

Mr Han 1551

Chapter 1551: I Already Said I'll Send You Home

When she saw Shi Xiaoya beside Han Zhuoling, she immediately felt dreadful.

She never expected Shi Xiaoya to be on such good terms with Lu Man that she could sit directly beside Han Zhuoling!

Lu Man never had a good impression of Jiang Yuhan, and she needn't force herself to smile for people she disliked now.

It's alright if they said she was arrogant or she was just clinging to Han Zhuoli.

Since she **was** relying on Han Zhuoli!

Hence, Lu Man only nodded coolly and politely to Jiang Yuhan. "Ms. Jiang."

Despite being someone who relished others calling her "Teacher Jiang," she didn't have any objections this time around.

As for Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli, both totally ignored her greetings.

Han Zhuoli still remembered the issue of Jiang Yuhan bullying Lu Man!

Though she didn't succeed, that didn't mean Jiang Yuhan never made the attempt.

Han Zhuoli didn't bother giving her due respect.

Han Zhuoling, on the other hand, was someone reserved who was never interested in these matters.

So he ignored Jiang Yuhan, even if he didn't know about the conflict between Shi Xiaoya and Jiang Yuhan at the backstage just now.

Jiang Yuhan didn't dare to put on airs in front of Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli, so she smiled and said, "Then I'll be going."

The two men paid no attention to her. It was only Lu Man who replied politely, "Take care."

Ma Xianghuan and Lian Fang were both sent back personally by cars dispatched by the school.

Shao Yuqi and the others also went with their own cars and chauffeurs.

Everyone said their farewells, and Shao Yuqi said to Lu Man, smiling, "Let's work together next time."

"I'm anticipating it. I hope I'll have the honor." Lu Man beamed.

Then, only Han Zhuoli, Lu Man, Shi Xiaoya, and Han Zhuoling were left.

Han Zhuoli told Han Zhuoling, "We'll be going first, Brother."

Afraid that Han Zhuoling would really leave Shi Xiaoya alone, Lu Man quickly instructed, "Big Brother, do send Xiaoya home."

Shi Xiaoya rejected the offer. "I'll just let my company car send me home."

“Why trouble yourself to wait when my big brother’s car is already here?” Han Zhuoli raised his brow at Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling said cooperatively, “Yes.”

Lu Man grinned and waved at Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya, “Thank you, Brother!”

With that, the couple left hurriedly, as if afraid Han Zhuoling would regret his decision.

Thus, only Shi Xiaoya and Han Zhuoling were left.

Because they had fought previously, the awkwardness wasn’t easily waved away even if she had forgiven him.

Shi Xiaoya gritted her teeth and said, “Young Master Ling, I can leave by myself if you’re busy. It’s easy calling a cab or waiting for my company car.”

“I’m fine,” Han Zhuoling replied. “I already said I’ll send you home and promised Zhuoli and Lu Man. You wish me to go back on my word?”

Shi Xiaoya quickly waved. “Oh no, that’s not what I meant!”

She was almost wronged. How could she dare to?!

“The car is parked in the school parking lot. Wait here, I’ll drive over,” Han Zhuoling said.

Before Shi Xiaoya could say that she wanted to go with him to the parking lot, Han Zhuoling already left.

Shi Xiaoya could only wait, feeling especially embarrassed. It’s as if she was a big shot and even the first young master of the Han Family had to drive over for her.

Shi Xiaoya looked on as Han Zhuoling walked farther and farther away while she waited silently there.

The weather was cold, especially at night.

Shi Xiaoya was wearing only a thick coat today, one from the famous luxury brand known for its basic style.

Chapter 1552: Know Him Well or Not?

The material was thick and not a bit of wind could penetrate through. In northern places like B City, this coat was good enough to battle the cold until December, both in style and in warmth.

However, the exposed areas of her skin were beyond chilled.

Shi Xiaoya’s neck was exposed, and the wind blew down her neck, making her shiver.

She stuffed both hands in the coat pocket after lifting her collar higher, then shrunk further into her jacket.

“You know Young Master Ling very well?” A female voice rang from her side.

Shi Xiaoya frowned at its rudeness and abruptness.

Identifying her voice, she turned and saw it was indeed Jiang Yuhan.

Jiang Yuhan's assistant was behind her.

But Shi Xiaoya was alone, and she looked alone and weak in the scene.

Shi Xiaoya, however, wasn't afraid of Jiang Yuhan. She raised her brow and asked sarcastically, "I thought Ms. Jiang had left earlier."

Jiang Yuhan had been the first to leave after facing Han Zhuoling and Han Zhuoli.

Followed by Ma Xianghuan and Lian Fang, after they had said their goodbyes, and then Shao Yuqi and the others.

After so many rounds, Jiang Yuhan should have left by now no matter how slow she moved.

Shi Xiaoya observed her. Jiang Yuhan seemed to have stayed back specifically just to ask her this question.

Hearing Shi Xiaoya call her "Ms. Jiang" made Jiang Yuhan smile coldly. She was calling her "Teacher Jiang" so nicely just now, and now it's Ms. Jiang.

She's so arrogant just because she's on good terms with Lu Man!

"You know Young Master Ling?" Jiang Yuhan asked again.

She was really insistent on the question.

Shi Xiaoya thought she didn't have the obligation to satisfy Jiang Yuhan's curiosity, so she replied coolly, "I do."

Jiang Yuhan's gaze sharpened, and she asked in annoyance, "Very well?"

Shi Xiaoya brushed her off. "We've worked together before."

"So do you know him well or not?" Jiang Yuhan asked rudely.

She urgently wanted a straight answer from Shi Xiaoya.

Actually, Shi Xiaoya's answers already implied that she wasn't close to Han Zhuoling.

But Jiang Yuhan just wanted Shi Xiaoya to say it explicitly, to prove it with her own words.

Not bothering to answer her, Shi Xiaoya rebutted, "What has it got to do with you?"

"Yeah, I don't know him well, but are you going to make yourself close to him?" Shi Xiaoya mocked her openly.

Jiang Yuhan's gaze was extremely cold—Shi Xiaoya had officially offended her to the max today.

But since Shi Xiaoya wasn't close to Han Zhuoling, then she could relax.

Just then, Jiang Yuhan's car arrived.

Jiang Yuhan scoffed at Shi Xiaoya with contempt before entering her car.

Shi Xiaoya didn't care one bit about Jiang Yuhan's attitude.

Not long after, Shi Xiaoya spotted Han Zhuoling's car.

When he stopped, Shi Xiaoya hurriedly got on.

The heater was on, and when she entered, the warmth hit her at once, making her relax comfortably.

Perhaps she stood outside in the cold for too long, the sudden change in temperature made her face a furious red.

Shi Xiaoya took out her hands from her pockets and flexed them.

Han Zhuoling saw and asked, "Why didn't you wait inside?"

There was a heater indoors. She wouldn't have been as cold.

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

She had forgotten.

Han Zhuoling asked her to wait and she foolishly waited outside, not even thinking of going indoors.

"Forgot," Shi Xiaoya replied honestly.

She couldn't tell what Han Zhuoling was thinking, but he actually chuckled.

Chapter 1553: Han Zhuoling Took a Step Forward

Shi Xiaoya recalled the words she was about to tell him before the gala started.

She planned to tell him she wasn't angry anymore.

But after missing the chance just now, it would seem abrupt bringing it up.

Shi Xiaoya decided to behave naturally with him like before.

He should probably get it then.

If he asked, then she would say it plainly.

But in the end, Han Zhuoling said nothing all the way.

Shi Xiaoya wished to break the awkward silence but didn't know what to say.

Halfway through their journey, Shi Xiaoya finally came up with a topic.

"Young Master Ling, when is the next filming of *Survivor* you're joining?" Shi Xiaoya asked.

She thought that with this opening, a show which they both worked on, at least they would have a commonality to talk about.

But Han Zhuoling misunderstood Shi Xiaoya's intentions.

He thought Shi Xiaoya was asking so as to avoid him.

His grip tightened in the steering wheel. She was actually that furious with him.

But when he thought about it, it's expected since he did go overboard.

Han Zhuoling pursed his lips for a moment before saying, "I don't know."

His voice was low, like he was really angry.

Shi Xiaoya turned to look at him curiously. *What's with this man, why is he unhappy again?*

Hence, the painstakingly-thought-of conversation died.

Shi Xiaoya sighed mentally and kept silent.

Because the silence in the car made her restless, she turned to observe the scenery outside the window for her eyes to do something.

Hence, Shi Xiaoya failed to notice that Han Zhuoling turned to look at her occasionally.

It was not until Han Zhuoling had stopped at Shi Xiaoya's flat that Shi Xiaoya realized: "I didn't tell you my address. How did you know?"

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Could he say that he followed her previously?

If he said that, he would sound like a pervert.

This was hard to explain. She might mistake that he had checked her background before.

No one would be happy hearing that they'd been thoroughly investigated.

Moreover, Han Zhuoling never did anything of this kind.

Fortunately, Shi Xiaoya didn't think in this direction.

She suddenly went quiet, remembering embarrassedly that Han Zhuoling seemed to have followed from the airport to here on the day she returned from Nanhai City.

She'd blurted out her question because she forgot about it.

Now that she remembered it, she instantly felt mortified. Why mention this out of nowhere?

Seeing her, Han Zhuoling knew that she had recalled the incident.

Han Zhuoling also rubbed his temples self-consciously.

Shi Xiaoya unbuckled her seatbelt and thanked him. "Thanks for sending me back, then... I'll get going. Do stay safe on the road."

With that, she got off the car.

Hearing her politeness made him uncomfortable.

He paused, then plucked out his keys and also got off the car.

Shi Xiaoya closed the door and turned, and was immediately blocked by Han Zhuoling.

Shi Xiaoya wouldn't have thought that the man in the car a moment before would suddenly appear in front of her.

His movement was way too fast!

Han Zhuoling took a step forward and Shi Xiaoya was almost backed into the door. She looked nervously at him. "Young Master Ling?"

Chapter 1554: Ears Went Red

She then saw Han Zhuoling pass her a bouquet. "You forgot your flowers."

Shi Xiaoya took it awkwardly. She didn't leave it on purpose; it had really slipped her mind.

Because she was too nervous, anxious to get home quickly, the flowers were left behind on the backseat.

"It wasn't on purpose," Shi Xiaoya explained. "I forgot about it."

Her explanation made Han Zhuoling's mouth curve into a smile.

She didn't leave it behind on purpose. She didn't not care about it.

Did that mean that she could possibly forgive him?

Seeing those flowers reminded her of the unspoken words before the gala.

Han Zhuoling was waiting for Shi Xiaoya to finish her words all this while when he was driving.

But she never did.

Since she didn't say it, he asked again, "Will you forgive me?"

Han Zhuoling stuffed both his hands into his pockets. His palms were sweating on this chilly night.

He could only hide them in his pockets.

For the first time ever, he discovered that begging for forgiveness could make one so nervous and on the edge.

Han Zhuoling's heart palpitated, and then he heard Shi Xiaoya say with her lowered head, "Yes."

Han Zhuoling couldn't believe his ears. After a pause: "What did you say?"

Shi Xiaoya sighed and lifted her head to see him in such a baffled state.

He was such an aloof man usually; seeing him so cutely puzzled was unexpected.

The huge difference made Shi Xiaoya forget her nerves.

Hugging the flowers, she looked at Han Zhuoling with a smile. "I forgive you. Let's forget about the misunderstanding. I'll seem petty if I continued harping on it."

Her smile appeared sincere to him, not at all like how it looked when she wanted to distance herself from him previously.

Han Zhuoling couldn't stop his smile from growing. "You really forgive me, not the kind where we draw the line clearly?"

Shi Xiaoya never thought Han Zhuoling would be this worried. She said shyly, "I was being mean then. Just... just treat it like nothing happened."

If this were someone else, she could also say that they were still friends.

But this was Han Zhuoling.

She didn't feel bold enough to say that.

Draw the line?

They never had a line in the first place, never close nor distant.

To be precise, they were never close at all.

Drawing the line implied that she had a rather good relationship with Han Zhuoling.

Shi Xiaoya watched as Han Zhuoling smiled, his stern face at once becoming gentle.

He was already handsome. Though he was always severe and made others afraid of him, no one could deny that he was good-looking.

His smile pushed his attractiveness to the next level.

It made Shi Xiaoya feel that she was too young and inexperienced back then, to think that that was called gorgeousness.

When she saw him smile, she finally understood how stunning he could be.

She had no idea whether he knew that he looked especially dazzling when he smiled, so dazzling that one couldn't bear to look away even if it blinded their eyes.

Shi Xiaoya's ears went red as she said, "Then I'll be going home. Please stay safe on the road."

Han Zhuoling frowned but never budged.

Shi Xiaoya thought, why was he still blocking her way now that they'd cleared the air?

She then heard Han Zhuoling say, "Why are you still being so polite?"

Shi Xiaoya paused, realizing that she'd spoken automatically.

It was hard thinking of them as equals when facing him, so she'd subconsciously used honorifics.

Chapter 1555: Stunned

"Didn't you use the casual 'you' before when we're filming? You used it so naturally too." Han Zhuoling frowned. "Didn't you say you forgave me?"

Shi Xiaoya quickly waved off his concern. "It's really fine now, I just got used to it. Plus... probably seeing you being serious right now doesn't help. You wore casual clothes during filming, unlike now when you're all decked out in suit and leather. Seeing these just..."

Make one use honorifics, not daring to go overboard.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

He huffed. "Then don't use the honorific 'you' anymore next time. It sounds so distant."

Hearing her use that word made him discomfited all over.

He spoke as if they were very close, Shi Xiaoya thought.

But she also couldn't help thinking that her relationship with Han Zhuoling was probably better than others.

"Alright." Shi Xiaoya nodded.

Han Zhuoling then moved away. When Shi Xiaoya walked past him, she smiled up at him.

She'd barely walked two steps before Han Zhuoling called, "Wait."

Shi Xiaoya stopped and turned to look at him.

Han Zhuoling walked over with big steps. "I'll send you up."

Shi Xiaoya looked at him in surprise. She wanted to say that there's no need as her neighborhood was quite safe.

Even though she'd moved out to set up her own company, her family wouldn't let her suffer by herself outside.

So they had bought her a flat in this neighborhood.

The amenities in this area were not bad, and the security was good as well. Strangers were not allowed in.

Her family would be assured while she lived by herself only if her safety was guaranteed at least.

Plus, her flat had direct elevator access.

Directly outside the lift was her home.

If Han Zhuoling sent her up, wouldn't that mean...

Shi Xiaoya quickly rejected, "It's alright, the security here's exceptional. You've probably seen it when you entered. The security officer won't let you in if you're a stranger. Plus, I'm fine every time I go home by myself."

"That's different." Han Zhuoling was extremely gentlemanly. "You can't help it going home alone, but since I'm here today, I can't let you go up alone."

Han Zhuoling frowned slightly. "Relax, I'll just send you to your doorstep. I don't have any other ideas."

Shi Xiaoya scratched her head, saying embarrassedly, "I wasn't really thinking about that. If you put it that way, it would seem like I'm cautioning against you."

The latter half was mumbled, but Han Zhuoling managed to catch it.

Not only was he not upset, he even grinned.

He felt that she was too polite just now, and he didn't like that at all.

Yet she actually sounded a little sulky just now; she had obviously relaxed once more around him.

How could he not be glad?

"Then let's go." Han Zhuoling's happiness laced his voice.

Unsure if she heard correctly, Shi Xiaoya tagged along behind Han Zhuoling without further questions.

Han Zhuoling pressed for the lift.

The lift was on the ground floor, so they needn't wait before the doors opened.

Han Zhuoling went in with Shi Xiaoya, who took out her card to activate the lift before pressing for her floor.

Han Zhuoling watched silently from one side, reassured about the security here.

When the lift stopped and the doors opened, Han Zhuoling was stunned.

A wide corridor entered his sight.

Towards the left wall was a sturdy wooden stool, while a shoe cabinet was on the opposite side.

Chapter 1556: A Little Hungry

The leather stool was naturally being used so one could put on footwear conveniently. As the shoe cabinet was not very big, it was evident that the stool was mostly used when putting on one of a few pairs of commonly worn shoes for going out.

Further inside was the spacious living room.

Though the living room was spacious, it did not look cold and lonely at all. It had been very warmly decorated by Shi Xiaoya.

It's just...

Han Zhuoling totally did not expect that he would step right into her house the moment he got out of the lift.

He could see everything on the opposite end.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

Shi Xiaoya then explained, "This is an apartment where the lift goes straight to your doorstep. I was afraid that if I explained downstairs, you might misunderstand and think that I don't trust you or I'm guarding against you. That's why I didn't want to let you send me up."

Or else, how was she supposed to explain?

Young Master Ling, my house lift opens right into my house, and that's why it's not convenient for you to send me?

Why is it not convenient?

I don't want to let you inside my house.

Wouldn't that be the conclusion anyone would come to?

But she really did not think of it that way.

She just felt that it was quite late and she was not exactly very close to Han Zhuoling.

And letting a mature man like him enter her own residence seemed a little weird somehow.

Han Zhuoling cleared his throat awkwardly. "If there's anything else next time, you can just tell me straight. I will take it literally and won't think too much into it."

Shi Xiaoya nodded. "Okay."

She was being way too obedient like this. Han Zhuoling almost wanted to reach out and pat her fluffy head.

He finally managed to resist the urge, but now that he was standing at her doorstep, he felt a little conflicted.

His heart was itching a little. He really wanted to go in and take a look but felt that it was not good for him to suggest it.

He already said downstairs that he was not going to come in.

His coming in was an accident.

Shi Xiaoya thought about it. She felt that since he had already stepped in, it would not seem very nice to just let him go like that.

Han Zhuoling did not say that he would leave either.

Shi Xiaoya glanced at Han Zhuoling and said, "Why don't you stay and have a drink before you go?"

Han Zhuoling rubbed his stomach and said seriously, "Actually, I'm a bit hungry."

Shi Xiaoya glanced at the time. It was actually only 9 pm now.

The welcome party started at 7 pm and had lasted for only one and a half hours.

Adding the time they took to come back, it was now only 9 pm.

"Didn't you eat dinner already?" Shi Xiaoya had a doubtful expression on her face.

Han Zhuoling felt that Shi Xiaoya's face was spelling out the words "Don't lie to me."

"I didn't eat much," Han Zhuoling said. "I arrived a little late to begin with. I was afraid that I would be late for the event, so I ate just a little."

Han Zhuoling glanced at her and said, "And I was thinking of how you still haven't forgiven me, so I didn't have much appetite either."

Shi Xiaoya felt so nervous that her ears twitched subconsciously.

Han Zhuoling thought it was very interesting to watch. He realized the tips of her reddened ears were twitching and resembled those of kittens and puppies. It was really fun to watch.

Shi Xiaoya could not help puffing her cheeks.

If someone else had said those words, she'd think they were probably flirting with her.

But since they came from a man with a mind-blowing IQ and a negative-value EQ like Han Zhuoling, he probably meant them literally.

How would he know anything about flirting?

Shi Xiaoya was explaining this to herself while reminding herself to certainly not think too much about it. However, she still could not stop her heart from beating increasingly rapidly.

Han Zhuoling was still waiting for her answer, so Shi Xiaoya said, "Then I'll see what I can make. You can go in first."

Shi Xiaoya took out a pair of men's slippers from the shoe cabinet and placed it beside Han Zhuoling's feet.

When Han Zhuoling saw that, he instantly narrowed his eyes.

"You even have a pair of men's slippers prepared at home?" Han Zhuoling's voice had turned cold.

Shi Xiaoya did not sense anything wrong. Why did Han Zhuoling suddenly sound a little displeased?

She explained, "Sometimes, when I need help and can't solve it myself, Qin Zigou will come and help me, so I have a pair of men's slippers at home."

Chapter 1557: Leave It for Qin Zigou

They were all from one of the eight great families, so Han Zhuoling was not unfamiliar with people from the Qin Family.

Thus, in front of him, Shi Xiaoya did not use Qin Zigou's English name.

"He comes often?" Han Zhuoling's voice now sounded even colder.

"Not really. Both of us are busy with work. Where would we find the time to visit each other's houses often? It's just that I live alone, so there would inevitably be areas that I'd need help repairing. If I called someone over to fix it, I'd be alone at home with them, so I'm a bit scared that there'd be a chance something bad might happen. So if he had time, I'd ask him to come over so I can have peace of mind as well," Shi Xiaoya explained.

She did not know if Han Zhuoling accepted this explanation. Shi Xiaoya only thought it through afterward. Why did she explain so much to Han Zhuoling?

Han Zhuoling glanced at the slippers and did not put it on. "I don't need to wear slippers."

His feet that only had socks on silently stepped into the living room.

He would not want to wear an unknown man's slippers.

Shi Xiaoya felt helpless. She could only take it that Han Zhuoling had OCD[1] and did not want to wear what others had worn before. She then put the slippers away and changed out of her own shoes.

As he watched her series of actions, Han Zhuoling's face turned even darker.

He was not in a good mood and did not want to eat anything!

Shi Xiaoya put down her bag and took off her winter jacket, revealing her sweater and jeans, which accentuated her figure clearly and nicely.

Shi Xiaoya did not bother changing into casual clothes. After all, with Han Zhuoling around, she would not be able to be so relaxed.

"I'll go to the kitchen and see what I have," Shi Xiaoya said.

"You don't even know what you have in your own house?" Han Zhuoling asked.

Shi Xiaoya laughed guilty and awkwardly. "Usually, I'm busy at work and don't really eat at home often. It's either I eat lunch boxes when I'm working outside or order in takeouts when I'm at my workplace."

After working for the whole day, she would really feel too lazy to prepare her own food, so she would still order in.

She did not say that, or else Han Zhuoling would think that she was complaining and did not want to make food for him.

Shi Xiaoya opened the fridge and took a look. There were the lamb and beef noodles she bought online the day before, as well as some pan-fried dumplings.

These were all the food trending online in various localities. The lamb and beef noodles were from Gui Zhou, while the pan-fried dumplings were from S City.

They were bought by the local buyer agents, who then sent it over at the fastest possible pace.

The lamb and beef noodles were still fine, but the pan-fried dumplings would need to be heated up in the oven for a while, or else it would be soft and lumpy, losing its taste.

She liked spicy food and was the kind who can really take spice.

Even back when she had a face full of pimples, it did not stop her from pursuing her passion for eating spicy food.

Hence, the lamb and beef noodles were both especially spicy.

She wondered if Han Zhuoling would be able to take it.

Pan-fried dumplings... Eating that at night might not be good for digestion.

Shi Xiaoya thought about it and asked Han Zhuoling, "Can you eat beef noodles?"

The chili was in a separate pack, so less could be added.

"Are you cooking it?" Han Zhuoling asked.

"Yeah." Shi Xiaoya took out a packet of beef noodles for Han Zhuoling to see. "It's this kind, a specialty of Gui Zhou. It's very nice. The ingredients inside are all pre-packed. There are real beef slices and it can be cooked. They used vacuum-sealed packaging."

"I won't eat it." Han Zhuoling thought to himself that since it was not something that she cooked, that it was pre-packed and bought, he would not eat it.

"Leave it for Qin Zigou to eat," Han Zhuoling continued.

Ready-made products like these should just be left for Qin Zigou.

Han Zhuoling himself would eat only the things that Shi Xiaoya personally cooked.

Shi Xiaoya totally did not understand what Han Zhuoling meant by saying that and subconsciously said, "He doesn't like eating these."

Chapter 1558: Looked Like She Was Scared of Him Misunderstanding

"..." Han Zhuoling was really miffed by Shi Xiaoya. "You even know what he likes to eat?"

"We're friends who are as close as can be after all," Shi Xiaoya explained.

They were so close that they could be considered the best of friends.

Han Zhuoling gave Shi Xiaoya an ambiguous glance. They were just friends?

He saw that Shi Xiaoya did not have romantic feelings for Qin Zigou. He just did not know whether Qin Zigou was the same or not.

This time, Shi Xiaoya seemed to suddenly become smart. She could even tell what Han Zhuoling was thinking about and quickly explained, "Qin Zigou and I don't have that kind of relationship. We've known each other since we were young, and when we became adults, both of us decided we're not interested in our family businesses. It just so happened that he liked fashion design while I liked to do makeup, so we discussed and collaborated on opening a work studio. We had been working together for the past few years, so it has been very good. We're just... er... brothers."

Shi Xiaoya had wanted to say that they were sisters, but she also felt that in front of Han Zhuoling, she should save some face for Qin Zigou.

Qin Zigou was not gay anyway. He indeed liked women.

Hence, she could only make a little sacrifice on her end.

"Anyway, if we really had even an inkling of affection for each other, we wouldn't have waited until now," Shi Xiaoya mumbled. How many years had it been already?

She and Qin Zigou really had no chemical reaction between them at all.

Qin Zigou treated her like a younger sister while she treated Qin Zigou like her biological brother.

Han Zhuoling's mood instantly got better. Even the darkness on his face disappeared. He quickly hid his emotions and returned to his cold and aloof expression. "I didn't even say anything, why are you explaining so much?"

She looked like she was so scared and so nervous that he would misunderstand.

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

Wasn't it because it looked like he misunderstood?

But it was true. What kind of relationship did the two of them have?

If he misunderstood, so be it. Why did she bother explaining?

If Han Zhuoling were not around, Shi Xiaoya would have just smacked her mouth.

Who asked you to talk so much?!

Who asked you to talk so much?!

You're the only one with a mouth that's talking non-stop!

Seeing that Shi Xiaoya was about to get annoyed, it was a good thing that Han Zhuoling was not someone who could not read expressions at all.

After Shi Xiaoya explained things just now, his mood got better and he looked towards the fridge.

There were quite a lot of groceries inside. "You're so busy, and you still have time to buy groceries?"

"These were all because my mom asked the helper auntie at home to buy and put them in my fridge," Shi Xiaoya explained.

But they were mostly fruits.

Shi Xiaoya's mother also knew that young people were busy with work and it would probably be difficult for them to cook for themselves when they got home.

She was not used to having an auntie at home either and felt more comfortable if she was staying alone.

If not, Shi Xiaoya's mom would have even wanted to look for a helper auntie for Shi Xiaoya, but Shi Xiaoya had refused no matter what.

Since she would not have many chances to cook on her own, more fruits were prepared for her so that she can eat when she was at home.

But there were still quite a few fresh ingredients.

"It's not good to eat too much at night, so just cook some noodles." Han Zhuoling scanned across the fridge. "Do you have noodles at home?"

"Yeah." Shi Xiaoya took out two bags of noodles from the chiller compartment.

The noodles were handmade noodles packed into one serving per packet. Compared to factory manufactured thin noodles, these were much tastier, just that they could not be stored for long.

“Is there anything you don’t eat? Would you prefer your food to be plain or savory? Do you eat chili? Are there any vegetables that you don’t like to eat?” Shi Xiaoya asked.

Han Zhuoling scanned through the ingredients in the fridge and said, “I prefer plainer flavors. I don’t really like food that is too savory. I can eat chili and have a higher tolerance for spicy food. When I went to Xiang Nan, I was able to eat the spicy food there.”

Chapter 1559: What Did Next Time Mean

Shi Xiaoya could not hide her surprise. She did not expect that Han Zhuoling actually liked spicy food.

Qin Zigou could not eat spicy food. When the two of them worked together sometimes, they would eat together as well, so she could only go along with him and eat non-spicy food, though eating it felt tasteless.

Xiang Nan was one of the areas in the country with the spiciest foods.

“As for vegetables, I don’t eat green bell peppers, green onions, broccoli, and yellow daylily. I don’t eat most mushrooms. Of course, if the smell of mushrooms can be covered, I will eat it. Same for fish. If there is a fishy smell, I won’t eat it,” Han Zhuoling said in a very detailed manner. “Just like the Sichuan fish tonight. That was not bad. The fish did not have a fishy smell so I could take it.”

Shi Xiaoya was dumbstruck from hearing that. She just wanted Han Zhuoling to name a few. Anyway, she had limited ingredients at home, so he could just say what he did not want to eat within this scope.

Who knew Han Zhuoling would actually give her such a detailed account?

She did not even have many of those things at home!

The fact that he did not like to eat them aside, even if he did want to, he would not be able to.

“I can only think of this much at the moment.” Han Zhuoling looked at her and said, “If I remember more next time, I’ll let you know.”

“Okay.” Shi Xiaoya was almost dizzy from all that Han Zhuoling had said and nodded her head in a silly manner.

She noticed something was wrong only after nodding.

What did next time mean?!

“Then I’ll just cook some noodles, alright?” Shi Xiaoya took out a box of choy sum and said, “There’s choy sum. Do you eat shiitake mushrooms? I’ll add a sunny-side up. If you like to eat chili, you can add a few drops of chili oil. As it’s night time already, don’t eat too much chili, or else you would feel your stomach burning while you’re sleeping.”

“Sure.” The satisfaction on Han Zhuoling’s face was so obvious; even the corners of his lips were curving up a little.

Shi Xiaoya heaved a sigh of relief. “Then you can go to the living room to sit and wait. You can watch television or something. The noodles will be cooked very quickly and will be ready in no time.”

Han Zhuoling nodded. When he walked to the door of the kitchen, he paused and asked her, “May I look around your house?”

“Sure.” Shi Xiaoya nodded generously. Anyway, even her bedroom was very neatly kept. There were no items awkwardly placed outside, such as lingerie or other such things.

She thought that Han Zhuoling would probably just go and take a look.

This situation was pretty much like a friend was visiting her house for the first time and definitely wanted to take a look.

She felt that Han Zhuoling was probably not the kind that would casually flip open drawers and cupboards in someone else’s home. How rude would that person be to actually do that?

Seeing that cold and aloof manner of Han Zhuoling’s, it did not seem to her like he was the very curious sort.

“Why don’t you show me around for a while?” Han Zhuoling added.

“But the noodles...” Shi Xiaoya saw that she had already taken out all the ingredients, but she had yet to put them into the pot.

“You can do it later, no worries,” Han Zhuoling said.

Shi Xiaoya thought to herself, wasn’t he hungry?

Now he was saying there’s no rush.

She grumbled in her heart, but she still did her part as a good host and showed Han Zhuoling around her house.

The good thing was that her house was not big. Shi Xiaoya brought Han Zhuoling to the living room as she explained, “My family was also worried that I would meet some unsafe incidents outside, so they decided to choose this area when buying an apartment for me. As I am the only one staying here, I didn’t choose a very big flat.

“But because of the nature of my job, I still needed a room for work, so I chose this three-room apartment with a living room and a dining room. The living room is as you see, there’s nothing much.” Shi Xiaoya was quite used to it.

But this was Han Zhuoling’s first time seeing such a warm and cozy place.

Usually, he did not really care about the decorations at home. As for his previous house in Europe, Xia Yixin was all about buying luxurious things, so most of the house gave off the vibe of a European palace.

Chapter 1560: Looks Very Good

He had not said much about that even though he did not like it. Anyway, he did not come home there often.

Afterward, when he bought a house in B City, he'd let Lin Liye and Han Zhuofeng move in.

The interior design back then was entirely left to the designer. It was a very simple and austere style, which was practical in nature. Everything could be seen at once when one stepped into the room.

Lin Liye preferred a Chinese-style design, so she decorated her bedroom to have Chinese-style furnishings.

Han Zhuofeng was a loud and expressive person. Just like Han Zhuoling, he was not always at home and everything was styled with convenience and practicality in mind. He was quite satisfied with the design styles of Han Zhuoling's designer, so he did not change anything.

Lin Liye was still from an older generation, so even the living room was decorated in the style that she liked.

His own was unlike Shi Xiaoya's place, which was vibrant and colorful.

The living room was painted in clean, grey-and-white tones while the sofa was wider than most sofas. It was big enough to fit Shi Xiaoya's whole body in it.

The back of the sofa was flat and adorned with all kinds of big and small soft toys.

There were minions, Pikachus, and whatnot.

The wall on which the TV rested could be flipped around.

Once the TV wall was turned, it would be directly inside Shi Xiaoya's bedroom, so she could just watch TV in her own bedroom.

Shi Xiaoya's bedroom was very simple. The parapet was lined with a thick and soft mattress and even had a small wooden table placed atop.

"Sometimes when I'm resting at home, I would take my coffee and sit on the parapet by the window. Especially when it's snowing, I can sip on my coffee while staring at the snow. Compared to going to a trendy cafe recommended on the Internet, this is much more comfortable," Shi Xiaoya explained as she smiled.

Below the parapet, there were drawers that could be pulled out. It was very practical.

The drawers were designed as stairs with two steps. The steps were linked directly to Shi Xiaoya's bed, similar to a tatami, but the bed was lined with a soft mattress.

Her bed was very simple and neat. It was not filled with decorations that young ladies liked, unlike what Han Zhuoling had imagined, but it was very similar to the kind of Scandinavian style that he liked.

There were also two steps extending from the side of the bed. The steps similarly had drawers that could be used for storage.

Below the steps was a soft down carpet. On the opposite end was a cupboard. "These are the clothes that I usually wear."

Shi Xiaoya continued to explain simply and then brought him to other rooms.

It felt a little weird if they lingered around in her bedroom.

"I use this as a dressing room," Shi Xiaoya explained. She only opened the door for him to take a look and did not intend to let Han Zhuoling take a closer look. She felt that Han Zhuoling probably would not be interested either.

"This is the study room," Shi Xiaoya said.

Shi Xiaoya's study was a little different from other people's.

There was indeed an office table with a computer on top.

But other than that, there was no bookshelf. In place of it were white-colored cabinets.

In the corner of one wall, there was even a lighting board set up. On top of a long dressing table, there were all kinds of makeup products and tools he did not recognize.

There was also a mirror on the dressing table which had a fill light affixed to it.

"Do you like the color white very much?" Han Zhuoling asked.

Everything in white looked clean and bright.

"I usually shoot some makeup tutorials. I do them in my free time, either at my office or at home. A white background will look good on camera," Shi Xiaoya explained. "The computer is used for editing videos. These cabinets are used for storing makeup products."

Han Zhuoling stared at the area where the light board was and could not help but imagine Shi Xiaoya sitting there and shooting a video.

When she was applying makeup, she was very serious and looked very good.

He noticed it before when she applied makeup for him.

He wondered how she looked when she put on makeup for herself.

Shi Xiaoya was afraid that he would think she was too superficial. Many people had this misunderstanding and felt that people like her only knew to look pretty and did not know anything else, so they were really boring.