

Little Brat's 961

Chapter 961: Could They Like Shen Li More

In the photo, a group of students from the Xijing Art Academy was holding a joint activity in the square in front of the library. It looked like a very lively atmosphere.

A tall, elegant, and gentle figure stood out.

Shi Yang.

He seemed to be explaining something as he stood in front of a billboard with a few students.

He was wearing gold-rimmed glasses, and there was a faint smile on his face. He looked very elegant.

Shen Li paused.

“Do you mean... Shi Yang?”

Bella nodded.

“Yes. I remember that both he and your mother were at the Xijing Art School. He was three years older than your mother, so I suppose he could be considered a senior?”

As she spoke, she took another look at the photo.

“Actually, there were many people chasing after your mother at that time. The number of love letters she received could not be counted. However, the reason I remember him is because, at that time, the love letters he had given her had been sandwiched in a landscape painting that he had given to your mother.”

Shen Li did not say anything.

Gu Tingyin was a scholar of traditional Chinese painting. It was not unusual for Shi Yang to give such a gift that matched her interests to her.

“However, your mother was chasing after your father at that time. He was the only one in her eyes. Of course, she would not accept these. She gave it back the next day.”

Having brought up the past, Bella could not help but snort softly at the thought of how everyone in Xijing had known that Gu Tingyin was chasing after Shen Zhijin at that time.

“Who didn’t know that your mother liked Shen Zhijin? She chased him from Bai City to the Capital, and even attended the Xijing Art School for him.”

Even as her best friend, Bella had felt jealous, not to mention those boys who liked Gu Tingyin.

Under such circumstances, everyone had known that there was no chance for anyone to win her heart.

Why was it that she had only had eyes for Shen Zhijin?

Knowing his place, he had withdrawn himself early on. Unwillingly, he had continuously hit the wall and had eventually given up.

“What happened after that?” Shen Li asked.

“After that? There was no after that.” Bella shrugged. “After your mother returned the painting and love letter to him, the two of them didn’t have much interaction.”

When one was young, it was too easy to fall in love with someone. However, not everyone could get what they wanted and be with the person that was in their heart.

Shen Li nodded.

All she had known was that Shi Yang had also been a student at the Xijing Art School. She had not known that he had shared such a history with Gu Tingyin.

Bella looked sideways at the perfect combination of Gu Tingyin and Shen Zhijin's face and said with a smile, "Your mother was beautiful and cute. Ever since she was at the Bai City High School, many people had chased after her. At that time, we had made a bet. We hadn't known which one would make your mother nod her head first. Who would have known that she would fall in love with your father and fall head over heels for him?"

This was a love that would last a lifetime.

Shen Li held her phone and thought of the two chairs that sat opposite each other in the study room of the villa on Corning Street, the books that filled the two walls, and the camellia tree in the courtyard. The corners of her lips curled into a faint smile.

...

In a high-end residential area in the Capital.

Yu Ming entered with a gloomy expression on his face.

Zhou Lan and Yu Yu, who were waiting in the living room, stood up at the same time.

When she saw Yu Ming's expression, Zhou Lan's heart sank. She could tell that things might not have gone smoothly.

However, she still held onto a glimmer of hope and asked nervously, "Hubby, how was it?"

"What else could it be?!" Yu Ming slammed the door shut and said in a nasty tone, "Zhao Hengshan is personally supervising the case. Who else would be willing to interfere?!"

He had gone out to look for help again today, but he had returned empty-handed.

Everyone knew that Yu Cheng's matter was a big problem. Once anyone got involved, they would find it difficult to be rid of it. Who would want to make things difficult for themselves?

Moreover, Zhao Hengshan's attitude this time was very firm. Not many people were so stubborn as to go head-to-head with him for Yu Cheng's sake.

Zhou Lan could not help but say, "No matter how powerful Zhao Hengshan is, he is only a bureau chief. In such a big city as the Capital, is there no one who can suppress him?"

They had been using all sorts of methods recently. They had met everyone they could meet and begged, but no one had agreed to help.

All this, just for Zhao Hengshan?

Yu Ming snorted.

"I only heard about this today. Apparently, Zhao Hengshan is being so tough because the Lu family is backing him up!"

"What?" Zhou Lan was shocked.

Yu Yu frowned, but she was not very surprised.

Yu Ming sat down on the sofa and said with a dark expression, "Zhao Hengshan used to be a subordinate of the old master of the Lu family. Now, although that person has retired, his position is still there. Who in the Capital can face the Lu family head-on?"

Zhou Lan muttered, "But... but what does this have to do with the Lu family..."

Yu Yu smiled bitterly and said, “Did you forget that behind Ji Shu and LY is Shen Li? And she... is Lu Huaiyu’s girlfriend.”

Zhou Lan instantly fell silent, her face pale.

The Lu family had not made a move openly. All they had done was to instruct Zhao Hengshan to thoroughly investigate this matter. Even so, this was enough to destroy Yu Cheng!

How could he resist the investigation?!

The room was dead silent.

Zhou Lan’s eyes were red.

“No, Hubby, you have to think of another way! Ah Cheng is our only son! What if he—”

Bang!

Finally, Yu Ming could not hold it in anymore. He picked up the cup on the coffee table and threw it down violently!

Zhou Lan’s voice stopped abruptly.

Yu Ming said angrily, “Do you think I don’t want to save him?! I’ve been busy all this time, begging for help. Hasn’t it all been for him?! Who asked him to become such a disappointment? If he had committed other crimes, it would have been fine, but now he’s being suspected of possessing drugs! What else can I do?!”

He pointed at Zhou Lan and cursed angrily.

“A loving mother is a waste of a son. This is the good son that you raised!”

This was not only affecting Yu Cheng. They were also suffering along with him!

Zhou Lan’s tears instantly flowed out, and the emotions that she had suppressed for a long time suddenly erupted.

“Yu Ming, what do you mean by this?! Isn’t he also your son?! Haven’t you cared about him all these years?! You don’t have the right to criticize me!”

Seeing that the two of them were in the middle of an intense argument, Yu Yu hurriedly stepped forward to stop them.

“Uncle, Aunt, now is not the time to argue about this. Let’s think about what to do for Brother first...”

Zhou Lan cried out, “What else can we do?!”

Yu Yu patted her back and comforted her.

“Actually, if the Lu family hadn’t intervened in this matter, it would have been much easier for us. At the very least, we could have had some hope if we had asked for help from others...”

Zhou Lan could not stop crying. “But didn’t you say just now that it was Lu Huaiyu who wanted to help Shen Li this time?”

Yu Yu said, “Just because he’s helping Shen Li doesn’t mean that everyone in the Lu family is willing to help Shen Li.”

Zhou Lan was stunned. “What do you mean?”

Yu Yu said in a low voice, "I had a phone call with Xu Yini previously. She said that Lu Zheng and his wife are about to return to the Capital. If they don't like Shen Li, then Lu Huaiyu and his wife will definitely not be happy with what they are doing."

Zhou Lan frowned. "But who's to know if they will like Shen Li..."

Yu Yu replied, "No matter what, Shen Li is still an outsider. She has never met them before. However, they've watched Xu Yini grow up. Could it be possible that they would like Shen Li more than Xu Yini?"

Chapter 962: Didn't Anyone Tell You?

It was clear at a glance that they were familiar with each other.

If Lu Zheng and his wife did not like Xu Yini, there would never have been the rumors that the Xu family would be marrying into the Lu family.

Although Xu Yini had a bad temper and had done some unseemly things in the past, her family background, appearance, and education were all very impressive.

A few years ago, she had been one of the most admired socialites in the Capital.

The Xu family and the Lu family were old friends. Xu Yini had been calling Lu Zheng and his wife "Uncle" and "Aunt" since she was young.

How could Shen Li compare to this?

When Zhou Lan heard this, her heart finally wavered.

"What you said makes sense. Then... Xu Yini..."

Yu Yu shook her hand.

“Actually, she didn’t do it to help us. She did it to help herself. But no matter what, it’s fine as long as the outcome benefits us, don’t you think so?”

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When Yu Yu walked out of the residential area, the sky was already completely dark.

She walked towards the underground garage.

After facing great difficulty while dealing with Yu Ming and Zhou Lan, she was exhausted and feeling a little nauseous.

However, she still had to endure it.

When she thought about how she would have to deal with the series of problems later on, she felt even more annoyed.

She still had to speed up the progress on the Yu Corporation’s end...

As she was thinking about this, her phone suddenly rang.

Yu Yu frowned and impatiently took out her phone. However, when she saw the caller ID, her expression instantly changed.

She looked left and right to make sure that there was no one around before she picked up the call.

“Hello.”

Her voice was very low.

“Why are you calling me again?”

A man’s laughter came through the receiver.

“Second Miss Yu, I know that you’ve been very busy recently and I don’t want to waste your time, so I’ll be direct. I’m a little short on money recently and I’d like to ask Second Miss Yu for help.”

Yu Yu frowned.

“Didn’t I just give you a sum of money?”

“Ah, I’ve come to look for Second Miss Yu after having spent that sum.” The man was still smiling. “To Second Miss Yu, that bit of money is nothing, right?”

Yu Yu took a deep breath.

“I haven’t had much recently either. Let’s discuss it after some time later.”

“How can that be? People will die if they don’t have money.” The man spoke in a joking manner. “After all, I’m not Yu Cheng. If I were in prison, then I could live without money.”

Yu Yu clenched her fists tightly.

“How much do you want?”

“Not much, just double what you gave me last time.”

“You!” Yu Yu took a deep breath. “I’m warning you! Don’t go too far!”

The man seemed to be a little surprised.

“Me, go too far? Second Miss Yu, no matter how much I go, how can I compare to you? You seem to have forgotten how your brother became addicted to drugs, right?”

“Tell me, if the Yu family found out that you were the one who personally sent him down this path, how would they react?”

The dim yellow light from the street lamps shone on Yu Yu’s pale lips.

After a long while, she gritted her teeth and said, “Understood. I’ll transfer the money to you.”

The other party responded cheerfully.

“Second Miss Yu has always been very efficient. I hope you won’t disappoint me.”

Yu Yu hung up the phone.

She closed her eyes as she felt the strong urge to throw her phone away, but in the end, she endured it and turned around to leave.

...

That morning, Xu Yini received a call saying that the earrings she had ordered had already arrived in the Capital and invited her to the store.

She carefully tidied up her appearance before leaving.

At 11 a.m., she arrived at CHUIN’s only physical store in the Capital.

This was a high-end brand on the same level as G&S in the heart of the Capital. Its prod store was over a thousand square meters.

When Yu Yu arrived, there was no one in the store. It was extremely spacious and empty.

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A store assistant eagerly came up to her.

“Miss Xu, the earrings you ordered are inside. Please follow me.”

Xu Yini frowned.

“Where’s your store manager?”

Every time she came over, the store manager would always personally receive her. Why was it just a store assistant this time?

The shopkeeper noticed that she was angry and quickly apologized with a smile.

“I’m really sorry, Miss Xu. The store manager is busy at the moment and can’t spare any time, so I’ll be serving you for the time being.”

Xu Yini was still dissatisfied.

“What else is so important? The store manager is in charge of that pair of earrings. Of course, he should come now.”

After all, this was luxury jewelry. If the customers were not satisfied with the goods, immediate action would have to be taken after.

The store assistant looked hesitant, but seeing that Xu Yini was not going to let the matter go, all she could say was, "The store manager is on the second floor, receiving another VIP."

Xu Yini glanced upstairs.

The money she spent at CHUIN every year was more than seven figures. Even though she had come here today, she had to wait behind someone else?

The shopkeeper asked carefully, "Miss Xu, why don't you take a look at the earrings first? The store manager should be done soon..."

Just then, footsteps came from upstairs.

Xu Yini looked up and saw that the store manager from CHUIN was leading a person down.

"Miss Shen, please watch your step."

The store manager's smile was very polite and warm.

Xu Yini's expression instantly changed.

So, that so-called distinguished guest was actually Shen Li?!

As if sensing her gaze, Shen Li suddenly stopped and looked at her.

Their eyes met, and the atmosphere became tense.

Xu Yini looked her up and down from head to toe. She thought of something and sneered, "Isn't it too late to remember to order a gift now?"

She had rushed to buy so early, yet even she had not been able to get the three rubies that she liked the most. Now that Shen Li was here, wouldn't she only be able to pick from the leftovers?

Shen Li frowned slightly.

The store manager next to her realized that Xu Yini had misunderstood, so he quickly explained.

"Miss Xu, I think you're mistaken. Miss Shen is here today to pick up the brooch that was custom-made here for Eldest Madam Gu."

The moment these words were said, the shop fell silent.

Xu Yini's expression had become somewhat unsightly. Only then did she see that Shen Li was indeed holding a bag in her hand.

So, she was to pick something up for the eldest madam of the Gu family...

Shen Li ignored her and followed the store manager down the stairs. She said goodbye again and looked as if she was about to leave.

Xu Yini looked at her and a light suddenly flashed through her mind.

"Wait!"

Shen Li's footsteps paused, and she turned around to look at her.

Xu Yini looked her up and down, and suddenly smiled.

“Shen Li, don’t tell me you still don’t know?”

Shen Li frowned slightly, and a hint of impatience appeared in her eyes.

This reaction, in Xu Yi’s eyes, immediately confirmed her guess.

She looked somewhat incredulous, but there also seemed to be a look of mockery and happiness on her face.

She enunciated each word clearly as she said, “Uncle Lu Zheng and Aunt Fang are unexpectedly coming back... Didn’t anyone tell you?”

Chapter 963: I Don’t Know Which One She Likes

Lu Zheng, Lu Huaiyu’s father.

This famous legendary figure in the air force had been admired by countless people for many years.

Special-class merit once, first-class merit twice.

His other meritorious deeds were countless.

A few years ago after getting injured, he had retired from the frontline. However, he was still heavily involved in the army.

Shen Li had heard of this person before she met Lu Huaiyu.

She guessed that Aunt Fang was Lu Huaiyu’s mother, Fang Yunyi.

Shen Li did not know much about this person. Lu Huaiyu rarely mentioned her. However, she had heard of her occasionally after she had come to the Capital.

When she was young, this person had been a famous beauty in the Capital.

However, she had been following Lu Zheng all these years and rarely stayed in the Capital.

Now, they were coming back?

Xu Yini had been observing Shen Li's reaction and could not help but secretly sneer.

It looked like she did not know anything at all, right?

"Lu Huaiyu did not tell you such an important matter?"

Xu Yini did not bother to hide her sarcastic and mocking tone from her voice.

Lu Zheng was officially being transferred back to the Capital this time. It was an important job transfer. Fang Yunyi would come back with him and would basically stay in the Capital after that.

Shen Li actually did not know anything about such an important matter.

Everyone in the Capital said that Lu Huaiyu doted on his girlfriend.

He accompanied her while she had taken her college entrance examination, returned to the Capital together, and paid a sky-high price for the "Night of the Galaxy" watch in Hong Kong City which he had gifted her in public...

Even more so, although Xu Yini was very unwilling to think about it or admit it, it could not be ignored that in order to help Shen Li vent her anger, Lu Huaiyu had not hesitated to offend the Xu family and had forced her to retreat from the entertainment industry!

Because of all of these things, everyone knew just how much he liked Shen Li.

However, now that Lu Zheng and his wife were coming back, he still had not mentioned it to Shen Li.

If a man were to treat a person with sincerity, he would definitely introduce her to his parents.

But now, it seemed that Lu Huaiyu had no intention of doing so.

Xu Yini felt the urge to laugh, so she really started to.

However, just as the smile crept up to the corners of her lips, Shen Li, who was standing across from her, said lightly, "So, did Second Brother tell you about such an important matter?"

Xu Yini's expression suddenly froze.

She had learned about this matter from Xu Rufeng, and as for Lu Huaiyu—

She didn't even have the chance to talk to him now, let alone about something like this.

She was embarrassed by Shen Li's words. Her expression changed several times before she sneered, "I don't think I need to remind you about the relationship between the Xu and Lu families. I don't need to ask for such information. It's natural that I would know about it."

Shen Li recalled what she had said before and finally understood.

That was why Xu Yini had come over today. She had come to specially choose a gift for Fang Yunyi.

It was obvious that she had come to CHUIN to choose a gift for Fang Yunyi.

Shen Li nodded, her expression somewhat comforting.

“That’s good.”

Xu Yini was stunned.

Was Shen Li not angry after hearing all this?

Then, she heard Shen Li continue to speak.

“After what happened earlier, I was quite concerned. Because of me, the Lu family and the Xu family’s long-standing friendship was damaged. Now it seems that I was worrying too much.”

She gave Xu Yini a concerned look.

“After hearing what Miss Xu said today, I am relieved.”

“You!”

Xu Yini’s face instantly turned pale.

It would have been better if she had not mentioned it. After Shen Li said that, she recalled the difficult days she had gone through previously.

She had lost all of her fans overnight. The abuse on Weibo had been overwhelming. Countless contracts had suddenly been terminated. One after another, all the promotional posters featuring her had been removed overnight...

From being the first love of the nation that everyone had admired and pursued to the one that everyone despised, it had only taken one night!

Even after that, she had not dared to go out for quite a long time, having been afraid of being recognized and criticized by others.

She had even refused to socialize with others in public. She had remained very quiet within the circle of celebrities in the Capital for a period of time.

All of this had been because of Shen Li!

And Lu Huaiyu had been the most important instigator from behind the scenes!

How could she not care? How could the Xu family pretend that nothing had happened?

On the surface, even though they had not cut ties with each other, there was still a deep gap between the two families.

Why else had she and Xu Rufeng not visited the Lu family in such a long time?

However, the Xu family did not want to stand on the opposite side of the Lu family. Therefore, when they heard the news that Lu Zheng and Fang Yunyi were coming back, Xu Rufeng specifically told Hao Yun to contact Fang Yunyi.

They planned to use this opportunity to break the ice and repair the relationship between the two families.

Now, Shen Li's words were as sharp as knives, stabbing into Xu Yini's heart.

Several pairs of eyes looked at her.

Although no one said a word, Xu Yini felt as if they were looking at her as if she was a joke!

The people served by the store assistants were the wealthiest people in the Capital. Of course, they would hear a lot of gossip.

Xu Yini had offended Shen Li and angered Lu Huaiyu, which was why she had ended up in this situation.

Now that his parents were coming back, even if chose a gift, the first thing she should do was to apologize, right?

Why was she behaving so smugly?

Xu Yini's knuckles turned white, and her lips trembled slightly from anger.

Shen Li could not be bothered to waste any time with her, so she just decided to walk out.

The store manager quickly followed her and personally sent her to the door.

Xu Yini wanted to say something, but she did not know how to say it. She could only watch as Shen Li left.

The store manager only came back after Shen Li had completely disappeared.

"Miss Xu, would you like to take a look at your earrings now?"

Xu Yini glanced at him.

"Why? Are you free to receive me now?"

The store manager was a smart person. Of course, he could see that Xu Yini was extremely angry.

However, if he had to pick someone to offend between Xu Yini and Shen Li, he would still choose Xu Yini.

Yes, Xu Yini was a high-class VIP customer in their shop, and she was backed by the Xu family. She was an important customer that they needed to treat with caution.

However, Shen Li was here today to represent the first lady of the Gu family, Liang Su!

Not to mention that Shen Li was now the thirteenth lifetime member of the Bai City Fashion Association. She already had an extremely high status in the luxury fashion industry. Just her status as the only young lady of the Gu family alone was enough to make her the guest of honor that all the major luxury brands would not dare to neglect. It was enough to ensure that the most important luxury brands would not dare to neglect their guests.

Besides, there was also the Lu family.

After all, this was the Capital.

The shopkeeper bowed and apologized.

“Miss Xu, I’m sorry to have given you such an unpleasant experience today. Your earring—”

Xu Yini was very upset.

“Never mind, just let me see it first!”

Those were meant to be a gift for Aunt Fang. She had to be careful.

The store manager raised his hand.

“Please follow me.”

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Xu Yini entered the VIP lounge. The store manager wore gloves as he opened the box.

A pair of oval-shaped ruby earrings lay quietly in the box.

Xu Yini frowned.

This was not the main design, after all. Compared to the three pairs that she had chosen before, this seemed a little inferior.

She asked, "Who ordered the three designs that I asked about before? Can you go and ask about them? I'm willing to increase the price for them."

This was actually not appropriate. Since the other party was able to come and spend, the person definitely did not lack money.

However, Xu Yini was really a little anxious.

The store manager was momentarily stunned. He smiled politely but shook his head.

"Miss Xu, I'm afraid that won't do. The three models were all ordered by the same customer."

Xu Yini was stunned.

"Ordered three pairs at the same time? That many?"

The store manager nodded.

“Yes. That person wants to give them as a gift, but he didn’t know which one he would like, so he simply chose a few more models. So... he probably won’t agree to let you have them.”

Chapter 964: Blame Your Father for Not Being Able

Xu Yini was momentarily at a loss for words.

This person had bought all of them just because they did not know which design the other party would like?

One had to know that CHUIN’s high-grade custom-made jewelry was very expensive. Even she did not have the confidence to go so far.

Moreover, although these jewelry designs were different, they were all from CHUIN. Whether it was the grade of the gem itself or its design, all of it was absolutely outstanding.

Anyone who received any one of these as a gift would surely be very happy.

The reason she was being so picky this time was mainly because she wanted to gift this to Fang Yunyi.

Fang Yunyi had always been partial to rubies, and many of them were collector’s items. Ordinary ones would definitely not be able to catch her eye.

She had taken a long time to carefully select just a few of CHUIN’s jewelry designs. Who would have guessed that she would only be able to get the last piece?

The other party had been able to order so many of them in one go, yet they were only there to be options. It was obvious that they were not short of money.

Earlier, however, she had even said that she was willing to increase the price in order to ask the other party to give the items to her.

It was really awkward.

Even though the store manager's expression and tone did not show any inappropriateness, Xu Yini still felt a little embarrassed.

Her lips moved until she found a way out for herself.

"By the looks of it, that customer probably thinks very highly of this person that they are giving this gift to?"

The store manager nodded with a smile.

"Who said that he didn't?"

Xu Yini tucked the strands of hair behind her ear.

"Since that's the case, it's not good for me to steal from someone else's love."

She raised her hand and pointed.

"Help me wrap up these things."

...

At the Lu residence.

Lu Huaiyu and Old Master Lu were having a meal together.

Old Master Lu said, "The date of your parents' return has been set. It'll be next Saturday."

Lu Huaiyu paused for a moment.

“So early? Didn’t you say that it would be in mid-June?”

“It’s been brought forward.”

Old Master Lu was quite happy,

“Besides, isn’t it good to be early?”

Without asking, Lu Huaiyu knew what Old Master Lu was thinking.

As expected, Old Master Lu continued to speak.

“When the time comes, you should invite Ah Li over to the house to officially meet your parents. Oh right, have you mentioned to Ah Li that your parents are moving back to the Capital?”

Lu Huaiyu said, “Not yet.”

Old Master Lu immediately frowned.

“Huh? Why haven’t you mentioned such an important matter? No matter what, you should at least give Ah Li some psychological preparation, right?”

Lu Huaiyu recalled the Weibo page that was full of gifts to Ah Li, as well as the heart-bursting princess cartoon pictures of Ah Li and he felt a headache coming on.

He leaned back and looked at Old Master Lu.

“You’re wondering why I didn’t say anything? Are you really not clear or are you not sure?”

“If my future wife is scared away. Are you going to give compensation?”

Old Master Lu hurriedly waved his hand.

“Aiya, aiya! It’s not that serious! You have to have a little faith in your mother! Isn’t she just looking forward to having a daughter-in-law more than anyone else? Look, you can’t count on your big brother now. Our Lu family is counting on you!”

Lu Huaiyu smiled.

“Is she really looking forward to meeting her daughter-in-law?”

Old Master Lu coughed lightly and looked away guiltily.

“Isn’t... Isn’t it because your father is too incompetent to have a daughter...? If you want to blame, blame your father. Why are you looking at me?”

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

“I will pass on your words to Father.”

Old Master Lu waved his hand indifferently.

“It’s fine, it’s fine. Your mother has scolded him for so many years. He is already used to it.”

There was a moment of silence in the restaurant.

Lu Huaiyu closed his eyes and pinched the space between his eyebrows.

“I forgot.”

Ever since she had married Lu Zheng, Fang Yunyi had always wanted to have a daughter. In the end, the first child she had given birth to had been a son.

Hence, she had placed her hopes on her second child.

However, because her morning sickness had been very severe when she was pregnant, the entire pregnancy had been very difficult. Lu Zheng had not agreed to have another child.

Later on, he could not resist Fang Yunyi’s persuasion and coercion when she asked for a second child.

At that time, it had been even more difficult for her than the first child. In the early stages of pregnancy, she had vomited continuously and could not eat anything. In the later stages of pregnancy, she had become very swollen which made it very difficult to move.

However, she had endured it all because she wanted to have a daughter.

Who could have known that the second child would be a son?

It was rumored that Fang Yunyi, who had not been able to eat or sleep well during the entire pregnancy, had cried the moment she held her youngest son.

Later on, she had placed her hopes on having a third child.

However, this time, Lu Zheng had refused to agree no matter what.

Usually, Lu Zheng would indulge Fang Yunyi in all major and minor matters regarding their family and home.

However, he had not relented on this matter. Both husband and wife had fought a lot because of this matter.

Later on, Fang Yunyi realized that she really could not have a daughter anymore. She could only look at other people's daughters and envy them all day long.

But in the end, she was still unwilling.

She could not count on her husband, so she could only place her hopes on both of her sons.

No daughter?

It did not matter!

The two brothers would have to marry a daughter-in-law eventually!

It would be the same!

However, Fang Yunyi waited and waited, but the two brothers did not make any moves.

The eldest son was always waiting for the troops. He was either out on missions or training.

The second son stayed in the Capital, but he was extremely arrogant. There were so many young girls, yet he could not even be bothered to give them a glance.

Just as she had been about to give up, Shen Li had appeared.

When Lu Huaiyu thought of that, he felt worried.

Old Master Lu comforted him.

“Hey, they still have to meet her anyway! Don’t worry, I’ll talk to her later!”

Before Lu Huaiyu could speak, Fang Qingyun walked in.

“Old Master, your express delivery package.”

It was another small express delivery box.

Lu Huaiyu’s gaze paused on it for a moment.

Old Master Lu had already stood up happily.

“Come here, come here! Give it to me!”

Lu Huaiyu asked, “Grandpa, what did you buy there?”

Old Master Lu chuckled.

“Nothing, just some small things— Eh? Why is this express delivery box torn?”

Only when he had taken it in his hands did he notice that the express delivery box was squashed and there was a hole in it.

Fang Qingyun said helplessly, “The express delivery said that it was already like this when it was brought over. I’ve already communicated with them to be more careful next time.”

Old Master Lu’s heart ached terribly, and he hurriedly took the box cutter by his side and cut the box open.

“I saw on the news that some people will steal express delivery packages! This can’t be—”

He took out the things that were inside and carefully examined them. Only then did he let out a long sigh of relief and patted his chest.

“Fortunately, the contents were not stolen or damaged by the violent express delivery service!”

Lu Huaiyu looked at the pink mug in Old Master Lu’s hand and was silent for a moment.

The picture on it looked very familiar.

Chapter 965: Ruby Earrings

He had seen it on Weibo not too long ago.

To be precise, it was from Shen Li’s super words.

Just then, Fang Qingyun also saw the picture printed on the mug and said in surprise, “Eh? Old man, why does this look so much like Ah Li?”

On the mug was a cartoon figure. The little girl’s long hair was slightly curly. She was wearing a pink and white lolita dress, and a pair of beige Mary Jane shoes, and she was holding a hat with a ribbon tied into a bow in her hand. It was exquisite and beautiful.

As soon as he said this, Old Master Lu’s body froze.

Oh no!

He had been so focused on checking to see if the contents in the express delivery package had been stolen that he had completely forgotten that there was someone beside him!

He quickly raised a hand to cover up.

“No, no...”

“We’re not lacking in cups at home. Why did Grandpa buy more?”

A lazy and light voice came from behind.

Old Master Lu turned around and saw Lu Huaiyu leaning against the back of the chair as he looked over. His posture was lazy, as if he was only asking a casual question.

He should... he shouldn’t have seen it, right?

Old Master Lu coughed.

“I didn’t buy this. I drew a lottery online and it was given to me.”

Lu Huaiyu’s gaze fell on the mug. He raised his eyebrows slightly and gave a faint smile.

“Is that so? I see that you seem to like this mug. Can I have a look?”

Old Master Lu’s eyes flickered.

He was too embarrassed to tell the others that he was secretly collecting the paraphernalia of his granddaughter-in-law.

“I... I just like it casually! Mainly, it didn’t cost any money...”

A sudden thought seemed to come to Lu Huaiyu’s mind.

"I heard from Uncle Fang that you've been receiving a lot of express deliveries recently. Are those... all of them?"

Old Master Lu glared at Fang Qingyun. Why did he always report everything to this kid?!

Fang Qingyun looked confused and innocent.

Why was the old man looking at him? I really had not expected him to do this kind of thing all day long!

One or two was fine, but how many express deliveries had he received during this period of time?

Old Master Lu saw that it would not be easy to let this matter go, so all he could say was, "That... actually, it's not entirely true... Some are cups, and some are other things."

There were quite a lot of them.

Lu Huaiyu did not say anything. He merely took his phone out and entered the Weibo page of [Is Carp Married Today?] .

His slender and well-proportioned fingers swiped twice on the screen. He quickly found the Weibo post that corresponded to the mug.

The blogger's post was more casual. They had not used any assistance for the lucky draw. Instead, the person had chosen the top five likes from the comment section.

Lu Huaiyu saw the comment with the most likes at the top.

[Ah Li No. 1: Who didn't close his fairytale storybook properly and let little Princess Ah Li run out?] [fatty blue smiles][balloon][love][rainbow] !!!]

Lu Huaiyu was speechless.

He raised his eyes and looked at Old Master Lu.

Old Master Lu was inexplicably flustered by his gaze and clutched the mug in his hand.

“Why, why are you looking at me like that? Let me tell you, I won this mug with great difficulty in the lucky draw. Even if you wanted it, you can’t have it!”

Lu Huaiyu looked at him for a long time before finally saying, “You’d better not tell my mother.

“It’s really not easy for me to marry a wife.”

...

After lunch, Lu Huaiyu called Shen Li.

She seemed to be busy and it rang a few times before she finally picked up.

“Second Brother?”

Before Lu Huaiyu could speak, he heard Gu Tingfeng’s voice.

“Ah Li, please try these mussels.”

Only then did Lu Huaiyu realize something.

“You’re at Jinshui No. 1 Courtyard?”

“Yes.” Shen Li thanked Gu Tingfeng before explaining to him, “I was delivering something to First Aunt today, so I ended up eating here.”

Lu Huaiyu had originally wanted to tell her that Lu Zheng and Fang Yunyi were coming back. After all, they would not have much time when they arrived in the Capital next Saturday.

However, when he heard that Shen Li was having lunch with Gu Tingfeng and his wife, he suppressed this thought.

It would be better to find a suitable time to tell her later.

“It’s nothing. I was just having lunch with my grandfather today. He said he misses you.”

Lu Huaiyu said, “You should go ahead and eat first.”

Shen Li was with Gu Tingfeng and his wife, so she did not notice that he actually had something to say. He nodded.

“Okay.”

The two ended the phone call.

Liang Su looked over with a smile in her eyes.

“By the way, Ah Li, did you know that the last stop of Mr. Ronai’s art exhibition tour will be in the Capital?”

Shen Li nodded.

“He mentioned it to me before. It’s next Friday.”

This news had actually spread a long time ago. Many people in the Capital were extremely excited as they waited for the art exhibition to be held.

Shen Li estimated that there would be quite a number of fans coming from all over the country.

After all, it had been nearly ten years since he had last held an art exhibition in the country.

Liang Su looked a little surprised.

“Next Friday? I thought it would be next Wednesday. I might not be able to accompany you to go then.”

She had to return to Hong Kong City for her next project, so she probably would not be able to make it in time.

She had a good relationship with Mr. Ronai, so it was natural that she had to support the exhibition. Besides, Shen Li also liked his paintings very much.

However, the timing was too coincidental.

Shen Li smiled and said, “It’s okay, Aunt.”

Attending an exhibition was something that could be done by one person.

Moreover, this was a Ronai art exhibition. She had originally planned to attend it on her own anyway.

Liang Su saw that she was not very bothered, so she was relieved and stroked her hair.

“By the way, previously I saw a ruby ear stud set in CHUIN which I thought matched you very well. I wanted to buy it for you, but it has already been ordered.”

Liang Su took her phone out and showed it to her.

“Look, this is the one.”

Shen Li looked at the square ruby earrings in the photo and her eyebrows raised slightly.

Where else had she seen it before?

Oh, right, among one of the cartoons that He Xiaochen had sent her before, there had been a pair of earrings that matched this one.

At that time, someone in the comments section had mentioned that it was a replica of a high-end jewelry design.

Liang Su felt that it was a pity.

“This design really suits you. It’s such a pity...”

Shen Li’s gaze froze on it for a moment.

It had to be said that although the drawing of the earrings had been exquisite. However, for something like a gemstone, it was only when one looked at the real thing that one could experience that kind of beauty.

It was clear, clean, and resplendent.

Not to mention anything else, just this ruby itself was a rare treasure.

Not to mention its design and craftsmanship, it was also top-notch.

She really liked it.

Her peach blossom eyes curved beautifully. She smiled and said, "Since it has already been ordered, then let's just forget it."

Chapter 966: She Likes Ronai's Paintings

In the blink of an eye, it was Thursday.

At noon, Shen Li had just finished her experiment when she received a call from Yu Pingchuan.

"Ah Li? Are you free at noon? Can you come to Jinse Bay?"

Shen Li paused.

"I'm free. What's the matter?"

Yu Pingchuan's voice was very helpless.

"Master quarreled with someone today. He's so angry that he doesn't want to eat anymore. I really can't persuade him to. Since he listens to you the most, why don't you come and have a look?"

Shen Li was silent for a moment, almost thinking that she had heard wrongly.

"... Did he argue with someone, or did he scold them unilaterally?"

"..."

As expected, nothing could be hidden from his little junior sister.

Yu Pingchuan's voice became a little softer,

"... it was Master who scolded a group of people unilaterally."

Shen Li was silent.

Yu Pingchuan seemed to feel that the way he spoke made it seem as if his master was a little too overbearing, so he spoke out to save his face.

"Actually, it's like this. Shi Yang just released a new painting and it was sold at a high price at the auction. Someone came to ask what Master thought about it, but Master only said this: It's not worth it."

Shen Li's eyelids twitched.

"Isn't this just going to cause a bombshell? Many people complained about the injustice against Shi Yang. Some of them had even bothered Master this morning. They said that no matter what, Shi Yang was also the vice-chairman of the art association. Master's words did not show Shi Yang any respect. For the sake of the art association, they hoped that Master could take back that comment. But it's not like you don't know Master's temper. He scolded all of them on the spot and chased them out."

Shen Li pressed her temples.

No wonder.

Mei Yanqing was notorious for his bad temper. For so many years, he had always said whatever he wanted in the art world. Furthermore, he had an extremely sharp and venomous tongue.

Because of this, he had offended many people. However, he had never admitted defeat before and had remained the same as before.

Although many people were troubled because of this, Mei Yanqing was really capable. He was the true master of the art world in the country.

Who had the right to stop him from saying anything?

This time, he had publicly made such an evaluation of Shi Yang's paintings. There was no doubt that it had a great impact on Shi Yang and the art association.

It was no wonder that those people had come to persuade him otherwise.

In the end, Mei Yanqing had been thoroughly angered.

Shen Li said, "I got it. I've just finished the experiment here. I'll go over in a moment."

Yu Pingchuan's worried heart finally relaxed.

"Alright, alright. Then I'll wait for you."

...

Half an hour later, Shen Li arrived at Jinse Bay.

Yu Pingchuan was waiting at the door. When he saw her coming, his originally tense and worried expression immediately relaxed, as if he had just seen his savior.

"Ah Li! You're finally here!"

Shen Li looked inside. "How's Master now?"

Yu Pingchuan led her inside as he whispered, "He's still angry! He's been staying in the study alone and refuses to come out!"

It was clear that he was really furious.

Shen Li went to the study.

The door was locked. She knocked on the door.

"Master, it's me."

It was quiet inside for a while before footsteps could be heard.

Mei Yan opened the door and saw Shen Li. His expression softened greatly, but a sudden realization came to him. He frowned and looked at Yu Pingchuan.

"Ah Li is so busy. Why did you call her over?"

Of course, he knew that Yu Pingchuan had invited Shen Li over to persuade him.

Yu Pingchuan coughed lightly.

Shen Li smiled and said, "Master, I wasn't busy today."

Mei Yanqing could not bring himself to be angry at her, so he could only glare at Yu Pingchuan again.

Yu Pingchuan could only pretend that he did not see him.

"Ah Li, you haven't eaten lunch yet, right?"

Shen Li shook her head. “No.”

Mei Yanqing immediately frowned. “What time is it already? Why aren’t you eating on time?”

Shen Li looked at him quietly.

Mei Yanqing was suddenly at a loss for words.

Yu Pingchuan hurriedly said, “Then come quickly! The food is ready!”

Shen Li said, “Master, let’s eat together.”

Mei Yanqing gritted his teeth.

“I’m coming.”

...

All three of them finally sat down at the dining table together.

Shen Li scooped out some soup for Mei Yanqing and placed it beside his hand.

“Although your surgery was quite successful and your subsequent recovery has been pretty good, you still have to be more careful. Eat on time and eat a balanced diet.”

Her tone was light, so Mei Yanqing was unable to get angry at all. All he could do was lower his head and drink the soup. His voice was a little muffled as he spoke.

"I know."

"Also, didn't I tell you many times before not to get angry?"

"How can you blame me for this? It's all because those people went too far!" Mei Yanqing said, feeling really annoyed, "It was them who insisted on asking for my opinion. I told them the truth. Is this also wrong? What else did they say? They told me not to bring my personal likes and dislikes into the evaluation of the painting. Bullsh*t! His painting really is not worth that price!"

Hearing this, Shen Li finally understood why he was so angry.

Mei Yanqing was sharp and picky, but he was indeed fair.

He did not like Shi Yang. It was not a secret in the art association. Now that they had such a misunderstanding, of course, he would be angry.

Yu Pingchuan tried to persuade him.

"Master, Shi Yang is not on the same path as us anyway. Why do you have to have such a serious attitude about him? Look at the situation now. It's a little too awkward."

Mei Yanqing was still angry.

Shen Li picked up some food for him and smiled.

"You can't blame Master for this. In the end, Master only gave his own opinion. Shi Yang is not the first artist he has criticized, and he definitely won't be the last. There's no need to make such a big fuss."

Only then did Mei Yanqing feel satisfied.

"Listen! Ah Li is right! Shi Yang doesn't care about that painting at all. He only cares about his own face!"

Yu Pingchuan was stunned.

It seemed like... It did seem like that...

Shen Li said, "However, all this has already happened. You've already said it and scolded the people. Don't even think about it any more. It's not worth it to ruin your body because of this. You don't want to stay in the hospital again, right?"

Mei Yanqing snorted, but in the end, he decided to let the matter go.

"I'll listen to Ah Li's advice."

Yu Pingchuan finally heaved a sigh of relief.

He chuckled and asked, "Oh right, Ah Li, you're going to the art exhibition tomorrow, right?"

Mei Yanqing stopped moving and asked slowly, "Art exhibition? What art exhibition?"

The dining room suddenly fell silent.

Yu Pingchuan was filled with regret. How could he have let it slip just because he was happy?!

The only person who would be opening an art exhibition in the Capital tomorrow would be Ronai!

Shen Li calmly picked up a piece of potato.

"Mr. Ronai's art exhibition."

Mei Yanqing said, "Oh?"

It was only one word, but it made the surroundings even more deathly silent.

Shen Li nodded as usual.

"Yes, Second Brother really likes his paintings. I'll be accompanying him to take a look."

Mei Yanqing snorted coldly.

"This kid is quite active when it comes to dating!"

Shen Li stayed silent.

Without batting an eyelid, she took out her phone and sent a message to Lu Huaiyu.

[Second Brother, let's go to Mr. Ronai's art exhibition tomorrow.]

...

At the same time, at the Lu family home.

Old Master Lu asked in surprise, "Ronai's art exhibition? Does Ah Li still like his paintings?"

Lu Huaiyu nodded.

Old Master Lu exclaimed, "Oh, oh, I didn't know that before!"

Seeing that Lu Huaiyu had lowered his head to reply to Shen Li's message, Old Master Lu immediately took his phone out and went on Weibo.

[Ah Li No. 1: Today's news: Ah Li actually likes Ronai's paintings!]

Chapter 967: Common Topic

As soon as this Weibo post was posted, it immediately attracted a lot of gossipy girls.

[Big boss number one has appeared again!]

[Ah Li likes Ronai paintings? Really?! But isn't she Mei Yanqing's disciple?]

[That doesn't matter! I also like the paintings of Ronai! Rounding up, I posted it with Ah Li!]

[... Can the person upstairs stop fantasizing? Don't you already have a wife? Why are you posting with my wife?]

[Since it's the big boss number one who said it, then it must be true! I'll start studying Ronai now!]

The comment section was very lively.

[Ah Li No. 1] This account was very famous among Shen Li's fans.

Firstly, it because every popular Weibo post related to Shen Li was filled with his praises that could shake the heavens and earth, and he also relied on this to draw a lot of surrounding gifts from Sister Carp.

Two, he would occasionally post some content related to Shen Li's life. The little sister fans acknowledged that he must definitely know Shen Li in real life, and that they must have quite a close relationship.

Therefore, when he said this, everyone firmly believed it.

Around this point, the entire Chatterbox became lively again.

...

9:30 pm, the Capital Airport.

A black car slowly drove away.

When they saw the license plate number, the surrounding cars automatically moved further away.

“It’s too late. Today, we’ll go to Wufeng Road first. We’ll go home tomorrow morning. We don’t want to disturb the old man.”

A deep voice sounded in the car.

They had told the old man that they would be back on Saturday. In fact, it was earlier because they wanted to give him a surprise.

The driver in the front row immediately agreed.

After Lu Zheng finished speaking, he looked at Fang Yunyi, who was sitting next to him.

“Yunyi, what are you looking at?”

Ever since she had gotten off the plane, she had been looking at her phone.

The neon lights by the side of the road shone through the car window and landed on her beautiful and exquisite face.

Fang Yunyi raised her fair and beautiful fingers. This beauty, who had once been famous in the Capital when she was young, seemed to have been especially well-treated by time. Her every move exuded a cool and elegant air.

She gently tapped on the screen.

“Ah Li actually likes Ronai’s work.”

Lu Zheng followed her line of sight and looked over.

“Is that so?”

He did not have these apps on his phone, but Fang Yunyi was very interested in them and enjoyed looking through them every day.

Lu Zheng was deep in thought.

“Although she studied under Mei Yanqing, she likes Ronai’s paintings. It’s a little surprising.”

“Exactly.” Fang Yunyi nodded and said with admiration, “Tsk, Ah Li really has a wide range of interests.”

Lu Zheng stayed quiet.

Fang Yunyi was finally willing to look up from her phone, but she did not look at Lu Zheng. Instead, she looked towards the front row.

“Xiao Zhang, please help me book a ticket for tomorrow for Ronai’s Art Exhibition.”

Xiao Zhang, the secretary who was sitting in the front row, immediately said, "Yes."

It was obvious that a ticket to the Ronai art exhibition would be difficult to obtain, especially the night before the art exhibition. It was really difficult to get a ticket.

Naturally, however, this was not a problem for the Lu family.

Lu Zheng raised his eyebrows.

"You're going to see the Ronai Art Exhibition?"

Fang Yunyi's chin was slightly lowered. Only then did she look at him, seeming a little strange.

"Why, do you have a problem with it?"

Lu Zheng laughed. One could vaguely see the determination and valor of his youth.

He reminded her.

"Yunyun, the last time you went to an art exhibition, you only stayed in there for an hour. Moreover, you spent more than half of the time picking out souvenirs."

Fang Yunyi was not interested in activities like art exhibitions or concerts. In comparison, those little trinkets were more attractive to her.

Now that she suddenly said that she was going to see Ronai's art exhibition, Lu Zheng did not think that she would be able to see anything.

“So what? Do you know how beautiful those souvenirs were? Besides, it’s not like I didn’t bring them for you.” Fang Yunyi understood what he meant and was quite dissatisfied.

Lu Zheng was silent for a moment.

“I was the one who accompanied you that time.”

“...”

“I was also the one who helped you carry those two bags of souvenirs back. In the end, one of the seals fell off and you gave it to me.”

“...”

Fang Yunyi coughed. “Wasn’t that seal pretty good?”

Lu Zheng could not be bothered to argue with her.

Fang Yunyi thought of the art exhibition tomorrow and her confidence rose again.

“I’m going to the art exhibition so that I can have more common topics to talk about with Ah Li. Do you understand?”

Lu Zheng nodded.

“I understand.”

“You don’t understand.”

Fang Yunyi's red lips twitched slightly. Her hair was tucked behind her ears. She leaned back in her chair, looking very languid and noble.

She uttered, "I thought your son would never be able to marry a wife in this lifetime."

Now that he finally got a potential one, how could he not be anxious?!

Lu Zheng thought for a long time and nodded.

"That's true."

...

Friday, 9 a.m.

Lu Huaiyu and Shen Li went to the Capital Art Museum together.

The Ronai art exhibition was being held here.

They had come early, but when they arrived, there were already many people outside the art museum, and the atmosphere was very lively.

It had been ten years since Ronai had held an art exhibition in China, so it was natural that everyone's enthusiasm was high.

Lu Huaiyu got out of the car, walked around the front, and opened the car door for Shen Li.

Shen Li was wearing a little white dress with a V-neckline today which showed off her straight and delicate collarbones. The skirt covered her knees. Her calves were slender and straight.

Her long, wavy hair hung down, and her face looked beautiful and clear.

Lu Huaiyu held her hand as they walked in.

The sight of the two of them standing together was very eye-catching. Soon, they attracted the attention of many people.

Several people recognized Shen Li and looked excited.

However, since they were all here to see the art exhibition, they did not come forward to disturb her. They only nodded from afar in greeting towards her.

The two of them entered the art museum smoothly.

...

“Mom, I heard that Mr. Ronai will be here today.”

Xu Yini accompanied Hao Yun as they walked toward the entrance of the art museum. Her face was filled with excitement and anticipation.

While she was studying abroad, she had chosen to study art history. Ever since then, she had been very fond of Ronai’s paintings.

Now that Ronai was holding an art exhibition in the Capital, she had brought Hao Yun along.

Hao Yun smiled and said, “Is that so? Speaking of which, you haven’t seen him in a long time, right?”

Xu Yini nodded. “Yes, the last time I saw him was when he came to our school to give a lecture. I was in charge of receiving him. It’s been two years—”

“That was Shen Li just now, right? She’s so beautiful in person!”

A voice that could not be concealed suddenly sounded, interrupting Xu Yini’s train of thought.

“And the man next to her is really stunning! I’ve never seen anyone in real life who could be so handsome!”

Xu Yini’s smile froze, and she looked in the direction of the voice.

Chapter 968: See You

A few young girls were passing by, looking very excited.

“That’s her boyfriend, right? He’s a good match!”

“Ah! Speaking of which, when we went to watch my brother’s concert, a man’s hand appeared on the big screen, and he was holding my sister’s hand. At that time, we guessed that he must be her boyfriend. Later, according to the fans from Xijing University, my sister’s boyfriend is the second young master of the Lu family!”

“The one from the Lu family? All I knew was that he was rich, but I didn’t know that he was so handsome! Just now, when we were three meters away, I felt like there was an invisible fairy-like aura around the two of them!”

“Did you see that just now? There were quite a lot of people around when we went in. He immediately put his arm around her and carefully led her in! Sob, sob, sob, sob, sob, sob, how can this man be so considerate and gentle despite being so handsome? I’m so envious!”

Their voices were not loud, but Xu Yini was able to hear them clearly because of the excitement in their voices.

She pursed her lips.

Needless to say, it was obvious that Lu Huaiyu had accompanied Shen Li here.

Hao Yun looked at her worriedly.

“Yini? Why don’t... we go home?”

Ever since their relationship had fallen apart, Xu Yini had not seen Lu Huaiyu and Shen Li in a long time. She had not expected them to come today.

If they bumped into each other...

“Why do you want to go home?” Xu Yini looked straight ahead with a cold expression on her face. “This art exhibition was not opened by Shen Li. Why should she be the only one who can come and see it, but I can’t?”

Hao Yun’s lips twitched, but she knew that she could not persuade her otherwise.

Forget it. She was already here. If she turned around and left, Xu Yini would definitely feel uncomfortable.

She held Xu Yini’s hand.

“Then, shall we go in?”

This art exhibition hall was quite big, and there were many people, so they might not necessarily run into each other.

Xu Yini took a deep breath and walked in.

...

A total of more than 80 paintings by Ronai were being displayed at this art exhibition. The scale was not small, and the paintings were divided into six halls.

Shen Li and Lu Huai walked side by side.

“Does Elder Mei know that you’re coming today?” Lu Huaiyu asked in a low voice.

Shen Li replied with a “Hmm”.

Lu Huaiyu’s thin lips twitched slightly.

“I was wondering why you had suddenly invited me.”

Previously, when Shen Li had received a call from Ronai and promised him that she would attend the last exhibition on the tour that would be held in the Capital, she had not mentioned inviting him to come along.

Then, a day before the exhibition started, she had suddenly sent him a message.

Shen Li was caught and immediately felt guilty.

She raised her small face and winked at him.

“No, Second Brother was always my first choice.”

Anyone could tell that she was trying to coax him, but she still managed to succeed.

Lu Huaiyu raised his brows slightly.

“Little friend, your awareness is pretty good.”

The two of them slowly walked around the exhibition hall.

Along the way, Lu Huaiyu’s phone vibrated.

He took it out to take a look, then said to Shen Li, “I’m going to take a call.”

Shen Li nodded. “Okay.”

Lu Huaiyu walked off in the other direction.

Shen Li continued to look at the paintings.

She had seen some of the paintings that were on display today, but it was her first time seeing most of them with her own eyes.

So she looked at them very carefully.

Low voices of discussion came from behind her.

“It really is Shen Li... I didn’t quite believe what they said just now.”

“She actually likes Ronai’s paintings? Ronai and Mei Yanqing’s styles of painting are completely different. I didn’t expect her to come.”

“What’s the big deal? I’ve seen her paintings before, and I don’t think she learned much from Mei Yanqing. I guess she’s young and inexperienced, so her thoughts are quite light.”

Someone said this nonchalantly, but from his tone, it was clear that he did not really approve of Shen Li's standard.

The surroundings fell silent.

After a moment, someone asked, "Really? Which painting did you see?"

That person replied, "It's the 'Sunset in the Mountains'."

Shen Li turned her head to look. The person who had spoken was a man who looked to be in his thirties. His mid-length hair was tied up on his head, and he had a full beard. He had a thin figure, and he exuded a sense of decadence.

Of course, in some people's eyes, this was also called "artistic sense."

Someone asked in a low voice, "But a lot of people have high opinions of that painting!"

He did not notice Shen Li. Seeming to be excited by the attention of the people around him, he deliberately shrugged his shoulders.

"Those people also have to eat. Who knows how much of what they say is true? Have you all forgotten whose disciple she is?"

Everyone fell silent.

Shen Li's master was Mei Yanqing.

With such a big shot protecting her, she could indeed avoid many detours compared to others.

After a while, a girl in her twenties asked hesitantly, "But... didn't her master-disciple relationship with Elder Mei only come to light later? At that time, it shocked more than half of the art world!"

The man snorted lightly.

“We don’t know. Could it really be that no one knew?”

In the silence, a voice suddenly came.

“When Shen Li painted that painting, she wasn’t even seventeen years old, right?”

Everyone turned their heads to look.

Shen Li raised her eyelids slightly and her eyebrows raised.

The person who came was actually Xu Yini.

She had been walking in the direction opposite Shen Li, so she just happened to be able to see the other party.

Xu Yuni’s charming gaze paused on Shen Li’s face for a moment before she laughed and said, “She was still in Lincheng at that time. Aren’t you making things too difficult for her by asking her to have had experience and see the world at that time?”

The man was stunned, and the people around them looked at each other.

Shen Li’s lips curved slightly.

These words sounded quite interesting.

It sounded as if she was speaking up for her, but in reality, she was almost pointing at her face and saying that she was ignorant.

She raised her knee slightly and was about to step forward when a cold voice suddenly came from the side.

“If I remember correctly, her painting was sold for 4.7 million. You guys have seen the world, have experience, and have such unique insights. Do you think that the work you have produced is worth much higher than this price?”

Shen Li was slightly stunned and turned around to look.

What a cool and elegant beauty.

Chapter 969: Cannot Be Compared

The woman looked to be in her thirties. She wore a long black silk dress that outlined her tall and exquisite curves. Her soft and shiny long hair was perfectly curled as it draped over her shoulders. She had snow-white skin and red lips. Her facial features were bright and beautiful, but also with a hint of coldness and nobility between her brows. Just by standing there, one could feel the aura of a queen that was almost tangible that she emitted.

She was an extremely cold, elegant, and untouchable beauty.

After what she said, even the temperature around her instantly seemed to drop greatly.

Shen Li blinked her eyes lightly.

She did not know this person. She had not expected that she would actually stand up for her. However, for some reason, this person looked somewhat familiar...

Just then, the beauty also looked at her.

Shen Li did not know if it was an illusion, but she felt that the moment the beauty saw her, her beautiful and cold eyes seemed to brighten instantly.

Their eyes met.

The corners of Shen Li's lips curved into a smile, and she politely nodded her head to express her gratitude.

In the next moment, she felt that the way the beauty looked at her seemed to brighten even more.

For the sake of today's art exhibition, Fang Yunyi had crammed an entire night's worth of knowledge into her brain. She had fallen asleep several times in the middle of it, and it was with great difficulty that she had managed to memorize all those messy painting styles, techniques, ideas, and so on.

After arriving today, every time she had seen a familiar painting, she had silently stood in front of the painting and recited the relevant information in her heart.

The first three paintings had been fine, but when it had come to the fourth one, she had gotten stuck. She had stood there for a long time, trying to think about it.

Just then, she had happened to hear someone saying that Shen Li's paintings were just of average quality. The person had insinuated that she was young, inexperienced, and that she did not know her mind well.

The fire that she had been suppressing in her heart instantly flared up!

When she walked over, she had heard them saying that Shen Li had gotten to where she was today all because of Mei Yanqing's favoritism.

Fang Yunyi had always been a person who would not be wronged. If anyone bullied her, she would definitely return the favor tenfold. Furthermore, were these people actually making up things about her future daughter-in-law in front of her?!

After saying that, her gaze shifted to Shen Li, and she immediately felt her heart begin to pound.

That little white dress!

Those little white shoes!

That little satchel!

She did not have on any makeup, but her eyes were so big! Her eyelashes were so long!

Her cheeks were white and soft. That was baby fat, right?? It had to be!

She wondered what it felt like to touch it...

Moreover, she had dimples when she smiled!

It was only when Shen Li looked over with some confusion and doubt in her eyes that Fang Yunyi managed to come back to reality.

She forced herself to look away and turned her gaze back to the group of people opposite her again.

Perhaps they were intimidated by her overly powerful aura, but the people opposite her actually went silent at the same time. In fact, beneath her casual glance, they became embarrassed and nervously shifted their eyes away.

Fang Yunyi lifted her chin slightly and fixed her gaze on the man who had spouted the nonsense. She gave him a faint smile.

"I wonder if it would be convenient for you to tell me your name so that I can have a chance to admire your masterpiece? I think it should be a treasure that starts with a price of five million?"

The man's face instantly turned red.

He was also an oil painter and felt that he was overflowing with talent. However, even after so many years, he still had no achievements to speak of. He had been wandering around the 18th line and was unknown.

It was also because of this that he particularly disliked Shen Li, who was already famous at such a young age. That was why he said those words earlier.

Who would have known that he would be rebuked so rudely?

Five million?

He was not even capable of selling a painting for 50,000 yuan!

How could he compare to Shen Li?

At that moment, Xu Yini looked at Fang Yunyi, who had suddenly appeared, and finally came back to her senses. She was surprised and delighted.

"Aunt Fang! You're back?!"

Hearing this, Shen Li's eyebrows twitched slightly. She finally understood the identity of the person in front of her.

This was Lu Huaiyu's mother— Fang Yunyi.

It was no wonder that she found her familiar at first glance.

Lu Huaiyu's eyebrows and eyes were very similar to Fang Yunyi's, especially that cold and noble temperament. Both mother and son were exactly the same.

It was just that Fang Yunyi preferred to be cold and beautiful, while Lu Huaiyu was abstinent and pure.

Most of Lu Huaiyu's peerless beauty must have been inherited from her.

As expected of the bright and beautiful beauty who had once shaken up the Capital.

As Xu Yini spoke, she had walked over with quick steps, a joyful and intimate smile on her face.

"Didn't you say that you would be back in the middle of the month? Why are you so early? This is such a surprise!"

Her gaze swept past Shen Li who was not far away before she moved closer to Fang Yunyi's side and said coquettishly, "Aunt Fang, we haven't seen each other in such a long time. I've missed you so much!"

Fang Yunyi looked at her.

When she was not smiling, her eyes were always clear and cool, making her appear to be very aloof and noble.

Xu Yini's footsteps subconsciously stopped, and her heart inexplicably jumped.

"Aunt... Aunt Fang? What's wrong?"

Fang Yunyi had never looked at her like that before...

Fang Yunyi then said slowly, "There's no rush to reminisce about the past. I need to explain to these people about Ah Li's matter first."

Once these words were said, the surroundings fell silent.

A deep sense of disbelief flashed across Xu Yini's eyes.

Ah... Ah Li?

When had Aunt Fang and Shen Li become so close?

Shen Li, who had suddenly been mentioned, was also stunned.

Today was the first time she and Fang Yunyi had ever met. They had never even called each other before. This was truly the first time they had ever met.

However, when her name, "Ah Li", came out of her mouth, why had it seemed so natural and smooth...

Just as she was thinking about it, Fang Yunyi actually walked over to her.

Her high heels made a clear sound as they stepped on the ground.

As Xu Yini watched her leave, the uneasiness in her heart grew stronger.

This... how did this...

The small group of people also subconsciously looked over. Only then did they realize in shock and panic that Shen Li was actually right behind them!

Had she also heard those words just now?

“Ah Li.”

Fang Yunyi stood a step away from Shen Li and took the opportunity to carefully size up the young girl in front of her again, barely resisting the urge to get her hands on her. She tried her best to display the dignified and magnanimous mother-in-law demeanor that she should have when they first met. She smiled slightly.

“I’m Huaiyu’s mother. He should have mentioned me to you, right?”

Shen Li did not know what to say.

It did not appear to be so.

She nodded and the corners of her lips curled up.

“Hello, Aunt Fang. I’m Shen Li.”

Fang Yunyi saw her smiling and extremely obedient appearance and gave her a huge affirmation in her heart.

Very good!

This was the first time they were meeting!

She should have left a very good impression on Ah Li!

Fang Yunyi turned her head and looked at the man.

“You haven’t answered my earlier question.”

How could that man not know what Fang Yunyi meant?

Whether it was Shen Li or this lady of the Lu family, neither of them were people that he could afford to provoke!

His lips moved, and his face turned pale.

"I... I was spouting nonsense just now. I'm... I'm sorry!"

Fang Yunyi's beautiful brows raised slightly, and she looked at the people beside her.

Those few people also hurriedly said, "I'm sorry!"

Fang Yunyi listened but did not express her stance. Instead, she looked at Xu Yini, whose face was stiff.

She smiled.

"Actually, what you said just now was not wrong. When Ah Li was sixteen years old, she only knew how to draw and earn some pocket money.

"That can't possibly be compared to you."

Chapter 970: It Was Me

Could not be compared.

A good one could not be compared.

Fang Yunyi's casual statement of "pocket money" was actually a high price worth seven-figures!

Furthermore, at that time, Shen Li had only been sixteen years old!

Producing a painting that could be auctioned at such a price at that age. If this were to be spread out, who knows how many people's envy and admiration would be aroused?

Who could not be compared to whom?

Xu Yini's lips trembled. It was as if a basin of cold water had been poured over her head and her entire body felt cold.

Had Fang Yunyi heard what she said just now?

And this "can't be compared" statement clearly included her!

Xu Yini had never thought that things would develop to such a state.

She looked to the opposite side of her and saw that Fang Yunyi was standing in front of Shen Li. It was an extremely clear protective stance!

But, but...!

This should be their first meeting today, right?

Moreover, Lu Huaiyu had not even disclosed the news of Fang Yunyi and Lu Zheng's return to Shen Li yet. Didn't this mean that they did not recognize Shen Li?

Why now—

The group of people could no longer withstand Fang Yunyi's questioning and once again lowered their heads to apologize.

"Shen Li! I'm really sorry! What we said just now was nonsense. Please don't take it to heart! We promise that we will never do this again!"

Fang Yunyi looked at Shen Li with a questioning gaze.

Initially, Shen Li had been too lazy to argue with such a person, so Fang Yunyi had personally stood up for her and said, "Aunt Fang, please don't let this matter delay your viewing of the exhibition."

Fang Yunyi's heart skipped a beat. Ah, even at a time like this, the first person Ah Li thought of was still her!

Was this really that nice and considerate?

She was delighted by Ah Li's words and said to the rest of them, "You might not understand, but the punishment for slander is quite heavy. However, since Ah Li isn't interested in pursuing the matter, let's forget about today's matter. I hope that in the future, you can also use your profound experience and vast knowledge, or simply rely on your age to paint works that people like and are willing to pay for."

Shen Li silently sighed.

There was not a single swear word in the entire sentence, yet she had still been able to kill the other party completely while chatting and laughing.

This person's combat strength was truly superb.

The small group of people felt ashamed and fled in a panic.

Hence, very quickly, only Shen Li, Fang Yunyi, and Xu Yini were left there.

Shen Li looked at Fang Yunyi.

“Aunt Fang, thank you.”

“You don’t have to be so polite with me.” Fang Yunyi ran her hand over her hair, still as charming as ever.

Shen Li’s gaze swept past Xu Yini, whose expression was not very pleasant. She recalled what she had said earlier— that Fang Yunyi and Lu Zheng had originally planned to return in the middle of the month. So had it been brought forward?

Moreover, it looked like she had only just arrived in the Capital not long ago, yet she was already here to watch Ronai’s art exhibition?

“Aunt Fang, why are you here today?”

Fang Yunyi smiled faintly and said in an imposing manner, “Because I also like Ronai’s paintings.”

Also.

Shen Li felt that this sentence seemed a little strange, but she did not probe further.

Fang Yunyi blinked.

“Speaking of which, our interests are quite similar.”

Since she had already come to watch the Ronai art exhibition, they could be considered “kindred spirits.”

Shen Li smiled and nodded.

“Yes.”

When she smiled, her peach blossom eyes curved up, forming an extremely beautiful crescent moon.

Fang Yunyi had actually seen quite a number of Shen Li’s photos and videos before, but those were still very different from seeing her in person.

Seeing her face to face— the impact was too great.

Shen Li thought of another matter and asked with slight hesitation, “Oh right, I heard you mention it just now. I didn’t know that you knew so much about my painting?”

That painting had been auctioned off a long time ago. Fang Yunyi had even known the bidding price at that time.

Fang Yunyi said calmly, “Yes, I usually like to look at paintings, so I remember these things quite clearly. But—”

A faint look of disdain appeared on her face.

“The person who bought your painting is really stingy. Why didn’t he just make up the difference?”

Shen Li’s eyelids twitched.

“I don’t know who it is. He has good taste, but he doesn’t spend money fast enough.”

Shen Li coughed lightly and was about to discourage her.

However, she was not in time.

A lazy and low voice sounded.

“It was me.”

Fang Yunyi’s body stiffened, and she turned around to look.

After Lu Huaiyu finished his call, he saw Fang Yunyi, who was only supposed to be back the day after tomorrow, standing next to Shen Li.

He put one hand in his pocket and smiled.

“Mom, long time no see.”

...

Silence.

Shen Li had never thought that she would encounter such an awkward situation.

Considering that the source of this incident was still her painting, Shen Li inexplicably had a vague feeling of being a sandwich cookie.

She tried to save the situation.

“Um, Aunt Fang, actually—”

“That’s fine.”

Fang Yunyi quickly adjusted her state of mind at an astonishing speed, as if she had completely forgotten that her son had been caught talking behind her back. A rare satisfied smile appeared on her noble and cold face.

“Ah Li’s painting should be left at home, after all.”

Shen Li was dumbfounded.

Lu Huaiyu choked.

He subconsciously glanced at Shen Li. When he saw her slightly dazed gaze, he felt a faint headache coming on.

What had she just said?

Could she not have just restrained herself a little?

Xu Yini looked at him, feeling that she had been completely forgotten. She was flustered, embarrassed, and angry, but she still braced herself to speak.

“Aunt Fang, it’s great that you’re back early. I don’t know if you’re free today, but I’ve prepared a gift for you. It’s the red treasure from CHUIN—”

Before she could finish, Fang Yunyi’s phone vibrated.

She answered it.

“Hello, Store Manager Amy.”

Xu Yini’s heart skipped a beat. This name... why was it the same as the store manager at CHUIN?

“Okay, I got it. I’ve sorry for the trouble.”

Fang Yunyi quickly hung up and looked at Shen Li.

“Ah Li, I’ve ordered something for you. The earrings from CHUIN have arrived first. Would you like to take a look?”

Startled, Xu Yini immediately looked up!