

Mr Han 1831

Chapter 1831: Don't Be So Open About It

He glanced at the others and said, "But say, it's Shi'an who wants to get to know my younger sister. What are you guys coming to join in the fun for?"

"Aren't we here because we're worried that Xiaoya will feel awkward?" Chen Sibin said. "Oh, when Xiaoya comes in a moment and only Shi'an is here, even a fool would know what you guys are up to. Aren't you worried that if Xiaoya gets upset, she will settle scores with you afterward?"

"Hey!" Shen Shi'an was upset now. "If you say this, I will be the one who's upset. Why would she be upset when she sees me? Am I that bad?"

"No, I'm just saying what if." Chen Sibin quickly smiled and explained, "After all, Xiaoya has known us for quite some time already. We are all Nancang's friends, so Xiaoya knows us all. All this long while, she never had the slightest feeling towards you. You think that just because of this one time, she will like you the moment she comes? Xiaoya treats us all like brothers."

"If she has no feelings for you and, because of today's incident, the relationship suddenly takes a turn, making her avoid you next time, you won't even have a chance to woo her. Tell me, do you think it will be awkward or not?" Chen Sibin explained his analysis.

Shen Shi'an: "..."

"So, if we're all here, the atmosphere wouldn't be so awkward, and the purpose wouldn't be so obvious. When the time comes, we can even support you. You can first interact more with Xiaoya as Nancang's friend and slowly let her get used to you, then eventually accept you," Chen Sibin said.

"..." Shi Nancang's mouth twitched. "I'm still here, and you guys are already discussing how to woo my younger sister. Can you guys not talk about it so openly?"

Although he knew, they were all reliable people.

Or else, he could not introduce them to Shi Xiaoya either.

But this still gave him a feeling that a pig was coming to woo his younger sister.

On this side, Shi Xiaoya ended the call and apologized to Han Zhuoling. "My brother insists that I go."

She wanted to stay with Han Zhuoling for a longer time too.

"I'll go with you," Han Zhuoling said.

"Huh?" Shi Xiaoya stopped unpacking, feeling stunned.

Han Zhuoling said, "I will be going to meet your elders anyway. I can meet your older brother and greet him first."

Seeing the stupefied look on Shi Xiaoya's face, Han Zhuoling pulled her up and said, "Your older brother dotes on you so much. If we don't let him know first that we are already in a relationship, won't he be angry?"

"He won't be angry, but he will probably feel depressed." After Han Zhuoling's reminder, Shi Xiaoya felt that it was still better to let her older brother know first and have him be mentally prepared, so she agreed.

It had only been a while after they came back. Shi Xiaoya still did not want to leave the house so soon. She was really very tired, so she decided to rest for a while.

There was still time anyway.

Han Zhuoling sat beside her. Shi Xiaoya leaned her head to the side and rested on his shoulder.

Han Zhuoling tilted his head sideways and saw her closing her eyes, looking very sweet, and it calmed his own heart as well.

This was what he'd imagined previously. The two of them being together quietly. Even if they were not talking, it would still be very comfortable.

"Why don't I tell my older brother that I don't want to go after all? That I'm really too tired to go out?" Shi Xiaoya mumbled.

How good would it be if she could just order takeout with Han Zhuoling at home.

Although Han Zhuoling wanted that too, at this moment, he actually smiled and said, "Let's just go and take a look, since we already said we're going."

"Aish, okay." Shi Xiaoya was only just saying that anyway.

She'd agreed to Shi Nancang's invitation, so she would not go back on her word.

Both of them left the house and took Han Zhuoling's car to go to Sheng Yue.

Chapter 1832: Who Did You Say It Was?

When they got off the car, Han Zhuoling came over and held Shi Xiaoya's hand.

Previously, when they were with the production team, there were only the same few people around them.

But here, there were much more people around.

Shi Xiaoya was not really used to it at first.

This was her first time being so openly together with Han Zhuoling among such a huge crowd in public.

But Han Zhuoling did not want to hide their relationship at all and was very open about it. This made Shi Xiaoya feel really touched in her heart.

Shi Xiaoya felt uncomfortable much more because she felt shy. But after all, it got better.

She held Han Zhuoling's hand back and they walked to Sheng Yue together.

The manager did not expect Han Zhuoling to come today. It was mainly because no one had received a booking from Han Zhuoling.

Sheng Yue was the property of Yan Beicheng.

And Han Zhuoling was good friends with all the people from the eight great families.

But usually, when they came over, they would notify them in advance so that the restaurant could prepare the rooms beforehand.

The moment they receive a notification from them, when they come, the general manager of Sheng Yue would be standing at the door, waiting to welcome them personally.

Even if they came every day, the general manager would stand there every day to welcome them.

Basically, they must definitely be treated with the highest respect.

They would definitely not slack on their treatment just because they came often.

But today, it was really because they did not know Han Zhuoling would come and did not receive any notice.

The manager felt lucky that he was here and quickly came to welcome him. "Young Master Ling, our general manager did not know that you're coming. I will let someone notify him immediately."

"No need," Han Zhuoling said. "I didn't make a reservation. I came here to meet someone."

The manager understood and saw that Shi Xiaoya was here as well.

The previous time, he saw Shi Xiaoya come together with the whole Han Family when he followed the general manager around.

At that time, he'd already asked the general manager curiously, Who exactly was this Miss Shi close with among the Han Family members?

Was it Lu Man?

But then, he saw that Shi Xiaoya was walking together with Han Zhuoling.

Now that he saw the two of them holding hands, he understood everything.

"Congratulations to the two of you!" the manager immediately said, smiling.

Han Zhuoling's cold and stern face instantly broke into a smile. Even his eyes softened and became gentle.

This change was certainly too obvious, especially on Han Zhuoling's face. One could not help but be shocked.

Anyway, the manager was dumbstruck.

He never thought there would come a day when he could actually see such an expression on Han Zhuoling's face.

Han Zhuoling's reaction was way too amazing!

"We are here to see Mr. Shi Nancang," Han Zhuoling said.

The manager nodded. "So it's Mr. Shi. Please come with me."

The manager led the way in front. Very soon, they reached the room that Shi Nancang had booked.

The manager knocked twice before opening the door.

The moment the door opened, the light laughter in the room drifted out.

Shi Xiaoya was stunned.

Shi Nancang did ask her out for dinner, but he did not tell her there would be so many people around.

The manager stood at the door and said, "Mr. Shi, Young Master Ling and Miss Shi are here."

Everyone sitting in the room thought that they'd heard wrongly.

"Who did you say it was?" As Shi Nancang turned while asking, he already saw Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya, who were standing at the door.

The manager stepped aside and ushered the two in.

Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya walked in together.

The room suddenly fell quiet, and the silence slipped into an awkward, pin-drop silence at one point.

Everyone's gaze landed on Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya's hands.

Han Zhuoling calmly scanned across the people in the room and knew he was right.

The looks on those people's faces were that of dumbfoundedness and shock, and one of them even looked disappointed.

Han Zhuoling did not know who that was, but that person was Shen Shi'an.

Chapter 1833: Han Zhuoling Is the Best

Previously, when Shi Xiaoya was at home and he heard Shi Nancang insisting on asking Shi Xiaoya to come, he'd already felt that it was strange.

Given how much Shi Nancang doted on his younger sister, since Shi Xiaoya already said she was very tired and did not want to go out, Shi Nancang would probably not insist.

That was why Han Zhuoling felt that it was weird and that there was certainly something off about this meal.

But although he found it a little weird, he did not know exactly why that was. He did not have prophetic abilities, after all.

Now, Han Zhuoling could be certain about it.

This was a matchmaking dinner!

Luckily, he came.

But he did not expect that Shi Nancang would actually take the initiative to introduce someone to Shi Xiaoya.

Where did the younger-sister control freak go?

Shi Nancang's eyes fell on Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya's hands, and they did not move away for a long time.

"You... you both..." Shi Nancang was completely stupefied.

"Brother..." Shi Xiaoya was about to make introductions when...

Han Zhuoling took over from her and said, "Hello, Mr. Shi. I am Xiaoya's boyfriend."

Shi Nancang: "..."

Everybody: "..."

They'd wanted to matchmake Shen Shi'an and Shi Xiaoya at first, yet she'd brought her boyfriend along. This made it very awkward.

Everyone wanted to leave, but they could not bear to at the same time.

This was Han Zhuoling!

It was very rare that they would have an opportunity to meet him, much less eat with him at the same table.

"When did the two of you get together?" Shi Nancang could not care whether he was Han Zhuoling or not right now. He was only left in shock.

When he went to Shi Xiaoya's home previously and saw Han Zhuoling, Han Zhuoling clearly acted as if he did not see Shi Xiaoya.

Yet they ended up together now?

Hold up!

That time, Han Zhuoling could not have come out of Shi Xiaoya's house, right?!

Hey, that temper of his!

No matter who he, Han Zhuoling, was, he was a man, and he actually came out so late from Shi Xiaoya's home!

In front of so many people, Shi Nancang could not ask out loud either.

Standing up, he put on a half-smile and said, "Xiaoya, when did the two of you get together? How come I don't know about it?"

Han Zhuoling was about to speak but Shi Xiaoya squeezed his hand.

Shi Xiaoya said, "We only officially got together the day before."

“Officially?” Shi Nancang caught that word.

Shi Xiaoya said, “We are both on the show, *Survivor*, so we—”

Shen Shi’an felt really depressed.

He’d already felt a sense of danger earlier on, but he still felt that the probability of Shi Xiaoya and Han Zhuoling getting together was not very high.

Who knew they’d actually really end up together!

Now, Shen Shi’an was no longer in the mood to look at the two of them.

“Then how long have you known each other for?” Shi Nancang immediately asked.

“Didn’t you bump into me at Sheng Yue and saw me eating together with the Han Family’s elders?” Shi Xiaoya said.

Hearing that, it really sounded quite normal.

That time, she had indeed already gotten to know Han Zhuoling.

Shi Nancang suddenly could not speak and just had a feeling that Shi Xiaoya had been led astray.

Shi Nancang felt heartbroken. His younger sister was so pure last time. Ever since she met Han Zhuoling, she’d even learned to play the card of softening the main point with him.

“Brother, shouldn’t you let us sit down first?” Shi Xiaoya reminded.

Seriously, Han Zhuoling was so good. Her brother actually looked a little displeased.

If he was displeased with Han Zhuoling, who could he be satisfied with?

Shi Xiaoya did not think that there was anyone who could be better than Han Zhuoling.

In her heart, Han Zhuoling was the best.

“Right, look at me. I was too stunned so I forgot,” Shi Nancang said. He still remembered that Han Zhuoling could not be offended, could not be offended.

He quickly invited Shi Xiaoya and Han Zhuoling to sit down.

Chapter 1834: Older Brother, What Do You Think?

Dong Qingxing smiled and said, “This became a family dinner, haha! Then it won’t be convenient if we stay, so we’ll take our leave first.”

“No worries,” Han Zhuoling said. “You guys are my elder brother-in-law’s friends. If you guys leave because I came, this would not be good. And it’s dinner time. If I let you guys leave on an empty stomach, I will feel bad.”

After Han Zhuoling said that, he turned to look at Shi Nancang. “Big Brother, what do you think?”

Shi Xiaoya: “...”

Shi Nancang: "..."

Everybody: "..."

Shi Nancang was younger than Han Zhuoling, alright?!

Han Zhuoling actually called Shi Nancang Big Brother!

It was a pity Han Zhuoli and Han Zhuofeng were not here.

If they heard their own Big Brother call someone else Big Brother, could they stand it?

Even though Shi Nancang was shocked that Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya were together— even if he felt a little upset that Shi Xiaoya obviously kept it from him—he did not dare to acknowledge this label from Han Zhuoling either.

Who the heck would dare to!

Even Shi Xiaoya could not help but pinch his hand to make him behave a little more normally.

Chen Sibin also said, "I think better not. If Young Master Ling is willing to do the honors, then we can gather together again next time. Today is the first time you and Xiaoya are meeting Nancang with this status. It won't be appropriate for us to be around. There are many words that Nancang probably would not feel comfortable saying in front of us as well. We will just take our leave for now."

Zhong Litao also pulled Shen Shi'an to get up.

Things had already come to this. Shen Shi'an knew that he was a step too late in the end. Besides feeling sad, he did not have any other thoughts.

"Yeah, we will get going first," Zhong Litao said.

"My apologies. I made you guys come all the way here today and yet you all have to leave just like that," Shi Nancang also said, feeling embarrassed.

But just like what Chen Sibin had said, he did have many things that he wanted to say to Shi Xiaoya and Han Zhuoling alone.

"We can't let you guys leave on an empty stomach," Han Zhuoling said.

He called the manager over again.

"Young Master Ling." The manager hurried over as quickly as he could and walked right over to Han Zhuoling's side.

"Open my room and let these men go in. Their meals and expenses will be on me today," Han Zhuoling said.

"Understood." The manager nodded.

"That won't do. They are my friends, so how can I make you spend money?" Shi Nancang quickly said.

Han Zhuoling smiled and said, "We're all family, there's no need to be polite."

Shi Nancang: "..."

Who is a family with you?!

The two of you have only been dating for two days!

The manager quickly stepped out of the unending fight between Shi Nancang and Han Zhuoling and said to the rest, "Sirs, please follow me here."

"Young Master Ling, you're too courteous." Dong Qingxing smiled but did not reject the offer.

The rest of them also thanked Han Zhuoling and then left.

Shen Shi'an was the last to leave, but he still could not help turning back to look at Shi Xiaoya.

Yet the moment he turned back, he happened to meet Han Zhuoling's gaze.

Han Zhuoling's presence was really too strong, such that when Han Zhuoling was looking at him, Shen Shi'an could not even turn around fully to look at Shi Xiaoya.

He saw the look in Han Zhuoling's eyes, as if he had seen through him.

Shen Shi'an quickly turned back and did not dare to look again as he followed the others to leave.

The room was only left with Han Zhuoling and the siblings.

Only then did Shi Nancang ask Shi Xiaoya, "Tell me honestly, have the two of you known each other for a long time?"

"We have known each other for a period of time," Han Zhuoling said. "Big—"

Before he could say "Brother," Shi Nancang stopped him.

"Young Master Ling, please don't call me that, I feel awkward hearing it," Shi Nancang said. "Even if you are dating Xiaoya, you still don't need to call me Big Brother."

Chapter 1835: In This Lifetime, My Heart Will Only Be Moved This Once

"Brother!" Shi Xiaoya said unhappily.

"I haven't settled the scores with you," Shi Nancang said. "What did you tell me last time? You said you weren't close to him, that it's all because you are close to Lu Man that you ate together with the Han Family elders. You said that you were walking together with him because you couldn't be a gooseberry around Lu Man and Han Zhuoli. Isn't that right?"

Shi Xiaoya hoped that Shi Nancang would stop talking soon.

She did not even dare to look at Han Zhuoling now.

Han Zhuoling raised his eyebrow and looked at Shi Xiaoya with a wry smile.

"So the previous time, this was how you explained it to your brother?" Han Zhuoling asked with his eyebrow raised.

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

“At that time, the two of us were not together yet. I didn’t even know that you...” *like me...* “I couldn’t possibly tell my brother it all happened because of you. That would sound so one-sided.”

Han Zhuoling laughed dryly and decided he would settle scores with Shi Xiaoya next time.

When Shi Nancang saw how Shi Xiaoya was completely behaving like a quail and did not dare to offend Han Zhuoling at all, he felt his heart ache.

Usually, when Shi Xiaoya was at home, she was so domineering.

Everyone at home all pampered her.

Yet now, with Han Zhuoling, she was totally not his match.

She might even get bullied by Han Zhuoling eventually.

Thinking about it made Shi Nancang depressed.

“Big—” Han Zhuoling paused for a moment. “If you feel uncomfortable that I call you Big Brother, then I’ll just call you Nancang.”

Shi Nancang: “...”

Was Han Zhuoling always like this?

He knew how to talk smoothly all by himself. Even if there was nothing to say, he would be able to find something to talk about, was that it?

“I am serious about being together with Xiaoya,” Han Zhuoling said solemnly. “I am the one who had feelings for her first, and I only confessed to her after being sure of my own feelings. I know, I had a past marriage. This is my disadvantage. But I can promise that I am serious about love, and I am loyal in marriage.”

“As for my previous marriage, I won’t elaborate. But as for Xiaoya, she is the first person I fell in love with, and it was the first time my heart was moved. I thought I would never feel this way in my life, until Xiaoya appeared. In my lifetime, my heart will only be moved this once,” Han Zhuoling said seriously.

Shi Xiaoya did not expect Han Zhuoling to suddenly say all these words.

But when she heard that last line...

In my lifetime, my heart will only be moved this once.

Her heart also shuddered heavily when he said it.

Those were probably the nicest and most touching words she’d ever heard.

And since they came out of Han Zhuoling’s mouth, that was not merely cheap talk. It was just so believable.

Shi Nancang thought to himself, “How can you be so sure?”

He did not have any prejudice against Han Zhuoling, just that he did not agree with those words.

This lifetime was not over, so how could anyone be so sure?

But Han Zhuoling seemed to have seen through Shi Nancang's thoughts and said, "Other people might not be sure, but I am, because it is rare that I can be moved. For the past thirty years, my heart has never been moved even once. Now that I've met Xiaoya, I can confirm that, for the next thirty years, I will never meet another who can move my heart."

Shi Nancang was also touched.

If other people said all these, he definitely would not believe it.

But from Han Zhuoling, this was way too believable.

Because as Han Zhuoling had said, it was a fact.

In his previous marriage, everyone knew that Han Zhuoling did not have any feelings for his ex-wife, and it was a simple matter of an arranged marriage.

It was not that Han Zhuoling said anything to badmouth Xia Yixin after his divorce.

It was actually Xia Yixin who went around telling other people that Han Zhuoling actually did not love her at all, treated her coldly, did not care about her, and caused her bitterness and dejection in her married life.

Chapter 1836: Roundabout Manner

That was why she looked to another person for comfort.

She was at fault, but she was not to blame either.

Her tragedy had all been caused by Han Zhuoling.

Hence, from Xia Yixin's mouth, many people learned that Han Zhuoling had had zero feelings for her.

But exactly how many people sympathized with Xia Yixin, that would be hard to say.

Hence, when Han Zhuoling said that, Shi Nancang also believed him.

But he was still a little worried.

Right now, Han Zhuoling had fallen in love with a woman for the very first time.

Which was to say, he did not know how to love someone yet. This was his first time, so he had no experience.

There could be a lot of friction between him and Shi Xiaoya, causing Shi Xiaoya to suffer because of it.

Perhaps both of them might still break up in the end.

And this relationship would become Han Zhuoling's experience.

It could turn into that situation where a woman trains her boyfriend well, only for him to turn to pamper other women instead. It was like sewing a wedding dress for another woman for free.

However, there was of course another kind of possibility.

For a man like that who had never been moved before, the moment his heart fell in love, he would be most loyal and pamper you to the skies.

Exactly which one it would be, Shi Nancang did not know either.

But as this concerned his own younger sister, Shi Nancang felt especially troubled and hesitant.

“Even if you don’t believe me, you should believe Xiaoya’s taste.” When Han Zhuoling was saying this, he even sounded a little proud.

Shi Xiaoya had such good taste, falling in love with him!

Shi Nancang: “...”

He had a feeling Han Zhuoling was trying to praise himself in a roundabout manner.

“Brother, just trust me,” Shi Xiaoya said. “I... really like him.”

Shi Nancang sighed. Besides the fact that Han Zhuoling was too much of a workaholic, and that his personality was a little cold, his character was still quite trustworthy overall.

It was just that Han Zhuoling was really such a sly old fox. Shi Xiaoya really could not compare to him. She would definitely only be bullied by him.

Yet Shi Xiaoya herself did not have much of a strong personality.

Shi Nancang was just afraid that his younger sister would suffer.

If the other party was Shen Shi’an, who was his friend, and both their families were on par, he could still stand up for Shi Xiaoya.

No matter what, Shen Shi’an would not dare to bully Shi Xiaoya.

But when it came to Han Zhuoling, who knew how much Shi Xiaoya would have to suffer!

Just when Shi Nancang was thinking about that, he heard Shi Xiaoya say, “In the past, work had always come first for him, but now, I am number one.”

Shi Nancang: “...”

He had a complicated look on his face.

Whoever says that on their own, she’s really not afraid of embarrassment!

Aren’t you scared that Han Zhuoling will laugh at you?!

Unexpectedly, Han Zhuoling actually smiled with a look of clear satisfaction and said, “Yes.”

“We came back at past 3 in the afternoon today, but he didn’t even go to the office.” Shi Xiaoya placed her elbows on the table and cupped her chin as she said with a smiley look on her face, “Because he wanted to accompany me, he did not even go to work anymore. He will only go back to the company tomorrow.”

Shi Nancang: “...”

Looking at his younger sister's silly look really made his heart feel tired.

But, seeing Han Zhuoling's reaction, he clearly felt that even this silly look of Shi Xiaoya's was the best.

He was smiling at Shi Xiaoya right now.

Seriously... When was Han Zhuoling ever seen smiling so gently before?!

Let alone in this manner, even an ordinary smile was rare to see coming from him.

Shi Nancang suddenly recalled that, just in this short period of time, Han Zhuoling had already smiled unusually often.

When he heard Shi Xiaoya say all those things just then, actually, he felt very shocked in his mind too.

He never thought that Han Zhuoling would really push his work to second place.

But at least he could tell that Shi Xiaoya's position in his heart now was indeed higher than his work.

Chapter 1837: How Could You Do Such a Thug-like Thing?

Looking at how Han Zhuoling treated Shi Xiaoya now, Shi Nancang felt a little more assured.

He could not help but be assured.

He was not Han Zhuoling's match.

If Han Zhuoling really took a liking to Shi Xiaoya, could he stop it?

Anyway, Shi Xiaoya was not someone who would obey just because he said no.

He knew very well that the two of them just came to meet him tonight, and they were giving him a lot of face by doing that.

And Han Zhuoling, this sly old fox, he probably guessed that the reason he'd asked Shi Xiaoya out for dinner tonight was not simply just to have a meal together. That was why he tagged along.

Shi Nancang did not talk about anything else and only asked Shi Xiaoya, "Xiaoya, you thought through this already?"

"Yes, I did," Shi Xiaoya replied without any hesitation. "I like him, and I want to be with him. I like him to begin with, but I just wasn't sure of his feelings towards me at that time, so I did not dare to say it out loud."

Shi Xiaoya lowered her head and mumbled shyly, "I was afraid that he would treat me just like how he treated other people, chasing them away in disgust, so I did not dare to say it."

Han Zhuoling sighed silently. He thought he'd made it quite obvious when he treated her so differently.

It was just that he'd neglected how his character looked in other people's eyes, and that image was hard to change.

Because she cared, that's why she did not dare to take the risk.

Wasn't he like this as well in the beginning?

Han Zhuoling went to hold Shi Xiaoya's hand.

This little girl, she was really so silly.

"Since you've thought it through, I won't say anything more," Shi Nancang said. "As your older brother, I only have well wishes for you. I wish that you will be happy, and that you will be treated well by someone."

Shi Nancang laughed. "Of course, my words come a little too early. After all, the two of you just got together. You're only in the dating phase and not about to get married. If you're not suitable for each other, you can still break up."

Han Zhuoling: "..."

"We won't break up," Han Zhuoling immediately said. "She's so good, I won't break up with her."

Shi Nancang sounded as if he was looking forward to seeing them break up.

How could Han Zhuoling accept it? "Getting married is the end goal I am aiming for. After I was sure that she is the one I want to spend the rest of my life with, only then did I confess my feelings to her."

"A relationship that does not hold marriage as the ultimate goal is just a thug-like act." Han Zhuoling threw a glance at Shi Nancang and said very disapprovingly, "How can one do such a thug-like thing?"

Shi Nancang: "..."

What did he do? Did he behave like a thug?

Shi Xiaoya secretly tugged at Han Zhuoling to make him tone it down a little, lest he triggered Shi Nancang too much.

Han Zhuoling suddenly recalled that this was his older brother-in-law, so he could not go overboard.

Shi Nancang: "..."

Haha!

You must have forgotten my current status now!

Suddenly, Shi Nancang lifted his head and puffed out his chest, giving a feeling as if he was feeling proud of himself.

How refreshing!

Shi Xiaoya: "..."

Her brother was being a little too obviously smug.

Shi Nancang did not object to Shi Xiaoya and Han Zhuoling being together.

But Han Zhuoling was still in the observation phase in his eyes.

This meal was considered pretty harmonious.

Just that Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya had formed a habit of showing their affection publicly in the production team, and they had not managed to adjust their behavior ever since. In the end, for this meal, Shi Nancang did not just have his meal, he also had a fair share of dog food¹.

He felt insufferably full.

Yet Han Zhuoling and Shi Xiaoya themselves were not aware of this.

Because the two of them were not publicly displaying their affection on purpose.

In their eyes, this was how they usually interacted with each other.

Shi Nancang totally did not expect that Han Zhuoling would behave in this manner when he was in love.

Throughout the meal, Han Zhuoling took care of Shi Xiaoya all the way and was even more attentive than him, the biological older brother.

Chapter 1838: Guarding Against Him

And Shi Xiaoya seemed to be very used to Han Zhuoling taking such good care of her already. She did not try to be polite with him at all.

Han Zhuoling shelled prawns and even dipped them in a generous amount of sauce before placing them on her plate.

Shi Xiaoya just ate them straight away, without even lifting her head up.

Seeing that made Shi Nancang stunned and speechless.

It seemed like Han Zhuoling really was not just giving cheap talk. He really treated Shi Xiaoya very well.

But looking at how much chemistry these two had, did it seem like they just started dating?!

Shi Nancang scoffed twice in his heart and asked, "When are you both intending to go home to visit? Since both of you came over today to meet me, you also intend to go back home to let Dad and Mom have a look, right?"

Shi Xiaoya nodded. "I don't intend to hide it from you either, or else we wouldn't have come over together today."

Shi Nancang nodded. This was more like it.

"Then have you both confirmed the date and time?" Shi Nancang asked again.

Shi Xiaoya then asked Han Zhuoling, "When are you free?"

Han Zhuoling thought about it and said, "Is this Saturday okay?"

"Should be fine. I'll ask Dad and Mom." As Shi Xiaoya said that, she was about to call her parents.

"Wait a moment." Shi Nancang stopped her and said, "Can the timing be confirmed? What if Young Master Ling suddenly has work to attend to then?"

Shi Xiaoya thought about it, and it made quite a bit of sense.

Han Zhuoling smiled at Shi Nancang and said, "You can just call me by my name."

"..." Shi Nancang gaped, then said, "I actually really can't bring myself to say it."

Han Zhuoling: "..."

"Saturday is fine." Han Zhuoling did not quibble with Shi Nancang over how to address himself and said, "Even if I have work then, I can push it back, it's fine. Or I can let Zhuoli take over too."

When he was single, he had helped Han Zhuoli take on quite a lot of work.

This time, he could let Han Zhuoli help him shoulder some of the burden.

As family, this was how they should make use of each other.

Shi Nancang was really starting to believe what Shi Xiaoya had said just now, that Han Zhuoling put Shi Xiaoya before his work.

To meet their parents, he would even push back his work.

Shi Xiaoya smiled widely as she raised an eyebrow at Shi Nancang. "How is it? What I said just now was correct, right?"

Shi Nancang: "..."

This silly younger sister, don't be so delighted in front of Han Zhuoling.

As he was concerned about Shi Xiaoya being too tired, they did not take too long to have the meal.

The specifics can wait until Saturday, when Han Zhuoling would come over to their house, and they could talk more then.

The three of them stepped out, and when they reached the entrance, Shi Nancang said to Han Zhuoling, "I can just send Xiaoya back. It's also quite tiring for you after filming for the show. Rest earlier when you get back."

Shi Nancang actually adjusted to it quite quickly, putting on the airs of an older brother-in-law.

Han Zhuoling: "..."

What else could he say?

Shi Nancang was guarding against him now.

But could he guard against him?

"Brother," Shi Xiaoya said.

"Why? Can't your brother send you back now? You kept following the production team, so I haven't seen you in a long time," Shi Nancang said.

Shi Xiaoya had no choice. How would she not know Shi Nancang's intentions?

She could not bear to leave Han Zhuoling, yet she could only say apologetically, "Then I'll go back with my brother now. Take care on your way back. Rest earlier when you go back."

Being nagged at out of concern by Shi Xiaoya like this made Han Zhuoling's heart feel more and more warmed. He did not find it annoying at all and hated that she could not just keep on nagging like that.

He wanted to stay with her for a while longer. Alas, out came a Shi Nancang in the middle of it.

Han Zhuoling did not want to leave her so early at all.

Chapter 1839: A Twist of Fate

But he could not act too overtly now. He had not passed the round with Shi Xiaoya's family.

He could only tell himself that they still had a long time ahead with each other, so he need not be anxious.

"Okay." Han Zhuoling nodded. "I will call you when I get back."

Shi Nancang could not bear to look at them anymore.

Wasn't he just going to send Shi Xiaoya home?

These two were making it seem as if they were being separated by a bad person.

And he was that bad person.

Han Zhuoling personally sent Shi Xiaoya into Shi Nancang's car. Shi Xiaoya opened the car window and grabbed on the window that was reeling down as she said, "Quick, go back."

"I'll leave after seeing you leave," Han Zhuoling said.

"Are the two of you done?!" Shi Nancang said in exasperation. "All I did was not let you send Xiaoya back home, right? Do both of you have to act like this?"

Who would have ever imagined Han Zhuoling would behave as he did right now?

No one would believe it even if he said it.

Shi Xiaoya could not help but laugh and felt a little embarrassed as she said, "Then we'll go off first."

Han Zhuoling nodded.

He sighed silently in his heart. As Shi Nancang was around, he could not even get a goodbye kiss even if he wanted one.

Shi Nancang really could not stand it and quickly drove off.

After watching them leave, Han Zhuoling then prepared to leave.

Right at this moment, Shen Shi'an and the others also came out after having their meal.

Dong Qingxing patted Shen Shi'an's shoulder. "Luckily, you only had some good feelings towards her and did not have any deeper interaction. It's nothing much."

Shen Shi'an sighed. The girl he'd set his eyes on had been snatched away, and he even had to have a meal treated by his love rival. Shen Shi'an was depressed beyond words.

He did not want to stay originally. It was only because Dong Qingxing and the others insisted that he stayed.

He knew, they wanted to console him for a while more.

It was not that Shen Shi'an only wanted Shi Xiaoya and no one else. He did not have any deep feelings for her either.

But there would still be some regret and reluctance about it.

It was rare that he had feelings for a girl, and the previous time when he saw her, the more he thought about it, the more he felt that he liked her.

Without deep interactions, he could not help but fill his mind with many imaginary sweet moments.

Yet before it even started, it had already ended.

But this also proved that his judgment had not been wrong.

To make even Han Zhuoling like her, it was clear how good Shi Xiaoya was.

"You guys don't need to console me, I'm fine." Shen Shi'an sighed. "I only have myself to blame for being slow to act. If we talk about how long we've known each other, we definitely knew Xiaoya earlier than Han Zhuoling. It was just that, at that time, I still treated Xiaoya like a younger sister. Now that I'm seeing her as a lady, it was already too late."

Shen Shi'an sighed again. It was really a twist of fate.

He'd clearly known Shi Xiaoya way longer than Han Zhuoling, yet he'd failed to seize his chance.

This could not even be blamed on others, and he could only blame himself for discovering it too late.

All along, he felt that because Shi Xiaoya was Shi Nancang's younger sister, they too had to treat Shi Xiaoya like a younger sister.

It was precisely because of such a mentality that it took him so long to realize that, actually, Shi Xiaoya was also a grown lady now. She was no longer just a younger sister.

"Aish!" Shen Shi'an sighed, feeling depressed.

The moment they stepped out of the entrance, they saw Han Zhuoling at once.

Everyone felt a wave of awkwardness over them. Luckily, their conversation just now had not been heard by Han Zhuoling.

"Young Master Ling," everyone greeted.

Han Zhuoling nodded lightly and stopped there, actually no longer in a hurry to leave anymore.

Everyone was shocked. When they walked up to Han Zhuoling, Han Zhuoling then said, "My apologies, I disrupted the meal for you all tonight."

"No, no," everyone quickly said.

Han Zhuoling smiled lightly. "Thank you all for helping out previously when Xiaoya had been attacked by netizens online."

Chapter 1840: No Proper Status, and No Justifiable Reason

Shen Shi'an's smile was unusually stiff.

Han Zhuoling was clearly declaring his boyfriend rights before them.

Han Zhuoling probably saw through his intentions.

He just did not expect that Han Zhuoling, who was so mature, would actually behave like normal people and do such a thing, which was even a little childish.

Shen Shi'an still found it hard to stomach after all and could not help but say, "When Xiaoya was being attacked by netizens online, the root cause of it was still you, Young Master Ling. Since you know about this, Young Master Ling, why didn't you come out to clear the air back then?"

He only posted such an ambiguous Weibo post to make people guess and imagine things. What did that even count as?

"Shi'an!" Dong Qingxing said to him warningly in a low voice.

Han Zhuoling did not seem to mind and replied, "At that time, we were not together yet. There's no proper status, and no justifiable reason for me to do so."

If he was already Shi Xiaoya's boyfriend back then, he would definitely have shut those people up immediately as Shi Xiaoya's boyfriend.

Shen Shi'an: "..."

When he said that, why did it still sound like there was a strong air of arrogance in it?

Han Zhuoling nodded politely at them and said, "I'll get going first then. We can have a meal together next time, to thank you all for helping Xiaoya previously."

Shen Shi'an: "..."

He was not done yet!

He really did not expect Han Zhuoling to be this kind of a person in private!

They watched as Han Zhuoling left, until they could not see him anymore.

Chen Sibin then said, "Looks like Han Zhuoling really likes Xiaoya a lot."

A man who had always been so mature and calm instantly turned into such a childish man even though he'd only discovered the budding shoots of his love rival.

"We should be thankful that Shi'an and Xiaoya had not seriously started to get to know each other," Zhong Litao said.

“Yeah,” Dong Qingxing said. “He definitely knows Shi’an is interested in Xiaoya. But Shi’an clearly did not even get to say it out loud and did not even manage to reveal a hint of it in front of Xiaoya before he just smothered his hopes completely. He still kept this at heart and kept reminding him about it.”

“If you’d really started to get to know Xiaoya and pursued her seriously, or if you still refused to give up and still wanted to woo her, you might be in for a bad time.”

Shen Shi’an could not help but admit that and nodded. “Don’t worry, I won’t have those kinds of thoughts. Anyway, it hasn’t started, so I might as well back off more gracefully. I won’t put Nancang in a spot.”

Everyone nodded.

But they were still worried that Shi’an would feel upset, so they even intended to drag him along to have a drink.

It was Shen Shi’an who promised that he was fine, so they finally dispersed and went back.

On the way back, Shi Nancang said as he drove, “Tell me honestly, have you known Han Zhuoling since a long time ago?”

“Yeah.” Anyway, she had already told Shi Nancang about her relationship with Han Zhuoling, so there was nothing more to hide about it.

“You’re really...” Shi Nancang felt upset as he said, “You’ve even learned to lie to me now! When I met you both at Sheng Yue the previous time, were you actually there to meet the Han Family people together with Han Zhuoling?”

“Not really. It was indeed Lu Man who asked me to go. But at that time, I did already know him, and we were on pretty good terms.”

Shi Nancang thought to himself that although Shi Xiaoya had not gotten together with Han Zhuoling yet at that time, just based on the fact that she said they were “on pretty good terms,” that would have been enough to shock other people if they said it to them.

How many people could actually be on pretty good terms with Han Zhuoling?

Shi Xiaoya might have been too humble when saying this.

Shi Nancang suddenly recalled something. “Previously, when you were about to go to Man City and I went to pass you things, you already knew Han Zhuoling then, right?”

He might not be sure before, but he was absolutely sure now!