

Mr Han 1731

Chapter 1731: Actually More Important Than His Job

The terms Xu Jiashan offered were really quite good, and they were obviously not the kind that a newcomer could get. He totally considered her as an experienced actress within the industry.

Once the contract was confirmed to have no issues, Lu Man did not have any other requests either, so she signed the contract with Xu Jiashan.

She was only waiting for the time when she would officially join the production crew.

Meanwhile, Shi Xiaoya received notice from Chi Xingrui that the filming for the third episode would officially begin on Saturday.

Usually, the filming need not be done over the weekends, but considering that Han Zhuoling had work in the Han Corporation, they decided to use the time over the weekends to film the third episode so that it would not delay his work.

Also, the first episode of *Survivor* would premiere on the day before the official filming for the third episode starts, which would be on Friday.

What Lu Dongliu implied was that if the guests' schedules allowed for it, they could gather together to watch the premiere episode on Friday night.

They could see how the show looked like when it airs as well as how they performed in the show.

They could also see where they could further improve on, from the guests to the production of the show.

This was also why the show would begin airing when only up to the third episode had been filmed, rather than after all the show's episodes had been filmed.

In this way, they could make adjustments based on the audience's reaction to the show, providing greater flexibility to the production process.

But no doubt, this brought a lot of pressure on the production team.

From each week's theme, production, to the final editing, they had a very limited time frame to work with, yet they had to ensure the high quality of the show produced within this limited time allotted to them.

If there was an episode with a bad reception or if, starting from the first episode, the reaction was already not good, then they would have to stay up late for several nights to change their plans.

Hence, whenever an episode of the show was about to air, Lu Dongliu would feel increasingly stressed.

He even had fever blisters around his mouth, all because there was too much "heat" in his body.

After receiving the notification, Shi Xiaoya thought about it before taking the initiative to contact Han Zhuoling in a rare move.

She sent him a message on WeChat. "I just received the notification from the director. Filming starts on Saturday. Does this fit your schedule?"

When Shi Xiaoya sent the message, Han Zhuoling was in a meeting.

His phone was placed right before him on the table and put on silent mode.

But this did not prevent him from seeing the notification on the screen when it lit up and that it was Shi Xiaoya's name showing up on the display.

Han Zhuoling was listening to a report at the moment. He had never been distracted by these things when working and never bothered about them.

Often, when there were some private matters that came up while he was working, he'd end up forgetting about it later.

Even once he was done with work, he'd only realized it after the day was over.

But now, Han Zhuoling could not help but keep glancing at his phone screen.

He wondered what Shi Xiaoya said to him, and he was itching to see it.

It was the first time he felt that looking at private messages was actually more important than work.

This was the first time a situation like this occurred ever since he started working officially.

Han Zhuoling could not stand it in the end. He lifted his hand to slide and unlock the phone screen and saw the message Shi Xiaoya had sent to him.

"It fits." Han Zhuoling's phone was still placed on the table in front of him. He listened to the report as he replied to Shi Xiaoya's message swiftly with one hand.

But when he saw the two plain words on the screen, he felt that it did not sound right.

He added, "I will take care of the air tickets. You don't have to worry. I'll let you know what time to set off afterward."

"Okay," Shi Xiaoya quickly replied.

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She did not expect Han Zhuoling to reply to her so fast.

Right after sending her message, she regretted it. Thinking of how it was working hours now, and given Han Zhuoling's workaholic personality, she thought he would surely be very busy.

Chapter 1732: How Damn Familiar!

She wondered if she distracted him from work when she sent that message.

But thinking about it again, she felt it was good that she'd sent a message rather than called him. If he was not free, he would not have replied immediately.

Hence, Shi Xiaoya was already mentally prepared that she would not receive Han Zhuoling's reply immediately.

Who knew that he'd actually reply to her within seconds.

It was not only Shi Xiaoya who did not expect it; even the people in the same meeting as Han Zhuoling were shocked.

What did they just see?!

Usually, the moment they had a meeting with Han Zhuoling, each of them would be so nervous that they would not even dare to exhale out loud.

From the moment they walked out of their offices, they would quickly set their phones to silent mode, afraid that they would forget to do so before the meeting and end up making a mistake in front of Han Zhuoling.

So in meetings with Han Zhuoling, everyone was especially quiet. Except for the report, no other sound could be heard.

And Han Zhuoling had never been distracted in meetings before.

But now, he was actually looking at his phone!

And he was openly using his phone on the table!

The department manager who was giving the report hesitated, unsure if he should continue speaking.

Because he did not know whether Han Zhuoling was listening to him.

Han Zhuoling sent out the message and sensed the hesitation in the department manager's words, so he plainly said, "Continue."

"Yes."

The manager continued with the report. As much as he was nervous in front of Han Zhuoling, he still could not contain his curiosity and secretly glanced sideways to see Han Zhuoling's reaction.

Han Zhuoling's gaze would occasionally shift to his phone.

Even if his phone was locked and did not light up, he would still slide to unlock it occasionally to take a look.

Everyone was struggling to contain their curiosity.

Whose message was First Young Master Han waiting for?

He looked so anxious waiting for it.

They really wanted to know who had sent the message was. Who could receive such treatment and actually make Han Zhuoling distracted enough to read a message while at work?

In the end, Han Zhuoling was disappointed. After replying with “okay,” Shi Xiaoya did not send any more messages.

Why was she so aloof?

He did not know, but it was actually because Shi Xiaoya was afraid that she was disturbing him at work.

She felt a little regretful that she’d not been mindful of her actions, actually sending him a message during work hours.

Hence, after receiving Han Zhuoling’s reply, Shi Xiaoya did not feel good about disturbing him further.

And so, until after the meeting ended, aside from an “okay” from Shi Xiaoya, he did not receive any other reply.

Han Zhuoling walked out of the meeting with a sullen look on his face, leaving the various department managers exchanging glances with each other.

“What’s... What’s going on with Young Master Ling? Why did he suddenly get into a bad mood?”

Although Han Zhuoling had always maintained a stern expression, when he was in a bad mood, it was still obvious enough for others to tell.

Especially now, when his whole body was emanating black fumes.

“Previously when he was looking at his phone, I saw that he seemed to be in quite a good mood,” someone said.

When Han Zhuoling replied, although he could not see Han Zhuoling’s reply and who he was replying to, this person had been secretly observing Han Zhuoling’s expression.

That face of his looked so gentle that it was as if he was a completely different person.

“Speaking of this, it’s not uncommon for Young Master Ling to receive notifications on his phone, but I have never seen him reply to messages so quickly before, much less during a meeting.” Someone asked politely, “I wonder who he’s messaging for him to not care about the meeting anymore?”

“This scenario seems a little familiar,” someone suddenly said in a small voice.

Everybody: “...”

It was really... so damn familiar!

Having been reminded of this, everyone suddenly recalled how, back when Han Zhuoli was still only dating Lu Man, he’d behaved exactly like that.

Chapter 1733: Coming Back Overnight

They did not know it was Lu Man back then.

But at that time, when Han Zhuoli was having a meeting, as long as Lu Man called, Han Zhuoli would immediately stop the meeting and go out and talk to Lu Man first.

He would come back and continue the meeting after he was done talking.

When pitted against his wife, work and meetings and the like all had to give way.

The first time they saw Han Zhuoli like that, they were also very shocked.

But after a few times, they got used to it.

But they'd thought at first that Han Zhuoling would not be like that.

After all, Han Zhuoling was someone who would even not go back home just to work.

Yet now, even he knew how to message a girl!

How did they know it was a girl?

No man would have such a huge charm!

Just looking at how gentle Han Zhuoling looked when he sent that message, they could be sure that it was a lady.

He was only messaging her now. Looks like it would be just a matter of time before he stopped the meeting to answer her calls.

This pair of brothers really loved beautiful ladies more than their careers.

Han Zhuoli was originally a workaholic too.

But ever since he got together with Lu Man, his focus completely shifted to Lu Man and even his work had to stand aside.

Although his work had not been affected, Han Zhuoli's actions were obviously showing that his work was not as important as Lu Man.

Yet they did not expect that it would now be Han Zhuoling's turn to be like that.

Han Zhuoling returned to his office and called Tong Chunian in.

"Young Master Ling," Tong Chunian greeted after he came in.

Han Zhuoling said, "Go and arrange something for me. I want a private jet to Ning City on Friday."

Han Zhuoling gave Tong Chunian the exact address that Lu Dongliu had sent to him. "The third episode of *Survivor* will be filmed here."

Tong Chunian saw the address and said, "This is a tourist destination that's quite a distance away from Ning City. It's an ancient fortress that had been restored after it suffered some damage."

As it was an ancient site, the location would surely be far away from the city.

This huge fortress looked more like a castle, lofty and magnificent. It was a very famous tourist attraction.

To protect this fortress, the local authorities had set a quota on the number of visitors allowed per day. Visitors needed to book a visit in advance and could only book a slot on another day if the slots for a particular day were already filled.

It was evident how popular that place was.

“The details of the filming are not clear, but the first stop for filming will be that fortress,” Han Zhuoling said.

“I understand. I’ll arrange it now,” Tong Chunian said. “The production team has booked a hotel in a county outside of Ning City because it was the closest to the fortress. There is no airport within the county. The nearest landing point can only be in Ning City. I will arrange for a car to be waiting by the airport to fetch you and Miss Shi to that county.”

Tong Chunian quickly did a search on his phone. “From the airport in Ning City to the hotel in the county booked by the production team, it would take around one and a half hours to arrive by car.”

“Alright, just do that,” Han Zhuoling said.

“Yes.” Tong Chunian nodded. “Then what about coming back? When will you and Miss Shi come back?”

“On Monday,” Han Zhuoling said.

Tong Chunian was surprised. Han Zhuoling was actually not coming back overnight.

Was he not intending to come to work on Monday?

“What’s the matter?” Han Zhuoling looked up, seeing that Tong Chunian was still around and did not go out immediately to arrange the matter.

“Nothing, nothing.” Tong Chunian thought about it before asking, “Then for your schedule on Monday, do you want me to cancel everything?”

“Let’s talk about that after confirming the exact time we will return,” Han Zhuoling said.

“Okay.” After Tong Chunian was done speaking, he immediately went to make arrangements and communicate with the airport.

Chapter 1734: You Did This All for Me?

Not long after, he confirmed the schedule and came back to tell Han Zhuoling.

“Young Master Ling, I’ve arranged everything,” Tong Chunian said. “The flight will be at 11 AM in the morning. It takes two hours to arrive at Ning City, so yours will be around 1 PM in the afternoon. After you’ve alighted, the drive will take one and a half hours. If everything goes smoothly, you can reach the hotel booked by the production team at slightly after 3 PM.”

Han Zhuoling nodded. Tong Chunian continued, “As for the return flight, it will be on Monday afternoon at 1 PM, with the time needed to travel from the county to Ning City already accounted for, as well as the extra time for arriving early at the airport. If the flight was too early, you all might need to set off before dawn.”

“The timing is fine.” Han Zhuoling calculated the time needed to return to B City and said, “Cancel my schedule on Monday. After I come back, I will settle the work for Friday and Monday.”

“Yes,” Tong Chunian answered.

After he went out, Han Zhuoling then sent a message to Shi Xiaoya. "Are you working now?"

Very soon, Shi Xiaoya replied, "I'm editing a video. Aren't you busy now? I regretted sending you a message, afraid that I was disturbing you from work, so I did not dare to message you again."

"It's alright." When Han Zhuoling saw her explanation, he then understood why she only sent him the word "okay." His spirits instantly lifted and his mood went back to the point when he first received Shi Xiaoya's message in the meeting room.

"I went to arrange the flight schedule just now," Han Zhuoling explained. "It's an 11 AM flight on Friday. Are you okay with that?"

"Yeah, sure." After learning of the filming location, Shi Xiaoya felt very fortunate that she had Han Zhuoling going there with her.

After sending Han Zhuoling the message, she went to check the address of the hotel that the production team had booked.

It was in a county that was far away from Ning City. There was no railway in that county, so she and Guo Yujie could only sit in a car ride all the way there.

But to be honest, as the closest place to the fortress, that county was a place that tourists had to pass through.

Wherever there were many tourists, there would naturally be some common disturbances typical of tourist destinations.

Situations like overcharging customers and the like were notoriously common and severe, and the situation had not seen improvements up 'til now.

If it were just two girls like her and Guo Yujie, they would not feel assured and it would really be quite scary for them.

With Han Zhuoling around to make arrangements, they instantly felt more assured.

"We are returning on Monday. Is that okay?" Han Zhuoling asked again.

"The filming ends on Sunday. Aren't we going back straight after?" Shi Xiaoya asked.

She thought that Han Zhuoling would be rushing to return to work.

Han Zhuoling raised his eyebrow. He could not help but chuckle. "Am I such a workaholic in your eyes?"

Shi Xiaoya thought to herself, "Isn't that the case?"

She was struggling to think of how to reply to Han Zhuoling, but Han Zhuoling had already sent another message. "After the filming ends on Sunday, it would take quite a while to return to Ning City from the county. Since that's the case, we would need to rush back overnight. By the time we arrive, it would nearly be dawn. This will be too tiring for you."

Shi Xiaoya paused for a moment. She paused the video she was editing and stared dumbstruck at the words Han Zhuoling had just sent over.

So, he decided to come back a day later for her sake?

If it was just him, he would definitely go back overnight.

Next, she saw Han Zhuoling send the return schedule on Monday.

Shi Xiaoya roughly calculated. In this way, by the time they reached B City, it would be the afternoon already. Many of his work schedules that he'd originally planned for would need to be changed.

Just for her, he changed the habits and principles he had been used to all this time.

Shi Xiaoya's heart was beating especially fast. "Then... Young Master Ling, you're doing all this for me?"

Chapter 1735: What Do You Think?

Han Zhuoling smiled at his phone screen. He kind of wanted to know what Shi Xiaoya was thinking at this moment.

"What do you think?" he replied.

Shi Xiaoya subconsciously bit on her lower lip. "Your work will get delayed because of me. I feel really bad about it."

After Shi Xiaoya sent that message, she realized something in shock. Was Han Zhuoling saying that to him, she was more important than his work?

Shi Xiaoya's heart skipped a beat, as if her heart was on a roller coaster ride at this moment.

Her hands became slack slightly, and her phone slipped down onto the table.

She cupped her heated cheeks and kept staring at the words on the screen.

What do you think?

What... what could she think?

"If not for you, I would come back on Friday," Han Zhuoling wrote. "But I also don't think that coming back one day later with you counts as delaying my work."

Han Zhuoling did not say that even his participation in the filming for the third episode was also because of her.

Because of her, he had long since broken too many of his own principles.

Shi Xiaoya stared at that reply and did not even know what to say anymore.

She was afraid that she was thinking too much, afraid that she would misunderstand. But she clearly was already letting her thoughts wander elsewhere, yet she did not dare to really ask out loud about it.

In the end, as if possessed, she messaged him and said, "Young Master Ling, you already have two ties in my house."

Han Zhuoling: "..."

He said all these and this was all she had to say?

Han Zhuoling laughed in exasperation.

This girl!

“As we have to set off on Friday, I want to use the time these next two days to settle my work on Friday. I will be working overtime these two days, so I won’t be able to go over to take them,” Han Zhuoling said.

No matter how dense Shi Xiaoya was, she too knew that Han Zhuoling treated her differently.

It’s true she had not seen his usual attitude towards other women.

But judging from Han Zhuoling’s personality, she really could not imagine him being so pleasant and considerate towards other women.

He might not even have a smile for them.

Shi Xiaoya did not do as she did before and mindlessly suggest that she send the ties over to him personally.

She secretly thought to herself that maybe she could even use the ties as an excuse to see him a few more times.

Also, she felt that having two of his ties around in her home right now was not too bad either.

Every time she opened her drawer to take out her accessories, she would be able to see his two ties placed beside her accessories. There was an indescribable intimacy to that.

Shi Xiaoya would not say it, but every morning when she took out her accessories, she would blush a little when she saw those two ties.

Han Zhuoling still did not know about all these thoughts that Shi Xiaoya had in her mind. He was afraid that Shi Xiaoya would say something like her going over to give him back the ties.

So he quickly typed a message. “I will go and fetch you at 9 AM on Friday.”

“Okay.” Shi Xiaoya did not intend to take the initiative to return them to him either, so she did not find it too strange that Han Zhuoling suddenly changed the topic.

Both of them ended their conversation and Shi Xiaoya continued editing her video.

Today was Wednesday, so they would be setting off the day after tomorrow.

It was not only Han Zhuoling who’s going to be busy these next two days; even Shi Xiaoya would be busy as she had to settle beforehand the work that needed to be done when she would not be around. Hence, she stayed in the work studio to work overtime and did not have the time to think about her relationship with Han Zhuoling.

This lasted until Friday morning, when Shi Xiaoya woke up at 7 AM.

Speaking of it, she and Han Zhuoling had not met again ever since the friendly exchange competition the previous time around.

Although that was only a few days ago, Shi Xiaoya felt that it had been such a long time.

Although they contacted each other over WeChat during those few days, the feeling was not the same.

Thinking of how they were going to meet again today, Shi Xiaoya woke up by herself before the alarm rang, which was a rare occurrence.

Once she washed up, thinking of the long journey ahead, she only used concealer to cover up the dark eye circles under her eyes that came about from staying up overnight.

Chapter 1736: Why Did She Even Hit Me?

She only applied a light layer of this under her eyes, which complemented her original skin tone very well.

As for the other areas, she did not put on any foundation, lest the makeup smudges after a long time, which might look even more awkward.

After applying sunscreen, she pressed on only a very thin layer of loose powder, creating an airbrushed effect on the sides of her nose where her pores were slightly more obvious. Afterward, she simply drew her brows and applied some colored lip balm before going to prepare breakfast.

There was bread in the fridge, along with salad dressing, cucumber, tomatoes, and some ham slices.

Shi Xiaoya thought about it and checked the time. It was already 7:40 AM.

She wondered if Han Zhuoling was awake, so she sent him a message on WeChat. "Young Master Ling, have you had breakfast? Do you want me to prepare breakfast for you?"

Han Zhuoling had woken up a long time ago. He was having breakfast in the dining room and was preparing to leave at 8 AM sharp to go and fetch Shi Xiaoya.

He was having porridge and had already eaten half when he received Shi Xiaoya's message. Han Zhuoling immediately put down the spoon.

He immediately replied. "I haven't eaten. I just woke up. I stayed up late so I woke up a little later. I am preparing to leave the house now."

When Shi Xiaoya saw that, she felt that he should not go out on an empty stomach.

So she quickly said, "Then I'll prepare breakfast for you. What do you want to eat?"

"Up to you. I'll have the same as you. Breakfast doesn't need to be too troublesome," Han Zhuoling replied.

"Alright."

After his conversation with Shi Xiaoya, Han Zhuoling stood up and returned to the living room, putting on the coat he had left on the sofa.

"You haven't finished your breakfast," Lin Liye immediately said when she saw that.

“I’m not eating anymore. I’m going to another place to eat,” Han Zhuoling said.

“Eh?” Lin Liye smelled gossip in the air and said, “To another place? Where to?”

“Aren’t you setting off for filming today?” Lin Liye still did not know that Han Zhuoling was going to fetch Shi Xiaoya, so she nagged, “You are really dense. Isn’t Shi Xiaoya part of the production crew’s makeup team? Didn’t it occur to you to go and fetch her so you could go together?! Anyway, you both have to join the production crew together, so you could even take care of her on the way there—”

As Lin Liye talked and talked, she suddenly stopped.

She was picking up a crystal prawn dumpling with her chopsticks as she asked Han Zhuoling, “You’re not going to pick up Xiaoya right now, are you?”

God knows where Han Zhuoling got his sense of superiority from as he puffed out his chest, lifted his chin up, and said, “She said she’s going to prepare breakfast for me. I’m going to her place to eat.”

Plop!

Lin Liye’s hand relaxed, and the crystal prawn dumpling dropped onto the table.

But Lin Liye did not care about that. She threw her chopsticks to the side as she rushed out excitedly.

“Aiyo. You punk, you finally learned to think things through!” Lin Liye smacked her palm on Han Zhuoling’s elbow.

Han Zhuoling: “...”

He rubbed his elbow, thinking to himself, shouldn’t he be praised for such a good thing?

Why did she even hit him?

“Then quickly go,” Lin Liye urged. “Don’t let Xiaoya wait too long.”

Hence, Han Zhuoling was almost pushed out of the door by Lin Liye.

Lin Liye even said to him at the door, “Try your best during this time at the production set!”

When she was closing the door, before the door fully closed, Han Zhuoling could still faintly hear Lin Liye muttering, “Aiyo, my child has finally grown up. He knows how to like girls now.”

Han Zhuoling: “...”

She made him sound like Han Zhuofeng, that fool.

Han Zhuoling shook his head and laughed before going back to knock on the door.

Not long after, Lin Liye came and opened the door. “Why are you still here?”

“...” Han Zhuoling said resignedly, “I didn’t bring my suitcase, or my car keys, and my things are all at home. How am I supposed to leave?”

Chapter 1737: Don’t Have a Card

Lin Liye: “...”

She could only let Han Zhuoling back in and even urge him, "Then hurry up. Don't let Xiaoya wait anxiously."

Han Zhuoling took his car keys and luggage. Once he'd confirmed that his phone was in his pocket, he then said, "Don't worry. Your daughter-in-law won't be able to run away."

Lin Liye happily sent Han Zhuoling out of the house.

Han Zhuoling then drove to Shi Xiaoya's house.

But at the lift door, he was stopped.

He did not have a card, so he could not go up.

Han Zhuoling then recalled how, when Shi Nancang came, he went up directly by swiping a card, without any obstruction in his way.

Han Zhuoling felt a little moody and sighed deeply before he called Shi Xiaoya.

Shi Xiaoya had prepared all the ingredients needed for breakfast. Once Han Zhuoling came, she would be able to prepare breakfast.

At that moment, she received Han Zhuoling's call.

"Young Master Ling," Shi Xiaoya greeted. Before she even saw him, she felt like her heart was already beating much faster.

"I'm at the lift door, but I don't have a card, so I can't go up," Han Zhuoling said on the phone.

"Oh, I'll come down to fetch you right now," Shi Xiaoya immediately said. "Hang on!"

After ending the call, she smacked her head. How could she forget about this?

Shi Xiaoya took her card and quickly went downstairs.

Han Zhuoling was waiting by the lift and thinking of how to ask Shi Xiaoya for a card.

He was a little too engrossed thinking about that until the lift sounded with a "dang" and slowly opened.

Shi Xiaoya appeared before him just like that.

She was clearly wearing casual clothes.

Loose white turtleneck sweater and a pair of light wash jeans.

As she came out in a rush, she did not even have time to change out of her shoes and just wore her slippers out.

This was a very casual getup, yet Han Zhuoling simply felt that she looked absolutely beautiful.

Her furry turtleneck was thick and big, covering a little bit of her chin and complementing her snow-white complexion.

"Young Master Ling," Shi Xiaoya greeted. "Sorry, I forgot you don't have a card."

Han Zhuoling nodded and quickly walked into the lift.

He furrowed his brows and asked disapprovingly, "Why did you come out wearing so little?"

Although Han Zhuoling felt that she looked absolutely stunning in this outfit, it was already winter now, so wearing so little out would not be warm enough for the cold.

Furthermore, she was wearing slippers that exposed her toes.

Her five, fair toes looked like primary school students lined up by height, hidden beneath her slippers, revealing only her pink toenails.

Winter shoes were thick so those toes could not be seen once she wore them. It was only now that Han Zhuoling knew that her toenails were colored pink, and they looked really exquisite.

Looking at them made them seem like pink pearls lined up together.

Shi Xiaoya was not sure if Han Zhuoling was really looking at her feet.

But when she saw that he was gazing down, she subconsciously retracted her toes.

Han Zhuoling's gaze darkened a little as he saw that half of those pearl-like toenails were now hidden beneath the slippers, leaving only half of them exposed, as if they were playing hide-and-seek with him.

Shi Xiaoya swallowed hard before saying, "I was only thinking that since we'd be indoors and I'm only heading out for a while, I did not need to put on a coat."

"Then why are your feet exposed?" Han Zhuoling frowned and said, "If your feet get too cold, it won't be good for your body."

So that was why he was looking at her feet just now.

Shi Xiaoya thought this to herself.

"There's air con at home, so it's really warm, so I changed into these slippers that expose my toes. I was rushing out, so I didn't bother changing out of them," Shi Xiaoya explained.

"I'm just waiting here. It's nothing urgent, so why the rush?" Han Zhuoling said helplessly.

Chapter 1738: Why Don't You Give Me a Card?

"Just... I don't want to make you wait downstairs for too long," Shi Xiaoya said in a small voice as she lowered her head, making her seem even more obedient.

"Why don't you give me a card?" Han Zhuoling seized the chance to say.

"Ah?" Shi Xiaoya felt that there was definitely a word that she misheard.

Han Zhuoling cleared his throat and said, "Give me a card that can access the lift. In this way, the next time I come, I can go up straight away, so you don't need to come down yourself to fetch me."

Han Zhuoling paused for a moment, then said, "Of course, only if you trust me enough."

"Of course I trust you," Shi Xiaoya said.

What was there not to trust about Han Zhuoling?

Seeing how she'd said so confidently without even thinking about it, Han Zhuoling curved his lips up and said, "I'll only come when you're at home. If you're not at home, I won't go up by myself. And I will let you know before I come. I won't suddenly come into your house. Actually, I just want it for convenience's sake to avoid a situation like today. I won't need to trouble you to come down then."

Shi Xiaoya felt a little muddled by Han Zhuoling. Thinking about it, it seemed like there was nothing much to object to either.

Besides giving Han Zhuoling an extra card, there really didn't seem to be any difference.

If he was to come over for something or if he came over to visit, he would definitely have to let her know beforehand.

Then there would not be much difference from before.

But giving Han Zhuoling a card just felt weird somehow.

As if he had the keys to her house. It felt especially intimate.

"If you think it's not convenient then it's okay. No worries." Although he said that, Han Zhuoling's voice was tinged with just a little hint of sadness in it, and his stern face all along actually also revealed a hint of hurt.

"I don't mean that I don't trust you!" Shi Xiaoya quickly said, afraid that Han Zhuoling would think she did not trust him and was guarding against him.

But to tell the truth, what could she guard against Han Zhuoling?!

Guard against him stealing her money or outraging her modesty?

That was impossible!

Shi Xiaoya was shocked by Han Zhuoling's hurt expression. In the heat of the moment, she simply took out her own card, passed it over, and said, "I don't mean anything else! You can take this card. You don't have to wait for me to come down and fetch you next time, or else it would really be quite inconvenient."

After Shi Xiaoya said it, erm... next time...

Did Han Zhuoling mean that he wanted to come over to her house often next time?

Shi Xiaoya could not help but smile a little before she quickly suppressed it.

She handed him the card, which made her feel as if they were a couple exchanging keys.

Her fingers were holding the black card, highlighting the fairness of her hands, which were unbelievably pretty.

Han Zhuoling reached out and held the card as well.

Both displayed their thumbs, but his just looked a little more rough than Shi Xiaoya's, and it was not as fair as hers.

Seeing her milky white skin, Han Zhuoling really felt like using his fingers to reach out to pinch her milky white fingers, wondering if it was as soft and tender as milk or tofu.

A pity, though. Han Zhuoling could only dare to think about it now rather than make a rash move, lest she thought he was a pervert.

He had finally just managed to appease her and coax her back after he misunderstood her and made her angry previously.

To tell the truth, Han Zhuoling really did not dare to go too far at that moment.

And Shi Xiaoya had already let go, so Han Zhuoling took the card and put it in his pocket.

Despite knowing the answer, he still put on an act and asked, "Is this the card you always use?"

"Yeah. This is the card I always bring with me," Shi Xiaoya said.

"Then if you give it to me, what about yourself?" Han Zhuoling asked.

"It's fine, I have a spare card at home," Shi Xiaoya said.

Chapter 1739: He Noted It Down

Han Zhuoling nodded. He was quite happy at first, but he suddenly thought of a problem and instantly felt not so happy.

"Don't give your card away to others so easily next time," Han Zhuoling said.

"..." Shi Xiaoya thought to herself, "If not for your pitiful expression, why would I give my card to you?"

"Of course not. This card is just like my house keys. How can I give it to other people so easily?" Shi Xiaoya said.

Why would Han Zhuoling think of it that way? How strange.

Han Zhuoling explained, "I was just worried that you will trust other people too easily."

"I won't. Even if I trusted the person, giving them my card would still feel weird." After saying that, Shi Xiaoya even stole a glance at Han Zhuoling.

Han Zhuoling's lips curved up and he asked again, "Does Qin Zigou have your house card?"

"No." Shi Xiaoya realized that Han Zhuoling seemed to really mind Qin Zigou. He always asked if Qin Zigou had something, or if Qin Zigou was around.

Just like children comparing themselves to each other in kindergarten.

Shi Xiaoya explained, "I only have four cards in total. I have one with me, one I gave to my elder brother, another to my mom so that she can come and visit me whenever. The Auntie at home who can send the groceries over to my house after buying them also uses my mom's card. The last card, I left at home as a spare card just in case. Now that I'm giving you this card, I will be using the spare card."

As for Qin Zigou, he was normally even busier than her. Because of work, he had to travel often and would often go out on business trips again a few days after coming back from the previous trip.

So it would be no use even if she gave one to Qin Zigou.

However, Shi Xiaoya's intuition told her that she should not say that. She did not know why, but as long as she mentioned Qin Zigou, Han Zhuoling would definitely be unhappy.

So Shi Xiaoya astutely did not elaborate too much.

Indeed, Han Zhuoling seemed to be in good spirits.

The lift door opened and both of them entered the entrance foyer of the house.

There was a heater in the house, so it was warmer compared to just having the aircon on. Usually, Shi Xiaoya had to open the windows too, or else the house would feel too hot.

Hence, she did not need to change into the thick slippers she wore previously.

Shi Xiaoya then found the pair of autumn-style home slippers that Han Zhuoling bought the previous time around for him to wear.

This pair was not a couple's slippers anymore, because the pair that Shi Xiaoya was currently wearing was the one that she bought when she saw it in a shop and felt was cute while casually strolling along the streets after work. This was during the time when she went overseas to be Gao Zishan's makeup artist for her attendance in a film festival.

Han Zhuoling changed into the slippers and noticed that his were different from Shi Xiaoya's. He laughed dryly to himself and took a mental note of this.

Shi Xiaoya checked the time. It was a quarter past eight, so there was enough time. She then let Han Zhuoling in to have a seat.

Thinking that they had a whole day's journey ahead, Shi Xiaoya used the coffee machine to make two cups of coffee.

She toasted a few slices of bread. There were fruit jam, chocolate sauce, and peanut butter in the fridge.

She then made some fried eggs and scrambled eggs, then prepared some fresh salad and a plate of sliced fruits.

She then placed them on the dining table, which looked quite sumptuous.

Shi Xiaoya said in an embarrassed tone, "I only have these for breakfast at home."

"No worries. These are very good." Han Zhuoling was already half-full from eating breakfast at home after all.

But in front of Shi Xiaoya, he was afraid that if he ate too little, it might make Shi Xiaoya misunderstand that he did not like it, so he forced himself to eat quite a lot.

After finishing the last mouthful of coffee, Han Zhuoling secretly rubbed his stomach.

He ate too much.

However, Shi Xiaoya was very happy when she saw that Han Zhuoling actually finished everything.

She was afraid that it might not be to Han Zhuoling's taste and that he would not like it.

"Are these not enough?" Seeing that Han Zhuoling had finished all of it, Shi Xiaoya said, "Should I go and make some more?"

Chapter 1740: Almost Touching Her Back

"No need." Han Zhuoling quickly stopped her. "I am already full."

"Really?" Shi Xiaoya asked. "Please don't be polite with me. You must really eat until you're full."

"Really. You saw how much I ate already." Han Zhuoling smiled and said, "I already stuffed myself full."

Han Zhuoling placed his hand on his stomach and suddenly said, "If you don't believe me, you can touch it."

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

That would be weird if she did!

Shi Xiaoya looked as if she'd seen a ghost as she stared at Han Zhuoling.

Over her dead body would she ever imagine that Han Zhuoling would say such a thing.

And... even let her touch him!

Why did she feel like he was taking liberties with her?

Han Zhuoling stood up nonchalantly as if he never said such a thing. He paced back and forth to aid with digestion.

Meanwhile, Shi Xiaoya cleared the plates and put them into the dishwasher.

When she was done cleaning up and came back to the living room, she saw that Han Zhuoling was still standing there.

She was living alone, so she felt that this house was quite big already and was spacious enough.

But now that Han Zhuoling was standing there, she instantly felt as if her originally spacious living room looked more squeezed now.

As if there was no space for her to set foot on.

It would be squeezey wherever she was standing.

"What's wrong?" Hearing her, Han Zhuoling turned around.

The light shone brilliantly through the glass door behind him, casting light on his silhouette, making him look even more handsome, as if he was a bright prince standing smartly. The sight was indescribably good-looking.

Suddenly, Shi Xiaoya saw out of the corner of her eye a flutter of white outside the window behind him.

“It’s snowing!” Shi Xiaoya exclaimed.

When Han Zhuoling turned back to look, he saw Shi Xiaoya running past him and quickly opening the glass door before going out to the balcony.

The balcony was open air and had plants on it.

Seeing that she did not even put on a coat, and that her slippers were leaving her toes exposed as she stood outside to feel the cold winds and snow, he looked left and right, but there was no sign of Shi Xiaoya’s coat in the living room.

He did not feel it was good to go to Shi Xiaoya’s bedroom to flip through her cabinets, so he could only walk outside just like that.

As he walked, he took off his own coat and put it on Shi Xiaoya.

The sudden weight and warmth that came with it made Shi Xiaoya tremble slightly.

Turning around, she saw Han Zhuoling standing behind her, close to touching her back.

His hands were still on her shoulders. Beneath the thick coat, she could still feel the heat from his palms.

Amid the cold winter winds, there was a faint hint of his cologne. She wondered if it came from his coat or if it came from his body.

Shi Xiaoya was shocked and wanted to return the coat to him immediately. “Why did you give me your coat? How cold you must be!”

“Since you know it’s cold, why didn’t you put on a coat before you came out?” Han Zhuoling chided disapprovingly. “The snow won’t stop in a moment.”

Shi Xiaoya stuck out her tongue. In the vast whiteness of the snow, her pink tongue disappeared in a flash.

When Han Zhuoling saw that, his gaze darkened.

He did not feel cold at all in that moment. He actually felt his whole body heating up.

“It’s almost time. Let’s prepare to leave,” Han Zhuoling said in a hoarse voice.

Shi Xiaoya thought that since he was dressed too thinly, his throat felt uncomfortable, but Han Zhuoling kept his hands firmly on her shoulders and did not let her take off the coat.

So they could only go back into the house.

Shi Xiaoya passed the coat to him. “Quick, wear it.”

Han Zhuoling put on the coat and Shi Xiaoya went to lock the glass door to the balcony. She checked the power sources in the house first before she went to put on a coat.

Her luggage was already at the entrance foyer.

