

Little Brat's 931

Chapter 931: The Book You Carried With You

The entire lecture hall instantly fell silent.

Professor Fang's smile froze slightly.

"Oh? I seem to remember that you already published an article before?"

Although he was a mathematician, he knew that Universe was like the ceiling of academic journals in the field of physics. It was as difficult as climbing to the heavens to publish an article in it.

At that time, Shen Li had broken Shen Zhijin's record of 20 years and became the youngest first author in Universe's 100-year history. It had shocked countless people.

But now, why did she mention—

"This is the second article," Shen Li said.

Professor Fang's expression was complicated.

Many students looked at Shen Li in disbelief.

"F*ck! The second article... in "Universe"?!"

"This god of learning is only eighteen years old, right? That means two articles in "Universe"?!"

"I'm actually in the same classroom as such a big-shot academic..."

“The god of learning was playing with her phone in class when she saw that another of her articles had been published in “Universe”. I was playing with my phone in class and was tricked by my teammates again! F*ck! It must be because my phone isn’t good enough!”

“I’m feeling numb, I’m really feeling numb. For some people, publishing an article in “Universe” is no different from eating and drinking. I’m different. I only know how to eat and drink.”

Professor Fang gave up the idea of having students hand over their phones during class.

After all, being able to publish an article in “Universe” was truly important.

...

Shen Li left the classroom under the watchful eyes of the crowd.

Lu Huaiyu sent her back to the Institute of Physics.

But soon, Shen Li found that many people were looking at her as she walked along the road.

Usually, when she and Lu Huaiyu walked around the campus, many people would look at them as well. After all, both of these people were extremely good-looking, and they were always the most eye-catching people in a crowd.

However, today was a little different.

Lu Huaiyu’s lips curled up slightly.

“It seems that the news of you posting the second article in “Universe” has already spread.”

In fact, at this moment, there were indeed people who had already posted on the Xijing University Campus Forum, and this news was quickly pushed up.

Posting a thesis of this level was the goal that many scientific researchers pursued their entire lives. However, the number of people who could do it was always in the minority.

However, Shen Li had published two before she had even turned nineteen.

The students of the Institute of Physics were the first to go crazy.

Just as Shen Li was about to say something, her phone rang. She had received a message.

Before she could open it, her phone rang several times.

She took it out and took a look. In such a short time, there were already several unread messages.

Her first uncle had sent a red packet.

[Ah Li, I heard that your thesis was just published, is that right? Would you like to come over for a meal? Your first aunt just recently acquired a new batch of colorful treasures. Why don't you come over and pick some out?]

Her second uncle had sent a red packet.

[Congratulations, Ah Li. The scallops at Nine Stars Pier are at their freshest now. If you're free, you can also make a trip out to sea. Take a look at these boats. Which one do you like?]

Third Uncle had sent a red envelope.

[Ah Li, the speed of you publishing your thesis is even faster than the construction speed of the gallery. I saw two paintings at an auction today. I didn't know which one you would like better, so I bought them both. You can make your selection later.]

Eldest Uncle transferred money to you.

Second Uncle transferred money to you.

Little Uncle transferred money to you.

Shen Li was speechless.

She could only pause and reply to each message, one by one.

Ding.

Gu Siqi sent a message.

[Cousin, you're awesome!]

There was also a selfie of the two brothers below.

It looked like they were in the study. Two young and handsome little faces were smiling very brightly at the camera.

Shen Li could not help but laugh. Just as she was about to reply, her gaze suddenly focused.

After a moment, she hesitantly zoomed in on the photo and saw that the bookshelf behind was filled with copies of 'Universe'.

This was her second uncle's study room. Why were there so many copies of 'Universe'?

Shen Li carefully looked at the picture again.

Hmm?

This seemed to be—

Lu Huaiyu suddenly said,

"You didn't see wrongly. The three levels above are full of copies of the sub-issue of "Universe" that you got published in. The three levels below are full of the issues in which your paper was published in the main issue of "Universe". As for that box on the floor, that should be the latest issue."

Shen Li was speechless.

She remained silent for a long while before she raised her eyelashes slightly and asked faintly, "It's so faint. How did Second Brother manage to see it?"

Lu Huaiyu smiled faintly.

"What a coincidence. Grandfather's study room has also been decorated like this."

Shen Li was completely stunned into silence.

Forget I asked.

...

Just like that, all the way to the Institute of Physics laboratory building, Shen Li continued to receive countless stares.

It was not easy for her to reach the ground floor. She bid farewell to Lu Huaiyu and quickly went upstairs.

It was not until her figure disappeared behind the door that Lu Huaiyu smiled and turned around to leave.

He walked some distance away before giving Gu Tinglan a call.

"I'm free tomorrow morning. The physical examination that I postponed before, let's schedule it for tomorrow."

...

Shen Li published the second piece of news about "Universe" very quickly.

The Internet was abuzz again.

Previously, when she had published the first piece, she had already the youngest person to do so. Who would have thought that after only a few months had passed, she would actually have published another piece?

Xijing's official Weibo account once again published the good news, and the reposts all contained the message "Congratulations to Shen Li".

Even many people who did not generally pay attention to the physics academic circle also knew about this matter.

The next morning, Shen Li drove to pick up Wen Xiao.

Today was the day he would go to LY to sign the contract. At the same time, it was also the day that Wen Xiao would go to the LY training base for the first time and would be going to meet the many racers officially.

He had rented a house in the Capital. When Shen Li arrived, he was standing at the entrance of the residential area with a cigarette in his mouth. She did not know what he was looking at on his phone.

“Uncle Wen.”

Shen Li parked the car by the side of the road, rolled down the window, and called out to him.

Only then did Wen Xiao raise his head, put out the cigarette, and casually threw the cigarette butt into the dustbin beside him. Only then did he walk over to her.

When he got into the passenger seat, Shen Li saw that he was still looking at his phone, and casually asked, “Uncle Wen, what are you looking at?”

Wen Xiao looked over.

“I heard that you’ve posted another article in U... U... U... What do you call it?”

Shen Li said, “... Universe.”

“Oh, right.”

Wen Xiao did not really understand these things. Just looking at it gave him a headache,

“Anyway, I can’t tell the difference between all those physics books that you read.”

Shen Li was silent for a moment, but she did not correct him over this “physics book”.

Wen Xiao leaned back and lazily said, "You've always liked to read these things since you were young. When you used to race, you often brought a book along with you. I remember the one you read the most at that time, what was it called?"

Shen Li started the car. "The Physical Universe"

Chapter 932: You Can't Always Rely on Ah Li

"Yes, that's it," said Wen Xiao as he turned to look at her, "However, ever since that book was lost, you don't seem to bring it into the car anymore."

"Mm."

Shen Li continued to look calm. She stepped lightly on the accelerator and the car moved forward.

"Speaking of which, this matter is also my fault. I shouldn't have taken you to Yanhui Hill that day..."
Wen Xiao suddenly paused as he said this, as if he did not want to talk about those things in the past.
"Later, I said that I would buy you another book, but you didn't want it either."

Shen Li looked ahead and said calmly, "I didn't take good care of it myself. It's not Uncle Wen's fault. And that book—"

That book could be considered an introductory book to astrophysics. She had read it so many times that she had almost memorized it.

Moreover, at that time, she had already started studying with Xu Yin and had started to take over the observatory in Lincheng.

The documents that she usually read were more specialized and profound.

The reason she had always brought that book along was because her Grandma had saved up for a long time just to buy it for her.

Of course, it was different.

Since that book was lost, there was no point in buying a new one.

Wen Xiao knew what she meant. He ran his hand over his buzz cut but did not continue talking about it.

Of course, he knew how important that book had been to her, so he had gone back to look for it carefully later. Unfortunately, he had not been able to find anything.

Shen Li changed the topic.

“Uncle Wen, today is your first day at LY. You should control your temper.”

Wen Xiao waved his hand and looked out of the window. With a look that made him seem older and deep, he said, “Don’t worry. I’ve been cultivating my body for the past ten years. I’m not the same person as before.”

...

Two hours later, Wen Xiao stood at LY’s training track and stared at the electronic screen that recorded the results. His arms were crossed in front of him although he did not say a word.

All the members of LY’s team, including the substitutes, stood neatly behind him.

No one could hide the excitement on their faces.

This was Wen Xiao!

He was the only legendary big shot in the country who had even won the World Championships!

Many people had become interested in car racing because of him and become professional racers.

It was not an exaggeration to say that many people idolized him.

Now, this person, who had only existed in distant legends, was standing in front of them, alive!

He had even become their head coach!

Who would not be excited?

The racers from other clubs were so envious!

However, why was he keeping silent?

Lu Siyu could not hold himself back. He nudged Ji Shu with his elbow and gave him a look.

Wen Xiao had come over this morning. After signing the contract, he had asked all the team members to gather for a test run.

However, the test run was now over, yet he was still staring at the electronic screen. What did that mean?

Ji Shu looked at the expression on his face, which was full of anticipation for Wen Xiao's comments, and the corners of his mouth twitched.

A newborn calf was not afraid of a tiger, but an ignorant person was fearless.

If it were not for the fact that it was not appropriate for him to leave now, he would have already found an excuse to escape!

Thinking of this, he glanced over at Wen Xiao.

Fortunately, Sister Li was still there.

Otherwise, he really did not know what would happen today.

Seeing that Ji Shu could not move, Lu Siyu and the others looked at Shen Li again.

Shen Li received their message. After hesitating for a moment, she finally said, "Uncle Wen, everyone's first test run results are out. Would you like to say a few words?"

Wen Xiao finally withdrew his gaze from the electronic screen and looked at Shen Li. Expressionlessly, he said, "If I terminate the contract now, how much is the penalty for breaching the contract?"

Everyone was flabbergasted.

Shen Li paused and pointed three fingers at him.

Wen Xiao's vision went black and he blurted out, "F*ck."

Shen Li said, "Uncle Wen, you said that you have cultivated your body and mind. Didn't you say that you are no longer the person you used to be?"

Wen Xiao endured it again and again until he really could not take it anymore.

"Just consider it as me feeding the dog for ten years!"

Shen Li went silent.

Wen Xiao took his cigarette case out and walked over to the side. He sat down on the bench and bitterly lit up a cigarette.

He was worried.

He had never been so worried in his life.

Lu Siyu and the others looked over and finally felt a little uneasy.

“Sister Li, Coach Wen doesn’t seem to be in a good mood.”

Shen Li comforted them.

“It’s okay. Just let him have a cigarette to calm down first.”

Five minutes later, Wen Xiao finally stood up and stubbed out the cigarette.

...

For the next half an hour, Wen Xiao’s voice echoed throughout the training grounds.

“Throttle! Throttle! Does your car have no throttle or two brakes?!”

“I told you to look for the turning point! Where are you looking at?!”

“Tell me, are you having trouble differentiating between gears?”

“I already said it a few times, but you’re still not listening. Why don’t I just drive for you?”

...

The only one who survived was Shen Li.

She did not actually race. Instead, she only watched from the side. She watched as the expressions of all the team members went from excitement and anticipation to nervousness, then on to guilt and self-reproach, and eventually to numbness all over their faces.

They were dumbfounded. Really, they were all dumbfounded at being scolded.

Shen Li looked at Lu Siyu and the others, who were on the verge of tears, and could not help but feel some sympathy for them.

Actually, before this, she had always felt that Wen Xiao’s temper had improved a lot over the years.

However, reality had proven that it was all just an illusion.

He was already so much older, yet he still had such a violent temper.

Especially when he stood on the track, the damage of his aggressiveness multiplied.

“Sister? Sister?”

A voice came from behind.

Shen Li turned around and saw that it was Gu Siyang.

“Brother, why are you here?”

Gu Siyang looked at the field with a complicated expression on his face.

“I... Originally, I wanted to come and listen to the training lesson... but looking at it now, I think it’s better to forget it... forget it...”

Previously, he had thought that if he could just get Wen Xiao’s guidance, the level of his own skills would definitely skyrocket.

But now, he realized that he had made a huge mistake.

He even suspected that he would be banned from entering the race track by Wen Xiao and dirtying his place, let alone improve on his skills.

Shen Li comforted him.

“It’s important to know your limits.”

Gu Siyang looked at her with a complicated expression.

“Sister, you should praise me in another way. This— I can’t take it.”

...

In a private psychological clinic in the Capital.

Gu Tinglan handed over the examination report in his hand.

“Overall, your condition has improved.”

Lu Huaiyu took it but did not look at it.

He knew his own condition the best.

Gu Tinglan stared at him for a few seconds before suddenly saying, "However, I still suggest that you take medicine and receive regular psychological treatment.

"You can't always rely on Ah Li."

Chapter 933: Shall We Go Home Together?

Lu Huaiyu was sitting in the chair opposite Gu Tinglan. His long legs were crossed, and he looked elegant and noble.

Hearing Gu Tinglan's words, he raised his eyebrows slightly.

"Why not?"

Gu Tinglan frowned slightly.

"It's not like she can always be by your side. Besides, if she leaves you one day, what will you do then?"

Lu Huaiyu's dark eyes were cold.

"She won't."

"I mean 'if'."

"There's no such thing as 'if'."

He spoke in a very calm tone of voice, but it carried a deep-rooted stubbornness and certainty.

Gu Tinglan said, "Lu Er, you should know that anything can happen in this world. I'm giving this suggestion for your own good and for Ah Li's sake as well. What if..."

He did not finish his sentence.

That was because he knew that Lu Huaiyu would not listen to him.

The room quieted down.

Gu Tinglan was actually very conflicted.

Lu Huaiyu was not willing to take the medicine, nor was he willing to accept the psychological treatment. All of this was within his expectations.

After all, anyone who had experienced what he had experienced would probably have this attitude.

For such a long time, Lu Huaiyu had resisted all treatment and relied on his own willpower to adjust himself.

He seemed to be recovering well.

However, Gu Tinglan understood that this was not the case.

Especially after Shen Li appeared, she had become his only medicine.

His mental state was gradually improving.

But at the same time, all his emotions were in her hands.

If a person was sick, it would be good if there was medicine.

However, if there was only one medicine that was useful, it would be a good thing as well as a bad thing.

Because once he stopped taking the medicine—

The only thing waiting for him would be the abyss of despair.

Lu Huaiyu looked at his watch.

“It’s almost time. If there’s nothing else, I’ll take my leave first.”

This conversation came to an end again.

Gu Tinglan silently sighed. Seeing that he was about to leave, he reminded him, “Your examination report.”

Lu Huaiyu had no intention of taking it.

Gu Tinglan continued, “It should be shown to Old Master Lu so that he can be at ease.”

At least this examination report looked much better than his previous ones.

Lu Huaiyu paused for a moment before he reached out and put away the inspection report.

When he left, Gu Tinglan merely pressed the space between his brows and sighed softly.

...

All the LY drivers had a very fulfilling day.

They finally realized how naive they had been before. They had actually thought that once Wen Xiao was here, their lives would become good.

When Wen Xiao finally relented and ended today's training, all of them almost cheered and celebrated on the spot.

Of course, they basically did not have the strength to do so now.

Everyone walked back listlessly, each and every one of them with dark faces.

Only Ji Shu was in a very good mood.

Shen Li looked at him and asked, "Why are you still so happy even after being scolded?"

Ji Shu clicked his tongue.

"Sister Li, you don't understand. In the past, I was the only one who was scolded, but it's different now. There are so many people accompanying me! And—"

He raised his chin to indicate Wen Xiao who was standing on the other side and lowered his voice as he said, "Besides, I used to think that his scolding was already extremely hard. Now I know, that's nothing."

In comparison, he was already someone who was especially loved.

Everyone should just be content with their lives!

Shen Li nodded in agreement.

“I only found out about this today as well.”

When Lu Siyu and the others heard what she said, they all rushed over with tears in their eyes.

“Sister Li! You have to persuade Wen— Coach Wen... and tell him that we will definitely work hard in the future! Please ask him not to scold us so harshly! We really can’t take it!”

Shen Li said sympathetically, “I know. I will try my best to persuade him later.”

No matter what, she was the one who had invited him, so she had to be responsible to the end.

Although... it was probably useless to persuade him.

However, Lu Siyu and the others were still very touched.

“Thank you, Sister Li!”

“Sister Li, you’re familiar with Coach Wen. Could it be that he was like this in the past? Does his temper become especially hot-tempered once he steps onto the track?”

Shen Li shook her head.

“No, his temper was quite good in the past.”

Everyone shared looks with each other.

“That’s true. After all, Sister Li is a girl. Besides, Sister Li is so talented! Sister Li, did Coach Wen train you more gently in the past than when he’s training us?”

“It was alright.”

As she spoke, she caught a glimpse of Wen Xiao taking out a cigarette from the corner of her eye. She raised her voice slightly to say, “Uncle Wen, you’ve already finished a pack today, right? You should stop smoking now.”

Wen Xiao had a headache. He raised his hand and pointed at Lu Siyu and the others.

“Did you see how they drove just now? How can I not smoke?!”

Shen Li paused for a moment and compromised.

“Then take it as an advance for tomorrow.”

Wen Xiao’s lips twitched. For the millionth time, he regretted the decision that he had made in a moment of weakness to agree to be the coach. He bit the cigarette in his mouth.

“Got it!”

Everyone was stunned.

Fine.

It was obvious who was lecturing whom.

It was also clear who the boss of this training ground was.

After a short period of silence, the group eagerly rushed over to Shen Li.

“Sister Li! Are you thirsty? Let me treat you to some milk tea!”

“Sister Li, are you tired from watching? Why don’t you go back and rest first?”

“Sister Li—”

Shen Li lifted her chin towards the electronic screen.

“I’ve noted down your results and rankings today, so you should train well from now on. Also, let me say one thing in advance: I won’t be interfering with Uncle Wen’s training.”

Everyone froze at the same time.

What her words translated to was— you guys can count on your own luck!

Ji Shu crossed his arms across his front and laughed without stopping. He was really enjoying seeing the expressions on their faces that looked as if they were facing their deaths.

After all, he would not be the only one being scolded in the future!

Shen Li looked at the time.

“Alright, that’s it for today. I still have something to do tonight, so I’ll be leaving first.”

Someone pretended to be brave and asked, “Sister Li, is Coach Wen going with you?”

Shen Li smiled.

“No, he’s going to watch your old race videos tonight.”

Every driver's habits and style were different. Wen Xiao needed to know them well enough to be sure of the training plan.

Although he always said it was annoying, he would still do his best since he was now in this position.

With mixed feelings, everyone looked at each other. They were both happy yet full of pain.

To be able to receive Wen Xiao's guidance was something that many racers dreamed of.

But it was just... too fierce. It was not something that ordinary people could take!

Although they were still reluctant for her to leave, one by one, they still bid Shen Li goodbye.

"Then, goodbye, Sister Li."

Shen Li nodded and looked at Gu Siyang.

"Brother, let's go."

Gu Siyang was stunned.

"Huh?"

Shen Li curiously asked, "First Aunt is cooking tonight. Aren't you going back to Jinshui No. 1 Courtyard for dinner?"

Gu Siyang was shocked.

"I don't know! No one informed me at all!"

Shen Li quietly said, "... Oh."

An awkward silence fell upon the place.

After a moment, Shen Li said, "Aren't I telling you now?"

Gu Siyang sneered.

"My parents must have forgotten about me again! This isn't the first time they've done this! They've really gone too far--"

Shen Li interrupted him. "Shall we go back together?"

Gu Siyang indignantly said, "Yes!"

Chapter 934: Does Lu Huaiyu Know How Much You Like Him

In the end, Gu Siyang got into Shen Li's car.

This incident had obviously been such a blow to his young mind, so much so that he talked about it the whole way back.

"Sister, let me tell you, they really do this every time!

"This time when I go back, I have to talk to them properly!

"How could they treat their own son like that? What do you think?

“I have to stand up to them this time! I have to let them know that I’m also a part of this family!”

Shen Li said, “... Brother, are you thirsty?”

“Now that you mention it, I am a little thirsty.”

Gu Siyang picked up the tumbler beside his and gulped down a mouthful of water. Then, he continued his tirade.

“When we get home later, Sis, you must not stop me! I have to set things right today!”

Shen Li was silent.

“Okay.”

She finally understood why her uncle had asked Gu Siyang to move out early that morning.

He was really noisy.

Gu Siyang took his phone out and started to call Liang Su. The phone rang for a long time before the other party picked up.

“Hello?”

“Mom!”

Feeling wronged, Gu Siyang complained, “Why didn’t you call me to tell me that you invited Ah Li home for dinner tonight?”

“Huh? Your Dad didn’t call you? Let me ask—”

A few indistinct sounds came from the other end.

“Tingfeng? Didn’t you tell Siyang to come home for dinner tonight?”

“No. I thought you told him.”

“I thought you told him too.”

“...”

Gu Siyang was flabbergasted.

Liang Su came back and said apologetically, “I asked him about it. Both your father and I forgot to do it.”

Gu Siyang was stunned.

Liang Su asked gently, “Then will you be coming back tonight? What do you want to eat?”

Gu Siyang had wanted to act tough for a while, but when he heard this, he immediately threw all his previous ambitions to the back of his mind.

“Braised prawns!”

Liang Su said, “Your father and I just ate that yesterday. Forget it, we’ll have stewed pork ribs instead.”

Gu Siyang was speechless.

Why had she bothered to even ask him?

“Alright, let’s not talk about it for now. The soup is almost ready. I’m hanging up.”

After saying that, Liang Su immediately hung up the phone.

Gu Siyang heard the beeping sound from the other end of the line and once again doubted life.

Shen Li looked at him and advised, “Brother, actually stewed pork ribs are delicious as well.”

Gu Siyang said solemnly, “I can see that this house can’t accommodate me anymore.”

Shen Li paused.

“Then... There’s a soup dumpling restaurant just ahead that has pretty good food. Why don’t I drop you off at that intersection?”

Gu Siyang hurriedly put away his phone.

“Forget it, forget it. Stewed pork ribs are indeed quite delicious. I can eat that too.”

...

An hour later, Gu Siyang was holding a bowl of fresh, tender, and fragrant stewed pork ribs with a satisfied look on his face.

“Mom! Your cooking is really good!”

This bowl of stewed pork ribs had forced him to choke back all the bold words from before.

“Is that so?”

Liang Su asked while putting some food into Shen Li’s bowl.

“Then Ah Li, you should eat more.”

Gu Siyang was already used to this kind of situation, so he added another serving for himself.

As long as he helped himself to it, he would be well-fed!

“Oh right, Ah Li, the gift that you ordered previously has already been delivered. It’s upstairs. I’ll bring it to you later.”

Liang Su smiled.

Shen Li’s eyes curved as she smiled.

“Thank you, Aunt.”

She had come today because First Uncle and his family had wanted to celebrate the publication of her thesis. Secondly, she had wanted to pick up that gift.

Gu Siyang asked curiously, “Sister, what was it that you ordered?”

Shen Li said, “It’s not for me. It’s a gift.”

Gu Siyang nodded in understanding.

Gu Tingfeng raised his phone and said, “Ah Li, Su Su, please look at the camera.”

Shen Li and Liang Su both looked in his direction, and their faces appeared on the camera.

Gu Siyang quickly said, “And me!”

As he said this, he immediately put down the chopsticks that were in his hand and moved over to Liang Su’s side, giving a brilliant smile to the camera.

Snap!

Gu Tingfeng looked at the photo and handed the phone to Gu Siyang.

“Forget it, I didn’t take a good photo. Siyang, you take the photo.”

“Sure!”

Gu Siyang happily took the phone and raised it.

The four of them looked at the camera.

“One, two, three—”

Snap!

...

Ten minutes later, when Shen Li and Liang Su went upstairs, Gu Siyang posted on his WeChat moments.

[The whole family is having a meal together! Mom's cooking is incredible!]

There was a photo attached below. It was a selfie of the four of them.

Almost as soon as he posted it, Gu Siyang received a comment from Ji Shu.

[I understand the logic, but why is your face so big?]

Gu Siyang was speechless.

Very soon, Gu Tinglan clicked the first like.

"This is a "like" for sister-in-law's rice. Also, Ah Li's slender face is so small and beautiful."

Gu Siyang reacted for a moment before typing angrily, "Uncle, is there something that you're implying about me?!"

Gu Tinglan replied very quickly.

"Is it that obvious?"

Gu Siyang choked and clicked on the photo again.

After a long while, he looked at Gu Tingfeng who was sitting beside him, and said faintly, "Dad, did you do this on purpose?"

Gu Tingfeng took a sip of tea and looked around.

"Ah Li is so beautiful. She looks good no matter which way you take her photo, right?"

Gu Siyang thought, 'I can't stay in this house anymore!'

...

On the second floor.

Liang Su took out a simple and exquisite small gift box and handed it to Shen Li.

"Quick, take a look. Do you like it?"

Click.

Shen Li opened the box.

"It's been done exactly according to your design," Liang Su said with a smile. "Ah Li, are you really not considering going in the direction of high-quality jewelry design?"

Shen Li shook her head with a smile.

"Thank you, Aunt, but I really don't have such a plan."

The reason she had done this was because she had wanted it to be a gift for someone else.

Liang Su had already guessed what her answer would be and stroked her hair, feeling a little annoyed.

"I know. After all, not everyone has the right to make our Ah Li go to so much trouble, right?"

The corners of Shen Li's lips pursed into a faint arc, which made her dimples become faintly discernible.

Liang Su looked at her and suddenly sighed.

“They all say that your personality is more like Zhi Jin, but in fact, sometimes, you are more like your mother.”

Shen Li raised her eyelashes slightly.

Liang Su’s voice lowered slightly, and she smiled at her gently.

“In other words... the two of them are pretty much the same kind of people. As long as one person is identified, that person will always be unique.”

No one could take their place.

All the exceptions, everything that was special, would only be given to that one person.

Liang Su said softly, “Ah Li, does Lu Huaiyu know how much you like him?”

Chapter 935: I Miss You Very Much Now

Shen Li left Jinshui No. 1 courtyard and drove back to Skyleaf City alone.

The sky was completely dark. Cars were coming and going on the streets, and neon lights were flashing on the roadside.

Shen Li stopped at a traffic light.

Liang Su’s words echoed in her ears again.

‘Ah Li, does Lu Huaiyu know how much you like him?’

It seemed that everyone knew how much Lu Huaiyu liked her.

He had attended parent-teacher conferences for her, helped her buy materials, and spent the cold and hot New Year’s Day in Lincheng with her.

He had waited for her as she sat for the college entrance exams, followed her back to the Capital, given her the ‘Night of the Milky Way’ watch, and also gave her a starry sky lollipop.

His fondness for her was so obvious.

He had done so many things for her, so many that it had made it obvious to everyone.

However...

She thought of the vague memories of the last days of her previous life. She thought of how he had held her gently and carefully. She thought of how he had spoken to her intermittently.

What they did not know was that what they had seen and heard was not everything.

The green light lit up, and Shen Li drove forward.

Lu Huaiyu probably... did not know.

After all, even she herself did not know the answer to this question.

...

The Lu family home. Study room.

Old Master Lu took the medical report and read it repeatedly many times.

It was better than before...

Knock, knock.

There was a knock on the door.

Old Master Lu immediately put his things away into the drawer. Then he raised his head.

"Come in."

Lu Huaiyu pushed the door open and glanced at the desk.

He had stayed alone in his study for half an hour since he had come back and given the medical report to Old Master Lu.

Calmly, he looked away and asked with a faint smile, "Aren't we going to play chess tonight?"

Old Master Lu quickly said, "Yes, yes!"

He stood up and took out the chessboard and chess pieces from the cabinet next to him.

Lu Huaiyu sat down in front of him and took the white chess pieces.

The person with the black chess pieces would go first.

"After you," he said.

Old Master Lu took a chess piece and glanced at Lu Huaiyu. He wanted to say something but hesitated. In the end, he did not say anything.

He placed a chess piece.

Lu Huaiyu placed his chess pieces without any hesitation.

In the quiet study room, only the sound of chess pieces as they were placed was heard.

Old Master Lu wanted to say something to him, but he was distracted.

Lu Huaiyu played fast and ruthlessly, but every time he was about to kill, he would always give Old Master Lu a chance to live first.

Old Master Lu gradually immersed himself in the game and temporarily put those thoughts aside.

An hour passed quickly and Old Master Lu eventually stared at the chessboard and sighed.

“Just a little bit more!”

Lu Huaiyu laughed and started picking up the pieces.

“It’s very late. You should rest early.”

Old Master Lu held out a finger.

“How about another round?”

Lu Huaiyu did not give in this time and simply rejected his request.

Old Master Lu was unwilling to accept defeat.

“You tell me... You’ve aroused my addiction, but you’re refusing to play with me any longer! Tomorrow, when Ah Li comes, I’ll play with her!”

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyes.

“How many moves do you plan to let Ah Li allow you to make this time?”

Old Master Lu was instantly enraged from embarrassment.

“Then my granddaughter-in-law! If I play chess with my granddaughter-in-law, how can that be called her giving in?!”

That was called sparring!

Lu Huaiyu paused for a moment and finally said, “I’ll play another game with you on one condition. If you play chess with her tomorrow, you can’t regret it.”

Old Master Lu looked at him suspiciously.

“Really?”

Lu Huaiyu picked up a chess piece. His slender and fair fingers were like jade, and the clear and clean white chess piece was clamped between his fingertips. His hands were actually even cleaner and more beautiful than the chess piece.

He said, “It’s my birthday tomorrow. You should at least give me some face.”

Old Master Lu mulled over it for a while.

“Okay!”

Ten minutes later, the winner and loser had already been decided.

Old Master Lu looked at the scattered black pieces on the chessboard and coughed hard.

This, this had been too fast!

He had suffered a loss!

“Cough! Huaiyu, you see, tomorrow will be a rare occasion that Ah Li is able to come here. Why don’t we consider the conditions just now—”.

Before he could even finish speaking, Lu Huaiyu had already stood up.

“That’s all for today. You should sleep early and take care of your health.”

Seeing that he could not refuse, Old Master Lu could only agree. Seeing that Lu Huaiyu was about to leave, he muttered to himself, “Hey, why is it your birthday and not Ah Li’s birthday?”

When would Ah Li turn 20?!

Lu Huaiyu turned around.

“Grandfather, allow me to remind you that I’m only four years older than Ah Li. Also, if you really want to rush anyone, you can try again on Big Brother.

“At his age, he’s already a little advanced in age for marriage and to have a child.”

Old Master Lu became angry at the mention of this.

“Forget it! It’s better to wait for Ah Li to turn twenty.”

He looked at Lu Huaiyu again.

“With your temper, I don’t even know how Ah Li fell for you!”

...

After taking a shower, Shen Li blew dry her hair, sat down in front of the desk, and read for a while.

At 12 o’clock sharp, she opened Lu Huaiyu’s dialog box.

After typing a few words, she decided to delete it. After thinking for a moment, she directly dialed the number.

The call was answered very quickly.

A low and lazy voice came from the receiver.

“Ah Li?”

Shen Li looked at the glass candy jar on the desk.

The dim yellow light spilled down, coating the transparent jar body with a layer of warmth.

She said, "Second Brother, Happy Birthday."

Lu Huaiyu chuckled softly as he asked her in a low voice, "Didn't we agree to meet during the day? Why are you staying up so late?"

"It's your birthday, of course, I have to wish you."

Shen Li sat hugging her knees, as the corners of her lips curved up to reveal her small dimples.

"Besides, I miss you very much right now."

Chapter 936: Shen Tangtang, Grow Up Quickly

There was a moment of silence on the phone.

After a moment, Lu Huaiyu chuckled.

"Ah Li, do you know what Grandpa said today?"

Shen Li had not expected him to suddenly mention this.

"Hmm? What did Grandpa Lu say?"

"He was wondering why it was me who is celebrating his birthday and not you?"

Lu Huaiyu looked out of the window. His deep and slightly hoarse voice seemed to blend into the heavy night. Every word carried a slight heat, and even the silent night was lit up.

"Shen Tangtang, please grow up quickly."

...

The next day was the weekend.

At 10 am, the black Panamera stopped at the ninth building in Skyleaf City.

A tall and handsome figure stood beside the car.

A gentle breeze blew, stirring up his pure black shirt. The perfect muscle lines were faintly visible underneath.

One of his hands was in his pocket. His sleeves were half-rolled up, revealing his strong, fair forearms.

His black hair fell over his face. The lines from the brow bone to the bridge of the nose were extremely smooth, and the line of his jaw was clean and sharp.

His posture was casual and languid, but it also showed the ascetic nobility in his bones. He was as unreachable as the snow on the mountain peak.

The moment Shen Li walked out, this was what she saw.

Even though she had seen his stunning looks so many times, it still amazed her even now.

As if he had noticed something, he raised his head and looked over. His black eyes focused.

Today, she was wearing low-waisted jeans and white shoes. On top, she wore a black tight-fitting short-sleeved shirt, as well as a cropped denim jacket.

The girl's graceful and exquisite curves were carefully outlined. Her legs were long and straight, and her slim waist did not even seem to fill a grip.

Her long wavy hair was tied up into a loose bun, which made her swan-like neck look even more white and slender. A few strands of soft hair fell from her forehead, making her look lazily beautiful.

She was already extremely fair-skinned. Wearing the black tight-fitting short-sleeved shirt now made the small patch of skin revealed by the collar look even more fair and clear. Her skin was as milky as cream and showed off her exquisite collarbones.

The moment he saw her, his cold face relaxed, and a gentle smile appeared in his eyes.

"Ah Li."

Shen Li walked to stand in front of him before raising her small face and smiling at him.

"Second Brother."

Lu Huaiyu helped her open the car door. Shen Li grabbed the small black satchel and climbed into the back seat. Lu Huaiyu followed behind her.

Fang Qingyun smiled and said, "Ah Li is so beautiful today!"

Shen Li smiled.

"Thank you, Uncle Fang."

"Speaking of which, you haven't visited for a long time. The old man has been talking about it non-stop for a long time. Today, you finally going over!"

Shen Li had indeed been very busy recently. Since it was Lu Huaiyu's birthday today, she had said that she would go to the Lu family home to celebrate his birthday together.

"I miss you and Grandpa Lu too."

Fang Qingyun was elated when he heard this.

"Aunt Chun Lan bought a lot of ingredients today, and she plans to show off her skills. The dishes she's making today are all of your favorites!"

Shen Li blinked.

"Today is Second Brother's birthday. Isn't it better to choose Second Brother's favorite—"

Fang Qingyun laughed and said, "The old man said that Second Master will definitely like whatever you like! Then it's better to choose what you like!"

Of course, there was another sentence: Lu Huaiyu often came back, but Ah Li rarely came to visit. Of course, they had to keep her close!

However, considering that Lu Huaiyu was also there, Fang Qingyun did not say this sentence out loud.

Shen Li coughed lightly.

"Then... I'll have to thank Grandpa Lu and Aunt Chun Lan first."

...

Half an hour later, the car arrived at the Lu residence.

Old Master Lu was watering the flowers in the courtyard. When he saw Shen Li get out of the car, he immediately put down the empty watering can.

“Ah Li!”

“Grandpa Lu.”

Old Master Lu went forward and looked at Shen Li carefully.

“Why has Ah Li lost weight again?”

Shen Li was silent.

“I don’t think so.”

“You have lost weight! You’re a lot thinner than when you were in Bai City! Now that you’ve come home today, you must be well-nourished!”

Shen Li was stunned.

“Bai City?”

Standing at the side, Lu Huaiyu, who had been completely ignored by his grandfather, explained, “Grandfather watched the live broadcast of the ‘Embrace of a Star’ show.”

Shen Li understood but for a moment, she did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Old Master Lu had actually watched this as well...

“The camera will naturally widen the proportions of people on screen, so you don’t have to worry. On the other hand, have you been feeling well recently?”

“Yes! Yes!”

Old Master Lu smiled brightly.

“Quickly, let’s enter the house!”

...

Lu Huaiyu had always kept a low profile on his birthday, and it was the same this year.

At noon, the dishes were served one after another, and the aroma was rich and alluring.

Shen Li looked around and asked in a low voice, “Aunt Chun Lan, is Second Brother’s birthday cake cut before or after the meal?”

Zhang Chun Lan smiled and waved her hand.

“Second Master has never liked those, so we didn’t prepare one.”

Shen Li was stunned for a moment, but then she felt that it was quite normal.

After all, Lu Huaiyu came from a family background that was very outstanding in all aspects, and they lacked for nothing.

Having a birthday cake was indeed a bit cliché.

She nodded.

...

The meal was very lively.

It had been a long time since Old Master Lu had seen Shen Li, so he kept engaging her in conversation.

After the meal finally ended, he suggested playing chess with her.

Of course, Shen Li could not refuse, and Lu Huaiyu merely watched from the side.

Old Master Lu's chess skills had miraculously stayed at the same level for many years.

Shen Li had played with him a few times before, and she had basically figured out his level and skill, so she planned on giving in to him without batting an eyelid.

However, she soon found that this was quite difficult to do. That was because Old Master Lu did not regret his moves at all.

In this way, his skill level was even higher. Shen Li could not even give him a chance.

In the end, she had been unable to hold it in anymore and carefully said, "Grandpa Lu, I don't think you made the right move just now. Did you make a mistake?"

Old Master Lu's eyes lit up. Just as he was about to nod, he saw Lu Huaiyu sitting next to him with a half-smile.

He coughed forcefully.

"No, no! I think it's okay to place my piece there too!"

Shen Li asked, "... Are you sure?"

Old Master Lu's heart was bleeding. He forced himself to say, "Yes! Yes!"

Shen Li replied with an "Oh".

Snap.

She placed a piece.

"I believe you've lost."

Old Master Lu was baffled.

Hurriedly, he looked at the chessboard. Lost? How had he lost?!

"No, I just--"

His words suddenly stuck in his throat.

Shen Li looked over inquisitively, and she stopped in the middle of retrieving the chess pieces.

Old Master Lu's lips moved, but in the end, he could only bear the pain and look away.

"Then, then it seems that I did make a mistake just now... Let's play again!"

He had learned his lesson, and he would definitely win next time!

An hour later.

Old Master Lu looked at his chess pieces that were trapped again and finally gave up.

“No more, no more.”

Shen Li asked, “Do you really not want to play anymore?”

Old Master Lu endured it.

“It’s easy to lose one’s will when playing with these things. It’s not good, not good.”

Shen Li was stunned into silence.

Lu Huaiyu did not seem surprised. He started to help put away the chess pieces and put everything back into the cabinet.

“Grandpa, are you tired?”

Old Master Lu was extremely tired.

“I’m tired, I’m tired.”

Lu Huaiyu said, “Then, I’ll be taking Ah Li to watch a movie, alright?”

Old Master Lu sighed. He had planned so many things but they did not seem to be interested. He waved his hand dejectedly.

“Go, go, go.”

Chapter 937: Last Year's Wish Was Returned to Her Brother

"Goodbye, Grandpa Lu."

Shen Li pressed the button to lower the window and waved goodbye to Old Master Lu.

The car slowly drove away.

"I thought I would be staying here for a long time today," Shen Li said.

After all, she had not been here in a while. Looking at Old Master Lu's personality, he would have definitely tried to keep her here longer.

But she had not expected—

"It takes a lot of energy to play chess," Lu Huaiyu said.

Shen Li nodded.

"That's true. Grandpa Lu's health is more important."

The car drove forward and soon entered a familiar road.

Shen Li looked outside and asked, "Second Brother, which movie theater are we going to?"

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

"You'll know when we get there. Are you sleepy?"

Shen Li's habit was to take a lunch break at noon. However, after lunch today, she had played chess with Old Master Lu.

She nodded honestly. "A little."

Lu Huaiyu looked at her and asked in a low voice, "Would you like to sleep for a while?"

Shen Li nodded and leaned back, tilting her head and closing her eyes.

The afternoon sun in April was bright and warm, and the cold, cedar scent from his body lingered at the tip of her nose.

Shen Li had only intended on closing her eyes and resting for a while, but gradually, she felt sleepy and fell into a deep sleep.

The car turned a corner, and as a result of inertia, her body fell to the side.

A hand firmly held onto her shoulder.

Lu Huaiyu raised his hand and silently took her into his arms. As if he was afraid of waking her up, he moved very gently.

Then, he held her head and placed it against his shoulder, holding her with one hand to prevent her from falling forward.

Fang Qingyun looked at the rearview mirror and saw Lu Huaiyu lowering his eyelids slightly as he looked intently at the young girl in his arms.

His movements were careful and meticulous. He was extremely gentle and considerate.

If any others saw this scene, they would be shocked. The second master of the Lu family, who had always been aloof and difficult to tame, actually had such a side to him.

It was really— He was so protective of what he had in his arms.

In his heart, he gave a big sigh but he also could not help but laugh.

...

“Ah Li, Ah Li? Wake up, we’re here.”

Lu Huaiyu gently pinched her face.

Shen Li slowly opened her eyes. Her peach blossom eyes still carried a hint of confusion and tiredness from having just woken up.

“We’re here?”

She turned her head to look out of the car window and suddenly paused.

A few seconds later, she gradually woke up.

“... Rongyue Mansion? To watch a movie?”

Why did it seem like... something was not right?

The next moment, she heard Lu Huaiyu’s voice.

“Let’s watch it at home.”

Shen Li slowly turned her head.

Lu Huaiyu stroked her hair.

“Let’s go.”

...

Five minutes later, Shen Li and Lu Huaiyu entered the door together.

She slowly changed her shoes.

Watching a movie... so they had come back here to watch?

Then why had he made it sound so formal?

Lu Huaiyu came over to hold her hand.

Shen Li then remembered something and grabbed her satchel.

“Oh right, Second Brother’s birthday present.”

As she spoke, she took out a simple and exquisite gift box from her bag.

Lu Huaiyu’s gaze fell on it and he raised his eyebrows slightly.

“Where’s my birthday cake?”

Shen Li blinked.

“I thought Grandpa Lu and the others would prepare it...”

After all, it was the Lu family’s birthday celebration.

“Besides, didn’t Aunt Chun Lan say that Second Brother doesn’t like these things?”

Lu Huaiyu stared at her for a while, then he gave her a half-smile.

“From you, it’s different. Also— I had it all last year, but now that I’ve become a boyfriend, won’t I have it anymore?”

Shen Li said, “... Then shall I make one now?”

Lu Huaiyu’s place was always well stocked with ingredients as well as baking tools, so it would not take much effort to make a small cake.

Lu Huaiyu pulled her over to his side and looked down at her. He could not help but smile and kiss her between her eyebrows, coaxing her in a low voice, “Why are you so obedient?”

Just because he said he wanted it, she was willing to give it to him.

Shen Li blinked her eyes lightly. Her thick and curly eyelashes fluttered. First, it seemed like a fluttering butterfly that eventually flew into her heart.

Lu Huaiyu held her hand and led her inside.

“There’s no rush. You can do it later.”

...

The two of them came to the video and music room.

Shen Li chose a classic foreign film.

The sunshade curtains were slowly drawn. The entire room was dark, leaving only the flickering light of the screen in front of them.

Lu Huaiyu came over to her side and sat down.

The gentle and melodious music sounded.

It was as if the entire world had been blocked out, leaving only the two of them in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

Time passed slowly.

At a certain moment, Shen Li looked sideways at the man sitting next to her.

In the darkness, the fluorescent light fell on his face. It was bright and dark, but it still could not hide the perfectly smooth lines of his side profile.

As if sensing her gaze, he also looked over and asked with a smile, "Why aren't you watching the movie?"

Shen Li came closer and poked his face, whispering.

"You look better than the movie."

Lu Huaiyu's pitch-black eyes narrowed slightly.

“Are you really not going to watch?”

Shen Li sensed the danger and immediately retreated sensibly.

“I want to watch.”

Lu Huaiyu grabbed her waist and pulled her into his arms.

Her back immediately pressed against his firm and flat chest. The scorching heat almost passed through the thin cloth and onto her body.

At the same time, he wrapped his arms around her incredibly slender waist.

“Alright, let’s see.”

Shen Li tried to break free, but she was quickly pushed back into his arms.

After struggling back and forth twice, she finally became obedient and nestled in his arms.

However, his body was so hot that she could even feel his strong heartbeat.

His presence was also too strong. That invisible aura forcefully overtook every inch of space around her.

So, for the entire second half of the movie, she barely noticed what was playing.

Only his breathing, his heartbeat, and his scent seemed to fill the air.

It was not until the end of the movie played that Lu Huaiyu moved closer to her ear and asked, "Was it good?"

Shen Li nodded.

Lu Huaiyu chuckled.

Shen Li instantly felt that he could see through all her thoughts.

She pointed in front of her.

"Second Brother, you haven't seen the gift yet."

Lu Huaiyu took the remote control and the curtains automatically opened.

It was already evening. The horizon was covered with large patches of red and orange clouds, and even the windows seemed to be covered with a layer of warm light.

He picked up the gift box from the coffee table.

Click.

A pair of sapphire cufflinks lay quietly in the box.

She suddenly tugged at his sleeve gently.

He looked up.

At this moment, her back was against the light, and a faint crimson color washed over her face. It was even more breathtaking than the scenery outside the window.

The next moment, she put a hand on his shoulder, leaned in, and kissed the corner of his lips.

There seemed to be a glimmer in her eyes that made even the tip of one's heart sway slightly.

The sweet and husky voice fell between his lips.

"I want to return last year's wish to my brother."

Chapter 938: Wish For Second Brother's Wish to Come True

All the words that had not been said, all the thoughts that had been carefully hidden, all the feelings that had been clearly revealed, all of it melted into this kiss.

Lu Huaiyu put one hand around her waist and pulled her into his arms. He raised his other hand and gently tangled his slender fingers into her loose bun hairstyle until it came loose and fell, her soft and smooth hair spread out over the palm of his hand.

His fingers passed through the tangled black hair as he held the back of her head gently and forcefully, without allowing her to move back. He kissed her back with force.

Hot and lingering.

A spark ignited the prairie.

Her whole body almost sank into the soft sofa, trapped by him in this small world.

His hot breath mixed with the cold smell of cedar and interweaved into a silent and noisy greed that easily wrapped around her.

He kissed her until her whole body became hot. Her heart was beating fast, and even the tips of her ears had turned red.

He looked at her and saw that her eyes were shimmering, and her eyelashes were slightly trembling, looking pure yet seductive.

It was as if there was a fire burning from the depths of his body. The heat swept through his whole body until even his throat suddenly felt thirsty.

So all he could do was to take it from her lips and teeth in his attempt to try and quench his thirst.

However, the deeper he went, the more thirsty he became.

His eyes were intense and dark, as if they had been quenched by fire. When he looked at her like this, she felt as if sparks had landed on her skin wherever his gaze went. The boiling temperature almost reached the bottom of her heart.

However, after a while, her entire body became limp, and her breathing became rapid and shallow.

The movie had already ended. The room was extremely quiet, and only this faint sound remained as the only words.

He finally let go of her lips, but he did not retreat. Instead, he slowly kissed her.

Full and soft lips, a sharp chin, a slender neck, a straight and exquisite collarbone...

He treated her like a fragile treasure, as he touched her carefully and gently.

However, wherever he passed, he left an unbearable ticklish feeling. To her, it was torture.

Finally, she could not resist pushing him away, but at this moment, her hands and feet had already gone weak. The little bit of strength she had left was really not enough.

However, he seemed to have noticed it, so he stopped just like that.

At this moment, his tall and straight nose bridge gently brushed against the delicate skin under her collarbone. His lower jaw pressed against the collar of her soft black short-sleeved shirt.

The mingling of black and white seemed to be the ultimate impact.

Shen Li thought that he was finally willing to stop, so she heaved a sigh of relief.

However, before she could finish letting out her breath, it suddenly turned into a faint whimper.

He bit on the collar of her shirt, pulled it down slightly, and kissed the soft white skin that seemed to glow.

Almost instinctively, his lips moved slightly, and he took a very gentle nibble.

Her eyelashes trembled slightly, and there seemed to be moisture in the bottom of her eyes.

But this time, he held his breath and moved his head away before finally taking a deep breath.

It was as if even the air seemed to be boiling hot.

Then, he pulled her collar to adjust it properly and looked at her again.

He lowered his head and kissed her gently at the corner of one of her eyes.

“Good girl.”

His voice sounded as if a handful of coarse sand had been mixed into it, low and hoarse beyond belief.

He was really unbridled to the extreme and restrained himself to the extreme.

Shen Li nestled in his embrace, her face red. She raised her arms and hugged him. She rubbed against his neck and replied softly, "Yes."

...

It seemed like a long time had passed before he finally gently stroked her back and kissed her soft cheeks. He said in a low voice, "Ah Li, thank you for your gift. I like it very much."

When Shen Li heard this, the corners of her lips curled up.

"Then, there's only the birthday cake left. Shall I make it now?"

Lu Huaiyu's dark eyes fixed on her for a few seconds before he smiled and said, "Okay. Can I have a strawberry cake?"

...

The ingredients were all readily available, and there were strawberries in the fridge.

Shen Li whipped the cream and smeared it on the small cake that had just been baked. In the end, she chose the plumpest and most beautiful strawberry to decorate it.

"It's a pity that there are no birthday candles—"

As Shen Li spoke, Lu Huaiyu took out a box of small colorful candles from a drawer under the counter.

He handed it over.

“It seems to be a gift from the previous auntie who bought dessert.”

Shen Li remained quiet.

She believed him.

In the end, she chose a small red candle from the selection, inserted it into the cake, and lit it up. Then, she ran to turn off the lights in the dining room.

The surroundings darkened, leaving only the candlelight that illuminated their small world.

She sat down beside him.

“Second Brother, would you like to make a wish?”

She thought that he would say no, but unexpectedly, after thinking for a moment, he looked at her and actually nodded.

Shen Li instinctively realized that this wish of his had something to do with her.

Then, he closed his eyes.

A few seconds later, he opened his eyes again and looked straight at her. There was a hint of a smile at the corner of his lips.

“It’s done.”

He did not say anything, but his gaze was very direct. All his thoughts and love were very obvious.

Shen Li's face heated up slightly.

"Then... Happy Birthday to Second Brother."

"Also, I wish that Second Brother's wish will come true."

...

The following week, Shen Li spent more time in the library.

That was because the midterm exams were coming.

When the students of the Institute of Physics saw this, they were all greatly stimulated.

Even the big shot who had already published two articles in the Universe journal was working so hard in the face of the midterm exams. How could they, a bunch of underachievers, have the nerve to be idle?

Thus, for a time, everyone's enthusiasm for learning soared to an unprecedented high.

The teachers of the Institute of Physics were extremely gratified. This group of brats was usually more outgoing and arrogant than the others. Now, they finally knew how to improve.

At the same time, many people let out big sighs.

Xijing University was the top university in the country. Those who could enter the Institute of Physics to teach were definitely outstanding scientific researchers in the physics circle.

However, there was Shen Zhijin.

Compared to this absolute genius in the international astrophysics field, their academic achievements seemed ordinary.

And now, there was Shen Li. Publishing two articles in “Universe” had directly struck a huge blow.

Not only did this blow hit the students of the institute, but even the teachers of the institute were also not spared.

The father and daughter pair directly drove the entire Institute of Physics to a crazy internal volume.

The academic atmosphere of the entire academy became even more intense.

...

While Shen Li was relaxing and preparing for the mid-term exams, some people were not in such a good mood.

Because of Yu Cheng, the entire Yu family was in a gloomy mood.

Chapter 939: Painting

When FN was first exposed for drug possession, the Yu family had not taken it seriously.

But as time passed, things began to develop in a direction that they had not expected. By the time they realized that something was wrong, the whole thing had gotten out of their control.

Public opinion had been the first thing to explode, and pressure from all sides had followed.

With the Yu family's background and methods, they had always been able to quickly deal with any negative news that broke out.

This time, however, it was very troublesome.

Firstly, it was because drugs were involved, and secondly, the incident had happened in the Capital.

Just these two points alone meant that the Yu family had not had much leeway to intervene.

Other than that, there was another important point: not long ago, Yu Cheng had forced Pan Jiajia to attempt to commit suicide, which had already aroused great public disgust. After that, in order to protect him, the Yu family had forcefully suppressed the news. It seemed then that the matter had been put behind them, but in reality, the anger in many people's hearts had not dissipated.

They had only been forcibly deprived of the right to speak out against the Yu family. However, that did not mean that they had forgiven Yu Cheng.

In fact, because they had been muzzled, they had accumulated even more intense antipathy and disgust in their hearts.

All of this had erupted in a collective frenzy after Yu Cheng's second incident.

This power was extremely terrifying. The Yu family could not control the world, and they could not shut everyone up forever.

Drug use, drug possession, bribery, and colluding with officials to frame their opponents...

With all of these things, Yu Cheng had already been nailed to the pillar of shame!

The most favored young master of the Yu family was now in prison. Old Master Yu was angry and anxious, and his large house was filled with resentment. As a result, the entire Yu family was shrouded in a layer of shadow.

Haicheng, in an upscale residential area.

This was where Yu Yu stayed since she usually did not stay in the old house.

“President Yu, these are the documents that you need to sign today.”

In the study, the assistant stood in front of the desk with his head slightly lowered. He respectfully and carefully handed over the documents in his hands.

A fair-skinned hand took them and flipped them open.

The assistant stepped back and quickly looked over.

After LY’s press conference ended, Yu Yu returned to Haicheng on the same day. However, she had not gone to the company over the next few days.

Every day, the assistant would bring over the things that needed to be dealt with. She did her work online and so on.

Many people in the company guessed that she had not shown up because she was too embarrassed by what had happened at LY’s press conference.

However...

The assistant carefully averted his gaze.

Even though a long time had passed, but the slap marks on Yu Yu’s face still had not subsided.

She was the second miss of the Yu family. Naturally, the only people who could do this to her had to be a member of the Yu family.

Of course, the assistant did not dare to ask about the specifics.

These past few days, he felt as if he was being tortured every day. He was tormented by the oppressive atmosphere.

However, he had no choice. After all, he still had to work, and so did Yu Yu.

Although she was the general manager of Yu Corporation, she was still part of the Yu family. The company could not possibly stop functioning just because of her, right?

However... her situation in the Yu family was clearly much worse than before.

In the suffocating silence, Yu Yu suddenly asked, "What happened? Why hasn't Liang Yue signed the contract for the movie 'Chasing the Light' yet?"

She had seen the project a while back, and if things had progressed well, the contract should already have been sent

But so far, there's no sign of it.

The assistant tensed up and quickly explained, "President Yu, the script that Director Liang Yue wanted to film was signed by Shengguang Media."

Yu Yu finally raised her head and frowned. "Shengguang Media?"

"Yes, it happened a few days ago. Also, Manager Wu and the rest of the company didn't think highly of the script, so they didn't tell you about it."

The assistant did not say it explicitly, but Yu Yu guessed that it must have happened two days ago during the LY press conference.

At that time, she had just returned from the Capital and received a slap from Old Master Yu at the Yu family's old mansion.

It seemed quite normal that the assistant had not told her about it.

However, Yu Yu was still very displeased and coldly said, "In the future, please remember to report on such matters in a timely manner."

After having been dragged down by Yu Cheng, she was not having a good time in the Yu family.

Moreover, she no longer had YU, so she had to tighten her grip on Yu Media.

In actual fact, she was not really interested in "Chasing the Light". However, she would not allow her authority in the company to be damaged in the slightest.

Her assistant had followed her for a long time and could roughly guess her current mood. He advised her, "President Yu, Shengguang Media acted very quickly this time. They're probably trying to take revenge on us for snatching away the "Fantasy God Chronicles".

Yu Yu sneered.

She had actually deduced the same thing.

Indeed, Liang Yue's films were of guaranteed quality, but they could not be considered to be very profitable. Since that was the case, if Shengguang Media wanted to steal it, it was up to them.

In any case, they already had "Fantasy God Chronicles" in their hands.

Yu Yu closed her eyes.

It would be fine once “Fantasy God Chronicles” was released, a project that she had personally negotiated.

That idiot, Yu Cheng, had not been able to help himself. Someone who was addicted to drugs would never be able to stand up again in his lifetime.

He was destined to rot in the mud in the future!

Sooner or later, the Yu family business would belong to her!

...

On the first weekend after the midterm exams, Shen Li went to Jinse Bay.

Yu Pingchuan arrived right after her.

After not seeing each other for a while, Yu Pingchuan said that he would cook for her, no matter what.

However, the moment this suggestion was put forward, Mei Yanqing mercilessly rejected it.

“You can barely see when you’re painting, but you still want to cook. Do you want to see Ah Li get food poisoning?”

Yu Pingchuan was silent.

Shen Li silently sighed.

As expected of the master who had scolded more than half of the art world, his tongue remained as sharp as ever.

She went to the refrigerator, opened the door, and very skillfully took out the lychees and grapes hidden inside.

“These have a high sugar content. I’ll take these away later, don’t eat them.”

Mei Yanqing immediately said, “Pingchuan! How many times have I said it? I don’t eat these! Don’t bring them to me next time!”

Yu Pingchuan was baffled.

This was the first time he had seen these things today! How had those things become something he had brought here?!

Shen Li ignored the two of them and took out the ribs and put them into the pot to wash the blood.

Yu Pingchuan was unable to argue, so he decided to run over to help Shen Li wash the vegetables.

“Oh right, Ah Li, have you been painting recently?” Yu Pingchuan asked casually.

Mei Yanqing was about to leave when he heard this. He stood at the kitchen door and looked over.

Fishing out the ribs, Shen Li shook her head.

“No.”

Chapter 940: Cartoon Princess, Ah Li

“That’s true. You’ve been busy with the mid-term exams recently, haven’t you?”

Yu Pingchuan was at the Xijing Academy of Fine Arts. Although he was on a different campus from Shen Li, he was still aware of her recent mid-term exams.

Mei Yanqing could not help but say, “Ah Li, I don’t think you need to worry too much about the courses that you’re studying now, right?”

When the semester started, she had already obtained full marks for the exemption exams for fourteen courses. He still remembered it clearly.

In any case, she had never been someone that anyone needed to worry about when it came to studying.

Shen Li smiled.

“I took a leave of absence earlier, so I missed some courses. That’s why I’ve been busy.”

She was talking about the week she had attended the fashion week in Bai City.

Mei Yanqing felt a little regretful.

“Originally, I had wanted to help you by holding an art exhibition for you, but you haven’t produced many paintings, and most of them have already been put up for auction...”

Even he had only one of Shen Li’s paintings hidden here.

That was something she had brought along when she had come to the Capital to attend university.

Only then did Shen Li turn around, the corners of her lips curving slightly.

“Thank you, Master, but the art exhibition isn’t that urgent.”

Mei Yan could not help but shake his head when he saw her lazy smile.

“You...”

It was the dream of many painters to be able to hold a personal art exhibition.

With Shen Li’s fame, she could have held one a long time ago.

In the past, when she had been preparing for the college entrance examination, no one had known that she was Tree’s Shadow. That had been fine. Now that she had come to the Capital and her identity had been made public, it would only be natural for her to hold an art exhibition.

In fact, he was not the only one. Many people in the art world were also looking forward to it.

As for the fans of Tree’s Shadow, it went without saying.

“Those paintings of yours were quickly bought the moment they entered the market. However, if they are not displayed and circulated, many people would not have the chance to see them even if they wanted to.”

When Mei Yanqing actually broached this matter in a very delicate manner.

After all, this confirmed the value of Shen Li’s paintings, proving that her paintings were highly appreciated. However, on the other hand, this also caused the vast majority of people to not have the chance to see her paintings with their own eyes.

“I remember that “The Seventeenth Night” is with Lu Huaiyu?”

Shen Li nodded.

Mei Yanqing suddenly snorted.

“I believe there should be more than one painting of yours in his hands, right?”

At that time, after her identity as Tree’s Shadow had been made public, Lu Huaiyu had admitted that he was the one who had bought “The Seventeenth Night.”

Although he had not said it explicitly, Shen Li speculated that he should have more than one painting with him.

However—

Shen Li’s eyes flickered. “I didn’t ask about this in detail.”

When Lu Huaiyu had bid for her painting at a high price, he had not known that she was Tree’s Shadow.

He had genuinely liked her painting. To a certain extent, it seemed to be a kind of subtle fate.

Therefore, Shen Li had not asked about this matter in detail.

“At that time, he got the news from god knows where. When he found out that your “Summer Cicada” was with me, he came to me several times to ask for it.” Mei Yanqing placed his hands behind his back, as if he had already seen through everything, “I definitely wouldn’t believe that he only has one painting of yours.”

This was the first time Shen Li had heard him mention this matter. She was a little surprised.

“Is that so?”

Mei Yanqing had been annoyed by Lu Huaiyu during that period of time. Now, he could not even be bothered to talk about it. He waved his hand.

“Forget it. It’s all in the past anyway. However, if you are going to produce a painting in the future, don’t release it for auction immediately. Save it for the exhibition first. What do you think?”

Yu Pingchuan drained the vegetables that he had washed. He shook off the water droplets on his hand and added, “That’s right. It’s not like you’re not short of money now, are you?”

In the past, Shen Li had been really short of money. Hence, every time a painting came out, it had been sent to the art association for them to bid on it.

Now... He also hoped that Shen Li could hold a proper art exhibition.

“Speaking of which, even I haven’t been able to take a good look at those paintings of yours.” Yu Pingchuan was rather regretful as he mentioned this.

Shen Li thought for a moment and nodded.

“Alright, I’ll consider this matter carefully.”

Although she was not very enthusiastic about holding an art exhibition, her master and senior brother had already said that she should. Furthermore, the art gallery that her third uncle had built for her in Hong Kong City could not be left empty.

Mei Yanqing suddenly thought of something.

“Oh right, Ah Li, when you went to Bai City previously, did you meet with Ronai?”

Shen Li nodded.

Mei Yanqing's tone was strange.

"I heard that he's an admirer of yours?"

Ronai was an oil painting master who was on par with Mei Yanqing. The two of them knew each other.

Shen Li replied.

"Mr. Ronai is the president of the Bai City Fashion Association. He has seen several of my previous shows."

Mei Yanqing said, "If he saw your paintings, he would probably like them even more."

Shen Li's expression changed slightly, but she did not say anything.

"But you're my disciple anyway." A hint of pride appeared on Mei Yan's face. He snorted lightly. "Let him be envious!"

Shen Li stayed silent.

...

At the dining table, Yu Pingchuan asked about another matter.

"How's the progress on the matter of the fake painting in the gallery?"

Shen Li shook her head.

"I only heard that the fake painting once appeared in Leland, but because the store had already been demolished by that time, there was no follow-up."

Later, she had asked someone to investigate, but they had not found any useful clues.

Mei Yanqing put down his chopsticks, and his expression became more serious.

“This is not as simple as someone copying one of your paintings. One Gallery has collaborated with the art association many times and is also a first-class gallery in this country. Logically speaking, such a mistake should not have happened.”

This was also why he had left this matter for Shen Li to deal with.

It was very likely that there were problems within the art association as well.

Shen Li nodded in agreement.

“You’re right. I’ll urge them to start from other aspects and see if they can find anything.”

Mei Yanqing’s expression relaxed slightly.

Yu Pingchuan changed the topic.

“Ah Li, the Capital Art Center will be holding a traditional Chinese art exhibition in the near future. The works on display are all top-notch traditional Chinese artworks in the country. Would you like to go and see it?”

He remembered that Shen Li’s mother, Gu Tingyin, had studied traditional Chinese art before.

Shen Li was stunned for a moment. She recalled the “Mountain Tea” painting that she had seen at the Art Institute.

She nodded.

Yu Pingchuan smiled.

“Alright, then I’ll give you the tickets later.”

“Thank you, Senior Brother.”

...

The midterm exam results came out very quickly. Shen Li scored full marks in all eleven subjects.

The people at the Institute of Physics were already used to this.

After all, when people received too many hits, their hearts would go numb.

However, it was worth mentioning that this time, the average scores of all the specialized subjects in the institute had reached a new high.

This was especially true for Shen Li’s astronomy major, which directly trampled over the other majors of the same level in atmospheric science and physics, firmly occupying the first place among the five common specialized subjects.

When the counselor, Xia Rui, announced this news in the chat group of the whole grade, Shen Li was having dinner with He Xiaochen in a small restaurant outside the west gate.

He Xiaochen sighed.

“Tsk, is this the mysterious power of the god of learning?”

As she was speaking, her phone suddenly rang.

She took out her phone from her pocket.

Shen Li unintentionally looked at it and her gaze froze.

On He Xiaochen's phone case, there was a drawing of a cartoon girl.

She had long wavy hair, and she wore a smoky gray shaded dress with a small crown on her head.

She was very cute, very girly.

Very much... like her.