.

All these years, the position of President had always been in the hands of the Berkshire family.

When Ronai was young, he had been rebellious and had dedicated himself to pursuing art. However, after his father unexpectedly died, he finally changed his mind and took over the family business, as well as the position of President of the Bai City Fashion Association.

He had the sensitivity and acumen of an artist, yet he also had the shrewdness and wisdom of a businessman.

Therefore, over time, his position had stabilized even further.

It was easy to imagine how high the standards of such a person were.

In fact, Lu Senze had already followed him for more than a year, yet the number of times he had praised someone was really very few.

Ronai looked at him.

“Why are you so happy that I praised her?”

Lu Senze laughed.

“It’s because Ning is also Chinese like me!”

Ronai was actually a very traditional and stubborn person. It was rumored that he only accepted students whose native languages were English and German.

This was because the Berkshire family had originated from Leland and made their fortune in Bai City.

Lu Senze was his first Chinese student, which had caused a big stir at the time.

Ronai seemed to be lost in thought as he contemplated something in his mind.

After a moment, he muttered, “Speaking of which, your home country has indeed produced quite a number of geniuses...”

He said this so softly that Lu Senze was unable to hear him very clearly.

“Teacher, what did you say?”

Ronai shook his head.

“It’s nothing, let’s go. If we’re late, Craig will nag us for a long time.”

...

At this moment, Shen Li and the others had entered the museum.

They came to a long hall corridor with huge white columns on both sides. Exquisitely beautiful murals had been painted on the ceiling.

Shen Li was sitting on a chair at one end of the hall while George sat next to her.

“All models please prepare—”

Shen Li clapped her hands.

“Enter.”

Chapter 844: How Can Ning Compare to You

The rehearsal lasted about an hour.

Since Shen Li was the main designer of the show, all the clothes and accessories that the models wore were her designs.

The theme had been decided long ago, George and the whole G&S design team had put in a lot of effort in order to present it perfectly,

As the music started, the models entered the venue one by one.

George tilted his head and glanced at Shen Li. Looking at her calm and aloof expression, he could not help but think of the phone call that Edmund had made to him earlier.

“The press conference will be held tomorrow and this will be her first official appearance at the Bai City Fashion Week. At the same time, she will also be the opening event. If it were any other newcomer, they would definitely be extremely nervous. Yet, she’s still so calm!”

She did not seem nervous about facing the critical gazes of the world.

She did not seem excited about becoming famous and getting rich either.

It was as if this was a simple matter to her.

Studying her expression, George finally understood that she was not looking down on this.

On the contrary, every design that was being showcased was proof of her seriousness.

The reason she was so calm was because she was completely confident in her own talent. Also, she had a very pure view of this matter.

She had come here just to do her job well.

She did not even consider what other people might think of the show or what she would gain and lose because of it.

George silently sighed, and the memory of the first time he had seen her suddenly appeared in his mind.

At that time, she had still been an unknown, but she had still had the guts to say, “I’m here to talk about a collaboration with you,” without being condescending.

How could such a person not succeed?

George looked ahead again and stroked his chin.

The Bai City Fashion Week event tomorrow should be very lively.

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Ronai and Lu Senze arrived at Durman Garden.

This was also a famous scenic spot in Bai City and would also be the venue for one of the shows for this fashion week.

Craig was already waiting for them at the entrance of the restaurant where they had arranged to meet.

Beside him stood a young woman.

Lu Senze was the first to recognize her and he could not help but mutter in surprise, "Yu Yu?"

Ronai turned his head.

"You know her?"

Lu Senze was also stunned.

"Don't you know who she is? She personally founded YU. It's the first high-fashion brand in China to be officially recognized by the Bai City Fashion Association!"

Ronai understood.

"Oh, so that's her."

Previously, YU's application had been submitted by his subordinates. After reading it, he had felt that it was just average and voted against it.

However, there were a total of thirteen members on the committee. YU had managed to receive eight votes, so she had ultimately been selected.

He did not have a deep impression of Yu Yu, let alone its founder, Yu Yu.

However, he had not expected Craig to actually pull some strings for her this time.

"Ronai."

Craig smiled as he stepped forward,

"You're finally here."

He and Ronai were similar in age. The two of them had known each other for many years and generally had a good relationship.

Therefore, Ronai would still give him face.

He smiled and greeted her.

"I passed by a few shows on the way here, so I took some time to watch them a little longer."

Craig waved at Yu Yu.

"This is Yu Yu, the founder of YU. I believe you should remember her."

Yu Yu took a few steps forward with a polite and generous smile on her face.

“Hello, Teacher Ronai. I’m Yu Yu. I’ve admired you for a long time and I even have two of your paintings in my house. It’s such an honor to finally meet you in person today.”

She had not addressed him as “President” but as “Teacher”.

She had also not mentioned fashion week but had started with oil paintings instead.

Anyone who knew Ronai well would know that his true love was oil paintings.

Yu Yu had prepared well before she came and naturally understood this point.

It was a pity that Ronai could see right through her.

After all, he was the head of the Berkshire family so it was no surprise that he had keen eyes.

Therefore, he was not a fan of Yu Yu’s flattery and fawning, and only smiled faintly in return.

“Hello, Miss Yu.”

Yu Yu was stunned. She had not expected such a reaction from Ronai.

He was smiling and was still very polite, but he seemed to be... very distant.

It was obvious that he had not been impressed by her opening statement.

Watching from the side, Craig naturally understood what Ronai meant.

However, Ronai was not easy to please, so this development was within his expectations.

He had a friendship with the Yu family, and he admired Yu Yu Yu very much, which was why he was helping her.

Anyway, Yu Yu was a smart person. If she spent more time with Ronai, there was a chance that she would eventually win him over.

Even if it was just a little.

He smiled.

“Ronai, Yu Yu is very talented in fashion design. Do you still remember her ‘Summer Night Fairy Tale’ collection that I showed you before? It was really—”

“I don’t remember.”

Ronai bluntly replied.

Craig’s voice came to an abrupt halt, as he looked embarrassed.

The smile on Yu Yu’s face froze as well.

That had been her most famous collection, and it had also been because of that collection that Yu Yu had officially been recognized by the Fashion Association.

However, Ronai had just bluntly said that he did not remember it...

However, she quickly adjusted her expression and smiled.

“Teacher Ronai is usually busy with work and has seen so many shows. It’s nothing unusual that you don’t remember mine.”

Ronai nodded, seemingly agreeing with her words.

“I don’t really remember ordinary shows. In the past year or so, there are only a few that I can remember.”

Hearing the first sentence, Yu Yu’s smile became a little forced, but hearing the second sentence, she felt much more relieved.

If he did not remember it, then so be it. After all, that meant she was not the only one that he had not remembered.

“However, there were a few shows that made a deep impression on me,” Ronai said.

Craig asked in surprise, “Oh? Which ones? Those that caught your eye must have been very impressive!”

Ronai smiled.

“G&S’s Night of Thorns.”

Yu Yu’s heart skipped a beat as he continued to speak.

“This one is the best. In addition, their first two showcases weren’t bad either. I remember that one was ‘Flowers and the Moon’ which was in the Chinese national style and I think the other was ‘Snow and Spring’? But personally, I still like ‘Night of Thorns’ the most.”

Yu Yu’s palms were sweaty.

The designer for all these showcases was Shen Li!

Ronai looked at her.

“Speaking of which, both you and she are designers from the Chinese region. So, you should know each other, right?”

Yu Yu forced a smile on her face.

“Yes, we’ve met each other.”

Ronai said, “She’s very talented.”

Yu Yu did not know how to respond.

How could she have imagined that after so much effort to invite Ronai over, he actually spent the whole time praising Shen Li?

Craig seemed to have noticed the awkwardness as well, so he chuckled to smooth things over.

“So you’re talking about Ning! I’ve seen her showcase before, and it was pretty good! Her talent is not inferior to Yu Yu’s!”

Ronai suddenly smiled warmly.

“I actually think that her talent is not as good as Yu Yu’s.”

Yu Yu was both surprised and delighted as if she was overwhelmed by the praise.

“Teacher Ronai, you’re too kind—”

“After all, Ning still needs to watch the rehearsal, but Miss Yu doesn’t need to do that. I think Miss Yu must be very confident in her own designs.”

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Chapter 845: Genius in Oil Painting

Dead silence.

Yu Yu lowered her head, as her eyelids drooped slightly to hide the expression in her eyes. However, her cheeks were burning so hot that she could feel the pain from it.

Ronai had spoken very bluntly. He had not given her any face at all.

Even though the fashion week was about to begin, she seemed unconcerned about her own show. Instead, she had placed all her attention on this kind of matter.

It was clear that Ronai was annoyed by this kind of behavior.

Craig had also not expected Ronai to say such a thing and was momentarily embarrassed.

“Ronai, this...”

Ronai gave him an indifferent look.

The reason he had come today was to give Craig face. However, this did not mean that he had to do the same for Yu Yu.

She had not earned it yet.

Yu Yu had used Craig's connections to arrange for him to meet with her. Undoubtedly, she was aiming for the position as a member of the Bai City Fashion Association.

However, he was not even considering it. With her, it would be too capricious.

She did have some talent, but it was far from being able to impress him, let alone allow her to enter the association.

The reason he had spoken so bluntly was to make her realize the situation earlier and not waste any more of her efforts.

Craig coughed.

"Ronai, actually, Yu Yu's showcase will be held tomorrow afternoon, which leaves them with ample time to prepare, so..."

Yu Yu quickly adjusted the expression on her face, so when she looked up again, there was no semblance of anything unusual on her face.

"Yes, the rehearsal for YU has been scheduled for tomorrow morning. At that time, the entire team and I will carefully review it again to ensure that the showcase will proceed smoothly."

Ronai was noncommittal.

He did not really care whether Yu Yu would be having a rehearsal or not, or whether she would even be attending it or not.

He just did not like people like Yu Yu who were overly ambitious but were not honest about it.

There was nothing wrong with people having ambitions.

However, it was clear that she had put in a lot of effort to meet with him in order to obtain the association membership. Then, upon meeting, she had insisted on bringing up the subject of oil painting.

He did not feel any respect or love for design from Yu Yu.

Of course, it was the same for oil paintings.

Everything that she did had a clear ulterior motive.

He had seen too many people like her.

Craig could sense that Ronai was unhappy, and he felt extremely awkward and uncomfortable.

Yu Yu was very capable in all aspects. Wherever she went, she would receive praise.

He would never have guessed that Ronai would dislike her so much.

Now, he was thinking that it might have been better if they had not met.

However, it was already too late for that.

“Ahem... Let’s not continue to stand here. Let’s go in first. Ronai, don’t you like this restaurant very much?”

Ronai glanced at his watch.

“I have some other matters to attend to. I don’t think there’s a need for us to have a meal.”

At this point, Craig did not know what to say.

Amidst this awkward and cold atmosphere, the small group found a cafe nearby and sat down for a while.

Naturally, since things had not gone well at the start, they could not proceed with the rest of the arrangements.

Yu Yu felt as though she was sitting on pins and needles, which made her feel very uncomfortable.

Everyone managed to make small talk about topics that were not very sensitive. Very soon, Ronai stood up and took his leave.

Yu Yu pursed her lips as she watched Ronai and Lu Senze leave.

Craig sighed.

"I'm sorry, Yu Yu. Ronai might not have been in a good mood today. Please don't take it to heart."

Yu Yu forced a smile onto her face.

"Yes, I know. Besides, it's probably because I have not made a good impression on Teacher Ronai..."

Craig continued.

"That's just the way he is. Even after so many years, I have not seen many people who have managed to impress him."

"Then... What about Ning?" Yu Yu asked softly. "I think Ning... is very much appreciated by him..."

Craig was speechless for a moment.

This was something that could not be denied.

Anyone could see this.

However, seeing the unconcealed disappointment on Yu Yu's face, he could not say that.

After thinking for a moment, he comforted her.

"Perhaps it's because Ning is the main designer for G&S's showcase? You should also know that he has always had a good relationship with G&S."

Yu Yu knew very well that this was just an excuse.

Over the years, G&S had produced more than one designer, yet she had never seen anyone who had ever been appreciated by Ronai for this reason.

He had even been able to accurately describe the themes of all three of Ning's big shows. How could he remember that so clearly unless he really admired them?

She pursed her lips.

"Maybe..."

Craig consoled her.

"Forget it, don't think about it. As long as YU's showcase is outstanding enough, there's still hope for you to join the association. In the end, that's the most important thing."

Yu Yu took a gentle breath.

“Thank you, I understand.”

...

As Ronai and Lu Senze walked back, they passed by the Sigri museum again, Ronai could not help but look over there.

The door was tightly shut, so it was likely that the rehearsal had not ended yet.

He asked, “The G&S showcase will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow?”

Lu Senze immediately replied, “Yes. That will also be the opening event for this year’s fashion week.”

Ronai nodded.

According to tradition, he would always attend the G&S launch. Besides, this time, they would be the opening event for the Bai City Fashion Week.

Lu Senze thought to himself, ‘My teacher seems to really care about Ning. He’s even taken the initiative to ask about the schedule.’

He himself was also a great admirer of Ning, so he could not help but feel a little proud.

“Teacher, so you’ve watched Ning’s previous shows?”

When he had mentioned this earlier, Ronai had not said anything so he had thought that he had not seen much of her shows.

Ronai nodded.

“Her talent in this area is indeed outstanding, especially in the use of color and the juxtapositioning of light and shadow.”

Lu Senze could not hide his excitement.

“Teacher, that’s because she’s not only talented in fashion design! Her oil paintings are also exceptionally good!”

Ronai’s heart skipped a beat, and he immediately turned his head to look at him.

“What did you say?”

“Yes! Didn’t you know?”

Lu Senze had thought that since he admired Ning so much, he must have known a lot about her background.

However, in actual fact, Ronai had only just happened to see her shows and nothing more.

“Her oil paintings are very popular in my home country, and they are highly praised. Many people say that she is a rare oil painting genius!”

Ronai stared at him as he carefully asked, “What is the pen name that she uses for her paintings?”

Chapter 846: Mei Yanqing Was Just a Little Luckier Than Him

Lu Senze had this vague feeling that his teacher seemed to be taking this matter very seriously, but he did not think too much about it. He simply thought that it was because he greatly admired Ning.

Thus, he said, “Tree’s Shadow. Her pen name is Tree’s Shadow.”

The two of them were conversing in English. Only the words “Tree’s Shadow” had been spoken in Chinese.

Ronai’s expression froze, and he asked in return, “Tree’s Shadow?”

These words had come out of his mouth sounding slightly awkwardly.

Lu Senze repeated them again but translated them into English.

Ronai gradually frowned.

Tree’s Shadow?

Tree’s Shadow...

Lu Senze saw that something was not right with the look on his face, and asked curiously, “Teacher, what’s wrong?”

Could it be that there was something wrong with this name?

It shouldn’t be, right?

Ronai was silent for a moment before he said, “Have you seen her paintings before?”

Lu Senze shook his head regretfully.

“I’ve only seen photos of two of her paintings, but I’ve never seen the real paintings with my own eyes. She only made her debut in the past two to three years, but from the moment the first painting

appeared, every painting had been bought for a private collection at a high price. So far, not a single painting has been sold on the market again. We will not be able to see it anymore.”

“But most of the people who have seen it have praised it.”

“Previously, I heard that there was an art gallery in the Capital that had displayed her “Seventeenth Night”. I was out of town at the time and had intended on rushing over to see it. However, before I could even make a move, I heard that it was actually a fake painting. So, that settled the matter.”

At the mention of this, Lu Senze still felt some regret.

He genuinely wanted to see and admire her painting with his own eyes.

“Where are the photos?” Ronai suddenly asked.

Lu Senze was stunned. “What?”

Ronai repeated, “The photos of her paintings. Let me take a look.”

“Oh, okay!”

Lu Senze was unfazed over Ronai’s sudden request.

As one of the world’s top oil painters, it was normal for Lu Senze to pay special attention to these things.

In addition, he clearly admired Ning very much, so it was not unusual for him to want to see her paintings.

Thus, Lu Senze took out his phone, found the two photos, and handed the phone over.

“Take a look.”

Ronai felt as if his heart was being tightly gripped by something. This tension continued until he saw the paintings on the phone.

The pictures were very good, but...

It was not.

Both the painting style and the technique were completely different.

He flipped to the second picture and saw that it was the same.

Lu Senze was standing beside him so when he saw that a frown was gradually forming on Ronai’s face, he could not help but feel a little bewildered.

After a moment, he carefully asked, “Teacher, do you... not think these two pictures of hers are good?”

Ronai came back to her senses and shook his head.

“They’re pretty good.”

‘If they were pretty good, then what was with the expression on his face?’

Lu Senze was puzzled.

He did not know if his eyes had been deceiving him, but he seemed to have seen some disappointment on his teacher’s face earlier.

However, why would he be disappointed?

Tree's Shadow was highly valued in the domestic art circle. Such talent was really rare. He did not believe that his teacher would not be able to see it.

Even if he didn't like her style of painting, he wouldn't be disappointed, right?

Ronai continued to study the paintings for a while.

"Her style of painting... is somewhat familiar."

Lu Senze smiled.

"That's because she studied under Mei Yanqing... Elder Mei!"

Mei Yanqing and Ronai were equally famous. They were both top-notch oil painting masters. However, the two of them walked different paths, and their styles were completely different.

Since Tree's Shadow was Mei Yanqing's disciple, it was normal for their paintings to have some similarities.

Ronai was a little surprised.

"He took in another student?"

He and Mei Yanqing could be considered acquaintances. Although they did not interact much, they still had some understanding of each other's situation.

After the master-disciple relationship between Mei Yanqing and Tree's Shadow had been exposed, it had caused quite a stir within the domestic art world. However, the people in Leland had not heard much about it.

Therefore, Ronai had not known about this matter.

As he spoke, he looked at the two paintings again.

“That’s true that with such talent, it would be a pity not to accept it.”

As he returned the phone to Lu Senze, he could not help but mutter, “His luck is quite good...”

Lu Senze was stunned for a moment and could not help but ask:

“Teacher, are you talking about... Elder Mei?”

Ronai did not say anything in return and raised his foot to walk forward.

However, this was a tacit agreement.

Lu Senze was shocked.

Was his Master actually envious of Elder Mei?! Just because Elder Mei had accepted Tree’s Shadow as his disciple?

He put a hand over his heart, feeling a little shocked.

However, he also liked and worshipped Tree’s Shadow.

Even if he were to judge it himself, Tree’s Shadow’s talent was definitely much higher than his.

Thinking of this, Lu Senze felt a little less uncomfortable.

He had to just let it go and accept the circumstances!

“Teacher, if Tree’s Shadow had not already acknowledged Elder Mei as her teacher, would you have wanted to take her in as well?” Lu Senze said as he chased after him.

Ronai gave a faint “Hmm”.

Lu Senze was silent.

‘I knew I shouldn’t have asked!’

He hesitated for a long while before gathering his courage to ask, “Then... then do you regret taking me in?”

Ronai stopped in his tracks and turned around to look at him. He smiled.

“Why do you ask that? I was the one who wanted to take you in. Why would I regret it?”

Lu Senze felt his wounded little heart come to life again!

Teacher Ronai was so nice!

Ronai sighed softly as a thought seemed to come to his mind.

“A genius like that can only be met by chance. Since it was not our destiny, there’s no need to force it. I just feel that Mei Yanqing’s luck is better than mine.”

Lu Senze was stunned.

However, before he could think about it any further, Ronai patted his shoulder again.

“You’re also considered very talented. Just work hard.”

Lu Senze hurriedly nodded seriously.

“Thank you, Teacher. I know.”

Just as the two of them were about to leave, there was a sudden commotion from the museum.

When Ronai turned back to look, he saw the museum’s door open and a group of people walked out.

The girl leading the way wore a baseball cap that hid part of her face. As George talked to her with his head tilted slightly to face hers, she would nod from time to time.

From the looks of it, her aura was even stronger than George’s.

Ronai stared at her, seemingly lost in thought.

Lu Senze looked at him and thought for a moment before asking, “Teacher, should we go over and say hello?”

Almost at the same time, George and the others also noticed Ronai.

He raised his chin.

“Hey, Ning, do you see the person in front? I believe you’ve heard of Ronai, the oil painter, right? He is also the president of the Bai City Fashion Association. Would you like me to introduce him to you?”

Shen Li then raised her eyes.

Chapter 847: Is Lu Huaiyu by Your Side?

“Sure.”

She said.

This answer was what George expected.

He turned around and gestured to a few staff members before leading Shen Li forward.

He smiled and greeted Ronai.

“Mr. Ronai, long time no see.”

“George.”

The relationship between both of their families was pretty good. Also, George himself was a junior that Ronai admired, so they were quite familiar with each other.

“Please allow me to introduce you. This is Ning.”

Only then did Ronai’s gaze officially fall upon Shen Li’s face.

Earlier, she had been quite far away and since she was wearing a hat and leaning sideways, he had not been able to see her clearly.

Now that they were standing closer to each other, he could finally see her appearance.

She looked like she was around eighteen to nineteen years old. Her skin was porcelain white and she had beautiful facial features.

Her peach blossom-shaped eyes were especially beautiful. When she looked over, there was a hint of a cold and haughty look between her brows, making her look quite unique.

This was a very beautiful girl with an excellent temperament, but she was also a little strange.

The corners of Shen Li's lips curled up into a beautiful arc.

"Hello, Mr. Ronai. I'm Ning."

She was respectful, yet neither servile nor overbearing.

Any designer in the fashion industry would definitely go to great lengths to try to climb up the social ladder by currying favor with him if they had the chance.

However, Ning did not seem to have such intentions.

Ronai shook hands with her briefly.

"Hello, Ning. I've watched your previous showcases. They were very good, especially the Night of Thorns."

When George heard this, he was first surprised, then proud and pleased.

Had he not always said that Ning's talent was obvious!

Even someone as picky as Ronai had taken the initiative to praise her!

This was even more pleasing than hearing Ronai praise him.

Of course, Ronai had never praised him before.

However, that was not important. What was important was that Ronai clearly admired Ning very much!

There were countless designers in the fashion industry. It was really rare to receive such praise from him, especially since this was only the first time they were meeting!

George looked at Shen Li in excitement, only to find that she had a gentle smile on her face. Her expression remained calm, as if she had not realized that she had been praised by a powerful big shot.

“Thank you, I like your paintings very much too.”

Hearing Shen Li’s words, George almost split open.

That was it?

That was it???

This was the head of the Berkshire family!

Even if he did not mention his family and background, or his identity as the president of the Bai City Fashion Association, he was still one of the top oil painter artists in the world.

How did Shen Li manage to remain so calm and polite in front of such a person?

Fortunately, Ronai did not seem to mind it. Instead, his interest seemed to have been piqued even further.

“I heard that you’ve studied under Mei Yanqing?”

“Yes.”

“Then, whose paintings do you like better, mine or his?”

Everyone was speechless.

This time, not only Shen Li, but even George and Lu Senze’s expressions froze for a moment.

What... kind of question was this?!

Who would ask such a question to their face?

If Shen Li said that she liked Mei Yanqing more, it would be too disrespectful to Ronai. However, she could not say that she liked Ronai more since Mei Yanqing was her master.

How should she choose?

Ronai did not seem to feel that there was anything wrong with his question. He continued to look at Shen Li with a gentle smile, as if he was patiently waiting for her answer.

After a moment, Shen Li said, “The genres that you and Master paint are different. I’m afraid it’s not something that can be compared—”

“A genre is a genre. Whether you like it or not is a different matter.” Ronai seemed to be particularly concerned about this matter.

Everyone was stunned into silence.

Ronai added, “Don’t worry. This is just a little survey. It won’t affect anything else.”

A little survey?

A survey of what?

A survey of whose paintings she liked better?

Shen Li felt a slight headache coming on.

Why did this sound like the equivalent of a child being asked if he liked his father or his mother?

After hesitating for a long while, she finally said, "Yours."

As she said this, Shen Li silently said in her heart, 'Master, I'm sorry. I would like my stay in Bai City for the next few days to be peaceful.

'Since I am in his territory, I have no choice but to bow down...'

When he heard this, the smile on Ronai's face suddenly became much more genuine.

"Then when you have some time later, you should come and have a look around my gallery."

George was completely stunned.

Had he just heard wrongly?

Had Ronai actually invited Shen Li to visit his gallery?!

Yes, his private gallery.

Many of his paintings were displayed there, and ordinary people would never be given an invitation so easily.

However, after only meeting Shen Li this one time, was he was already extending such a privilege to her?

Shen Li paused for a moment as she lowered her eyelids slightly, her thick and curly eyelashes concealing the turmoil in her eyes.

Why was she faced with that sentence again...?

She quickly gathered up her thoughts. By the time she looked up again, her expression had already returned to normal, and the corners of her lips carried a generous and decent smile.

“Thank you for inviting me, Mr. Ronai. If there’s an opportunity, I’ll definitely go over for a visit.”

Ronai had been observing her for a while, but when he heard this affirmative answer, he smiled.

“That would be good. I thought you would refuse.”

Shen Li’s heart thumped, but she did not show it on her face.

“Mr. Ronai, you sure know how to joke. Who would reject your invitation?”

Ronai shrugged.

“Why wouldn’t there be? There used to be...”

As he said this, he suddenly paused, as if something had come to his mind and he snorted softly.

However, he did not seem to be angry. It was more that he seemed to be reluctant and... regretful?

George could not help but ask, "Who could possibly be so unappreciative as to reject your invitation?"

Ronai thought to himself, 'Actually, that person had rejected more than just an opportunity to visit his gallery...'

However, he did not say this out loud.

He looked at Shen Li again.

"By the way, my gallery is in Leland. If it's convenient for you, you may go over after the fashion week is over—"

Before he could finish, Shen Li's phone suddenly vibrated.

She smiled apologetically at Ronai.

"I'm sorry, I have to take this call first."

Ronai nodded.

Shen Li thanked him and took a few steps to the side.

"Little Uncle?"

It was Gu Tinglan who was calling.

"Ah Li, is Lu Huaiyu by your side?"

Shen Li was stunned.

“No, I was watching the rehearsal at the Sigris Museum. Second Brother is resting at the hotel due to jet lag.”

Gu Tinglan’s throat was dry.

Lu Huaiyu’s biological clock had been out of whack for the past two years. What jet lag?!

Chapter 848: Don’t You Want to Have Anything to Do With Him?

His momentary silence made Shen Li feel a little strange.

She looked at the time. It was already midnight in China. Why had Gu Tinglan suddenly called at this time to ask about Lu Huaiyu?

“Little Uncle, is it because of an urgent matter that you’re looking for Second Brother?” She asked.

Gu Tinglan massaged the space between his eyebrows.

Thinking that Lu Huaiyu had followed Shen Li to Bai City and that it was too late to be resting at that moment, he had just sent him a message in passing.

Over the past year, Lu Huaiyu’s condition had gradually been improving, so he had thought that there would be no problem.

However, Lu Huaiyu had not replied.

He had waited for a few hours, but the situation had remained the same. Finally, he could not help but call Shen Li.

Shen Li was not by Lu Huaiyu's side.

Thus, it was even more difficult to say what the situation was like over there.

Gu Tinglan paused and said, "There was a matter that I needed to contact him for, but it has already been settled on this end. Just remind him to call me back when he wakes up later."

Shen Li vaguely felt that this matter was not that simple, but Gu Tinglan's tone of voice did not indicate anything.

She nodded.

"Okay, I've got it. The rehearsal here has ended so I'll be going back soon."

Gu Tinglan felt a little relieved.

"By the way, I still haven't asked you how you're feeling in Bai City. Did the rehearsal go well?"

Shen Li smiled.

"It was fine. Don't worry, Little Uncle."

"Hmm," replied Gu Tinglan and gave her a few more words of advice before hanging up.

Shen Li lowered her eyes and stared at her phone for a few seconds.

Bringing up the message box with the conversation between Lu Huaiyu and her, she sent the same message that she had sent before she left the hotel again.

Had he slept the whole time until now?

Shen Li thought for a moment, put away her phone, and turned to look at Ronai.

Without waiting for her to speak, Ronai smiled gently and said, "Are you going back to the hotel?"

In the face of such an important person, no small thoughts could be hidden.

Shen Li silently sighed and nodded honestly.

"I'm really sorry."

Ronai smiled and waved his hand.

"I know that you've only just arrived in Bai City today and have a press conference tomorrow. Your schedule must be very tight, so there's no need to apologize. After you're done with this part of your schedule, we'll find an opportunity to have a good chat when you're free."

George listened to them and clicked his tongue in amazement.

Ronai's attitude toward Shen Li was really warm and friendly, which was something that was rarely seen. Even he felt a little envious of this.

If all those people who were trying their hardest to get closer to this person witnessed this, who knew how jealous they would be?

On the other hand, Shen Li remained as calm and composed as usual.

"Thank you, Mr. Ronai."

Ronai turned around and was about to leave when a thought suddenly came to his mind. He turned around and asked, "By the way, Ning, have you ever been to Leland before?"

Shen Li's eyebrows twitched slightly.

"No, why did you suddenly ask this?"

A hint of surprise flashed across Ronai's eyes.

"You've never been there before? I noticed that you speak with a very standard Leland accent."

So that was the reason.

Shen Li's heart relaxed slightly, and she brought out her usual excuse.

"I like the history and culture of Leland very much. I've long admired your paintings, so I looked for some of your courses and lectures on the Internet. Over time, I developed this accent."

This was something that Ronai had not expected.

He seemed to be a little surprised as he chuckled and said, "So you really do like my paintings? I thought your earlier answer was just to make me happy."

Shen Li was speechless.

'So he clearly knew everything, yet he had still insisted on asking just to hear that answer?'

Seeing Shen Li's rare look of speechlessness, Ronai smiled even more happily.

"Good, good. You should go back and rest early. I'll see you at the show tomorrow."

He was still very curious and looking forward to what kind of theme and style Shen Li's showcase would be presenting.

Shen Li lowered her chin slightly.

"Take care, Mr. Ronai."

..

The figures of Ronai and his companion gradually disappeared into the distance. Wherever they went, almost everyone would respectfully greet Ronai.

There were definitely many people who wanted to go up and chat with him, but those who actually dared to do so were very few.

Unless someone had specifically introduced them, ordinary people would not be qualified to strike up a conversation with such a person.

George stared at him for a while before turning back to look at Shen Li. He touched his chin with a face full of emotion.

"Tsk, I've known Mr. Ronai for so many years, yet he's never treated me as cordially as he did with you. How did you do it?"

Shen Li paused.

"Are you sure it's something I did and not something you did?"

George was stunned.

Ouch.

He snorted softly and raised his hand to indicate ahead.

“Look at that. So many people want to please him, yet they don’t even have the chance to. You’re probably the only designer in the entire Fashion Week to whom he has taken the initiative to express his goodwill. Ning, do you know what this means?”

Shen Li tilted her head.

“Does it mean that... I’m very likable?”

George was stunned into silence again.

Although this answer did not seem to be wrong, it seemed like she had got the main point wrong!

He lowered his voice and smiled meaningfully.

“I heard that Mr. Ronai went to see Mr. Craig just now. More importantly, there was another person present— Yu Yu.”

The reason for Yu Yu’s actions was self-evident.

“However, it seems that their meeting this time was not very pleasant. Mr. Ronai only sat for a short while before leaving. I reckon that Miss Yu didn’t manage to win Mr. Ronai’s favor.”

Shen Li glanced at him.

“You seem to know everything.”

George spread her hands.

“Ning, you seem to have forgotten that this is Bai City. Moreover, all of this is public information. Anyone who asks around would be able to find out.”

Shen Li thought about it and agreed. To the Crown Prince of G&S, all of this was really not worth mentioning.

She looked forward and saw that Ronai and his companion had already disappeared.

George followed her line of sight and said with some uncertainty, “Ning, do you... not want to have any interaction with Mr. Ronai?”

At first, he had thought that it was just his imagination. However, when he thought about it carefully, that feeling had just grown stronger.

Shen Li had been extremely polite and courteous to Mr. Ronai. She had handled their interaction with ease and she had carried herself flawlessly.

However, it was a little strange that she was still maintaining such an attitude even after Mr. Ronai had clearly expressed his admiration for her.

Wouldn't any normal person have already taken advantage of this opportunity to latch onto him?

Shen Li laughed.

“What do you mean? That's Ronai, after all.”

George instantly felt that he was overthinking things.

He muttered, “That's true, that is Ronai...”

Shen Li raised her chin.

“Let’s go back to the hotel.”

As she spoke, she turned around and walked to the side.

Without thinking too much about it, George followed her.

...

Back at the hotel, Shen Li went up to the 36th floor.

She came to the door to Lu Huaiyu’s room and knocked again.

There was still no answer.

She took out the room card.

Since the Crown Prince himself was personally escorting her, and the front desk knew that she and Lu Huaiyu were a couple, they had simply given her the room card to Lu Huaiyu’s room.

Drop—

She pressed the handrail down and pushed the door open.

Chapter 849: Okay?

This room was a suite, so Shen Li went through the living room and turned left to the bedroom.

The door to the room was not locked.

She pushed the door open slightly and found that the bedroom was dark.

As the faint light flowed through the gap, a figure could be vaguely seen on the bed.

Lu Huaiyu was lying on his side. From this angle, all she could see was his slightly messy black hair.

Shen Li slowed her footsteps and walked forward to the side of the bed.

Standing close to him, she could see his brows tightly knitted under the cover of his dark hair.

This was an expression that Shen Li rarely saw on his face.

It seemed like he was enduring some kind of struggle as he experienced some kind of indescribable pain.

He seemed to have fallen into some kind of a nightmare and was not sleeping well.

Shen Li suddenly felt something pinch her heart and it began to ache.

She did not know what he was dreaming about...

Shen Li then knelt down beside the bed.

...

The loud roar of the engine kept echoing in his mind as it intermingled with the intense sound of the collision of vehicles. It was chaotic and crazy.

There were thick splashes of blood.

The screams and the sound of tires rushing across the ground hit his eardrums, one after another.

He could even smell the blood in the air.

He could hear someone shouting something out, but he was unable to make out what it was.

The confusing images intermingled. There were some that he remembered and some that he had forgotten.

He wanted to get them out of his mind, but the more he did so, the clearer they became.

Intense pain swept through his body, and he felt as if his internal organs were being gripped tightly by something. It was difficult for him to even breathe.

The wind was rushing!

The sharp sound of friction was getting closer and closer!

Once again...

His entire body tensed up, knowing that the scene would repeat itself.

However, just then, he could vaguely smell a familiar sweet and soft fragrance which finally brought back a trace of reason to him.

He saw eyes that were full of blood.

Then, he saw the back of a slender and tall figure.

The figure was wearing a baseball cap, a black casual jacket with sleeves that had been rolled up. The person's entire body exuded a clean and proud air.

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However, Lu Huaiyu's vision was blurry, which made it difficult for him to see more clearly.

He opened his mouth, but he could not utter a single word.

However, that person seemed to have heard him and suddenly turned their head around.

An intense pain assaulted him, and the darkness in front of his eyes gradually intensified.

Vaguely, he heard a distant and cold low voice.

"Save him."

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...

Lu Huaiyu opened his eyes.

The room was dark, and only a faint light flowed through the gap in the door.

A figure was facing away from the light as if they were about to leave.

It was still a figure wearing a baseball cap, a black jacket, and sleeves that had been rolled up to his forearm.

Lu Huaiyu's voice was deep and hoarse.

"... Are you going to leave again this time?"

Shen Li stopped in her tracks. She turned around and saw that Lu Huaiyu had already woken up.

She heaved a sigh of relief.

She had been guarding him by his bedside for a while, and she had been hesitating as to whether she should wake him up or not.

Seeing that his head was covered in sweat, she thought of getting a towel to help him wipe it off.

She had not expected him to wake up so soon.

However, what had he said just now?

This time? Was she going to leave again?

What did he mean?

Lu Huaiyu pushed himself to a sitting position with one hand and the thin quilt slid down.

His movements were slow and unhurried, with his usual elegance. However, for some reason, Shen Li suddenly felt that the air was a little tense.

He must have showered before going to bed and changed into his pajamas, but he wore them quite casually. He had only buttoned up the buttons on the lower part of his top and left the collar open.

Due to this, one could see his straight collarbones and a small part of his firm, flat chest.

He got out of the bed and walked straight towards her.

Perhaps it was because he had only just woken up, he moved as if he was still a little drowsy. As he slowly walked towards her, he seemed particularly casual and languid.

He moved loosely and casually, but his eyes were fixed upon hers with his intense eyes that seemed to be like dark bottomless pools.

Their surroundings were silent, and the entire space gradually seemed to compress even further as he moved.

Shen Li did not know how to describe Lu Huaiyu in this manner. Instinctively, all she could feel was a hint of danger.

“I’m not leaving.”

She said softly, “I was just going out to help you—”

She could not finish her sentence because Lu Huaiyu was already standing in front of her.

It seemed as if he had not heard her, or perhaps he did not want to hear her.

He reached his hand out, reached out past her body, and closed the door.

Click.

This sound was almost alarming in the quiet room.

Lu Huaiyu was very tall. Standing in front of her like this, he easily trapped her in.

He lowered his head slightly and looked her in the eye.

He said, "I've been waiting for you for a long time."

Shen Li was stunned.

'Waiting for her?

'Did he mean the time that had she left the hotel alone to watch the rehearsal?'

"But I sent you a message..."

Lu Huaiyu tilted his head slightly.

"Really?"

Shen Li nodded.

When Lu Huaiyu saw how well-behaved she was, his thin lips lifted slightly. His eyes were dark as if a fatal temptation and danger were lurking within.

"Are you lying to me?"

"I didn't—"

Shen Li's voice paused, and she finally realized that something was wrong.

There was something very wrong with Lu Huaiyu.

At this moment, he really resembled the time he had been in the master bedroom at Yunding Fenghua when he told her not to provoke him.

"Lu Huaiyu?"

She called out his name.

Lu Huaiyu lowered his chin slightly, and a very light and unhurried sound came out from his nasal cavity.

"Hmm?"

His voice had always been low and deep. Now that it was mixed with a little nasal sound, it sounded indescribably sexy and seductive.

Shen Li's ears instantly burned red.

Most of the time, Lu Huaiyu was aloof and noble. He was like the rare flower on a high mountain, or the snow on the mountain peaks that were hard to reach.

Now, however, he seemed to have finally shed that layer of appearance and revealed his deepest desires and greed.

She pursed her lips as she thought about how to deal with it.

"Lu Huaiyu, you—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Lu Huaiyu suddenly stepped forward and pushed her against the door.

He stared at her, then he raised his hand to take her jacket off.

Shen Li was startled and immediately wanted to step back.

However, there was no way back.

As if sensing her struggle, Lu Huaiyu frowned slightly.

Then, he grabbed her shoulders and turned her around.

Before Shen Li could react, her jacket had fallen to the ground.

Her hands were pulled behind her back and were tightly gripped by one of his hands.

In the next moment, he leaned over and nibbled on her fair and tender earlobes as he coaxed her in a husky voice.

“... Okay?”

Chapter 850: No, You're Still Too Young

The tips of Shen Li's ears were burning.

She turned her head and tried to speak.

“Lu... Uh!”

Before she could say anything, his kiss had already shifted. His burning hot lips and tongue had moved from the side of her ear to her lips, slowly sucking and nibbling her.

He pressed close against her body, trapping her in this narrow and crowded space. He seemed to swallow up any room for struggle and was extremely powerful.

Yet, he continued to kiss her again and again and ask her... if she was okay?

Through the thin layer of their clothes, a boiling heat came from his body and spread to her skin, almost like sparks landing at the bottom of her heart.

The air heated up as the friction generated the heat.

Shen Li's cheeks were red from his kiss, and her rationality gradually fell under the onslaught.

Her jacket had been removed, and only a white T-shirt remained on Shen Li's upper body.

A faint chill suddenly came from her waist, causing her to tremble slightly.

His fingers were long and slender, with bony knuckles. There was a hint of coolness in his touch. The moment they touched her delicate waist, he increased his strength almost uncontrollably.

Shen Li suddenly came to her senses and hurriedly called out to him, "Lu Huaiyu!"

Lu Huaiyu paused his movements momentarily.

Then, he finally backed off a little, but he did not let go of her.

His deep, dark eyes looked at her and asked, "Don't you like me?"

He was clearly asking in a light hearted way, as if he was just mumbling it casually without any intention of chasing her for an answer.

However, when Shen Li heard this, she suddenly felt something pinch her heart.

She shook her head, looked into his eyes, and whispered, "No, I like you."

She leaned over and kissed a corner of his lips. Her voice was very soft as she said, "Lu Huaiyu, it's you that I like the most."

In the quiet room, her words were so clear that every word seemed to be branded on her heart.

Her wrist struggled.

Lu Huaiyu finally let go of her hand and looked at her with a deep, intense look.

Shen Li raised her arm and wrapped it around his neck.

He grabbed her slender waist with one hand and lowered his head slightly, pressing it against her forehead.

He did not say anything, only his burning hot breath could be felt.

She gently coaxed him.

"Just wait, okay?"

Lu Huaiyu was obviously not in the right frame of mind, so she would have to coax him first.

She rubbed her neck against his and said softly, "I just came back, so I'm a little tired."

After a while, she heard Lu Huaiyu whisper, "Okay."

Then, he lifted her up and cradled her in his arms.

Her baseball cap fell off, and her long wavy hair fell down as it swayed gently.

Lu Huaiyu placed her on the bed with his knees pressed against the edge of the bed.

Seeing her black hair spread out, his fingers curled slightly.

"Why is your hair so long?"

Shen Li did not pay attention to his words.

She tugged on his hand and said, "Are you coming to sleep with me?"

Lu Huaiyu stared at her for a few seconds as the corners of his lips curved into a smile.

"Okay."

She was so well-behaved.

He lifted the quilt and lay down beside her.

Shen Li leaned over and wrapped her arms around his lean waist.

Lu Huaiyu cupped her chin and kissed her.

After a while, he released her and held her in his arms.

The room became quiet again.

In the darkness, Shen Li leaned into his arms, without falling asleep.

Probably after being tormented by the nightmare earlier, he fell asleep soon after holding her in his arms.

It was not until she heard his regular breathing that Shen Li finally lifted her head from his arms.

Her brows gradually furrowed.

Lu Huaiyu and this state that he was in...

She began to recall what had just happened in her mind.

Under normal circumstances, Lu Huaiyu would have never asked such a question so suddenly.

The way he had looked at her at that time was as if he was extremely worried that she would leave.

Because he had been so extremely uneasy, he had also been extremely eager.

Was he... afraid that she would leave?

But why was he suddenly so worried?

Shen Li recalled the time when they had been at Yunding Fenghua.

He had behaved differently from his usual self.

The phone call from Gu Tinglan... Was it related to this?

A million guesses flashed through Shen Li's mind, but she could not find a definite answer.

In the end, she decided not to think about it anymore and leaned further into his arms.

She kissed his chin gently. Seeming to sense something, Lu Huaiyu's arms held her even tighter.

"Lu Huaiyu."

She called his name softly.

'I won't ever leave you anyway.'

'So, it doesn't matter whether I understand everything clearly or not.'

...

When Lu Huaiyu woke up again, he could feel someone in his arms before he even opened his eyes.

His consciousness gradually returned.

Wafting around the tip of his nose was a familiar sweet and soft fragrance, and under the palm of his hand was warm skin.

He opened his eyes.

It was very dark in the room and he could barely see anything.

However, she was indeed in his arms.

He closed his eyes and hugged her even tighter. At the same time, he lowered his head to kiss her forehead.

Shen Li had been sleeping very lightly, so she woke up the moment he kissed her.

“Second Brother?”

She murmured.

Lu Huaiyu responded in a low voice and turned on the bedside night light.

As the dim light shone down, his vision gradually became clear.

Shen Li raised her head.

“Second Brother, don’t you want to sleep anymore?”

Lu Huaiyu turned around to look at her. Seeing that peach-blossom shaped eyes were still moist with sleepiness, he cupped her little face and said with a smile, “Isn’t Ah Li afraid of the dark?”

Shen Li was slightly stunned. She had not expected him to still be thinking about this.

She shook her head.

“It’s okay because I’m with Second Brother.”

Lu Huaiyu propped himself up with his elbow and turned to look at her. Only then did he remember something.

“Didn’t you go to watch the rehearsal? When did you come back?”

Shen Li’s heart skipped a beat.

She looked at him carefully, not wanting to miss a single expression on his face.

However, he remained very natural.

What he had said was really just a casual question.

He had not mentioned anything about what had just happened earlier.

She asked, “Second Brother... Don’t you remember?”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows.

“Huh?”

Shen Li paused and said, “I’ve been back for a while.”

Lu Huaiyu smiled and said, “It seems that rehearsal was quite tiring. It even caused you to return to the wrong room, huh?”

Shen Li felt as if something was pressing on her heart.

She did not say anything.

Lu Huaiyu suddenly realized something and turned around to look at the half-open door.

“Ah Li, how did you get in here?”

Shen Li said, “... I asked the front desk for Second Brother’s room key card.”

Lu Huaiyu understood and then smiled.

“If I had known that Ah Li wanted to come over, I would have given you a room key card earlier.”

Shen Li looked at his handsome face, but felt like something was stirring in her heart.

There was something that she wanted to verify.

In the next moment, she suddenly got up, pressed against Lu Huaiyu’s chest, and rolled over onto his body.

Under the light, she carefully observed his current expression.

“Lu Huaiyu.”

She fixed her gaze upon him. There were so many words stuck in her throat, but when her eyes met his gaze, she did not know where to begin.

Lu Huaiyu held her waist with one hand, and their eyes met.

The atmosphere became subtle.

The color of his eyes gradually darkened, and his thin lips curled into a beautiful arc.

“Ah Li.”

They were very close to each other, so close that they could almost smell each other’s breath.

So even though his voice was extremely low and soft, she still heard it.

There was a faint smile on his face, a bit like he was teasing her but also like he was coaxing her.

“No, you’re still too young.”