

Hidden 851

Chapter 851: He Has Autism!

Ning Xi felt a little better after embarrassing Guan Zhichen.

The so-called genius Guan Zhichen was not satisfied, so he gave Little Treasure another few more difficult questions, but in the end, Little Treasure was able to solve all of them...

The people who were surrounding Guan Zhichen now gathered around Little Treasure, some even trying to touch him to get some "smart aura" from him, which made Ning Xi speechless.

Surprisingly, Little Treasure was patient today. He remained calm even when the crowd was being noisy around him, just looking really cute to everyone else.

He only had eyes for his mother when she was holding his hand. It did not matter if the crowd got even rowdier.

"I didn't expect Little Treasure to be this good!"

"People say that boys who're good at maths are charming, but he's awesome!"

"I feel like pinching his cheeks! He looks so cute!"

...

Little Treasure suddenly gained himself a lot of fans, some trying to be his godmother, some even intending to set up a marriage with their children.

Suddenly, Guan Zhichen was totally ignored. All the praises and envious gazes that were supposed to be his were now stolen away by this little kid. The boy's expression darkened...

As everyone was surrounding the little bun, he suddenly spoke up, "I read from a book and it says that children with autism are usually gifted in certain aspects, now I realize that it's true!"

Guan Zhichen's voice was loud and almost everyone heard what he said. The atmosphere chilled down instantly, making everyone feel awkward.

Ning Xi squinted her eyes. Lu Chongshan felt like someone just slapped him in the face, his contented expression now frozen.

Yet, this kid was Guan Rui's most precious grandson, so no matter how angry he was, there was nothing he could do...

Guan Rui and Guan Ziyao's expression changed instantly. Guan Ziyao rushed over and pulled him over, scolding him in a harsh tone, "Zhichen! What are you talking about?!"

Guan Rui's expression was serious as well. "Zhichen, apologize to him! Where did you hear about all this nonsense!?"

It was not a thing to be proud of. Talking to Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi about it in private was done out of concern, but airing it like dirty laundry in public was an obvious act of destroying the relationship with the Lus.

Moreover, it was Lu Chongshan's deepest scar...

Guan Zhichen had never felt this embarrassed before, and had never been scolded by his grandfather and aunt in public, so he was frustrated.

The book wrote it that way and this kid had autism, so what did he do wrong?

Guan Zhichen continued talking loudly, "I'm not talking nonsense, he has autism! If not, why does he not talk!? Why does he need a servant to speak up for him!?"

Guan Zhichen lost control of his emotions, creating more awkwardness. Everyone looked at each other and no one knew what to say. No one expected things to escalate this way. Guan Zhichen had just revealed the skeleton in the Lu family's closet today...

Chapter 852: Little Treasure Spoke

Guan Rui slapped Guan Zhichen hard.

"Shut up! I told you to apologize! Did you hear me? It doesn't matter if people gossip about it. How could you believe them that easily? How does Qingyu look like he's sick?"

No matter how much he loved his grandson, he had to do something in order to keep the situation under control.

Guan Rui had something else on his mind. Although what happened today might make Lu Chongshan unhappy, Lu Qingyu had become completely useless after today, one competitor to the position of successor easily removed.

Too bad he had to treat Zhichen this way...

Guan Zhichen was stunned, unable to believe what just happened. "Grandfather...you slapped me..."

Although Guan Rui was always strict with him in public, he was always kind and nice to him at home. It was the first time in his life that his grandfather had slapped him, all because of this stupid dumb kid!

Since Guan Rui had taken such drastic measures, it would be inappropriate for Lu Chongshan to blame the child even further. Lu Chongshan gripped his walking staff tightly. "It's okay, Zhichen is still young, let him off."

"But that was really hurtful! Zhichen, you should really apologize to Little Treasure." Yan Ruiyi was heartbroken as she saw Ning Xi holding Little Treasure tightly. She wished she had not let Little Treasure appear tonight! She had overestimated this woman and forgot that the unpredictable might happen...

She would rather keep Little Treasure hidden at home and never see anyone, rather than to let him get hurt. After all, they could afford to provide Little Treasure for his whole life!

Guan Ziyao knew that even though Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruiyi would overlook this matter on the surface, they would surely be unhappy, so she helped to persuade Guan Zhichen, "Zhichen, be good, go and apologize to Qingyu, it's your fault!"

"That's right, Qingyu is younger than you, and you should be the one protecting him..." Mo Lingtian lectured Guan Zhichen.

"Damn you, Guan Zhichen! What kind of kid is that!? I'm a kid as well! I'm going to beat him up! That old fart Guan Rui must be doing this on purpose!" Lu Jingli could not hold it in anymore and was about to rush in when he was stopped by Lu Tingxiao.

"Bro, what are you doing!? Your son, my nephew is being bullied!" Lu Jingli was furious.

Lu Tingxiao just looked at Little Treasure and Ning Xi silently without any expression.

Guan Zhichen could not stand that everyone was helping the dumb kid, so he freed himself from Guan Ziyao and yelled, "He's autistic, he's sick, he's dumb! If not, why is he not talking!? If he can talk to me, only then will I apologize! If not, I will never apologize! I'm not wrong!"

Guan Zhichen was forcing Little Treasure to talk, his yelling filled the silent banquet hall...

Sometime later...

Guan Rui achieved what he intended. As he was about to have someone to send Guan Zhichen back home first, there was a young yet cold voice in the air: "You're not worthy."

That voice sounded childish and slightly hoarse, yet it was so impactful and drove a chill into everyone's ears and hearts...

Chapter 853: So Cool, I Want To Marry Him!

He...spoke...

Everyone was stunned.

Guan Ziyao looked surprised. Guan Zhichen, who was still yelling a moment ago, was silenced.

He had really spoken...

This dumb kid actually said that he was not worthy of him to speak!

Guan Rui's confidence was shattered in an instant.

How was that possible!?

He had spent a lot of time investigating the child even before he came back to the country and he was sure that the kidnap had left a severe psychological scar on the child, leaving him mute in the past two years...

He even had such a low self-esteem and ran away by just listening to Guan Ziyao and Yan Ruyi's conversation, yet now, not only did he not lose control, he even spoke...

The tables had turned.

"So...so cool..." someone from the crowd commented.

The comment worked like a switch and it sparked exciting discussions...

"Oh my God! He is just five years old! He looks so soft and cute, but that moment was just so cool!"

"I want to marry him! I wish I had been born 10 or 20 years later!"

"Lu Tingxiao is too hard to deal with, I hope Little Treasure doesn't mind a girl older than him..."

...

Little Treasure's fluffy face had the same expression as his father. He did not even look at Guan Zhichen and just walked away from the crowd calmly while holding Ning Xi's hand.

The small silhouette left a large impact.

"Oh...Little Treasure is so neat!" Lu Jingli hugged his own brother.

Lu Tingxiao looked through the crowd and his eyes met Ning Xi's. He pushed Lu Jingli away as his cold expression softened like the snow melting in spring.

"Is it just me or did that feel satisfying? Guan Zhichen was overdoing it just now. Even if Little Treasure is really autistic, he really shouldn't be doing that! He's forcing him to talk! How could he talk if he's autistic? Does he feel very happy to prove that Little Treasure is sick?"

"That's right, so what if he's a genius? How can a top student really be so rude? It was just only one question that he couldn't solve and he got that angry! Who does he think he is? The world doesn't revolve around him!"

"Not only is he jealous, he's very unkind as well...what was he thinking when talking to a five-year-old kid? The Little Master was right, he's not worthy!"

"Thank goodness it was just rumors. The Little Master is well, and extremely talented! His IQ and EQ is way superior than Guan Zhichen's!"

...

Some people were unhappy with Guan Zhichen's behavior, especially when they saw a cute child like Little Treasure being bullied. Their motherly instincts surfaced and they harshly criticized Guan Zhichen's personality.

Chapter 854: As Expected Of His Grandson!

Guan Rui's plan was to destroy Little Treasure tonight, but he did not expect that his plan would not only fail and do zero damage to Little Treasure; Guan Zhichen was now despised by everyone.

Guan Rui acted troubled and looked at Lu Chongshan, enunciating slowly, "Elder Lu, I'm really sorry for what happened. Zhichen is still young and his personality is too straightforward. He wouldn't easily change his mind although I've told him about it many times. He still won't change that attitude! His teacher mentioned that this trait of him is beneficial in academics, but it surely causes a big problem in his interpersonal relationships!"

Guan Rui rephrased Guan Zhichen's arrogance and mean attitude to persistence and straightforwardness.

Lu Chongshan was still reeling from Little Treasure talking, but he understood that his surprise should be concealed carefully. If not, he would be indicating that he acknowledged Little Treasure was autistic, so he stayed calm on the surface.

"It's not a big deal, Bro Guan, Qingyu has to be responsible as well. His personality is exactly the same as his father's. They just don't like to talk, we rarely listen him talk at home as well. It's unavoidable that Zhichen would misunderstand." Lu Chongshan used this chance to clarify the public's suspicions and avoid any future misunderstandings based on Little Treasure's silence.

As for Little Treasure's remark of Guan Zhichen's unworthiness, Lu Chongshan ignored it and did not intend to apologize.

Great job! As expected of Lu Chongshan's grandson!

"Since it's a misunderstanding, it's good that it's cleared up now..."

"That's right! Many people just love to spread rumors, kids are too young to separate the truth from lies. It's not entirely his fault!"

...

Some guests helped to clear up the awkward atmosphere as Guan Zhichen apologized under Guan Rui's harsh gaze.

Lu Chongshan's anger disappeared because Little Treasure talked, so he generously let this matter off as he was feeling overjoyed that night.

At the same time, Guan Ziyao was holding onto Yan Ruyi's arms and she apologized, "Aunty, I'm really sorry for tonight, we've been pretty strict with Zhichen, but just like Little Treasure, he's been treated like the treasure of our family. It was his first time being slapped and he got too upset! That's why he said those harsh words, they aren't intentional...Aunty, don't take them personally!"

As Guan Ziyao talked, she beckoned Guan Zhichen over.

Guan Zhichen looked down and hid the fire in his eyes. "I'm sorry, Grandmother Lu, it's my fault, it wasn't intentional..."

Yan Ruyi looked at the red mark on his face and she sighed, "It's okay now, don't blame yourself anymore, everything is cleared up now. Ziyao, quickly get him some ice! Your father used too much force!"

Guan Ziyao was relieved as Yan Ruyi's tone softened. She brought Guan Zhichen away. The Lu family would not hold them responsible on the surface for this matter, but it would surely leave a scar inside them. She had to make her father behave himself in the time being...

Chapter 855: Priceless Gift

From the beginning, she had disagreed with her father's decision to bring Zhichen over. With Little Treasure's fragile condition, bringing Zhichen along felt like bragging. However, her father mentioned that it had been too long since they appeared before them and that they needed a stage to show the Lu family the good genes of the Guan family, so she had agreed as she felt it was beneficial for her...

She thought Little Treasure would not show up tonight and that even if he did, he would probably just appear for a little while. Who would have known that things would escalate to this stage? What went wrong?

That woman's face appeared in Guan Ziyao's mind.

Acting as a servant who brought Little Treasure over to solve the question...she was not stupid at all, she had it planned all along! She actually devised a plan to embarrass them! She and her father had underestimated her greatly!

Guan Rui realized that as well and they looked at each other and tensed up, keeping their guard up. Who knew what else would that woman do tonight!?

"Could Little Treasure's quick recovery be all because of that woman?" Guan Ziyao mumbled while frowning.

Guan Rui's expression darkened. "That woman went to an unknown university in America at first, then somehow she got into the University of South California. But she majored in performing arts! How could she cure the child when Qin Mufeng, a professional psychiatrist, had no clue how to help? From that kid's aura to the way he talks, he doesn't seem to have any problems!"

Although he did not want to admit it, this kid was much better than Zhichen. One day, he would surely surpass his father, Lu Tingxiao...

Such an amazing grandchild! No wonder Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi were so protective towards him...

The worst part was that the Guan family had always had the upper hand because the Lu family felt guilty towards them as Lu Tingxiao now had a child and even a girlfriend. However, after today, the tables had turned and he had to behave himself for some time to carefully get back on the good side of the Lu family.

As for that child, he would need a strategy...

The banquet was ending and the guests presented their gifts to Lu Chongshan. Guan Rui let out a sigh of relief. Fortunately, his gift today was going to be impactful.

"Bro Lu, I know that you love calligraphy. I accidentally found this work by Wang Zhiyi when I was overseas and I immediately thought of you when I saw it. It took me quite some effort to get it back here, you'll surely like it!" Guan Rui told Lu Chongshan.

Lu Chongshan was a calligrapher himself. He was very well-versed in the area of calligraphy and drawings, even reaching the level of a fanatic collector, so this gift hit his soft spot.

Lu Chongshan took it carefully and looked through it again and again. He was extremely surprised. "Bro Guan, your gift is too much for me!"

This was a priceless work of art and most of them had gone overseas. Not only did you need money and power to acquire them, one also needed luck as it was not easy to come across something this precious!

Guan Rui smiled at him. "You're welcome, our close relationship is worth more than this, and it's not that expensive anyway, I was just lucky!"

Chapter 856: The Essence Of The Lu Family

Looking at the priceless calligraphy piece, the crowd was impressed although it was expected of Guan Rui...

"Are you kidding me? Not expensive? I remember this was auctioned in Zurich for \$500 million!"

"Seems like the Guan family has been doing really well overseas in the recent years!"

"Don't you see how close were Guan Ziyao and Yan Ruyi just now? They might even be merging!"

"Really? I thought Lu Chongshan intends to have a marriage relationship with the Zhuang family!"

"The Zhuangs are usually more geared towards families with a political and military background, and no matter how strong the Lu family's assets are, they are still businessmen...I don't think it's possible..."

...

Seeing that Guan Rui had given him such a priceless gift, Lu Chongshan's expression softened as he realized he was still seen as an important friend to the Guans.

Of course, nonetheless, the gift he was looking forward to the most was Little Treasure's gift!

"Little Treasure, didn't you say you have a gift for me? What is it?" Lu Chongshan asked nervously.

Little Treasure looked up at his parents.

Lu Tingxiao signaled to the servants, then they arranged some papers and calligraphy tools. Everyone gathered around. It seemed like the Little Master was going to write some calligraphy of his own! While it was definitely a filial act, it seemed a little normal especially after the priceless gift from Guan Rui.

Ning Xi quietly prepared the ink for Little Treasure while Lu Tingxiao and Lu Jingli each spread a long sheet of paper and stood in front of Little Treasure.

The crowd realized that the maid had prepared two calligraphy brushes...

Was one a spare?

Little Treasure used his small hands to pick up the brushes, one in each hand. He looked at the papers in front of him and calmed himself down, then put both the brushes on both of the papers at the same time.

What was he doing? Everyone was curious.

Little Treasure was actually writing with both hands at the same time! He finished the calligraphy in one go; on the left, he wrote "Blessings from the Eastern Sea" and on the right, he wrote "Longevity as the Southern Mountain"...

After they realized what Little Treasure had done, they were all astounded!

"He can write two different things at the same time!"

"And that was amazing! Such powerful ambidextrous talent from a five-year-old!"

"Don't you guys remember that Lu Chongshan himself is a calligraphy artist? His grandson wouldn't be too shabby!"

"Oh my god...I'm shocked...this child has gathered all the essence of the Lu family..."

...

Little Treasure's calligraphy had been taught by Lu Chongshan, but although he knew Little Treasure was pretty good at it, he was unaware of his ability to write two different scrolls at the same time. What was more shocking was that Little Treasure's wrist was not strong enough to write properly. His calligraphy might look nice but it had been lacking in many aspects earlier...

In just a few days, Little Treasure's calligraphy had become so powerful that it was really shocking to him. His impression of Ning Xi changed.

He was worried that staying with the woman might have a negative impact on Little Treasure, but not only he was able to talk, his body coordination seemed to have improved by leaps and bounds.

He was sure that Little Treasure had gone through some sort of training. If not, it was impossible for him to write this well!

Chapter 857: That Guy Is Treating You This Way?

Lu Chongshan was slightly worried when he realized Little Treasure was about to present him with calligraphy art. Due to his achievements in the world of calligraphy, everyone's expectations would be really high and in addition to the talented impression Little Treasure gave just a while ago, people might judge him harshly. However, the results were surprising and he was really glad! This surprise clearly made him much happier than Guan Rui's priceless gift!

As the guests were praising the little bun, there was a loud and strong voice.

The crowd looked at the source of the voice. It was a middle-aged man in his military uniform who walked in from the entrance. The man looked boldly at the host. He was the general from the Zhuang family, Zhuang Liaoyuan!

"Chief Zhuang, welcome! Thank you for coming!" Lu Chongshan went up and greeted him with a smile.

"You're welcome Elder Lu, I should apologize for being late!" Zhuang Liaoyuan replied.

"Official tasks are, of course, more important, please come in..."

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Zhuang Liaoyuan walked towards the calligraphy Little Treasure had just created and hid none of his impressed expression. "This calligraphy, did your grandson write them?"

"Yes! It's his birthday present to me!" Lu Chongshan was feeling proud.

Zhuang Liaoyuan glanced at the little guy. "Impressive! He can write with this strength at such a young age! Elder Lu, this kid has inherited the talent from you!"

As Zhuang Liaoyuan was chatting to Lu Chongshan, he noticed Ning Xi who was beside Little Treasure, "You..."

Ning Xi recognized Zhuang Liaoyuan as well but it was not appropriate to talk to him at that time, so she looked down and pretend to not know him.

Zhuang Liaoyuan realized that she was in a maid's uniform and noticed her submission, so he quickly concealed his surprise, but then his eyes turned icy when he looked at Lu Tingxiao.

The atmosphere got warmer as Zhuang Liaoyuan arrived. As expected of a man from another prestigious family, many people wanted to rub shoulders with him. Most importantly, families like his rarely interacted with rich businessmen and Lu Chongshan's birthday was one of the few occasions that he would show up at, so it was a rare occasion indeed.

Guan Rui was tense. He knew that the Zhuangs intended to establish a marriage relationship with the Lus, so he had to see what his biggest competitor was thinking...

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As the evening got later, the dinner ended and the guests were adjourning. Lu Tingxiao and Little Treasure sent the guests out while Ning Xi went to the garden for a small break.

As she sat on the swing, reminiscing Little Treasure's cool moments of the night, she noticed someone was closing in, and judging from the sound of their footsteps, she could determine that it was someone with a martial arts background.

Ning Xi stood up and looked behind her alertly...

Her alertness became awkwardness.

It was Zhuang Liaoyuan!

Why did he come here? Was he here just to find her?

"So, that guy is treating you this way?" As Ning Xi was contemplating, Zhuang Liaoyuan suddenly spoke to her.

Zhuang Liaoyuan's expression looked unhappy, even a little cold when he spoke.

Ning Xi was confused. "Uh...eh? Chief Zhuang, who are you talking about?"

Was he talking to himself?

Chapter 858: Good Men For You To Choose

Zhuang Liaoyuan was looking at her maid's outfit and was angry. "Lu Tingxiao! You're his girlfriend, yet you had to wear this on his father's birthday?"

Ning Xi finally realized what Zhuang Liaoyuan meant, so she quickly explained, "Well, no! It's not like that...Chief Zhuang, you've misunderstood! There's some reasoning behind it, but it's not him that made me wear like this!"

"Is he not planning to announce your relationship with him?" Zhuang Liaoyuan's expression was serious.

Ning Xi frowned a little. Was this question not too personal?

However, looking at Zhuang Liaoyuan's persistent face, she could sense his good intentions, so Ning Xi hesitated but still replied him in the end, "We're not announcing our relationship mainly due to my career. You should know being an actress isn't easy..."

Zhuang Liaoyuan's expression softened, then he continued, "I watched your movie, you acted really well."

Ning Xi's eyes widened. "Wh...what...you watched my movie? 'The World'?"

Zhuang Liaoyuan nodded. "Yes, you played the character of the female general really well!"

Ning Xi was really excited. She blushed a little and replied gratefully, "Thank you! Thank you for your praise!"

She thought Zhuang Liaoyuan would look down on her after he knew about her career, but not only did he not, he even praised her acting...

His expression was genuine; he really thought she did very well.

"You didn't use any stunt doubles in the movie did you?" Zhuang Liaoyuan asked.

Ning Xi nodded and replied embarrassedly, "No, I didn't."

"That's a surprise. Do you have a background in martial arts?" Zhuang Liaoyuan was interested.

The atmosphere softened as the topic shifted to acting.

Ning Xi became more relaxed now. "Not exactly, I just learned a little. I was a stunt double before I officially become an actress. I always played similar characters when I was acting as stunt double overseas, they are really impressed by kung fu from China, and most of the time, they needed Eastern characters with good skills!"

"That's impressive...working on your own overseas at such a young age.," Zhuang Liaoyuan commented.

With her capabilities, there were so much more she could do to support herself, yet she chose the most difficult path.

Ning Xi had forgotten when was the last time someone had been so concerned about her and she was touched. She smiled at him. "Well, acting is my dream. I'm just doing what I love, it's not really difficult!"

Zhuang Liaoyuan nodded. "Sounds about right!"

This child was really good, and she had a great attitude as well!

Zhuang Liaoyuan looked impressed, then he spoke in a serious tone, "Little girl, you're a smart person. You should know that the Lu family doesn't really suit you. I won't say anything further about it, but just remember, if one day, you change your mind, do come and look for me. I have a lot of outstanding single men, each one of them talented on his own. There'll surely be one that you like!"

Ning Xi was speechless.

Zhuang Liaoyuan was practically telling her, "Time to give up on Lu Tingxiao! I have a lot of good men for you"...

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Chapter 859: The Devil Is Here!

Did she misunderstand him?

What did Zhuang Liaoyuan mean by that...?

As Ning Xi was contemplating how to reply Zhuang Liaoyuan, a firm grip suddenly held her waist, then she heard a cold voice, "General Zhuang, it's not very gentleman-like to interfere with someone's relationship, don't you think?"

Ning Xi had no words to say.

The devil...is here...

He even heard what Zhuang Liaoyuan just said...

Ning Xi gulped and suddenly felt chills down her neck, feeling colder and colder. She tried to get away from the source of the coldness, but she was being held back even tighter around her waist, causing her to almost be unable to breathe. She decided to stay obedient and not move anymore.

Zhuang Liaoyuan looked at the brooding man calmly. "I'm just saying that in case she changes her mind."

Ning Xi did not even need to look to know how scary the devil's expression would be right now, so she quickly interrupted, "Thank you for your good intentions, Chief Zhuang, but we're in a happy relationship right now and I would never change my mind..."

Lu Tingxiao's grip softened a little as she said that.

Zhuang Liaoyuan sighed and looked at her. Without saying anything, he left her with a sentence, "If there's anything you need help with, do contact me. Drop by the shooting range for some fun when you're available."

"Oh okay, thank you, Chief Zhuang!"

Ning Xi let out a sigh of relief after Zhuang Liaoyuan left. As she turned around to talk to Lu Tingxiao, her lips were blocked unexpectedly, the man's refreshing scent wafting through the air to reach her...

Ning Xi felt the air inside her getting thinner, and the worst part was that this guy was not kissing. He was totally biting her. She felt a sharp pain on her lips and her tongue went numb...

His kiss became gentler once Ning Xi moaned in pain, and he gently caressed the spots he tortured just now, but when she tried to struggle, he became wild again...

She noticed that someone was coming. Ning Xi anxiously pushed his chest away, blocking his next kiss. She spoke in a serious tone, "No! What if people saw us?!"

It was not a private dinner tonight and there were a lot of people around. A few maids had actually recognized her and asked if she was the actress Ning Xi.

In the dark, the man stared at the girl in the maid outfit, his eyes emitting beast-like rays. "So what if they see us?"

"If they did...I'll bite you to death!" Ning Xi glared at him.

She would not give way to her principles!

The man's dangerous gaze turned to hurt. He hugged her tightly and laid his head on her shoulder, "When can I tell everyone that you're mine?"

Chapter 860: I'd Really Miss You!

"Well...that..." Ning Xi softened her tone as she patted his back. "That day will surely come! Don't be impatient!"

"Ning Xi, I've said before that the only thing you need to consider is if you really love me, and it still applies right now. As long as you agree, no one and nothing can stop you from becoming my wife."

Lu Tingxiao was promising her that no family influence or interference from any other sources would affect his decision.

"I know...don't listen to Zhuang Liaoyuan. He just doesn't know what's going on and he probably said that because he thought you did not want to announce our relationship to the public...speaking of which, I wonder what he meant earlier?" Ning Xi was curious.

"He probably investigated your identity after what happened at the shooting range the other day," Lu Tingxiao replied.

Ning Xi frowned a little. "You mean...he knows that I'm the adopted daughter of the Ning family...or that he knows I'm actually his niece? So, he's just asking out of concern? But the Zhuangs don't even acknowledge Zhuang Lingyu now. Could they really be concerned about someone who's not even acknowledged by Zhuang Lingyu?"

This did not make sense at all...

"Don't you realize that Zhuang Liaoyuan likes you a lot?" Lu Tingxiao said with an unhappy expression.

When his own treasure was being eyed by someone else, it irritated him!

"Eh? Really?" Ning Xi was surprised. She felt that Zhuang Liaoyuan was just being gentle and kind towards her.

"It's all because of your talent in shooting. He had no hope left for his useless son anymore, so he put his hopes on you and he probably hasn't given up on recruiting you into his team, so you had better stay away from him," Lu Tingxiao warned.

"Oh..." Ning Xi nodded. "I've already said that I will not join that team! Moreover, I'd lose my freedom staying there. If I'm forbidden from seeing you for few weeks, I might really miss you until I exhaust myself!"

Lu Tingxiao's stern face softened. He hugged her and kissed her cheek, then he looked at her. "Ning Xi, remember what you say today. That day will never come. I'll not let you have the chance to change your mind."

"Oh...I'm sorry! Am I interrupting?" Lu Jingli covered his eyes with his hands.

"What's the matter?" Lu Tingxiao asked.

"Yes! Seems like someone's here for trouble! Go out and take a look..."

A while later, Lu Jingli, Lu Tingxiao, and Ning Xi stood in their front yard.

There was a big bouquet of black flowers, dew on the petals refracting through the dim light, bringing a sense of uneasiness.

"This is..." Looking at the bouquet of flowers, Ning Xi frowned. "If I'm not mistaken, this is a black Thorn Apple?"

Lu Jingli affirmed, "Yes, giving this black and unfortunate flower on someone's birthday, someone's clearly looking for trouble!"

Ning Xi glanced at Lu Tingxiao and felt uneasy.

She remembered the meaning of the black Thorn Apple...revenge...

Was she overthinking?