

## Little Brat's 951

Chapter 951: Engagement?

When Mei Yanqing heard this, he laughed.

“Ah Li has always had good taste!”

Yu Pingchuan was speechless.

His relationship with Shi Yang could not be said to be close, but he could not always refuse someone who had invited him repeatedly.

He shot Shen Li a look to plead for her help.

Shen Li changed the topic.

“Master, the last time you held an art exhibition was three years ago. It just so happens that your body is almost fully recovered now. Do you have any such plans in the near future?”

Mei Yanqing waved his hand.

“Boring, boring!”

He had already held too many art exhibitions in his lifetime. At his age, he had long lost interest in these things.

“You, on the other hand, haven’t forgotten what I told you the last time, right? Ah Li, you haven’t even held a single art exhibition yet.”

Mei Yanqing was now far more interested in helping Shen Li hold an art exhibition than he was in holding one for himself.

Shen Li was quiet.

The problem was that she did not have many paintings in her hands now.

Mei Yanqing saw her expression and knew what she was thinking. He lowered his voice and said, "If you really can't do it, you should go and ask Lu Huaiyu how many paintings are in his possession. If he's willing to allow them to be taken out for an exhibition, it'll be much easier."

Otherwise, they would have to wait for a long time for Shen Li to produce more paintings.

Shen Li reminded him, "Master, those paintings belong to Second Brother now."

Although it was her work, Lu Huaiyu had spent money to buy them, so the ownership of the paintings naturally belonged to him.

Mei Yanqing looked at her in surprise.

"Isn't what he has yours?"

Shen Li was speechless.

Mei Yanqing snorted. "If that kid isn't even aware of this yet, then the engagement is off the table!"

Hearing a certain word, Shen Li's eyelids twitched. She almost thought that she had heard wrongly.

"What?"

Only then did Mei Yanqing realize what he had said, and he suddenly choked.

Meeting Shen Li's gaze, he coughed forcefully.

"N-nothing—"

Yu Pingchuan added, "Junior Sister, Master was just talking about your engagement."

The air was silent for a moment.

Mei Yanqing could not explain himself clearly, so out of humiliation, he flew into a rage.

"It's all because of that old b\*stard Lu Qishan! He keeps nagging me in my ear! Who would be able to stand it?"

Yu Pingchuan looked at him a few times with a complicated expression on his face. In the end, he could not help but say, "Master, then your willpower is too weak."

Mei Yanqing had cleared up the mess, but in the face of a stronger argument, so he stubbornly shouted,

"I'm 80 years old! What's wrong if I make an occasional slip of the tongue?!"

His voice was so loud and full of energy that it instantly attracted the attention of many people around him.

Yu Pingchuan's expression was incomprehensible.

Shen Li pressed the space between her eyebrows.

"Master, let's go back first."

Mei Yanqing said, "Okay."

After such an interlude, Mei Yanqing finally did not bother about the matter regarding Yu Pingchuan and Shi Yang anymore. Obediently, he went back with Shen Li.

Lin Yaohui arrived very quickly, and Yu Pingchuan got into the car and left.

...

When Yu Pingchuan arrived at the private room, everyone else had already arrived.

Shi Yang was leaning to the side as he chatted with someone. When he heard a voice, he looked up and saw that it was Yu Pingchuan. He stood up with a smile.

"Elder Yu."

Yu Pingchuan said, "I'm sorry. I accompanied Master to the hospital for a follow-up check-up this morning, and there was a traffic jam on the way. That's why I was a little late."

Everyone expressed that they were fine. Some people could not hold back their curiosity and asked, "Pingchuan, doesn't Elder Mei hate going to the hospital the most? Was he actually willing to go for a follow-up check-up today?"

Yu Pingchuan chuckled and said, "It's all because Ah Li accompanied him."

A hint of surprise flashed across Shi Yang's face, and the smile on his lips deepened.

"I've long heard that Elder Mei is very fond of this little disciple and values her greatly. Now, it looks like that's really the case."

Everyone laughed.

“That’s right! This is Elder Mei’s youngest disciple. She’s only eighteen or nineteen years old, and she’s very talented. If it were anyone else, they would feel the same way!”

Shi Yang nodded.

“That’s true.”

He led Yu Pingchuan to his seat.

“Elder Yu, shall we order?”

...

Shen Li sent Mei Yanqing back to Jinse Bay and accompanied him for lunch before leaving.

She had planned to go straight home, but on the way home, she suddenly remembered that she was running out of paint, so she turned around and went to the art supplies shop.

There were not many people in the shop at this time.

Shen Li took her time to pick what she needed.

Just then, her phone suddenly vibrated.

She took it out to take a look. Lu Huaiyu was calling her.

She put down the things in her hand and answered the call. She lowered her voice slightly as she spoke.

“Second Brother?”

Lu Huaiyu paused.

“Where are you?”

Shen Li explained, “I’m at the art shop right now, picking out paints.”

Lu Huaiyu understood.

“On Mingyang Street?”

This was a famous art street in the Capital. When Shen Li mentioned that she was buying paints, this was the first place that came to his mind.

“Yes.”

Lu Huaiyu laughed.

“Which shop are you in? I’ll go there to look for you.”

“Huh?” Shen Li was a little surprised.

Lu Huaiyu looked at the exquisite candy box in his hand.

“I had a lunch meeting at noon and it just ended. I’m ten minutes away from Mingyang Street. Besides, I was going to deliver something to you anyway.”

Since they happened to be so coincidentally near each other, naturally, it would be better for them to be together.

Shen Li told him her location, and then Lu Huaiyu told Yi Bin the name of the shop.

“Wait for me over there. I’ll be there soon,” he whispered.

Shen Li replied.

“Okay.”

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After ending the phone call, Shen Li continued with her shopping and picked a lot of things.

Then, she took the items to the counter to pay the bill.

She scanned through the items one by one before putting them into the bags one by one.

Art supplies were always expensive. The price of the bag full of the items that she had picked broke four digits.

“Hello, the total is 1,236.5 yuan.”

Shen Li nodded, took out her phone, and was about to pay the bill.

However, just as she raised her hand, a well-defined hand reached out from the side and scanned the code in front of her.

She turned her head and saw Lu Huaiyu standing in front of her.

“Second Brother?”

Then, he reached out his hand.

“Give it to me.”

Shen Li obeyed and handed the bag over. Curling the fingers of his left hand slightly, the bag fell into his hand.

The next moment, Shen Li was about to withdraw her hand when she suddenly felt his slightly cold fingertips touch her.

She was momentarily stunned. She looked down and saw that his right hand was already holding hers.

He chuckled softly.

“I said, give me your hand.”

Shen Li’s ears warmed up slightly.

“Oh.”

Then, she obediently curled her hand into the palm of his hand.

Lu Huaiyu held her hand as they walked out.

Shen Li remembered that he had already settled the bill earlier. She looked up at him.



“Second Brother, I’m capable of buying these things myself.”

Lu Huaiyu raised his brows slightly.

“Don’t worry. Although it’s very expensive to support a painter, I should be able to afford it.”

Shen Li remained quiet.

Well, compared to the money he had spent on her paintings, this was indeed not even a fraction of that amount.

Thinking of this, she remembered what Mei Yanqing had said earlier.

She gently tugged on his hand.

“Second Brother.”

Lu Huaiyu turned his head and looked down at her, his voice low and languid. “Hmm?”

Shen Li looked at him and asked, “How many of my paintings have you bought?”

Chapter 952: Ah Li is a Sensible Child

Lu Huaiyu had a deep look in his eyes.

“Why did you suddenly think to ask this?”

Shen Li told him about Mei Yanqing’s suggestion.

“... Master has always wanted to help me hold an art exhibition, but I don’t have many paintings left in my hands. I thought that there might be a few at Second Brother’s place...”

Lu Huaiyu tilted his head and gave her a sincere smile.

“Well, I do have a lot.”

That is, except for the “Summer Cicada” that he still could not get from Elder Mei.

However, after Shen Li had finished that painting, she had sent it directly to Jinse Bay and had not put it up for auction.

So, to be precise, all of her paintings that had ever appeared on the market were in his hands.

However, if he did not say it clearly, Shen Li would not think of it.

“But—”

Lu Huaiyu gave a faint smile.

“I have no intention of taking out my private collection of paintings for an exhibition.”

For anyone who wanted to look at them, one look would never be enough.

Shen Li was not surprised at his way of thinking.

Many collectors bought paintings for their own enjoyment.

After all, they had spent a lot of money to buy them, so there was no reason for them to share them with others.

So she simply nodded.

“Okay.”

Now it was Lu Huaiyu’s turn to be surprised.

He raised his eyebrows slightly.

“If that’s the case, you probably won’t be able to hold an art exhibition for quite a long time.”

Shen Li looked up.

“Second Brother, didn’t you just say that you didn’t want to take them out?”

Lu Huaiyu paused in his steps, then he stared into her eyes for a while before lowering his voice.

“But if it’s you, Ah Li, as long as you say the word—”

He would agree.

He had never been able to say no to her.

He did not finish the rest of his words, but it was already obvious.

Shen Li looked up at him and shook her head.

“Those paintings already belong to Second Brother. Of course, it’s your prerogative to do whatever you want with them. Moreover, I’m not really that interested in holding an art exhibition. It’s just that Master keeps bringing this matter up. Since Second Brother isn’t willing to do it, then we can forget it.”

She spoke frankly and straightforwardly with clear eyes.

Lu Huaiyu could not help but laugh, although there was a hint of ridicule in his words.

“In that case, your paintings won’t be able to be seen by more people. Only I will be able to look at them. Doesn’t Ah Li feel that it’s kind of a pity?”

Any painter would surely want their works to be recognized by the public.

Shen Li’s eyes widened as she seemed a little surprised.

“Why is it a pity?”

She had been painting since she was very young. Before she met Mei Yanqing, she had never even taken a day of art classes.

However, she still painted very well.

It was more like an instinct.

She had an extremely keen sense of color. Other than that, the lines, light and shadow, composition, light and dark...

As long as she started to draw, it had always come naturally to her.

For many years, it had been more like a way for her to vent her emotions.

When she was happy, everything was bright.

When she was unhappy, everything was depressing.

All the emotions that she could not express had been poured into those paintings.

“I don’t need my paintings to be liked by many people.”

She kicked the ground with her heel, her tone casual as she spoke.

“It’s fine as long as Second Brother likes them.”

She knew that many of her paintings were in Lu Huaiyu’s hands.

He had bid for them one by one before they had even known each other.

The reason why Tree’s Shadow had been able to quickly become popular and occupy a place in the domestic art scene was because those paintings had been auctioned off at an astonishingly high price.

He had acknowledged those paintings.

He understood them.

Otherwise, he would not have gone to such great lengths to collect those paintings and even visited several times just to try and get her “Summer Cicada” painting from Mei Yanqing.

This was enough.

This was enough for her.

Her words came from the bottom of her heart but she was so nonchalant about it, as if she was just commenting on the good weather today.

However, she did not know what these words meant to Lu Huaiyu.

He looked at the little girl in front of him. One of her hands was still obediently curled in his palm. She lowered her head slightly and kicked her feet casually.

The May sunlight was bright and brilliant. As it fell on her face, her delicate and fair skin almost seemed translucent.

A breeze blew past, and her fine hair fluttered in the wind. Her raven-feather-like eyelashes cast a faint shadow under her eyes.

Something seemed to be surging within his chest, but it also felt as if it was being gently scratched by something.

It seemed to go on for a long time, but it also seemed to be only for a moment.

His Adam's apple moved up and down before he then exerted a little strength with his hands.

"Ah Li."

"Yes?"

Shen Li raised her head when she heard that.

In the next moment, that peerlessly beautiful face was already close to him. Before she could react, she felt a slightly cool and soft touch on her lips.

The refreshing smell of cedar instantly filled her.

Her eyes widened slightly, but she only had time to see the deep and dark color in the depths of his eyes.

The moment they touched, they parted.

Vaguely, she heard his deep and smiling voice.

“The child is so sensible. You deserve a reward.”

...

Shen Li had driven here, so Lu Huaiyu put all the things she had bought into the trunk of her car and got into the passenger seat of Shen Li’s car.

Shen Li started the car. In the rearview mirror, she saw a black Bentley following her from a distance.

When they reached Skyleaf City, the two of them got out of the car.

Lu Huaiyu went back to his car first. Shen Li turned around and saw that he had taken something out.

Then, Lu Huaiyu handed her the bag.

“Let’s go.”

He helped her carry the paints and other things she had bought and sent her upstairs.

As soon as they got out of the elevator, they bumped into Shen Zhijin, who had just come back and was opening the door.

“Dad.”

Shen Li was a little surprised.

“Why did you come back so early?”

Shen Zhijin said, “The meeting ended early.”

As he spoke, his gaze fell on Lu Huaiyu.

Lu Huaiyu greeted him with a smile.

“Teacher Shen, I was helping Ah Li bring the paints up.”

Shen Zhijin glanced at the bag in his hand and nodded.

Then, he pushed the door open and entered the house.

Shen Li and Lu Huaiyu followed behind.

“Second Brother, please take these to the studio.”

Shen Li raised her finger and pointed.

Lu Huaiyu followed her there.



Shen Zhijin turned his head to take a look before going to his study.

This was the first time Lu Huaiyu had ever entered Shen Li's art studio.

It could be seen that the decor in the room was very meticulous.

Other than the easel, palette, various colors, brushes, and toner oils, there was also a rattan chair on the balcony with a pony throw pillow on it.

Lu Huaiyu put the things down.

"Thank you, Second Brother."

Only then did Shen Li have the time to look at the bag in her hand.

"But what's inside?"

Lu Huaiyu's long legs were slightly bent as he leaned against the side of the cabinet, with the corners of his lips slightly raised.

"Lunch meeting. I passed by a candy store. Business seemed to be good there. I thought you would like it, so I brought you one back."

Shen Li opened the bag and realized that inside was an exquisite candy-shaped candy box. Inside was a bag of taffy.

She took out one and peeled off the wrapping.

Lu Huaiyu's gaze suddenly fell on a square canvas in a corner of the room.

He raised his eyebrows.

“Did you paint another painting?”

Chapter 953: Miracle Ah Li

Shen Li stopped unwrapping the candy.

But in just a moment, she put the candy into her mouth and turned to look in the direction that Lu Huaiyu was looking.

“It’s not finished yet.”

She said.

Lu Huaiyu nodded, his gaze still fixed on the painting.

Because it was placed against the wall, he could not see the contents on the front of the painting.

“Will this painting be up for auction?” He asked.

Shen Li shook her head.

Indeed, she had no intention to release this painting.

Lu Huaiyu looked at her with a smile.

“Then, when the painting is finished, can you give it to me?”

A rich, sweet smell spread between her lips and teeth. One of Shen Li's cheeks bulged, and she sounded confused.

"Second Brother, are you still thinking about "Summer Cicada"? Didn't I already give you one last Christmas?"

The two of them stood very close to each other. As she spoke, the sweet smell from her lips wafted into the air and blended into every inch of his breath.

"Yes, but I want this one too."

He admitted with a smile, but he spoke very frankly.

Shen Li's beautiful peach blossom eyes narrowed slightly.

"Second Brother, don't think that you can buy a painting without spending any money just because you've become a boyfriend."

Lu Huaiyu could not help but laugh when he heard this. He stood up straight and bowed his head slightly.

The distance between the two of them instantly became closer.

"You clearly know—"

He was clearly not touching her at all, merely looking at her with a pair of deep, dark eyes that were so intense that they even seemed to burn her skin. The hot temperature quickly spread, and the deep and husky voice fell into her ears, one word at a time, which made her heart beat uncontrollably.

"Even I am yours."

Not to mention a painting.

The tip of Shen Li's tongue curled slightly. The sweet taste seemed to thicken even the air.

Her eyes curved into a smile.

"Do you want to paint?"

The tip of Lu Huaiyu's brows raised slightly.

Then, she took out a piece of candy from the candy box and stuffed it into his palm.

"This is for you."

Lu Huaiyu lowered his eyes and looked at the candy in the palm of his hand. The tip of his tongue pressed against his upper palate, and he smiled.

How loudly this calculative person sounded.

He had given him his candy, and it was only one candy.

Shen Li asked, "Second Brother, you don't seem to want this?"

As she spoke, she made a gesture to take it back.

Lu Huaiyu put away the candy.

"I do.

"You gave it to me. Why wouldn't I want it?"

...

Lu Zheng and Fang Yunyi were coming back.

Xu Yini had spent a few days trying to choose a gift for Fang Yunyi.

She had seen almost all the new ruby jewelry from the major luxury brands.

Fang Yunyi's ruby necklace was a top-notch item, so she probably would not be able to find something comparable to it. As for a ring, it was not easy to choose one in case it was not the right size.

Therefore, she decided to give her a pair of earrings in the end.

After going through a lot of options, she could not make up her mind among the remaining three pairs.

She showed them to Hao Yun and Xu Rufeng, and the two of them each chose a pair of earrings and argued with each other over which one was better.

After a long struggle, Xu Yini finally chose a pair of square ruby earrings.

"I think Auntie Fang should like this one, right?"

Xu Yini murmured softly before calling the owner of the brand's only physical shop in the Capital.

However, to her disappointment, the one she had her eyes on had already been ordered.

The jewelry designs at this level were unique, so once someone got to it first, there was no way the design would be recreated.

Xu Yini could only settle for the second best, but she did not expect to encounter failure again this time.

All three of the designs that she liked had all been ordered.

After being rejected repeatedly, Xu Yini was a little annoyed, but she had been one step too late.

So, she could only give up on the few designs that she liked the most and ultimately chose one that she did not like so much.

The shop owner promised to deliver it in two weeks.

Xu Yini then hung up.

Now, she could only hope that Aunt Fang would like the one she had chosen in the end...

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Lu Huaiyu's cell phone rang.

He glanced at it and picked it up.

"Uncle Zhao."

Shen Li looked at him.

It was unknown what was said on the other end, but Lu Huaiyu responded.

“Mm.”

He paused for a moment and the corners of his thin lips raised slightly.

“It’s been a while since you’ve visited our home. Grandfather misses you very much.

“Okay, I’ll tell Grandpa when I get back. You go ahead.

“Goodbye, Uncle Zhao.”

Lu Huaiyu ended the call.

Shen Li probed, “Chief Zhao?”

Lu Huaiyu looked up and pinched her soft little face.

“You able to guess everything.”

He paused for a moment and then said, “Xu Rufeng called him. He requested for him to be flexible with Yu Cheng.”

Shen Li had already expected this and was not surprised. “Oh.”

Seeing that she was so calm, Lu Huaiyu asked, “Aren’t you worried at all? Xu Rufeng and Zhao Hengshan are high school classmates. They have been friends for more than twenty years.”

Shen Li blinked.

“Didn’t Second Brother say that Chief Zhao is an upright person?”

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

“You remember clearly.”

She was still very convinced of his words.

“He really doesn’t intend to help. He only called to send his regards to Grandfather and also to tell me about this matter.”

Previously, Lu Huaiyu had called Zhao Hengshan and asked him to investigate as much as he could.

This was actually the attitude of the Lu family.

Zhao Hengshan had always been an impartial person. No matter who was involved in this matter, it would not affect him in any way.

The difference was that since his old chief was also very concerned about this matter, it was normal for him to bring it up.

Shen Li nodded in understanding.

Yu Yu and the rest should be very happy that the Xu family was willing to help.

Unfortunately, they had been too optimistic.

This matter that had come to Zhao Hengshan’s attention was also known by everyone on the Internet. It was of a bad nature. Even if ten more Xu Rufengs were to appear, it would still be useless.



So she was indeed not worried. She just had to let nature take its course and wait.

Just as Shen Li was thinking, her phone suddenly rang a few times.

She took a look and realized that it was He Xiaochen who had sent several pictures.

[ Ah Li, Ah Li! Look! This is a drawing of you that Sister Carp has recruited a new artist to draw! It's so cute and beautiful! Woohoo! ]

Seeing this message, Shen Li scrolled on her phone and clicked on one of the pictures that she had been sent.

It was still a cartoon figure.

The figure was dressed in a red knee-length skirt and small black leather boots. It's long, wavy hair was unbound. There was still a small crown on its head and a pair of square ruby earrings on its ears.

Shen Li was speechless.

She swiped to the next one.

This figure wore a red and white mermaid-style dress with small silver heels. The small crown was sparkling, but the earrings had been replaced with a ruby hexagram.

Shen Li remained quiet.

She looked at the third picture.

Here, this figure wore a red-and-black tight-fitting miniskirt with black lace-up boots. Her hair had finally been tied up, but she still wore a small crown. This time, the earrings had been replaced with round rubies.

Shen Li was quiet.

He Xiaochen sent a total of six pictures.

All with different little skirts and shoes, and always with small crowns on its head.

[ Ahhhhhhhh, Sister Carp wants us to vote for the most beautiful one, but what if I like every single one of them? That mini skirt Ah Li is way too cool! And that mermaid-style skirt is so beautiful! Ah Li, you're so cute! Ahhhhhhhh!!! ]

Shen Li did not know how to respond.

"What are you looking at?"

Seeing that she had been staring at her phone for quite a while, Lu Huaiyu asked as he leaned over and casually glanced at it.

When he saw the pictures clearly, the corner of his eye twitched.

Chapter 954: Was Also Chosen for Nothing

Shen Li tilted her phone towards him and showed him the pictures.

"It's a fan of my Weibo post."

When Lu Huaiyu saw the cartoon figure of the Little Princess Ah Li, he had a bad feeling. Now that he was close enough, he could see more clearly.

He raised his hand and swiped across the pictures one by one.

Seeing the various kinds of ruby earrings and the glittering little crown in the pictures confirmed a suspicion that he had in his mind.

Shen Li was still explaining it to him.

“... This fan is quite interesting. He Xiaochen said that she is very rich and often holds the lucky draws, giving away accessories that feature me. Last time, He Xiaochen won a phone case from her.”

Lu Huaiyu stared at the pictures, silent for a few seconds.

“Yeah.”

Shen Li did not notice that his voice had become quite subtle. When she thought of He Xiaochen, with the cell phone case where she was dressed in a smoke-gray dress, and then looked at these heart-pounding pictures of the Princess. With Lu Huaiyu looking at them like this, she felt a rare moment of embarrassment.

“Well, she seems to have a preference for this style of artwork...”

Shen Li said.

A small crown was a must. There were many different types of outfits and jewelry, and new ones would appear every once in a while.

Originally, He Xiaochen had been doing this in secret. Every day, she would check into the account, avidly look at the screen, collected the pictures, and posted a lot of comments praising her. Ever since Shen Li had seen the phone case, she had not bothered to hide it anymore. Every time a new picture appeared, she would send it to her and passionately engage her to have a look at it.

Therefore, after some time had passed, Shen Li had seen countless cartoon versions of herself wearing various little outfits.

He Xiaochen said that even a dressing-up game did not come out as fast as this one. Moreover, regardless of whether it was the clothes or the accessories, all of the artwork had been drawn very exquisitely and extravagantly.

So much so that she was now very happily immersed in it.

Lu Huaiyu suddenly asked, "What is this fan's ID?"

Shen Li had not expected him to ask this question, so she was stunned for a moment.

Just then, He Xiaochen sent another Weibo link.

[ Ah Li! You can cast your vote here on Weibo! Come and choose! ]

Shen Li was quiet.

Before she could react, Lu Huaiyu had already clicked in.

The next second, he saw the ID.

[ Is Carp Married Today? ]

Staring at the line of words, Lu Huaiyu fell silent again.

This Weibo post was the source of the six pictures. It had only been posted half an hour ago, but it had already become a trending Weibo post. The number of comments and likes had quickly increased.

[ Ahhhhhh, all of these pictures are absolutely beautiful! ]

[ Princess Ah Li is just too adorable! Today is also I Love Little Ah Li Day! ]

[ Ah Li is so beautiful! That mermaid-style dress is so cute! ]

[ Speaking of which, the ruby earrings on these pictures look a little familiar. They seem to look like a design from CHUIN's latest collection, don't they? They're the ones that are extremely expensive! Just that square one, I saw it in a fashion magazine before. I believe the real ones cost seven figures! ]

[ I was just saying that it looks so good, but it turns out that it's a reference to high-end jewelry?! It looks so good! The artist and Sister Carp are so knowledgeable! ]

[ Good health, good health! ]

[ I'm hungry for more! I'm looking for more Ah Li cartoons! ]

Lu Huaiyu casually glanced at the comments section.

Although he did not want to look at it in detail, his eyesight and reading ability were excellent, so he could clearly see the hot comments in the front row.

Shen Li, who was beside him, also saw it.

Actually, this was not her first time reading all these comments praising her, but it was her first time reading them together with Lu Huaiyu.

She coughed lightly.

"Second Brother, you—"

“Which one do you like the most?” Lu Huaiyu suddenly asked.

Shen Li was stunned for a moment. “What?”

Lu Huaiyu raised his chin.

“These... these pictures, which one do you think is the most beautiful?”

Shen Li gave him a strange look. Was Lu Huaiyu actually interested in such things?

However, since he had asked, she looked at the pictures again.

“They’re all good.”

She said.

This was the truth.

These pictures were exquisite and gorgeous. Although the Princess’s heart was beyond the standard, she had to say that they were indeed very beautiful.

If she had to choose one...

She pointed at the one in the little knee-length red dress.

“This one.”

The main thing was that this dress was simple and elegant. Although the little crown and square ruby earrings were very shiny, compared to the other pictures, this one was considered relatively low-key.

Lu Huaiyu's gaze lingered on the picture for a moment, then he nodded.

"This one is beautiful."

Shen Li recalled some things that He Xiaochen had told her before and said, "Actually, it's the same no matter which one you choose. Xiaochen said that every time she posts a picture, it will be used on the merchandise. I think it'll be the same this time."

Lu Huaiyu sighed softly.

"Yeah, I think so too."

It would be a waste of time to choose anyway. He had probably already bought all of them.

Thinking of this, he felt a dull pain in his temple.

He handed the phone back to Shen Li. His lips moved slightly, as if he wanted to say something.

Forget it. He would just tell her later.

There was an old man in front of him and his burden was already heavy enough.

If it happened again—

Lu Huaiyu thought of that scene and let out a gentle sigh.

"Then shall I'll go home first?"

Shen Li put away her phone.

"I'll take you there."

...

Shen Li accompanied him to the elevator door. After he entered, she turned around and returned.

Lu Huaiyu went downstairs where Yi Bin was waiting in the car.

He went to the backseat.

"Return to Rongyue Mansion."

"Okay, Second Master."

Lu Huaiyu leaned against the back of the chair and crossed his long legs. He was silent for a long time, as if he was contemplating something.

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Finally, he then took out his phone and made a call.

After a while, the call was connected.

He asked, "Grandpa, when will my parents return to the Capital?"

Chapter 955: Lu Er: "My Heart Is So Tired"



Old Master Lu had not expected him to suddenly call to ask about this matter. He thought for a moment and said, "I believe it will be in mid-June. The exact date is still to be decided. What's wrong?"

Lu Huaiyu pinched the bridge of his nose.

"Nothing. I'm just asking."

He calculated how many peaceful days he still had.

Old Master Lu chuckled and said, "It's good that they'll be back. Your parents haven't officially met Ah Li yet, right? It'll be a good opportunity for them to meet her properly this time!"

Lu Huaiyu fell silent for a moment.

It was hard to say about his father, but his mother should already be very familiar with Ah Li.

Oh, in that case, his father should also be very familiar with Ah Li. After all, both of his parents were basically together most of the time.

Thinking of this, Lu Huaiyu felt even more troubled.

"I know."

Old Master Lu continued to mutter to himself.

"Look, the two of them will be back in June. Ah Li's birthday will also be in June. By then, she will be nineteen! Recently, I have mentioned the matter of the engagement to Mei Yanqing a few times. His attitude is much better than before! I feel very hopeful about this!"

Lu Huaiyu was speechless.

Although he hoped more than anyone else that they would be able to reach this point, he remained clear-headed.

“Do you mean that Elder Mei has agreed to it?”

“Cough!”

Old Master Lu coughed forcefully.

“Not yet, but soon! Soon!”

Now, whenever he mentioned the engagement, Mei Yanqing’s curses were no longer as fierce as before!

This was the dawn of hope!

With the addition of Lu Zheng and his wife, wouldn’t this matter be settled soon?

Lu Huaiyu kindly reminded him, “Grandfather, you seem to have forgotten about the Gu family and Teacher Shen.”

Mei Yanqing was Shen Li’s master, her mentor, and also her patron. She was extremely indebted to him.

If she wanted to get engaged, of course, she would have to ask Mei Yanqing for his opinion.

But other than that, there were also the Gu family and Shen Zhijin.

Neither side was any easier to convince than Mei Yanqing. In fact, it would only be more difficult.

Old Master Lu waved his hand.

“It’s fine, it’s fine. Your parents will be back soon anyway! Can’t you just ask them to put in more effort when the time comes?”

Lu Huaiyou was speechless.

For some reason, he felt that this matter seemed to be even more difficult.

Fang Qingyun’s voice could suddenly be heard through the phone.

“Old Master, your express delivery is here.”

Old Master Lu was instantly delighted. “It’s here!”

He said hurriedly, “Huaiyu, if there’s nothing else, I’ll hang up now!”

He was in a hurry to open the express delivery package!

Lu Huaiyu paused.

He had heard Fang Qingyun mention that the number of express deliveries that Old Master Lu had received recently had increased significantly.

Moreover, every time the packages arrived, he would become very happy. He would then take them to the study where he would open them alone.

As for what was inside the packages, Fang Qingyun and the others did not know.

However, the items seemed to be small, so they did not ask much.

Hearing the unconcealable joy and anticipation in Old Master Lu's words, Lu Huaiyu thought for a moment, but in the end, he did not ask about it.

"Then that's all for now. Take care—"

Old Master Lu had already hung up the phone.

Lu Huaiyu looked at his phone in silence.

Yi Bin looked at the rearview mirror and asked with a smile, "Second Master, are Mr. and Mrs. Lu coming back?"

Lu Huaiyu placed a hand on his knee and tapped his well-defined fingers lightly. He answered casually.

"Yes."

Yi Bin felt that his reaction was a little strange.

Because of work, Lu Zheng and his wife had rarely stayed in the Capital these past few years. Logically speaking, the second master should be very happy that they would be coming back this time.

However, looking at his reaction now, why did it seem like he was troubled by something?

In any case, this was a family matter of the Lu family. Naturally, he would not overstep his boundaries.

The black Bentley continued to drive forward.

...

The Lu family home.

Old Master Lu once again took the express delivery package into the study.

He picked up a box cutter and neatly cut open the express delivery box.

Inside was an acrylic key chain and a human-shaped sign.

The key chain featured a cartoon figure of Ah Li wearing a white puffy dress. Her soft, wavy hair hung down, and she had a small crown on her head. She also wore lace gloves on her hands, and her small face was slightly raised. She looked delicate and beautiful.

The human-shaped sign was of a cartoon figure of Ah Li wearing a blue and white racing uniform. She was holding a helmet. The crown was shining, and her small face looked very cool.

Old Master Lu admired her for a long time. She was so beautiful. She was really good-looking, no matter which way he looked at her!

He held his phone for a long time and found the light and the right angle— click!

After taking the photo, Old Master Lu checked it a few times to make sure that it was a good photo. Then, he chose one and posted it on Weibo.

Then, he carefully put away the key chain and the human-shaped sign and placed them into the drawer.

...

Lu Huaiyu looked out of the window and thought about the pictures he saw from Shen Li. After thinking for a long time, he finally unlocked his phone again and clicked on Weibo.

He had no interest in such apps. Usually, he would not click on them except for situations that related to Shen Li.

However, although he did not use them often, he still quickly searched for the super words related to Shen Li.

At this time, the Weibo post of [ Is Carp Married Today? ] had been placed at the top by the super words host. It was at the top position and could be seen as soon as he entered.

Probably because these pictures were so beautiful, the chat fans were very enthusiastic. In the comments section, there was a heated discussion about which dress and which jewelry looked better. It was very lively.

Lu Huaiyu clicked on her homepage and scrolled down for a while.

Shen Li was right. Almost all of the luck draws were related to her.

When she held a showcase, published her thesis, or even when she got full marks in the exam... this blogger would definitely follow up immediately and celebrate with a lucky draw.

In addition to some mobile phone cases, throw pillows, fragrances, and so on, there were also scarves, mobile phones, and so on.

One of them even forwarded the Weibo post from Xijing University congratulating Shen Li for publishing her second article in "Universe."

The special prize of that lucky draw was: An astronomy telescope.

Of course, all these items were related to Shen Li.

Either her picture was printed on them, or her name was written on them.

Lu Huaiyu saw one cartoon Ah Li after another.

There were all kinds of styles. These include a cute style, cool style, ladylike style, and so on, but most of them were in the princess style.

There were countless little outfits and small boots, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, and all kinds of jewelry.

If someone in the industry saw these, they would recognize at a glance that these were all samples of jewelry from various high-end brands.

For a long time, Lu Huaiyu held his breath. Then he closed his eyes and exhaled lightly.

Chapter 956: Shen Li?

The May Day holiday soon passed, and Shen Li's school life returned to normal.

Apart from classes, she spent part of her remaining time in the laboratory and the other part of her time painting.

Everything was peaceful and quiet.

However, for the Yu family, this period of time was extremely torturous.

That was because the situation on Yu Cheng's side had not yielded any positive outcomes.

The police were strictly monitoring all FN personnel involved in the case, including Yu Cheng. At the same time, they were also investigating the origins of the drugs in FN.

In short, the situation was very unfavorable to them.

...

At an apartment in the Capital.

Yu Ming, who had rushed over from Haicheng, stood in the living room with a cold and gloomy expression.

Standing in front of him were Zhou Lan and Yu Yu.

“What’s going on?” Yu Ming’s tone was extremely cold. “Didn’t you say before that you had already asked the Xu family for help? Then why is Ah Cheng still in such a situation?!”

He had been very happy when he heard that Zhou Lan and Yu Yu had managed to persuade the Xu family to help them.

However, he had waited for a long time, yet nothing had happened.

He had not been able to hold it in any longer and had flown to the Capital to see what was going on.

In the end, he realized that the current situation was much worse than he had expected.

Zhou Lan frowned.

“Hao Yun said that Xu Rufeng has already called Zhao Hengshan that night, but who knew that the situation would still be like this now? I called Hao Yun this morning, but she said that she didn’t know the details. All she knew was that Xu Rufeng seems to have fallen out with Zhao Hengshan due to this matter.”

In fact, when Hao Yun had said these words to her, there had been a hint of resentment in the tone of her voice.



If Zhou Lan had not come to ask the Xu family for help, Xu Rufeng would not have interceded on Yu Cheng's behalf and would not have fallen out with Zhao Hengshan to this extent.

Both of them had been friends for decades. Who knew that they would ruin their relationship over such a trivial matter?

Xu Rufeng had not done this for himself. He had been asked to intercede on Yu Cheng's behalf.

In the end, Zhao Hengshan had not given him any face at all.

Xu Rufeng was very concerned about this matter.

After all, he had always thought that as long as he asked, Zhao Hengshan would more or less cooperate. Who would have known that Zhao Hengshan would not budge no matter what he said or did?

He was filled with anger over this matter, and he was shooting Hao Yun very unhappy looks.

Naturally, Hao Yun blamed everything on Zhou Lan.

Zhou Lan was under pressure from both sides. In addition, she was worried about Yu Cheng, and she was on the verge of breaking down.

Hearing Yu Ming's reproach, Zhou Lan gritted her teeth. Suddenly, she looked at Yu Yu and raised her voice slightly.

"Xiao Yu, you were the one who persuaded Xu Yini the other day. What do you think of the situation now?"

Yu Yu lowered her eyes and a sense of disgust flashed across her heart.

These words sounded as if she was asking for her opinion, but in reality, she was actually criticizing her and trying to pin the blame on her instead!

As expected, hearing these words, Yu Ming looked over and frowned.

“Was it you who convinced Xu Yini? You don’t seem to be very familiar with her. Why was she willing to help you? Or... was she and her family lying to us? Perhaps on the surface, she said that she wanted to help, but in reality, she didn’t do anything at all?”

Previously, when Zhou Lan had suggested asking Hao Yun for help, he had not thought highly of her suggestion. Therefore, when he heard that it had been a success, he had been very happy.

Unfortunately, this emotion had not lasted for long. In the blink of an eye, all his expectations and hopes had been shattered.

Yu Yu pursed her lips and said, “I don’t think that’s the case. After all, it’s not good for them either... Moreover, I heard that Chief Zhao has a hard personality and a decisive approach. It’s indeed not easy to overcome him...”

“Don’t you think it’s too late to say all this now?” Yu Ming interrupted her impatiently.

The situation had gotten worse than before.

Moreover, the longer this dragged on, the more disadvantageous it would be for them.

Yu Yu shut her mouth and lowered her head slightly to look at the floor.

If she was not afraid that the entire Yu family’s reputation would be dragged down by Yu Cheng, she would not have bothered to do this.

She even hoped that Yu Cheng would stay in prison for the rest of his life and never come out again.

However, she could not.

At the very least, now was not the right time.

After thinking for a moment, she raised her head and said, "I'll give Xu Yini another call."

...

When Xu Yini received Yu Yu's call, she was learning how to craft pottery at the pottery shop.

Anyone could give a pair of ruby earrings. After thinking about it for a long time, Xu Yini decided to DIY a piece of pottery to be given as a second gift.

This way, she could express her feelings better.

Hence, when she spoke to Yu Yu on the phone, her tone was rather perfunctory.

"What's the matter?"

Yu Yu suppressed the many emotions in her heart and simply repeated what had happened.

"... We are very grateful that Mr. Xu was willing to help, but did something go wrong here? There hasn't been any movement from the Capital Public Security Bureau..."

Xu Yini's tone turned cold.

"So now you're blaming us for not being able to help?"

"I didn't—"

"I can tell you that my father already approached him, but this matter with Yu Cheng is too big and difficult to handle. My father is also in a difficult position. So, if you really want to blame someone, you can only blame Yu Cheng himself."

Xu Yini had not realized how troublesome this matter was at first. It was only when she saw that Xu Rufeng had encountered a problem with Zhao Hengshan that she realized that she had been too naive in her thoughts.

Yu Yu frowned and wanted to explain further, but Xu Yini had already lost her patience and hung up the phone.

Xu Yini put away her phone and looked at the store manager with a smile.

"Alright, let's begin. I have to send this to an important elder, so I hope that the store manager can help me."

...

That afternoon, Shen Li received a call from Yu Pingchuan, asking her to fetch a painting from Shuiyuan Shijia and send it to the Xijing Academy of Fine Arts. He had originally wanted to use it for class, but he had left in a hurry and forgot that Lin Yaohui happened to be sick. He was in the hospital, so he could not rush over in time.

Of course, would feel most at ease for his paintings to be entrusted to her care.

Since Shen Li had nothing to do that afternoon, she agreed.

An hour later, she arrived at Xijing Academy of Fine Arts with the canvas on her back.

The sun was shining down on the avenue.

She walked forward.

Shi Yang was coming out of the building. He had just turned a corner when his gaze suddenly focused.

The girl carried the canvas on her back and as she walked forward step by step, with an exquisite and beautiful profile.

He pushed up his gold-rimmed glasses.

“... Shen Li?”

Chapter 957: So Proud

Hearing this low and magnetic sound, Shen Li’s footsteps paused slightly, and she looked in the direction of the sound.

A middle-aged man who looked to be in his forties was standing not far away, looking in her direction.

He was tall and handsome, with a refined and gentle temperament. His gold-rimmed spectacles added a bit of a scholarly air to him.

Even though there were traces of age on his face, it was not difficult to see the refined and handsome features from when he was young.

However, this face was really unfamiliar to her.

Shen Li hesitated and said, “You are—”

The man opposite her smiled.

“I am Shi Yang.”

So that was him.

Shen Li had long heard of this Chinese painting expert. She had heard Yu Pingchuan mention him a few times before, so she was not unfamiliar with him.

However, today was indeed the first time she had seen him in person.

She nodded slightly.

“Hello, Shi Yang.”

At this moment, the sunlight was just right. She was wearing a baseball hat, and the brim of the hat cast a shadow on her clear face.

Her brows and eyes were blurred in the shadow, so they could not be seen clearly. All that could be seen were her straight nose and sharp chin, which were exceptionally beautiful.

Shi Yang’s gaze froze for a moment, and his smile deepened.

“I’ve been wanting to meet you, but I’ve never had the chance. I didn’t expect to meet you here.”

As he spoke, he raised his hand and pointed at the teaching building behind him.

“I’m here to give a lecture. What about you?”

He was the vice-chairman of the Art Association and was also the most famous Chinese art master in the country. It was perfectly normal for Xijing Academy to invite him here.

Shen Li understood and said, "I'm here to deliver something to Teacher Yu."

When she was outside, she would usually still address Yu Pingchuan as Teacher Yu.

Shi Yang nodded. "In that case... you should go and look for Teacher Yu first. Don't delay any further."

Shen Li's tone remained indifferent but polite.

"Goodbye, Teacher Shi Yang."

After saying that, she turned around to leave.

However, just as she took a step forward, Shi Yang suddenly called out to her from behind.

"Shen Li."

Shen Li paused in her footsteps and turned around to look.

Shi Yang's smile was warm and sincere.

"I forgot to mention, I really like your paintings."

It was very rare to receive the appreciation and recognition of such an expert in traditional Chinese painting.

Any young artist would probably be very happy.

However, that praise did not stir a single ripple in Shen Li's heart.

Firstly, she did not care whether any people unrelated to her liked her paintings. Secondly, Yu Pingchuan had already relayed that sentiment to her.

However, out of courtesy, she still nodded.

“Thank you.”

After saying that, she continued to walk forward.

Shi Yang looked at her back, his gaze fixed.

It was only when she turned a corner and completely disappeared that Shi Yang shook his head and smiled as he muttered, “So proud, as expected...”

A thought seemed to come to his mind and the smile on his face faded. He did not voice out the rest of his sentence.

After a moment of silence, he turned around and left.

...

Previously, Yu Pingchuan had said that he would wait for her in the studio, so Shen Li went straight over there.

When she arrived, she saw more than ten students in the studio, focused on their paintings. Yu Pingchuan was standing in the corridor as he watched over them. The room was silent.

Shen Li knocked on the door.

“Teacher Yu.”



A clear and melodious voice sounded, breaking the silence. Yu Pingchuan looked up and saw that it was her. He immediately smiled.

He walked over.

“Ah Li, why did you come here so quickly?”

Shen Li handed the canvas over. The corners of her lips curved slightly.

“I was just following your orders. I did not dare to be late.”

The students in the classroom also looked up. When they saw that it was Shen Li, they immediately became restless.

“Is that Shen Li?”

“It’s her! Why is she here?”

“It looks like she’s here to deliver something to Teacher Yu. But she’s so beautiful in person!”

“I really like her paintings! It’s a pity that she’s on a different campus from us. We don’t usually get many chances to meet her. Our luck is pretty good today!”

For the students of the Xijing Art School, especially those who studied oil painting, Shen Li was a benchmark that everyone looked up to.

She had studied under Mei Yanqing and was extremely talented. Every painting of hers was capable of fetching a high price in the market.

The main point was that she was not even nineteen years old yet.

Many people would never be able to achieve her achievements in their lifetime. How could they not envy or admire her?

Yu Pingchuan chuckled.

If it were any other day, he might have started to manage the discipline, but today was different.

Hearing them praise Shen Li, he felt extremely proud and happy.

Shen Li looked into the classroom and said, "Then I won't disturb your class —"

Hearing that she was about to leave, Yu Pingchuan immediately asked, "Do you have anything else to do this afternoon?"

Shen Li shook her head. There was only one pre-experiment left to do this evening. There was indeed nothing else that she had to do.

Yu Pingchuan waved at her and smiled.

"Then you should stay here for the class too! The timing is just nice. After this class ends, you can come back to Shuiyuan Shijia for a meal with me."

Shen Li had not been to Shuiyuan Shijia in quite some time.

Shen Li was stunned. "Class?"

Yu Pingchuan coughed.

“Why? Don’t you want to attend Senior Brother’s class?”

Shen Li said, “... Alright.”

Since Yu Pingchuan had already said this much, there was really no reason for her to reject him.

Hearing her affirmation, not only Yu Pingchuan, but the students in the classroom were also excited.

Shen Li was not a student of the Xijing Art School. Furthermore, her seniority in the art world was very high. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend classes with her!

“There’s another seat over there. You can sit there!”

Yu Pingchuan raised his hand and pointed at a seat in the corner of the classroom.

He knew that no matter what class Shen Li attended, she was always inclined to sit in the back row. Hence, he had already arranged a seat for her.

As soon as he said that, the two boys closest to her could not help but exclaim, “F\*ck!” They were overwhelmed at the honor.

What kind of treatment was this?

The rest of the class threw envious glares at them.

Shen Li walked towards that seat.

When she really sat down, the two boys became a little shy and nervous again. They merely greeted her with red ears and did not dare to speak again.

Shen Li had randomly come in the middle of the class, so she did not intend on doing any actual painting. Even after sitting down, she did not use her canvas.

However, she was not bored, because the boy beside her quickly tried to talk to her again.

“Shen... Shen Li? Could you help me take a look? How can I improve on this section here?”

Shen Li glanced at his drawing.

The topic of their class was to copy the works of the masters. This particular boy had chosen a portrait of Mei Yanqing in his early years.

Both Yu Pingchuan and her were disciples of Mei Yanqing. Their painting techniques and styles were similar to each other. The boy had indeed found the right person to ask for advice.

She raised her eyes and looked at Yu Pingchuan.

Yu Pingchuan had also noticed what was happening and found it quite interesting.

“Ah Li, why don’t you tell him about it?”

Shen Li nodded and stood up to walk over.

Everyone in the classroom turned around and saw Shen Li standing next to the boy. She raised her hand and pointed at his painting, saying something in a low voice.

The boy fell into deep thought at first, then a look of realization appeared on his face.

“I understand! Thank you, boss!”

The boy in front could not help but raise his hand as well.

“Boss, could you help me take a look at mine?”

Shen Li raised her eyes slightly. Before she could say anything, an indifferent voice came from the side.

“You’re copying Ronai’s painting. I don’t think it’s very suitable to look for Shen Li’s opinion, is it?”

Chapter 958: Xijing Art School

This voice—

Shen Li tilted her head slightly and saw a familiar face.

Sheng Ruxue.

She was also in this class, but because she had been leaning against the wall and was covered by the easel just now, Shen Li had not noticed her.

When she met Shen Li’s light gaze, Sheng Ruxue’s heart skipped a beat and she subconsciously looked away.

Shen Li’s seniority was much higher than hers. She was not qualified to say such things in front of Shen Li.

However, she had felt really uncomfortable when she saw everyone praising Shen Li.

She was considered to be one of the best among her peers. However, ever since Shen Li had appeared, she had been instantly reduced to a mere foil. It seemed as if she had lost her luster.

Therefore, even though she had known that it was inappropriate to say this, she still could not help herself from opening her mouth.

When the boy heard this, he also looked hesitant.

That was true. He had only been focused on talking to this important person. How could he have forgotten this?

Ronai and Mei Yanqing represented the two major factions in the oil painting industry. Their styles were completely different from each other. Asking Shen Li to give him advice on this was indeed...

“Mr. Ronai produced this work when he was forty-one years old. It is said that on a rainy night in the summer, he had a strange dream. When he woke up in the morning, he made this painting based on a hazy dream.”

Shen Li’s voice sounded calm.

“So this painting is called ‘Rainy Night’. You can think about the rain in the summer and try to figure it out.”

As she spoke, she raised her finger and pointed.

“Also, there’s something wrong with the composition here. According to Ronai’s painting style, he would deliberately blur the distance and space, creating an illusion in the visual sense. Your painting is too neat and tidy. That will only restrict you.”

By the time she finished speaking, the entire studio had completely quieted down.

The boy stuttered and asked, “Big... Big Boss, are you very familiar with Ronai’s paintings?”

This painting was not the kind of painting that most people would be very knowledgeable about.

Ronai was a world-class oil painting master, and he had produced many famous paintings.

The one he had chosen to copy today could be considered as one of Ronai's unpopular works. If it was not for the fact that he had studied Ronai, he might not have known that he had even painted such a painting.

Even he himself had searched through a lot of information before deciding to choose this one.

Even so, his understanding of this painting was actually not as good as Shen Li's.

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that she was very familiar with Ronai's paintings. Even the knowledge of the background and the characteristics of his paintings came to her easily.

Sheng Ruxue's face instantly turned a little pale. She looked at Shen Li with a look of shock and disbelief.

Shen Li said lightly, "Ronai is a painter that I like very much. I've seen some of this information on him before."

"Oh, oh! I see!" Only then did the boy come to a realization, and his gaze towards Shen Li was filled with admiration.

A big shot was indeed a big shot. She could actually understand paintings from completely different schools...

Yu Pingchuan happened to walk over as well. His gaze paused on Sheng Ruxue for a moment before he said meaningfully, "Although there are different schools of painting, there is no separation in art. Sometimes, it is better to learn more and see more than to remain ignorant."

Sheng Ruxue bit her lip and lowered her head.

The other students in the classroom responded one after another.

This small interlude passed very quickly. After that, a few students came to Shen Li for advice, and she answered them one by one.

She had said that she would listen in on the class, but the class had ended up being focused on her.

Only then did everyone realize that although Shen Li was not a drawing major student, her professional accomplishments were much higher than theirs.

In the end, they could only sigh with emotion. To be able to occupy a place in the domestic art scene at such a young age proved that she really had real abilities.

There were not on the same level as her.

Finally, the bell rang.

Yu Pingchuan announced the end of the class, waved at Shen Li, and led her away.

Many people watched as Shen Li left with Yu Pingchuan. They were reluctant to part with her.

“Sigh! I wonder if I’ll have the chance to take a class with her in the future?”

“Will she attend a class with us? Maybe she’ll give us a lesson!”

“By the way, Ruxue, you studied under Wang Yan, and Shen Li is teacher Yu’s junior sister. According to seniority, what should you call her?”

Someone teased her, and there was a hint of envy in his words,

“Do you see her often or even look at her paintings?”



Everyone knew that Shen Li's paintings were auctioned off at a high price as soon as they were released. Currently, none of the major galleries had ever displayed her paintings publicly, resulting in many people not having the chance to look at them even if they wanted to.

Since Sheng Ruxue's relationship with her did not seem ordinary, it was likely that she had the upper hand.

Sheng Ruxue pursed her lips and forced a smile on her face. However, she did not say anything.

She did not want to answer any of these questions.

Someone mumbled softly, "Why do I feel that Sheng Ruxue and Shen Li don't really know each other well? She doesn't even know that Shen Li likes Ronai's paintings..."

Sheng Ruxue's heart skipped a beat. She picked up her canvas and walked out of the classroom quickly.

...

Shen Li and Yu Pingchuan went downstairs.

As Yu Pingchuan walked, he said, "Ah Li, don't keep mentioning Ronai when you're with Master. Otherwise, he'll get jealous again."

The corners of Shen Li's lips curved.

"I know."

Yu Pingchuan looked at her and clicked his tongue again.

"However, before this, all I knew was that you liked his paintings. I didn't know that you researched so many things about him."

“This is not considered research. You should know that I read a lot in the past, and I’ve also seen a lot of messy things. I just happened to remember it,” Shen Li said.

Hearing this, Yu Pingchuan’s expression was filled with emotion, and his eyes were filled with pity.

Shen Li had only started learning painting from Mei Yanqing when she was fifteen years old. Before that, she had always been self-taught.

There were all kinds of master-level paintings. As long as she had liked them, and as long as there had been an opportunity, she had looked at them over and over again.

Of course, with her circumstances at the time, she had not had the opportunity to see any of the real paintings.

Even so, she had still managed to learn very well.

Without any professional guidance and purely relying on her amazing talent, she had still been able to keenly capture and sense the emotions and expressions in those paintings.

She could even handle the lighting and darkness, the drawing of lines and color blocks without a teacher.

The art of painting was about talent. Yu Pingchuan had taught at the Xijing Art School for decades. Those who were able to get into the academy were undoubtedly the best of the best. They were true geniuses in fine arts.

However, compared to Shen Li, they were still far inferior.

Mei Yanqing doted on her because she was young and sensible. Secondly, she was indeed a genius.

Yu Pingchuan suppressed these thoughts and said with a smile, "You know so much about his paintings. I wonder what kind of paintings you would have drawn if you had followed the same abstract path as him."

Without waiting for Shen Li's reply, he hurriedly waved his hand.

"Forget it, forget it. If Master finds out that I urged you like this, he will scold me again."

The corners of Shen Li's lips curved.

"Oh right, Senior Brother, when I arrived here today, I met Shi Yang."

Yu Pingchuan was a little surprised, and then he thought of something.

"Oh right, he was giving a lecture here today. How did you feel when you saw him?"

Shen Li paused and did not answer this question. Instead, she asked, "I remember that he used to be a student at Xijing Art School?"

Chapter 959: Agreement

Yu Pingchuan nodded.

"Yes. He is also an outstanding alumnus of the Xijing Art School."

The Xijing Art School produced quite a number of talented painters every year, but the number of those who could truly become famous was extremely few.

And those who were able to achieve success like Shi Yang and hold the status as a heavyweight in the domestic painting industry were even rarer.

“To be honest, he has had quite a complicated life experience.”

Yu Pingchuan sighed.

“He came from a poor family and suffered a lot in order to come to the Xijing Art School to study painting. Fortunately, he had an outstanding talent and he was tenacious enough to get to where he is today.”

Shen Li understood.

The current Shi Yang looked refined and elegant. If Yu Pingchuan had not mentioned it, it would be hard to tell his background.

“Why did you suddenly think of asking this?” Yu Pingchuan asked.

Shen Li smiled faintly.

“It’s nothing. I happened to bump into him and suddenly remembered.”

She did not continue the topic.

“Let’s go back to Shiyuan Shijia now. What would you like to eat today?”

Hearing her words, Yu Pingchuan’s interest was immediately piqued.

“Stir-fried meat with green peppers! Or braised pork ribs with soy sauce!”

Shen Li answered, “Stir-fried bitter melon? Sure.”

Yu Pingchuan was dumbfounded.

...

On Friday night, Lu Huaiyu came to pick Shen Li up for dinner.

The two of them went to a private restaurant.

Just as they finished ordering, Shen Li's phone rang.

Shen Li glanced at it and picked it up.

"Mr. Ronai."

Lu Huaiyu's eyelids lifted slightly.

There was a hint of a smile in Ronai's voice as he reminded her, "Shen Li, your membership forms haven't been filled up yet."

Only then did Shen Li recall that there was such a thing.

She thought for a moment and said, "I'm sorry, I've been a little busy recently and neglected it. I've booked a plane ticket to fly to Bai City tomorrow morning."

"Okay. I'll wait for you here."

The membership of Bai City's Fashion Association was for life, so the membership process was very strict. It could even be called troublesome.

As the president, Ronai had to be there.

“Thank you.”

“It’s just a small matter. There’s no need to thank me. On the other hand, the first exhibition of my art exhibition tour will be held in Leland the day after tomorrow. If you have time, you should follow me back to Leland from Bai City,” said Ronai with a smile.

Shen Li finally understood that this phone call had not only been to remind her to submit the membership materials, but also to invite her to the exhibition again.

She paused for a moment.

“Mr. Ronai, thank you for your invitation, but I might not be able to go with you.”

Hearing this, Lu Huaiyu’s eyes twitched slightly.

Shen Li continued to speak.

“The recent courses and experiments have all been rushed together, so it’s not a good time for me to ask to take time off.”

Hearing her words, Ronai knew that she could not be persuaded, and he could not help but feel very regretful.

He sighed and smiled.

“Alright then. It seems that we’ll just have to wait for another opportunity in the future.”

He really liked Shen Li a lot. That was why he had repeatedly invited her. Other than the art exhibition, he had always wanted to let her see his private gallery.

It was a pity.

“However, this art exhibition tour will be held for a month. The last stop will be in the Capital. At that time, you can’t refuse,” Ronai said.

Shen Li was stunned for a moment. She had not expected that his art exhibition would be held in the Capital this time.

The last time he had held an art exhibition in this country was almost ten years ago. At that time, it had been held in Haicheng.

In this way, it was quite normal for him to choose the Capital this time.

She pursed her lips into a smile.

“Okay, I will definitely go there.”

After hearing what she said, Ronai finally felt relieved. He smiled and said, “Okay, then it’s a deal.”

Lu Huaiyu poured some tea for Shen Li. The faint fragrance of jasmine tea filled the air.

Seeing that Shen Li had put away her phone, he asked, “Is that Mr. Ronai’s phone number?”

“Yes, he urged me to go to Bai City to submit the membership information.” Shen Li picked up the teacup. “In addition, he invited me to see his art exhibition.”

However, she had refused.

Lu Huaiyu raised his eyebrows slightly.

“I remember that Mr. Ronai’s first stop for this art exhibition is in Leland?”

Shen Li nodded slightly.

Lu Huaiyu's gaze fell on her face as he looked at her with his dark eyes. After a few seconds, he said, "It's a rare opportunity. It's a pity to have to miss it."

Shen Li took a sip of the tea. Her red lips were full and shiny.

"It is quite a pity," she said. "But fortunately, Mr. Ronai said that the last stop will be held in the Capital. It will be the same if we go there to take a look."

Lu Huaiyu did not say anything.

It was true that she had been quite busy recently. However, if she really wanted to go there, it would be easy for her to ask for a day or two off.

But she had not.

Rather than saying that she could not find the right time, it would be better to say...

That she did not want to go to Leland.

Hearing that there was no movement from his side for a while, Shen Li looked up at him.

"Second Brother, what's wrong?"

Lu Huaiyu gathered his thoughts, and his thin lips curled up into a lazy arc.

"It's nothing. It's indeed much more convenient to do it in Capital."



...

The next morning, Shen Li boarded a flight to Bai City.

Shen Zhijin had originally wanted to go with her, but Shen Li said that she was only going to hand in some information this time and that she would come straight back after it was done. She did not want him to go back and forth with her, so she firmly rejected his offer.

In the end, Shen Zhijin had nodded and specially called Professor Carroll to ask him to help pick her up.

Professor Carroll had readily agreed.

Initially, Shen Li had refused and felt that it was a little troublesome for the other party. Moreover, it wasn't like she had never been to Bai Town before. She could completely handle these matters by herself.

Unfortunately, Shen Zhijin did not think so.

The confrontation between the father and daughter had ended in Shen Li's failure.

Shen Li had a good rest on the plane. She had slept most of the way there. By the time she got off the plane, it was three o'clock in the afternoon.

She was carrying a black backpack and wearing a baseball cap on her head. She followed the crowd and walked out.

Because it was only a day's journey, she had not brought any suitcases.

As soon as she stepped out of the door, she saw a particularly eye-catching figure in the crowd in front of her— Bella.

Subconsciously, she looked to the side and only then did she see Professor Carroll standing at the side.

Both husband and wife had come to pick her up together.

Even though she was dressed in ordinary clothes and wore a hat, her wavy, long black hair was really very eye-catching in the crowd of blonde and white-skinned people.

Bella stood there. Even without saying anything, her aura was still fully unleashed. It was not until she saw Shen Li that she smiled and waved at her.

“Ah Li!”

Chapter 960: Alone, Afraid or Not

Shen Li walked over.

“Aunt Bella, Uncle Carroll.”

Bella looked her up and down.

“Are you tired from the international flight?”

“I’m fine.” The corners of Shen Li’s lips curled up. “Why did you come here personally?”

“You’re here to hand in the membership information. Of course, I have to accompany you,” Bella said matter-of-factly.

Oh, right, she was also one of the thirteen members.

Bella asked, “Would you like to go to the association first, or would you like to rest first?”

Shen Li said, "Let's just go there first. I've already discussed it with Mr. Ronai."

Bella saw that she was indeed in good spirits, so she nodded.

"Okay."

...

Shen Li left the airport with Professor Carroll and his wife. They then headed to the Bai City Fashion Association Center.

Professor Carroll drove while Shen Li and Bella sat in the backseat.

This was the first time she had come back to Bai City since the end of Fashion Week.

In fact, it had only been more than a month, but so many things had happened during this time.

Bella and Professor Carroll chatted with her along the way, and just like that, they arrived at the Bai City Fashion Association Center.

The Bai City Fashion Association Center had its own independent building here, and it was located not far from the Bai City Cathedral.

Shen Li entered with Bella.

She met some people along the way who were surprised to see Shen Li, but they all greeted her respectfully.

Shen Li's face was very well-known in Bai City.

During the last fashion week, she had won endless applause and praise for her “Embrace of a Star” collection. Now that she had been selected as the thirteenth member of the Bai City Fashion Association, everyone’s attitude towards her was naturally more polite and cordial.

When they arrived at Ronai’s office, he was already waiting.

The moment he saw Shen Li, his face a smile spread out on his face and he once again expressed his welcome to Shen Li.

In the next half an hour, Shen Li, accompanied by Ronai and Bella, added her own information.

That included her personal history, fingerprints, and so on.

At 5 o’clock in the afternoon, Bai City time, a photo of the thirteenth member, Shen Li, finally appeared on the official website of the Bai City Fashion Association.

In the evening, Ronai specially organized a welcome dinner for Shen Li.

In addition to him and Bella, there were four other members of the association who also came.

The rest of them were not currently in Bai City, so they could not meet with them.

Ronai had originally wanted to wait for the exhibition to begin so that he could invite Shen Li to go to Leland where she could officially get to know these people.

Unfortunately, Shen Li was not able to make the time, so he had no choice but to wait for the next opportunity.

By the time the dinner ended, it was already nine o’clock in the evening.

Both Bella and Professor Carroll warmly invited Shen Li to stay at their house as a guest, but Shen Li had declined.

In the end, they sent her back to her residence on Corning Street.

Although she lived alone, the security here had always been very good. After the couple had repeatedly reminded her to have a good rest, they left.

After a long day, Shen Li was also tired. After taking a bath, she went to the study to get a book and went back to her bedroom to read.

She was alone in the villa, but she did not feel lonely.

She sat behind the desk and looked up to see the camellia trees in the yard outside the window.

At this time of the year, the flowering period had passed. The red camellia trees that were once in full bloom had withered, leaving only lush green leaves that swayed with the evening wind.

Shen Li observed them quietly for a long time.

In the long years that had passed, she did not know how many times Zhen Shijin had stayed here alone and looked at the camellia trees silently and alone.

In fact, she had rarely taken the initiative to think about this, because she was reluctant to.

But now, sitting alone in the dark and quiet night, the gentle and slightly cool wind, the rustling leaves and shadows, all of these things made her subconsciously think of many things.

He had spent many such nights.

But... what about his previous life?

Shen Li fixed her gaze in front of her, her eyes dark and calm.

Her breathing was so light that it was almost impossible to catch.

Suddenly, her phone lit up. Lu Huaiyu was calling.

Shen Li deliberately looked at the time again.

It was 10 pm in Bai City and 4 am in the Capital.

She answered the call.

“Second Brother?”

A deep voice came from the receiver.

“Ah Li.”

Shen Li could not help but say, “Second Brother, why aren’t you sleeping at this time of the night?”

Lu Huaiyu seemed to laugh.

“Aren’t you also not asleep?”

Shen Li paused.

It was only ten o’clock at night here, so it was not unusual that she was not asleep yet. However, it was already way past midnight where he was.

Lu Huaiyu lowered his voice again and said, "Are you afraid of being alone?"

Shen Li's heart trembled slightly.

So, he had called at four o'clock in the morning to ask this question.

She looked at the camellias in the courtyard, and the corners of her lips curled up.

"How can that be? Aren't you on the phone with me?"

There was a hint of a smile in Lu Huaiyu's voice.

"Then you should sleep early."

She would be traveling back and forth to Bai City in the span of two days. She might encounter many difficulties, so it would be better to get some rest if she could.

He coaxed her in a low voice, "Good night, Ah Li."

Shen Li's ears tingled.

She lowered her voice.

"Good night, Second Brother."

...

Because of Lu Huaiyu's phone call, Shen Li did not think too much further. She quickly closed her book and climbed into bed to sleep.

She slept very soundly this time. When she woke up in the morning, it was already past seven o'clock.

She would need to be on the plane at 9:30 in the morning.

Bella had sent her a message ten minutes prior, saying that she had already departed from home and would be coming to pick her up at the airport very soon.

By her estimation, they should be arriving soon.

Shen Li woke up very quickly.

Fortunately, she did not have many things, so she did not need to pack much. This saved a lot of time.

After she zipped up her backpack, her phone rang.

"Ah Li, we're already here. Please come out."

Shen Li carried her backpack and walked out.

Professor Carroll's car was parked by the side of the road. Shen Li walked over there.

As a young man on a skateboard passed by, he looked at Shen Li with a surprised gaze and whistled.

Shen Li was not bothered by it and got into the car.

The young man had not expected her to not have any reaction at all. He could not help but be stunned.



Bella, who was in the car, took everything in. She raised her eyebrows and smiled.

“Ah Li, you are as likable as your mother.”

Back then, many people had chased after Gu Tingyin as there were carps crossing the river.

As for Shen Li, it was probably due to her cold personality that most people did not dare to chase after her. They did not even dare to express their feelings.

Of course, Lu Huaiyu was also an extremely important reason.

Shen Li’s eyes curved into a beautiful arc as she lowered her head to look at her phone.

Wei Songze had sent a photo over. It was of an event at the Xijing Art School.

Bella looked to her side and suddenly smiled.

Shen Li asked curiously, “Aunt Bella, you’re smiling because...”

Bella raised her chin at the photo on her phone.

“Yes, this one in the photo. He wrote a love letter to Yin Yin back then.”

Shen Li lowered her head as her eyelids twitched.