

Mr Han 1601

Chapter 1601: Suddenly Realizing Something Was Amis

In the end, he came today.

“What are you staring at?” Han Zhuoling finally could not help but ask.

When she first stared at him previously, he’d already felt it but did not say anything.

But this little girl seemed to be hooked on it and glanced at him every few seconds.

They only walked for ten meters and she had already stared at him more than a dozen times.

This was such a high frequency—did she really think that he was blind?

“Nothing.” Shi Xiaoya thought about it and still replied honestly, “I just never thought that you would shop at a supermarket.”

“I really never shopped at one before.” Han Zhuoling pushed the trolley along calmly.

He had never been to one since he was young, let alone accompanied anyone to shop at a supermarket.

Such matters were simply a waste of time for him.

However, he actually did not have such a feeling when he was accompanying Shi Xiaoya today.

Instead, he found it relaxing and enjoyable. Moreover, he would not feel annoyed no matter how long they shopped for.

As they walked, Han Zhuoling suddenly stopped when he saw a shop selling daily home necessities.

This brand was quite well known, and its products were comfortable and looked nice, even though the price was not expensive.

Han Zhuoling heard of it before but had never used that brand.

“What is it?” Shi Xiaoya asked.

Han Zhuoling pointed to this shop and asked, “Does this shop sell home necessities?”

Shi Xiaoya nodded. “They sell casual clothes as well as home necessities, so it’s quite comprehensive. The styles are not bad as well.”

Shi Xiaoya would also come and shop around here when she had nothing to do, and she would buy some unique things to bring back home when she saw them.

In this aspect, she was much more familiar with it than Han Zhuoling.

“Let’s go in and take a look.” Han Zhuoling pushed the trolley and walked inside.

Shi Xiaoya followed him in surprise and asked, “Young Master Ling, what else do you want to buy?”

Shi Xiaoya could not imagine him buying home necessities for himself no matter how she thought about it.

Anyway, her father and elder brother definitely would not think of such things and would just leave it to the auntie at home to do it.

They would just casually tell her to do it and not care about it afterward.

So Han Zhuoling's demeanor now really gave her a shock. She followed Han Zhuoling around in astonishment the whole time.

Han Zhuoling could not find his way around by himself either. The shop was huge, so it made one dizzy just walking around.

The men's apparel was in one section, the women's apparel in another section, and the children's apparel in yet another section.

Thereafter, there were bed products, crockery, and other small kitchenware.

Next, it was the section selling casual home clothes.

Han Zhuoling could only push the trolley around each of the shelves to look.

Shi Xiaoya did not know what he was looking for and asked, "Young Master Ling, what do you want to buy?"

Not long after she asked, Han Zhuoling stopped in front of a row of home slippers.

The slippers were also categorized according to autumn-winter and spring-summer series, filling up a shelf each.

"Home slippers?" Shi Xiaoya found it strange and suddenly felt that there was something amiss.

A flash of light crossed her mind, yet she could not catch it in time.

Han Zhuoling was seen taking a pair of thick cotton slippers off the shelf and taking another pair of summertime slippers off the other shelf, placing them both in the shopping trolley.

Shi Xiaoya still found it strange that he was buying more than one pair of slippers.

He actually had to buy his own slippers if he did not have them at home. Although it was on the way, he actually specifically remembered it, which was really unexpected.

"I happened to not have it," Han Zhuoling explained, without going into detail.

Shi Xiaoya did not think much about it either and just went to the cashier to make payment once again.

They finally bought everything they wanted, and both of them pushed the trolley to the parking lot.

Han Zhuoling placed all the groceries in the car trunk and returned the trolley to the designated return area before driving off with Shi Xiaoya.

Coming back to Shi Xiaoya's home once again, he was already familiar with the way.

Han Zhuoling found a slot to park in and took out the groceries they bought from the supermarket from the trunk. There were both big and small bags. He carried three big bags in one hand and two other bags in his other hand.

Chapter 1602: I'll Put Everything Here at Your Place

Looking at him decked in suit and leather, Shi Xiaoya felt that his image looked really out of place compared to the grocery bags of smoky ingredients.

Furthermore, he carried five bags all by himself. Whether it was really taking him a lot of effort or not, just by looking at them, they seemed hard to carry.

Looking at his all-serious face that still had the same sternness to it and him carrying so many bags of groceries, Shi Xiaoya could not help but feel like laughing.

She also felt that that would not be nice, so she struggled hard to keep it in.

"Let me help you hold a few." Shi Xiaoya stretched out her hand towards Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling almost felt like holding Shi Xiaoya's hand directly, but it was a pity that his hands were still holding the bags, so it was not convenient.

"No need," Han Zhuoling said. "Let's go."

"You can just give me two and it would be fine as well," Shi Xiaoya insisted. "Or else I won't feel good seeing you carry all that alone with my hands empty."

Han Zhuoling thought about it and passed the bag with the slippers to her. "Then you can help me hold this."

Shi Xiaoya did not think much and just took it from him obediently.

She took the lift to enter her house together with Han Zhuoling. Han Zhuoling placed the bags of groceries he was carrying at the side of the wall first and stretched out his hands towards Shi Xiaoya.

He thought that Shi Xiaoya probably did not prepare slippers for him.

Anyway, he would not wear what Qin Zigou wore.

Shi Xiaoya had indeed not thought of it, because she did not think of it before and did not manage to buy it for him in time.

Now, Han Zhuoling was already standing at the entrance to the house. Shi Xiaoya finally recalled that she did not have slippers that Han Zhuoling could wear at her house.

Yesterday, Han Zhuoling had refused to wear the slippers Qin Zigou wore before.

She guessed that Han Zhuoling was probably a clean freak.

She could not possibly let him walk on the floor with just his socks.

Sweat was starting to form on her forehead when she saw Han Zhuoling's move.

Shi Xiaoya did not understand. She glanced at the bag in her hand and only thought of that, so she just passed it over to Han Zhuoling first.

Only then did she realize that something was amiss.

Since Han Zhuoling had bought them to bring them home, then he could have just left them in his car. Why did he take them out and let her bring them up?

Shi Xiaoya thought about it and felt that Han Zhuoling probably forgot.

Didn't she not realize it herself?

When Han Zhuoling stretched out his hand now, Shi Xiaoya did not think that he wanted to hold hands with her or anything like that. She just passed the bag over to Han Zhuoling's hand.

Han Zhuoling took out both pairs of slippers.

The slippers were held together with a plastic buckle, so Han Zhuoling asked her, "Do you have scissors?"

"Yeah." Shi Xiaoya was totally led by the nose by Han Zhuoling.

When she was in front of Han Zhuoling, her mind did not work properly. She immediately changed into her own slippers and ran off, making her footsteps echo in the room.

After a moment, she brought the scissors over.

Han Zhuoling pulled the plastic buckle taut and let Shi Xiaoya cut it off one by one.

Afterward, Shi Xiaoya watched as Han Zhuoling placed the summertime slippers into the shoe cabinet before putting on the wintertime slippers right in front of her.

"Young Master Ling..." Shi Xiaoya was dumbstruck. What kind of scheme was this?

"I'll keep these two pairs of slippers here at your place from now on," Han Zhuoling explained as he arranged his leather shoes neatly.

When he placed them beside the shoes Shi Xiaoya had just changed out of, they actually looked quite harmonious.

It happened to be right beside Shi Xiaoya's, making Shi Xiaoya's shoes look really small and his own shoes really big.

However, it was surprisingly matching.

Han Zhuoling glanced at them before picking up the groceries he'd placed by the wall and putting them into the kitchen.

Unlike them simply cooking a bowl of noodles the day before, tonight's dinner needed to be more formally prepared, so it would not be convenient to cook in the clothes she wore to go out.

Shi Xiaoya then said, "Young Master Ling, wait for me, I'll be back in a while."

Chapter 1603: It's Actually the Same Type as Hers

Right after saying that, she quickly went into her room and changed her clothes in a few quick minutes.

When she came out again, Han Zhuoling saw that Shi Xiaoya had already changed into loose and comfortable home clothes. It was furry and looked extremely soft.

Han Zhuoling recalled what she wore during their video call last night. Tonight's outfit color was a little different.

"It's the same style as the one last night?" Han Zhuoling asked.

Shi Xiaoya nodded shyly. "The design is different as well, but I quite like them, so I bought the full set of available colors."

Han Zhuoling sized up Shi Xiaoya from top to toe, landing his gaze on her feet.

Shi Xiaoya thought it was strange and looked down as well. She then realized that he bought the same type as hers.

It was light grey slippers, just like... just like couple slippers.

Shi Xiaoya was stunned and could not speak a word.

Han Zhuoling curved his lips a little and said, "What a coincidence."

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

Was it quite a coincidence...

Why did she not notice before that the slippers Han Zhuoling bought were the same as hers?

Her mind really went blank whenever she was by Han Zhuoling's side.

Shi Xiaoya's face reddened, and she rushed to take the apron and put it on.

Although she seldom had the chance to cook, she had quite a comprehensive number of things prepared in her house.

"Young Master Ling, you can go and wait first. Feel free to do what you want. There's no place that you can't really go to here at my place." Anyway, her house was only so big; there was actually not much to see either.

As she said that, Shi Xiaoya put on rubber gloves and prepared to wash the crayfish.

She knew that the supermarket had already rinsed them once.

However, that was just a rough rinse, so Shi Xiaoya felt that she should still clean them once more herself to be safe.

Han Zhuoling understood her intentions and stopped her, saying, "Leave these things to me, you can prepare the rest.

"If there's anything else you need washed, leave them all to me," Han Zhuoling said. "You are a makeup artist, your hands are very important. You can't get them injured."

Shi Xiaoya felt that his hands that needed to hold pens and sign documents were equally important as well.

The deals he signed were all projects worth billions of dollars, which was really expensive.

“It’s not too convenient for you if you wear this. It won’t be good if it spills onto you.” Han Zhuoling took off his coat and his tie. He was only wearing a shirt now and had unbuttoned three of his top buttons, so he did not look as neat and proper as he did previously.

These had clearly been done when Shi Xiaoya went to change out of her clothes.

Even so, this was not a suitable outfit for preparing meals.

“No worries,” Han Zhuoling said before he suddenly narrowed his eyes and continued, “Or do you even have male home clothes at your place?”

“Of course I don’t. Even if you want to wear them, I can’t possibly conjure one for you,” Shi Xiaoya said. “So you should just go and sit down first.”

“No need, I’ll make do with this,” Han Zhuoling said. “I’ll help you as well, or else I won’t know when we can get to eat this meal.”

Shi Xiaoya was mumbling in her heart, they came back quite early. It was only 4:30 pm now. If they calculated the maximum time they needed, the latest they could eat was by 6:30 pm, which was a very normal timing.

But Han Zhuoling insisted, so Shi Xiaoya could only take off the rubber gloves obediently and pass it to him.

When she saw him put on the gloves, she only then realized that his hands were especially good-looking.

People who were good-looking actually always stood at an advantage.

A person’s first impression was very important.

Shi Xiaoya was a true blue “looks club” fan, or else she would not have been led by the nose so easily by Han Zhuoling.

Wasn’t it just because he was handsome?

For Shi Xiaoya, looks came first, and nice hands came second.

Chapter 1604: Feeling That He Was Pinching Her Waist

She did not expect Han Zhuoling to fulfill both requirements.

But very soon, those hands with distinct joints and very clean nails were blocked by plastic gloves.

Shi Xiaoya did not have time to look at them carefully before they were gone, which made her face filled with regret.

Han Zhuoling saw her from his peripheral vision. He wondered what this little girl was thinking about this time. Her facial expressions were so diverse, as if she looked really regretful.

Shi Xiaoya drooped her ears and took out a brush specifically for cleaning and passed it to Han Zhuoling. "Just use this. The most important part is to just scrub the belly."

Luckily, they did not buy much. Although it was 1kg, the heads were big, so there were only about 20 of them.

"After that are the fan scallops and oysters. Their shells are dirtier, so they need to be scrubbed like this as well." Shi Xiaoya laid the ingredients out for him.

She found another new apron. Shi Xiaoya kind of realized by now as well.

He won't use what other people used.

So she explained, "This apron is clean. I use it at home usually as a spare when the other one is in the wash."

Han Zhuoling saw that this apron also had a cutesy style, so he knew that it was Shi Xiaoya's.

"Help me put it on." Han Zhuoling raised his hands and explained, "It's not convenient with gloves on."

And his gloves had already touched the crayfish, so it was not clean either.

Shi Xiaoya did not think too much and just raised the apron to sling it over Han Zhuoling's neck when she saw that he'd lowered his head.

It was just that even if Han Zhuoling lowered his head, he was still a bit tall, so Shi Xiaoya still had to tiptoe to put it on.

Yet when she had just put it on for him, Shi Xiaoya felt unsteady on tiptoe and swayed forward a little.

It shocked her so she subconsciously clutched on the nearest thing to steady herself, yet when she grabbed, her hands landed on Han Zhuoling's shoulders.

Han Zhuoling was bending down, so his lips were very close to touching Shi Xiaoya's forehead.

When Shi Xiaoya was so nervous that she did not know what to do, she could still clearly feel on her forehead his breath coming down on her, which was crazy hot.

The weather was cold now and the air conditioner was on in the house to heat up the rooms, but his breath was still so warm.

So the moment Han Zhuoling's breaths came down on Shi Xiaoya, her whole body heated up, so much that she did not feel cold at all.

She subconsciously lifted her head and did not know why Han Zhuoling still maintained his bending position.

Yet when she lifted her head, she happened to be face to face with Han Zhuoling, and their faces were so close together.

As long as she or Han Zhuoling just leaned forward a little bit more, they would kiss each other.

Shi Xiaoya was stunned.

Han Zhuoling also did not expect that she would suddenly raise her head. It was his first time being so close to her.

Even when she was putting on makeup for him, they were not that close together.

Now both of them were so close that their breaths mingled. Each time Shi Xiaoya breathed in, Han Zhuoling's breaths went through her nose as well.

Just as she scrambled to retreat, her waist was suddenly held by him.

The sides of her waist were firmly secured by his palms, which emanated an endless flow of heat, heating up the sides of her waist.

Her home clothes were clearly not thin, yet she could still feel so clearly the heat from his palms.

How hot must his palms be!

Shi Xiaoya glanced at him nervously. "Young... Young Master Ling..."

Han Zhuoling treated as if he did not hear her. Clasp ing her waist with both his hands, he felt that her waist seemed to be a little too thin.

The fingertips of his hands were almost about to touch each other.

Thinking of that, Han Zhuoling subconsciously exerted a little force and grasped her waist.

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

Why did she feel like he was pinching her waist!

Chapter 1605: How Is It So Thin

This action was a little too intimate.

Shi Xiaoya stared at him in a panic, her whole face flushing red.

Han Zhuoling did not show any signs of abnormality on the surface and looked super upright as he said, "Be careful, stand properly."

After that, he let go of her waist.

He said that as if he did it to support her, and most likely did not have other intentions.

Only Han Zhuoling himself knew. After letting go of her, he put his hands behind his back, reminiscing on the feeling again.

This small waist, how was it so thin?

Shi Xiaoya was caught up in her own nervousness. How would she bother noticing Han Zhuoling's expressions?

After taking a step back in a panic, she stuttered as she thanked him, "Thank... Thank you. I was too clumsy."

As for Han Zhuoling's explanation, Shi Xiaoya really did not doubt it.

It was really because Han Zhuoling looked so much like a gentleman and did not reveal a hint of any other feelings at all.

He was too calm and looked like he did not really think of her that much.

He was just being kind and supporting her. If she thought too much about it, that would really not be good on her part.

Shi Xiaoya forced herself to calm down. She then saw Han Zhuoling turn around and point to his back and say, "I need to trouble you to help me tie it at the back as well."

The strings for tying around the back were drooping in front of Han Zhuoling.

But Han Zhuoling had already turned around. If Shi Xiaoya were to stand in front of him, it would not be convenient to tie the strings, but if she stood behind him, it would not be convenient for her to take the strings either.

After weighing the pros and cons, Shi Xiaoya still felt that it was safer to stand behind him.

Hence, she walked over nervously, reaching her hands over the sides of his waist as she went to pull the strings over.

She only realized how tall he was when she stood so close to him.

His wide back blocked her vision fully, leaving everything else out of sight.

Comparing herself against his back, Shi Xiaoya instantly appeared very slender.

Shi Xiaoya reached out her hands nervously to take the strings. In doing so, her chest accidentally bumped against his back.

Han Zhuoling's back stiffened for a moment. Even if it was just for a second and Shi Xiaoya immediately retreated back, Han Zhuoling could still feel her softness, and his breathing hitched at the same time.

Shi Xiaoya finished tying the apron for Han Zhuoling and said in a small voice, "It's done."

Han Zhuoling then turned around. Shi Xiaoya did not dare to look at him this time and lowered her head as she went to busy herself.

Han Zhuoling did not say anything else and went to scrub the crayfish.

It was just that wearing a shirt and doing such housework was really not very comfortable.

Han Zhuoling turned to look at Shi Xiaoya. Shi Xiaoya had calmed down a little by now and let herself focus on preparing the meal for tonight, so she no longer felt Han Zhuoling's presence so greatly.

Shi Xiaoya was cleaning the squids now.

Han Zhuoling saw how comfortable she looked in her home clothes and thought to himself that he still miscalculated this time. He should have bought two sets of home clothes to bring here when he was buying slippers today.

He had to keep this in mind next time.

After Han Zhuoling scrubbed the shells of the crayfish, fan scallops, and oysters clean, Shi Xiaoya insisted that he did not stay in the kitchen any longer.

She would be stir-frying the base ingredients for the hotpot later, which would be very smoky.

After much effort to chase Han Zhuoling out, Shi Xiaoya finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Focusing on the tasks at hand made her feel much more at ease.

However, Han Zhuoling's presence was still too strong and really made it hard for one to ignore.

Now that she was the only one left in the kitchen, Shi Xiaoya felt much more relaxed.

After she fried the base ingredients for the hotpot, she added water and put the seafood in first.

When it was cooking, she then added the crayfish to cook as well.

Chapter 1606: In Her Bedroom

They added the vegetables to the pot of seafood last, and the crayfish and the soup were ready at about the same time.

They then retrieved the freshly-bought fish from the fridge.

They lined the bottom of the bowl with ice from the freezer before placing the fish slices on top, ensuring the freshness of the meat.

By the time Shi Xiaoya finished setting the table, it was already six.

She finished far earlier than she expected, with Han Zhuoling's help.

Han Zhuoling was missing when she went to the living room.

"Young Master Ling?" Shi Xiaoya called out as she searched.

There were only so many rooms in her home. Han Zhuoling wasn't in her study, nor was he in her coatroom.

Shi Xiaoya's eyes started twitching. He wasn't in her bedroom, was he?

Though she'd asked him to make himself comfortable, she didn't intend for him to be so at home!

Wasn't it impolite to enter a lady's bedroom without her permission?

When she entered, she saw Han Zhuoling standing in the middle and sizing up the room, though not touching anything.

She had no idea what was there to look at.

Hearing her voice, Han Zhuoling turned and explained, "I didn't get a good look last time, so I came to observe. I never touched your things."

"It's fine." What else could she say?

But he was rooted to the spot, and he never moved anything. What could he see from this?

“Dinner’s ready.” Shi Xiaoya stood by the doorway and said, “Come and eat?”

“Right.” Han Zhuoling nodded and finally left her bedroom.

Shi Xiaoya heaved a sigh of relief.

Both of them sat in the dining room, and Shi Xiaoya said shyly, “My skills are pretty average, but I’m saved thanks to these seasonings. The hotpot is made using base ingredients, same with the crayfish.”

She remembered how Han Zhuoling disliked the noodles she planned to make with artificial seasonings.

Shi Xiaoya was still tentative right now.

But Han Zhuoling did not mind at all. “It’s alright, as long as it’s cooked by you.”

Shi Xiaoya thought there was something weird about the words.

But she couldn’t pinpoint exactly what was wrong, so she smiled. “Give it a taste, then. I never changed the base ingredients for the hotpot, but I did for the crayfish after tasting it. I added rock sugar, bay leaves, cinnamon, chili, and some other spices.”

Shi Xiaoya even prepared disposable gloves.

Because Shi Xiaoya modified the base ingredients for the crayfish, Han Zhuoling took one first.

“Oh, do you eat this frequently?” Shi Xiaoya asked before he started shelling.

Han Zhuoling shook his head. “Rarely.”

He was frequently overseas before, and the restaurants there did not have these.

Even if the restaurants in Chinatown did, he never sought it out on purpose.

He did not have many demands so long as his appetite was slaked.

Food was just an essential fuel his body needed, and it wasn’t something worth spending so much effort on.

But Shi Xiaoya seemed passionate about this.

“Let me teach you.” Shi Xiaoya picked up a crayfish. “Don’t assume it’s just about shelling. There’s a technique to it. It’s quite simple—you can finish shelling within seconds without effort after learning.”

Han Zhuoling’s stoic face finally showed some interest after hearing that.

Chapter 1607: I’ll Shell It for You

As if he was interested and liked listening to whatever Shi Xiaoya had to say.

“Okay.” Han Zhuoling pinched the crayfish with two fingers, looking like an attentive student.

“Like this. First you remove the head. You see the three segments at the tail? Remove the one in the middle.” Shi Xiaoya’s fingers moved as she spoke, showing Han Zhuoling after she took off the shell.

“See, the vein can be removed at the same time.”

Han Zhuoling followed her directions, and the black vein was indeed removed along with the tail.

“Then peel the shell on top, which reveals a portion of the meat,” Shi Xiaoya instructed as she held the crayfish between her fingers. “Pinch the remaining two shell segments near the tail like this, and voila! A whole crayfish ready to eat.”

The three steps were far easier than if one slowly shelled it.

The crayfish had a hard shell, and if he did as per usual, it would have been a long process.

Shi Xiaoya grabbed the crayfish by the tail and dipped it in the crayfish soup, grinning. “You must dip it in the soup so that it’ll be delicious.”

Han Zhuoling repeated her actions but did not send it into his mouth. Instead, he placed it on Shi Xiaoya’s plate.

Shi Xiaoya froze while holding on to her newly-shelled crayfish, not knowing what to do next.

Since Han Zhuoling gave her his first shelled crayfish, should she return the courtesy?

Han Zhuoling was so caring; she was embarrassed to eat her own shelled crayfish.

Hesitating, she put her crayfish on Han Zhuoling’s plate.

Han Zhuoling looked at her in surprise, and she smiled in return. “You gave me your shelled crayfish, so I’m giving you mine.”

She raised her gloved hands. “The gloves are brand new, and I gave you the first shelled one, so it’s clean.”

Han Zhuoling’s gaze wavered, thinking that he wouldn’t mind even if she shelled one for him after eating.

“I wouldn’t have minded,” Han Zhuoling answered as he popped the crayfish into his mouth.

Spicy, with a tinge of numbness and sweetness. Not bad.

As for texture, it was just that. It could never beat the sweetness and chewiness of Australian lobsters no matter how good it was.

Just as Shi Xiaoya said, this was so he could taste the thick and savory soup.

“Don’t mind me,” Han Zhuoling said as his fingers moved without pausing, shelling a few crayfish for her.

The more he peeled, the faster he got, and Shi Xiaoya’s plate was filled soon after.

Shi Xiaoya hurriedly said, “Stop shelling them for me, you eat them too!”

Seeing that he had peeled plenty for her already, he then started eating.

He thought of the time before, when he didn’t know she wished to eat crayfish on the day she helped Jiang Yuhua makeup. He would’ve willingly helped her shell them if he knew.

Just then, Han Zhuoling blurted out, "If you fear any lingering smell on your hands before you start work next time, I'll shell them for you."

Shi Xiaoya shook. How could Han Zhuoling just say such things out of nowhere? It's so easy to misunderstand!

If it wasn't for his serious face when he spoke, without a hint of underlying meanings, she would've misconstrued his meanings.

Even so, Shi Xiaoya's heart skipped a beat.

She gave an awkward laugh. "I'm working outside, and Young Master Ling, you're busy as well. Where can we find the chance again?"

Chapter 1608: In Passing

Han Zhuoling kept silent, and seeing that Shi Xiaoya's plate of crayfish was finishing soon, started shelling the remaining ones for her.

"Aren't you eating, Young Master Ling?" Shi Xiaoya said embarrassedly as she watched Han Zhuoling shell all the crayfish for her. "I was supposed to cook dinner for you, and yet you're giving them all to me."

"I've eaten plenty," he replied.

Shi Xiaoya glanced at the pile of shells in front of him, but most ended up in her stomach, so she had no idea how much he had actually eaten.

"Do you not like eating this?" Shi Xiaoya asked hesitantly.

She was afraid that she cooked something he hated.

"No, no, they're delicious," Han Zhuoling answered as he continued giving Shi Xiaoya the crayfish. "You can cook these for me again next time."

He paused, saying, "I'll also wash the crayfish then."

Shi Xiaoya imagined him donning the apron and scrubbing the crayfish while wearing the plastic gloves. It was a completely different image from his usual look.

And now, she regarded it sacrilegious for his hands to wear disposable gloves while shelling crayfish.

But Han Zhuoling obviously felt otherwise, for he shelled the last crayfish and left it on her plate. An idea popped into Shi Xiaoya's head.

"Wait a moment." Because Han Zhuoling did all the work, Shi Xiaoya took off her gloves.

She went to get a basket of bamboo sticks from the kitchen and put on a glove once more, inserting the stick through the crayfish one by one.

She then handed Han Zhuoling one.

Han Zhuoling raised his brows. What new way of eating was this?

“It’s one of the trends recently. Skewer the shelled crayfish and drizzle the condiment on it. But obviously, the eateries don’t have such services. It’s all our own hard work.” Shi Xiaoya rested her cheek on an ungloved hand, grinning. “Who knew I’d get to enjoy this good service?”

Of course, the work was mostly done by the boyfriends in the videos.

She was too shy to voice this to Han Zhuoling.

She unlocked her phone and took a photo of the skewered meat.

Shi Xiaoya desired to post it on Weibo and send it to her friends, but she didn’t dare to in front of Han Zhuoling.

Sugar was added to the soup, but it tasted far sweeter to Shi Xiaoya as she ate.

Her eyes remained closed in satisfaction during the whole process.

She was getting increasingly relaxed in front of Han Zhuoling. “Right, why did you... follow me on Weibo?”

“Nothing. I just saw your page and clicked ‘follow’ in passing,” Han Zhuoling explained stoically.

Shi Xiaoya muttered in her heart, *So easy. Why would he follow a woman?*

The rest of the people he followed were all reputable gentlemen.

Shi Xiaoya didn’t say it aloud.

They finished eating, and Shi Xiaoya cleared the table, putting the dishes in the dishwasher.

Han Zhuoling asked just then, “When are you leaving tomorrow?”

“It’s a 9 o’clock flight to Man City this time.” Shi Xiaoya didn’t have to hide it from Han Zhuoling; the Han Corporation was the biggest investor of Survivor. The production team had no reason to keep things confidential even from their biggest sponsor.

Han Zhuoli was concerned. It was so far up north.

B City was so chilly now, so it would be covered in snow over there.

“You’ve packed?” Han Zhuoling questioned again.

Chapter 1609: Elder Brother-in-law

“Not yet. I’m done packing the stuff required for my job. Only my personal items are left. I’m planning to pack those later,” Shi Xiaoya explained.

Han Zhuoling then left soon after, afraid she would forget things in her hurry to pack.

“I won’t bother you any longer.” Han Zhuoling put on his coat. “I’m leaving. Pack carefully, don’t miss packing anything. Man City isn’t big, and it’d be pretty inconvenient if you needed to purchase anything. Delivery takes time too, even if you shop online.”

Since it was really far.

Shi Xiaoya quickly wiped her hands and sent him to the door. "Leaving this early?"

It was only half-past seven; it wasn't late.

Shi Xiaoya closed her eyes in frustration when she finished speaking.

It sounded like she couldn't bear for him to leave.

Why?

She wanted to invite him to stay overnight, was it?

Wasn't it proper of her to ask a man to stay on her own initiative?

If she wasn't in front of Han Zhuoling, Shi Xiaoya would've slapped herself.

Han Zhuoling gave a small smile. "You still have to pack your luggage. Man City isn't like B City, and it's cold over there. Pack carefully and don't forget anything. Prepare everything tonight and rest early. Don't you have to wake early tomorrow?"

Shi Xiaoya gaped. Who knew Han Zhuoling was so considerate?

In the end, she only replied "Okay" in a dazed fashion.

"It's alright even if you realize you've missed something when you arrive there. Don't panic if you can't get it in Man City. Just tell me and I'll send someone over to deliver it immediately. It'll reach you on the same day," Han Zhuoling continued.

Hearing his detailed plans for her made Shi Xiaoya blush.

She was eager to hear his voice. It was never enough for her.

Honestly, Shi Xiaoya had never been so far north before.

The winter coats worn in B City were insufficient for the temperature over there.

Hence, Shi Xiaoya had gone to purchase another super-thick down jacket. She was on tenterhooks due to the uncertainty stemming from unfamiliarity.

Hearing Han Zhuoling's words put her at ease at once.

Han Zhuoling frowned slightly, emphasizing, "You must tell me."

Shi Xiaoya smiled, nodded. "Okay."

Han Zhuoling's face relaxed as he stuffed his hands in his pockets. "Thanks for dinner tonight, it was delicious."

Shi Xiaoya was embarrassed, feeling undeserving of his compliments.

The sashimi needed no seasonings, only slicing.

The rest all had readymade seasonings.

She did not have the chance to show off her cooking skills.

Yet Han Zhuoling still praised her.

“Goodbye.” Han Zhuoling looked at her. He wouldn’t have left so early if she didn’t have to pack her luggage.

Hence, he took his own sweet time by the doorway, never leaving despite saying much.

Shi Xiaoya nodded. “Take care on the road.”

“Alright.” Han Zhuoling smiled in return.

Shi Xiaoya watched him leave as she thought back to how she feared this man initially. How ridiculous the fear was!

He was clearly an even-tempered person who loved to laugh.

Han Zhuoling walked out from the lift and found someone was standing outside as well.

“Young Master Ling!” The other party was surprised.

“Mr. Shi.” Han Zhuoling exited the lift, slightly shocked too, but nodded calmly otherwise.

He never expected to bump into Shi Xiaoya’s brother, Shi Nancang, here.

Shi Nancang was flattered by Han Zhuoling’s unexpected recognition of him. “Never thought Young Master Ling would recognize me.”

Chapter 1610: A Tad Scary

Han Zhuoling gave a small smile. “I’ve seen you at a dinner party before. Plus, you are young and promising. How could I not know you?”

Shi Nancang was delighted. “Does Young Master Ling stay here?”

“No, I came to visit a friend,” he explained.

Shi Nancang would never have expected that the man standing in front of him had just been to his sister’s home.

Otherwise, it didn’t matter who he was, Shi Nancang would never be speaking so pleasantly, much less smile at him.

Han Zhuoling even acted as if he knew nothing. “Mr. Shi lives here?”

“Oh, no, it’s my sister. She lives here alone. She’s going on a business trip tomorrow and I’m here to give her some things.” Shi Nancang raised the rather large bag he was holding.

Han Zhuoling then noticed it.

“So your sister lives here too. What a coincidence,” Han Zhuoling said with such a straight face, no one could see that he was pretending.

"I remember your sister is signed under the Han Corporation and she's quite a well-known makeup artist within the country," Han Zhuoling said. "But although she's signed under the Han Corporation, she has her own studio, and I've never seen her before even when I'm in the Han Corporation building."

Shi Nancang never thought Han Zhuoling would know Shi Xiaoya and immediately felt a sense of pride. His sister was indeed superb.

"Then I shall be going. We'll chat next time when we have time," Han Zhuoling said to Shi Nancang.

Though he knew those might just be polite words, he still agreed readily.

Han Zhuoling watched as Shi Nancang entered the lift. The doors did not close instantly, and Shi Nancang noticed that Han Zhuoling had not left, as if to stay and watch the doors close.

He took out the card from his pocket and smiled politely at Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling's gaze landed on the card in Shi Nancang's hands. He narrowed his eyes.

Even Shi Nancang had the card to Shi Xiaoya's home, yet he didn't have one.

Shi Nancang's smile was so stiff by now that his facial muscles almost wavered. He wondered why Han Zhuoling was still not leaving.

Was he going to see him off?

This treatment was way too good.

Finally, the doors were about to shut and Shi Nancang hurriedly waved to Han Zhuoling. "Goodbye, Young Master Ling."

"Goodbye." Han Zhuoling nodded slightly.

The doors snapped shut and Shi Nancang heaved a sigh of relief, exclaiming, "Who knew Young Master Ling was so friendly?"

He was friendly, but just a tad scary.

He wondered which friend of his actually lived in the same building as Shi Xiaoya.

Because the family bought a rather luxurious place for Shi Xiaoya, Shi Nancang wasn't surprised even if Han Zhuoling's friend lived here.

Shi Xiaoya sent Han Zhuoling off and set about preparing to pack her luggage, but a feeling that she forgot something important was nagging at her.

But no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't remember what it was.

She considered, and shrugged. She probably wouldn't forget it if it was really that important.

Forgetting meant that the matter wasn't such a big deal.

Hence, Shi Xiaoya returned to the living room without a care and saw something familiar lying on the sofa.

Walking over, she saw that it was actually Han Zhuoling's tie!

Shi Xiaoya smacked her head, finally recalling the important matter that had slipped her mind.

She had forgotten to return the tie Han Zhuoling had left behind previously!

Wasn't Han Zhuoling's purpose in coming over today to retrieve it?

And now, he had come and eaten dinner, and she had forgotten to give him his tie!

Not only did he not take the tie left behind yesterday, he even left a new tie behind today!