

Chapter 46: Do You Want to Go to the Movies?

“Do you come here often?” Jiang Yao asked curiously. “If I recall correctly, you don’t seem to like Cantonese cuisine.”

“You’re right, I don’t like it, but I’ve been here several times,” Lu Xingzhi said, sounding a little surprised that Jiang Yao knew his taste. “It’s just that I guessed you’ll like it.”

Jiang Yao preferred food with milder flavors. He had a meal in this restaurant before and he found their soups and stews very delicious. He thought that Jiang Yao would like it. At that moment, he had the idea of bringing Jiang Yao to try it someday, but he never got the opportunity to realize it because Jiang Yao ignored him most of the time after they got married.

“One of my high school classmates owns this place, so I’ve been here a few times,” Lu Xingzhi explained. “Sometimes, when I come to the city to take a flight, I’ll come here to get together.”

Although there were many customers in the restaurant, the dishes were served to their table very quickly. It was no surprise that they must have cut the queue in terms of meal preparation.

After the dishes were served, Lu Xingzhi automatically served some of the dishes on Jiang Yao’s plate. There was a faint smile in between his eyes as he watched her eat enthusiastically.

“How’s the taste?” He asked.

“Very delicious, especially the soup. It’s a little sweet, I can taste lemon in it too.” Jiang Yao drank the soup with a wide smile while pointing at the soup in front of Lu Xingzhi. She watched Lu Xingzhi ladle the soup and when she saw a thin slice of lemon in it, she smiled even more proudly.

“Your taste buds work wonderfully,” Lu Xingzhi complimented. Then, he asked in a casual and incoherent tone, “So, it’ll be the National Day holiday one month after the start of college. What are your plans?”

“Maybe go shopping with my roommates or go home,” Jiang Yao answered and bowed her head to start eating again. After that, neither of them spoke again. Occasionally, Lu Xingzhi served her some dishes using his own chopsticks.

They took about an hour for their lunch. Once they came out of the restaurant, Jiang Yao stealthily hid behind Lu Xingzhi, using him as a mobile parasol as the sun was at its hottest at this point. She asked, “Are we going home now? It’s so hot.”

“Do you want to go to the movies?” Lu Xingzhi didn’t plan to return to the county so early. It was such a precious moment for him to spend time alone with Jiang Yao. Even if it was hot outside, he still didn’t want to go back.

Moreover, he had never taken her out after being married for so long. He figured that young girls liked to go to the cinema, so he had everything planned out. The movie tickets were lying in his pocket at the moment, as he had ordered the waiter from the restaurant to buy it for him.

Luckily, not only did Jiang Yao not object, but she also urged him to drive.

The movie was one and a half hours long. Lu Xingzhi didn't even know what the movie was about. He only knew it was a comedy that made the little woman next to him laugh so hard. As she was laughing, she would shake his arm and ask him why he wasn't laughing.

This would be the first time Lu Xingzhi saw her laughing so earnestly and delightedly.

After exiting the cinema, Lu Xingzhi brought Jiang Yao to elsewhere for a stroll. It wasn't until five o'clock that they returned to the county and arrived at the gate of his uncle's house at six o'clock. Not surprisingly, they were the last to arrive.

"Brother is back!" As soon as Lu Xiaoxiao heard the sound of the car, she looked down from the second-floor balcony. Then, she waved vigorously toward Lu Xingzhi, who was parking the car in the yard, and shouted, "Brother, Sister, come on up! We've been waiting for you!"

Chapter 47: Two Jesters

Lu Xiaoxiao was one year older than Jiang Yao. This young lady, however, was the exact opposite of Jiang Yao. She was very active and outgoing but she was lacking in the academic department. After high school, she didn't manage to be accepted to a good college, Lu Haixing didn't want her to stay far away from him either, so he sent Lu Xiaoxiao to a third-rate university in the city for a diploma.

Lu Xiaoxiao was a natural jester. She had her signature sunny smile on her face all day long as if there was no sorrow nor sadness in her world. She treated Jiang Yao, who was younger than her, with affection like her best friend.

Lu Xingzhi led Jiang Yao into the house. Lu Xiaoxiao ran down the stairs and wanted to jump on Lu Xingzhi but was blocked by him. She didn't get upset about it, but instead, she turned to embrace Jiang Yao.

"Sister, congratulations on your admission to Nanjiang Medical School! You're amazing!" Lu Xiaoxiao gave Jiang Yao a thumbs up and said with a wide grin. "If only I had half your intelligence, my dad would be so happy."

Lu Haixing, who was sitting in the living room, laughed out loud. "Good that you know your limits."

The truth was, Lu Haixing didn't have any expectations for his only daughter. He would let her do whatever she wanted. She was his only daughter anyway, and she would eventually inherit the family business. Her life was well taken care of even if she didn't go out to work.

"By the way, Xingzhi, Mr. Li called me at noon. He told me about the incident at the department store and called to apologize." Lu Haixing looked at Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao, then continued, "The saleswoman has been fired, he apologizes on behalf of her for offending you."

Jiang Yao shook her head hastily and said, "It's okay, it was nothing, really. It was just a minor scene."

"If I were there, I would have tortured her until she cried and begged for mercy!" Lu Xiaoxiao snorted. "Sister, you're too mild-mannered, and that's why they dare bully you!"

"It's alright for a woman to be gentle, she has her husband to protect her." Lu Haixing looked at Lu Xiaoxiao and laughed. "You, on the other hand, are such an arrogant tigress. I'm so worried that no one dares to marry you, then I'll have to take care of you forever."

As Lu Xingzhi listened to Lu Haixing describing Jiang Yao as gentle, he grinned in silence. Jiang Yao was gentle? As far as he remembered, there was not much correlation between Jiang Yao and gentleness.

Gentleness was nothing more than her physical disguise. Deep down, she was a furious little feline, depending on whether she wanted to show the world her claws.

“Didn’t you say that you’re willing to take care of me for a lifetime? Are you saying that you regret your decision now?” Lu Xiaoxiao frowned and growled like an agitated cat.

“Hey, you two, you’re like two jesters.” Mrs. Lu laughed out loud upon the scene. When Lu Xiaoxiao stayed with them in town, their house was full of laughter every day. So, Mrs. Lu missed the days when Lu Xiaoxiao was around.

The dinner was prepared by Lu Haixing’s maid. Lu Xiaoxiao was a particularly picky eater. The first and most important criterion when they hired a maid was the ability to cook according to their standard of cooking skills. Therefore, the dinner spread on the table was comparable to those prepared by Michelin-starred chefs at restaurants.

Over dinner, Lu Xiaoxiao asked about Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao’s activities for the day. When Jiang Yao told her that they had gone to the movies, Lu Xiaoxiao looked askance at Lu Xingzhi in amusement. The topic proceeded to the movie genre, and when Jiang Yao told her that they watched a comedy, two girls started discussing the movie. Their waves of laughter resonated across the dining hall.

Chapter 48: Are My Compliments Too Much For You?

Mr. and Mrs. Lu were a little surprised to see Jiang Yao and Lu Xiaoxiao chatting so delightedly. Not only was Jiang Yao quite talkative today, but she looked very cheerful too. Although she was not as excited as Lu Xiaoxiao, joy and genuine happiness radiated on her face.

The two elders smiled at her transformation. They agreed that girls should mingle more with their peers to share common topics and jokes. They also agreed that their son had made a wise decision by taking Jiang Yao to the movies today, which made Jiang Yao very happy.

After dinner, the two families sat together and chatted until eight o’clock. Lu Haixing arranged for his driver to send Lu Haitian’s family of four to town, while Lu Yuqing and Zhao Zhuangzong returned directly to their home in the county.

It was about nine o’clock when they arrived home. Mrs. Lu was in a good mood and zesty. When she saw Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao holding the shopping bags in their hands as they entered the house, she urged them to show her their purchases.

Apparently, Lu Xingzhi had bought a lot of things for Jiang Yao.

In addition to summer clothes, Lu Xingzhi even bought three sets of autumn clothes, shoes, and bags. Their shopping bags occupied the car’s back seats to the brim.

Mrs. Lu took out the clothes and eyed them. She nodded and complimented, “Not bad, you guys have very good taste.”

Mrs. Lu waved Jiang Yao over and put the clothes on her to see. She smiled and nodded in satisfaction. "Jiang Yao is very pretty and she has a great body too. The dress will look awesome on her, definitely even better looking than the models in the magazines."

"Mom, stop, you're making me blush." Jiang Yao was so embarrassed that blood even rushed to her ears. She was a little overwhelmed by Mrs. Lu's exaggerated compliments.

"Are my compliments too much for you?" Mrs. Lu chuckled at her flushed face. She folded the clothes and helped them take it to their room.

As Mrs. Lu helped Jiang Yao organize her newly-purchased clothes into the wardrobe, she looked over at Lu Xingzhi, who was packing his luggage, and sighed. "Are you going back to the base tomorrow? Your uncle said that the driver will drive you to the airport in the city tomorrow morning. Sigh, when will you be free to come home again? Are you not coming home for Chinese New Year again this time?"

"I'll see how things go." Lu Xingzhi pulled up the zipper of his bag and turned to look at Jiang Yao, who didn't seem to be listening to their conversation. Then, he turned to his mother and said, "I'll come back when I have time. If I can't, and if you and Dad don't mind the hassle of traveling, you can come to the base to visit me."

"It's Chinese New Year, we can't travel so far." Mrs. Lu shook her head. She glanced at Jiang Yao and told them to have a good rest before seeing herself out of the room.

Watching Mrs. Lu leave in sorrow, Jiang Yao glanced at Lu Xingzhi and sighed. Mrs. Lu was right. They would be too busy to travel on Chinese New Year due to visits to relatives and guests. They had to stay here.

Lu Xingzhi didn't return home during the Chinese New Year last year. Although his parents were used to it, she could still see the loneliness and sorrow on their faces.

"Is there no holiday at the base for the Chinese New Year?" Jian Yao walked towards Lu Xingzhi and asked faintly, "Are you busy all year long?"

"A lot of people will take time off to go home. Therefore, someone has to take over their posts and stay there on duty," Lu Xingzhi uttered. "There's usually two days off, but it's too rushed to make a trip back."

Lu Xingzhi kept quiet for a moment before he continued, "Do you want me to come home for Chinese New Year? If you do, I'll..."

Lu Xingzhi wanted to say that he would try his best, but Jiang Yao didn't even listen to him and went directly into the bathroom. As the bathroom door closed and locked, he could hear her voice from inside.

Chapter 49: While You're at It

"Suit yourself! No one is looking forward to your return!"

The tone of great annoyance and dismay made Lu Xingzhi giggle. Well, by the looks of it, he had to fight for a longer holiday with those brats this Chinese New Year.

In the bathroom, Jiang Yao felt her face turning hot and red. Although she was behind the closed door, she could hear faint laughter from outside.

The woman looked at her blushing face in the mirror. She lowered her head and washed her face, washing away all the agitation and annoyance. As she turned around, she saw the red marks on her neck. She grinned as she recalled the mosquito bites that her mother-in-law had suggested this morning. Yes, the mosquito had a name, his name was Lu Xingzhi.

Jiang Yao came out of the bathroom and Lu Xingzhi took his turn to shower. She wore the nightdress that Lu Xingzhi had helped her put on last night. The pajamas with the torn buttons lay pathetically in the wardrobe drawer.

As she thought of it, Jiang Yao took the pajamas out and found a needle and thread to get the buttons fixed. Her needlework was not good, but she could manage simple work such as sewing buttons on. Her mother had taught her this when she was in the middle-high school, believing that this was necessary and simple enough to learn.

The differences between men and women were not only reflected in their physical anatomies but also in conducting daily chores.

Jiang Yao took half an hour to take a bath and Lu Xingzhi finished his bath after just a few minutes. As soon as he came out of the bathroom, he saw Jiang Yao sewing buttons on her pajamas. Swiftly, he took out a shirt from his luggage and tossed it at Jiang Yao.

“While you’re at it.”

Lu Xingzhi was tossing his shirt so casually that it landed directly on top of Jiang Yao’s head, covering her vision.

Exasperated, Jiang Yao flung her hands around like a blind kitty before she could take the shirt off her head. She clutched the shirt in her fists and glared at Lu Xingzhi in a huff.

Lu Xingzhi recoiled in shock. It wasn’t intentional, after all. However, he found her exceptionally adorable when she was desperate to get the shirt off her head.

“While you’re at it, help me sew the buttons on the shirt. The first two buttons are loose,” Lu Xingzhi repeated his request.

Jiang Yao put her pajamas aside and then flipped the shirt around. As expected, the first three buttons were barely hanging on as the threads were loose. She groaned faintly, “You were so rough to unbutton me, were you the same with your shirt?”

Lu Xingzhi heard her but he didn’t offer any explanation about the buttons being loosened during a fight. Glancing at the scene where Jiang Yao did her needlework earnestly and quietly, he felt that it was particularly enchanting.

Fixing the buttons took just a matter of a few minutes. After completing the task, Jiang Yao folded Lu Xingzhi’s shirt neatly and put it in his luggage, and accidentally saw the items lying inside.

They were the five-pointed stars she placed in the glass jar in her room. She was aware that he had taken the jar, but she didn’t know when he had actually taken the stars.

Jiang Yao put his shirt in without saying anything. She sat back on the bed, pretending she didn't see anything.

"Here, take this." Lu Xingzhi didn't notice what she saw in the luggage. He handed over to Jiang Yao the paycheck bankbook that he had put on the bedside table long ago. "Going to college will cost you. Use the money in this account and buy anything you need. The password is the last six digits of your ID. If the balance is insufficient, call me."

Chapter 50: Paycheck Bankbook

Jiang Yao looked at him, frozen in surprise. He began again, "It's my paycheck bankbook, what do you think it is? My off-the-books income? I'll keep this in the drawer, remember to take it with you when you go to college."

"Oh..." Jiang Yao nodded in confusion. After a while, she exclaimed, "If you give me your paycheck, what about you?"

"Me?" Lu Xingzhi gave it a thought and answered in a solemn tone, "I have my off-the-books income."

Jiang Yao rolled her eyes and huffed agitatedly. She lay on the bed, turned around, and faced away from Lu Xingzhi. She decided to ignore him. The wicked monster! How dare he use her own words against her!

She wasn't going to give a damn anymore. Since he surrendered his paycheck to her, she didn't care if he starved to death!

Lu Xingzhi smiled cunningly and turned off the lamp.

Since their intimate experience last night, Lu Xingzhi lifted the quilt and slid in. He wiggled until he stuck himself behind her and hugged her waist

Lu Xingzhi agreed with his mother's statement. Jiang Yao had a pretty face and a hot figure. She was five feet five inches tall and weighed ninety pounds. As he curled his arms around her petite waist, he was worried that he might accidentally snap it. Above her waist was tender and plump fullness.

She was God's gift, a precious treasure of the Creator.

Therefore, Lu Xingzhi always believed that he had excellent taste in selecting the perfect woman. He spotted Jiang Yao at first sight among so many women in the world. As expected, Jiang Yao was so stunningly beautiful and captivating.

"Jiang Yao, come to Jin City during National Day, will you?" Lu Xingzhi whispered the question into her ear. "I can take you around Jindo."

Jiang Yao had her back to Lu Xingzhi. She grinned at his attempts. She knew that he would try to coax her to visit him on National Day.

When he asked her about her arrangements on National Day at lunchtime, wasn't he looking for chances to continue coaxing her?

"Nope, I'll come home," Jiang Yao rejected directly.

Lu Xingzhi bit the tip of her ear anxiously. As he realized that her body was trembling slightly, he pulled her to lie on her back and pressed her underneath him.

“Are you sure?” Lu Xingzhi asked again agitated.

Jiang Yao touched the ear that had just been bitten and shook her head. She nudged the heavy block pressed against her body. Before she could warn him to get off her, her lips were sealed with a kiss.

She was wearing a nightdress tonight, which was undoubtedly an easy entrance for Lu Xingzhi. He stripped the nightdress off her body in the blink of an eye and tossed it aside.

This time, Lu Xingzhi was determined to torment her with all his might. It was because he was so dejected by her stubbornness of not agreeing to visit him on National Day. However, he was too heavy-hearted to scold her verbally, so he had to vent all his dissatisfaction through their intimacy.

The woman was almost paralyzed from his unending passion that she melted on the bed and protested in weak whispers. Lu Xingzhi had no intention to stop at all.

“Jiang Yao, I’ll give you a chance to rethink your options. If you are sure that you’ll not visit me on National Day...” Lu Xingzhi pressed his lips on hers as he spoke. “My flight is at nine tomorrow morning, I have to depart from home at half past seven. I need about half an hour to take a bath and have breakfast. Believe it or not, I can pour my love from now until seven in the morning.”

“You...” Jiang Yao panted, nudging at the man who was threatening her and trying to push him away from her body, but the tug at the connected area made her whimper in pain.

“If you promise to come visit me on National Day, I’ll let you go in a while.” Lu Xingzhi held the tiny hands that were pounding his chest in his palms. “Don’t you ever think about giving me false promises. Mum’s the word. Even if you want to escape, I will kidnap you.”