

WITH YOU 21

## Chapter 21: Meeting In The Little Forest (1)

Lin Jiage had finally messaged back after several days.

[Are you free?]

Was it finally happening?

Was he looking for her to discuss the cancelation of their engagement?

Shi Yao immediately put aside whatever she'd sent to the [Sexy and Frisky] WeChat group and began typing a reply to Lin Jiage's message.

But barely after she had typed out the 'y' in 'yes', her phone received yet another notification.

It was still from Lin Jiage. [If you're free, then meet me in twenty minutes at the little forest behind the male dorm.]

Was he planning to speak to her face-to-face?

There was truly no need to do so. It would be enough to arrange a meeting at the Lin Family's old residence to explain things clearly to Grandpa Lin...

These were the thoughts in Shi Yao's mind, but in order to end things as quickly as possible, she deleted the letter in her textbox, typed out another word, and sent it over. [Alright.]

Lin Jiage didn't respond to her message.

Holding her phone, Shi Yao sat blankly for a moment before she got up to grab some clothes from her wardrobe to switch out of her pajamas.

He Tiantian was in the middle of catching up on her manga when she noticed Shi Yao's actions and asked casually, "Yaoyao, you heading out?"

Hearing He Tiantian's voice, Jiang Yue, who was painting her nails on her bed, turned to look at Shi Yao and asked worriedly, "Yaoyao, it's already late. Where are you going?"

"I..." Shi Yao was going to say that she had an appointment with someone else, but the words suddenly got caught in her throat.

People rarely made appointments with her. If she said those words to this trio, they would probably follow her secretly to watch the commotion, just like they'd done before.

But this time around, the situation with the person she was meeting was a little special...

Thus, Shi Yao pondered for a brief moment and changed her sentence, "... am heading to the supermarket to buy some stuff."

Jiang Yue: "Help me get a slice of their yogurt cake. I'll have it for breakfast tomorrow."

He Tiantian: "I want one too."

Jiang Yue: "Leng Nuan isn't around, but since we don't have any lessons tomorrow morning we definitely won't be going to the canteen for breakfast. So Yaoyao, I think you should get one slice for her too."

Shi Yao replied with an 'OK' before putting on her shoes and heading out of the dormitory room.

After leaving the building, she took a look at her watch and noted that there were still five minutes before the appointed time with Lin Jiage.

As the campus's cake shop was located in the opposite direction of the little forest, Shi Yao chose to make her way there first to purchase four slices of yogurt cake before heading to the meeting point.

Twenty minutes had already passed by the time Shi Yao arrived at the little forest, but Lin Jiage was still nowhere in sight, so she stood around and waited.

She wasn't too sure how much time had passed, though it didn't seem like it had been very long. Eventually, she heard the sounds of footsteps from not too far away. Lifting her gaze, she saw a young man dressed in a white sweatshirt walking towards her.

Compared to the leisurely attitude he usually had whenever they met, his footsteps felt a little flurried at this moment.

Was he anxious because he was late?

However, he sure did like white. Among the limited memories she had of him, he seemed to wear white each and every time...

While such thoughts were running through Shi Yao's mind, Lin Jiage was already standing about a half a meter away from her.

Shi Yao swiftly returned to her senses, and in the next moment, she suddenly heard Lin Jiage's voice sounding from above her, "What in the world are you trying to pull?"

His voice was pleasing to the ear, but his tone was a little heavy. This was a clear difference compared to the nonchalant tone he'd taken at SKP the previous time they met.

He... Was he... unhappy?

Shi Yao frowned in bewilderment as she lifted her head to face the young man in front of her.

## **Chapter 22: Meeting In The Little Forest (2)**

Due to the dim lighting in the forest, it was significantly brighter in the direction that Lin Jiage had come from, so Shi Yao was unable to see his expression clearly just now.

However, being this close, under the dim lighting from the nearby streetlamp, she found that his complexion was awful.

Didn't he invite her out to discuss the cancelation of their engagement?

He should be happy that he can be with Belle Qin...

Unable to comprehend the situation, Shi Yao's frown deepened.

It was also clear that Lin Jiage's patience had worn thin, and before Shi Yao could reply, he had already spoken once more with the same biting tone, "Doing one thing in front of me and another behind my back, you sure are a scheming person!"

One thing in front of him? Another behind his back? Scheming?

What in the world is he talking about?

Shi Yao was completely confused by the situation, and there was a slightly dazed tone to her words, "What do you mean? I don't think I know what you're talking about..."

"Don't know what I'm talking about?" As if provoked by Shi Yao's words, Lin Jiage sneered coldly, "Don't bother trying that on me, you should know very well what I'm talking about! On one hand, you message me asking to cancel our engagement, but on the other, you go to my grandfather behind my back to complain about me. I've never seen anyone as shameless as you!"

It was indeed true that she'd messaged him about the cancelation, but complaining to Grandpa Lin behind his back... She hadn't met Grandpa Lin since the Spring Festival, so when would she have the opportunity to complain about Lin Jiage to Grandpa Lin behind his back?

"Are you misunderstanding something here? I haven't met Grandpa Lin recently so how could I possibly complain to him?!"

"Still feigning ignorance? Grandfather told me that you went to him with tears in your eyes, saying that I wanted to cancel the engagement!"

That afternoon, Lin Jiage was playing basketball when he suddenly received a call urging him to return home. Yet, as soon as he stepped through the doors, his grandfather had thrown a teacup at him before he could even say a single word. Afterward, he was forced to go through a humbling dressing-down. As these memories emerged in his mind once more, he felt his fury intensifying.

"If you didn't want to cancel the engagement, then you shouldn't have sent me that message in the first place. Is there really a point to living such a fake life?"

"Or was it intentional? Were you trying to catch my attention, playing hard to get?"

"Let me tell you this right here and right now! There are many women who have tried that on me, but you're the only one who's left me feeling so utterly disgusted!"

As Lin Jiage's words became increasingly overboard, Shi Yao was reminded of the day she entered into the Lin Family's grand old residence six years ago. Grandpa Lin had pointed to the humbly-dressed her and turned to the resplendently-dressed him and said, " Jiage, allow Grandfather to formally introduce you to your fiancée, Shi Yao. "

Back then, he was only fifteen, and there was still a hint of youth in between his delicate brows.

Back then, he was so pretty that she likened him to the dolls she had seen in the display cabinet, and she couldn't help but feel fond of him.

Back then, her entire attention was on him.

But his reaction right after Grandpa Lin introduced her had hurt her deeply.

As if looking at a repulsive piece of trash, he turned to Grandpa Lin and yelled indignantly, " I don't want to! Such an ugly, dirty, and shabby-looking girl, I don't want such a fiancée! "

Of course, as soon as the words left his mouth, Grandpa Lin immediately taught him a lesson.

Grandpa Lin had spent his life in the military, so his blows were particularly heavy. Yet, under such a harsh beating, Lin Jiage hadn't let out a single sound.

In the middle of the beating, he had shot her a glance which she could still remember even to this day.

### **Chapter 23: The Lunatic And The Lunatic (1)**

Loathing, disgust, abhorrence... Even though she was only thirteen at the time, she could still understand the emotions within his gaze.

He disliked her, and a very great deal of dislike at that.

It was then that she realized that there was a great distance between him and her.

As time passed and she grew up, she eventually came to learn that this distance wasn't the only thing that stood between them.

From the very start, they were from two completely different worlds. He had come from a wealthy and noble family whereas she'd been born into a poor and humble household. If not for the promises their grandfathers had made back then, their worlds would have never crossed.

While her family condition wasn't so poor that she starved, it wasn't wealthy enough to provide her with good living conditions either. As such, she tended to be slightly thinner than an average person, but she was by no means ugly.

Unlike him, she couldn't wear a different set of beautiful and expensive clothes every day, and most of what she owned were hand-me-downs from an older relative. They were a little old, but they couldn't be considered as dirty...

As for shabby-looking...

It must be said that his words had really cut deep into her younger self's dignity.

As such, even though he had eventually agreed to the child betrothal under the coercion of his grandfather, she had never once approached him as his fiancée. In school, she never spoke of their relationship to outsiders. Even the red packet money that Grandpa Lin had given to her all these years, she hadn't touched it at all.

Recalling these past events, Shi Yao pressed her lips together.

She didn't know what had gone wrong, but she wasn't willing to stand idly by and allow him to frame her as he wished. However, she didn't want to fight with him either. Thus, she chose to turn around and leave silently.

Unfortunately, her actions only served to fuel the rage burning in Lin Jiage's heart.

She's the cause of this mess, and yet, she's just going to leave as if it's got nothing to do with her?

With these thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage's hand reached forward to grab Shi Yao's wrist.

She was walking quickly, so Lin Jiage's hand missed and pulled the bag in her hand instead.

His movement was extremely forceful, and with a loud 'shua', the bag was torn apart—the four slices of cake packed inside splattered onto the muddy ground.

Shi Yao froze as she stiffly looked down at the cake slices on the ground.

The cake is no longer edible...

Shi Yao subconsciously clenched her fists with rage.

She stared at the cake on the ground for a very long time before she raised her head to glare angrily at Lin Jiage, "I'll tell you one last time—I didn't meet Grandpa Lin, I didn't complain about you to him, and I have no intentions of playing hard to get!

"Also, you shouldn't be so narcissistic and think that everyone likes you. I don't like you in the least, and I've never thought about marrying you!

"So, don't go overboard, or else..."

Shi Yao had always been an obedient child, and she rarely argued with others. She had to rack her brain for a very long time before she could come up with something that she felt was extremely vicious, "...or else you might starve to death!

"Also, did you see those messages I sent you in the last two days? Do you need me to repeat myself?"

Shi Yao really started reading back the message word for word, "When do you plan on telling your family that our engagement is canceled?"

"So, can you give me an exact time here? Don't think that I'm unaware that you already have a girlfriend!

"Is it really a good thing to carry on such a meaningless connection with me when you already have a girlfriend? Don't you think you're letting her down?"

## **Chapter 24: The Lunatic And The Lunatic (2)**

Narcissistic to think that everyone likes you... Narcissistic?

She must be joking! When had he ever needed to be narcissistic?

Furthermore, girlfriend? What the heck was that? When did he get a girlfriend?

To be accused of having a girlfriend from out of the blue, Lin Jiage suddenly felt displeased for some inexplicable reason.

However, he didn't delve deeper into the reason why he was displeased. He simply thought it was because she called him narcissistic, so he lashed out angrily, "What a coincidence! I don't like you, either!"

"So, you should stop asking when I'll tell my family about canceling the engagement. You might be anxious, but I feel even more anxious than you!"

"I'll say it clearly for you today, so listen closely. If, I, Lin, Jia, Ge, fail, to, cancel, my, engagement, with, you, I, will, write, my, name, backward!"

After which, Lin Jiage paused for a brief moment, and after thinking that he hadn't said enough, he gritted his teeth and continued, "It's too late now, so tomorrow. Tomorrow morning, I'll bring you home and settle this with my grandfather!"

After making that declaration, Lin Jiage turned around and marched away, as if he couldn't bear to stay there for a moment longer.

Lin Jiage's feet moved very fast, and his legs were long as well, so it didn't take him much time to walk out of the little forest. However, he suddenly stopped by the roadside of the campus garden.

Girlfriend... What right did she have to label him with a girlfriend?

The more Lin Jiage thought about it, the more uncomfortable he felt. In fact, an urge to charge back into the little forest to confront her welled up inside him.

However, a few seconds later, he noticed that there was something wrong about that.

It was truly weird, why would he have such an urge?

She could say whatever she wanted, why should he be bothered about it?

Lin Jiage pressed his lips together as he brooded for a moment, as if trying to figure out something incomprehensible to him. A moment later, he regained his senses and swiftly left with widened strides.

...

After Lin Jiage left, Shi Yao stared at the cakes on the floor, grieving for a moment before she cleaned up the area. She then walked out of the little forest and reluctantly threw the cakes into the trash can.

Staring intently at the trash can, she let out a deep sigh before turning around and returning to her dormitory room.

But after barely taking two steps, she couldn't help but glance back at the trash can again.

Later, even though Shi Yao picked up another four slices of cake from the shop, she still felt a little bottled up after returning to the dormitory room. It took a while before she picked up her phone.

She then realized that there were quite a few unread messages in her WeChat.

Tapping the application open, she saw that it was all from the group, [Sexy and Frisky]. She suddenly recalled asking them to play earlier, so she quickly tapped into the chat.

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Sis Yao, I can play!

[Juice]: I can play too.

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Hm? Where is she?

[Juice]: @[Yao Loves Ice Cream]

[Expert of the Monkeys]: @[Yao Loves Ice Cream]

“...”

After swiftly browsing through the messages in the chat, Shi Yao replied:[Sorry, didn't check my phone earlier.]

Shi Yao, who was still angry with Lin Jiage, suddenly remembered the four slices of cake and sent out: [Today really is a bad day. I met a lunatic!]

No one replied to her.

Shi Yao assumed that everyone might be busy at the moment, so she put down her phone to wash an apple to eat.

Just as she was about to walk away, her phone suddenly rang— di di! It was a notification from [Sexy and Frisky].

Shi Yao assumed that [Juice] or [Expert of the Monkeys] had replied to her.

Thus, she tapped in, and to her astonishment, she saw What a coincidence, I also met a lunatic today!

## **Chapter 25: Frenzied Slaughter (1)**

[111111]: What a coincidence, I also met a lunatic today!

Shi Yao never expected that Mister Numbers would be the one to reply to her.

She had been acquainted with Mister Numbers and the others for about two days now, and they had played more than ten hours of PUBG together, but this was the very first time he'd talked to her.

Shi Yao stared at her phone screen incredulously, and after confirming three times that she wasn't seeing things, she replied: [That sure is a huge coincidence.]

Shi Yao thought that the conversation would end right there, but to her surprise, yet another notification popped up on her phone screen.

[111111]: Yeah.

A single word. Even through the screen, Shi Yao could vividly feel the perfunctory intentions behind the message.

She was afraid that the atmosphere in the group would turn awkward if she didn't reply, but she also had no idea how to respond to [111111]'s words. Racking her brain for some time, she concluded that a person who could make the reticent Mister Numbers speak up was no doubt a lunatic profoundly skilled in the Art of Lunacy, so she tapped on her keyboard and replied: [The lunatic you met must be more of a lunatic than the lunatic I met  $O(n\_n)O\sim$  ]

[111111] didn't respond.

Shi Yao heaved a sigh of relief.

As expected of a master, even speaking to him required her to think hard. It was fortunate that he didn't speak any more than that.

Even though [111111] didn't respond to Shi Yao, the atmosphere in the chat group didn't turn awkward. This was because [Expert of the Monkeys] joined in at this moment. [Sis Yao, Juice and I just ended our Duo match. Are you coming?]

It was still early, and there was still some time before her bedtime. Plus, she didn't have any lessons tomorrow morning so she could sleep in. Thus, Shi Yao replied: [Alright, I'll log in to the game now.]

As soon as Shi Yao logged on, a notification popped up on the screen:

[Juice] invited you to a team.

Shortly after entering the room, Shi Yao heard [Expert Of The Monkeys]'s voice, "Boss, we're still lacking a player. Are you coming?"

[111111] didn't respond.

[Juice]: "Come and play two rounds, boss?"

[Expert Of The Monkeys]: "Yeah. It's still early, what else are you going to do?"

Perhaps it was just Shi Yao's imagination, but there seemed to be something different with [Expert Of The Monkeys] and [Juice]'s tones today. It felt a little... a little... Shi Yao pondered for a moment, but she couldn't find a suitable adjective to describe it.

They seemed to have convinced [111111] because Shi Yao could hear the vague melody of the game's login BGM. 1 Following which, [111111] joined the team as well.

[Juice] started the game.

On the plane, Shi Yao noted that no one had marked down the jumping coordinates, so she asked, "Where are we going to jump?"

Ten seconds later, [Expert of the Monkeys] gave a brief reply, which was strange given his talkative nature, "Primorsk should do."

Usually, when they played, [Expert of the Monkeys] and [Juice] would always have endless words to say, but today's voice chat was unnervingly quiet. Even the usual tribute offering throughout the game— 'Sis Yao, there's a Med Kit for you here, come over and get it', 'Sis Yao, there's a Level 3 Military Vest here, come over' —had lessened considerably.



## Chapter 26: Frenzied Slaughter (2)

So it wasn't just her imagination. There really was something different with [Expert of the Monkeys] and [Juice] today.

After noticing the peculiar atmosphere in the air, Shi Yao's words lessened as well.

It was very silent throughout the duration of the game when compared to two days ago.

[111111] knocked out [Wish To Be Lazy and Rich] with AWN.

[111111] killed [Wake Up Youngster] with M416.

[111111] killed [Proud Of My Bad Grades] with grenade.

[111111] killed [Wish To Be Lazy and Rich] with grenade.

[111111] died in the Redzone.

On the third round, it took these five notifications for Shi Yao to finally realize, to her astonishment, that the one in a peculiar state today wasn't Expert or Juice, but Mister Numbers...

Mister Numbers had always been a very skilled player; Shi Yao was well aware of this. There had never been a single occasion where he would risk being poisoned to death in the blue zone just so he could kill everyone in sight.

Due to this sudden realization, Shi Yao began taking special note of [111111] when the fourth round started.

Yet, due to her inattention, she, who was rarely box-ified right after jumping while teamed up with Mister Numbers and the others, ended up being killed by another person with a pan shortly after she landed.

Thus, Shi Yao switched her spectator view to [111111]'s.

She hadn't noticed it before, but now that she was paying attention to Mister Numbers, she really had the shock of her life.

Instead of gearing up, [111111] picked up a gun right after landing and began searching for other players to kill.

He was a formidable player in the game, but he would still humbly gear up in the earlier phase. But in this round, he didn't even bother going around looting items...

Even more bizarre was when he engaged with other players—he didn't bother to take cover at all. Instead, he would simply face them head-on...

Within three minutes after the game started, he had already wiped out all of the enemies in the military base.

After slaughtering the other players, Shi Yao thought that [111111] would start to gear up. Contrary to her expectations, he only picked up a few magazines, and without paying any heed to [Juice] and [Expert of the Monkeys], who were busy looting items behind him, he quickly found a motorcycle and drove off.

He first headed to Novorepnoye and slaughtered everyone there using that brutal and direct method from earlier. He then made his way to Mylta.

After [111111] had slaughtered his way down to Pochinki, he ended up being killed because he ran out of bullets. Only then did it finally strike Shi Yao—Mister Numbers was not playing to win today but to carry out a massacre...

Even through a phone screen, she could vividly feel the overwhelming killing intent radiating off him.

Was he trying to vent his bad mood by frenziedly slaughtering everyone in the game?

[Expert of the Monkeys]: “Sis Yao, ready?”

Pulled back from her thoughts, Shi Yao realized that the game had already come to an end.

She quickly pressed the ready button as she mused over what she’d seen.

That explained why there was something different about Expert and Juice’s tone today. She had been searching for a word to describe it, and she finally found one: careful . They were speaking very carefully, very different from their carefree and joyful tones in the last two days...

## **Chapter 27: Even More Virtuous Than Xiaolongnü (1)**

The three of them stayed in the same dormitory room. Were the other two holding back because of [111111]’s bad mood?

While Shi Yao’s thoughts were wandering, the next round started.

The plane was halfway through the map when a call suddenly came in.

It was from the Lin Family’s old residence.

Could Grandpa Lin have found out that she wanted to cancel her engagement with Lin Jiage and was calling her to ask about it?

Shi Yao hesitated for a moment before taking her phone to the balcony to answer the call.

“Miss Shi, I apologize for calling you so late at night.”

It wasn’t Grandpa Lin’s voice on the phone but Auntie Sun, the housekeeper of the old residence.

Shi Yao was rather fond of Auntie Sun. Even though she didn’t often go to the Lin Family’s old residence, Auntie Sun would make sure to prepare lots of delicious food for her every time she visited.

Shi Yao replied obediently, “It’s fine, Auntie Sun. Did something happen?”

“Your Grandpa Lin was bathing after having his dinner when he suddenly fainted, and he’s currently undergoing treatment in the emergency ward.”

“Grandpa Lin fainted? Is the situation serious? Which hospital is he in? I’ll head over there right now...”

“There’s no need for that, Miss Shi. It’s already late, and the hospital is quite far from your campus. Our driver isn’t around, and it isn’t safe for you to come over alone. Besides, it’s not like there isn’t anyone keeping watch here. If you wish to visit, why don’t you come over tomorrow? I’ll have the driver pick you up then...”

Shi Yao wouldn’t be of much help there, and if she were to insist on heading over, the Lin Family would surely arrange for a car to pick her up. If so, she would only cause them more trouble...

Analyzing the situation, Shi Yao replied, “Alright. I don’t have any lessons tomorrow morning, so I’ll visit Grandpa Lin then.”

Auntie Sun: “Alright. I’ll have the driver pick you up from school tomorrow morning.”

“Thank you, Auntie Sun.”

“It’s no problem.” At which, Auntie Sun suddenly paused, and it seemed like she wanted to say something. A moment later, she continued, “Miss Shi, may I ask if, that is, is there a problem between you and our young master?”

Shi Yao suddenly recalled what Lin Jiage had told her in the little forest earlier on.

If Auntie Sun was asking her such a question at this time, was this matter related to the cancelation of their engagement?

Noting Shi Yao’s silence, Auntie Sun continued, “Your Grandpa Lin was in a good mood this afternoon when he took his walk, but he suddenly returned in a terrible temper. He called our young master and demanded that he return to the old residence.”

“As soon as our young master stepped through the door, before he could even utter a greeting, your Grandpa Lin had already thrown a teacup at him.”

“You also know that your Grandpa Lin has an explosive temper, so he raised quite a huge storm in the old residence after our young master came back. Eventually, your Grandpa Lin kicked him out before he could even have a bite of food.”

“There are some things which I’ve never told you, but your Grandpa Lin’s physical condition isn’t as good as it used to be these past two years. The doctor has already warned us that he mustn’t fly into a temper anymore. Your Grandpa Lin fainting is probably due to what happened today. Sigh, I really can’t understand it. You’re such a fine lady, why doesn’t our young master fancy you...”

Hearing those words, Shi Yao had no idea how she should respond, so she simply remained silent.

Auntie Sun continued speaking for quite a long time before the call finally came to an end.

So this was why Lin Jiage was in a bad mood today...

To be kicked out from his home without even having a bite of food—Grandpa Lin must have truly been angry at him!

**Chapter 28: Even More Virtuous Than Xiaolongnü (2)**

But she really hadn't talked to Grandpa Lin recently, so how did he learn about the cancelation of their engagement?

Shi Yao felt frustrated over the matter for some time before recalling that she was in the middle of a game. She hurriedly tabbed back in.

But by the time she returned, the round had already come to an end.

It was only natural that she died. Considering that she walked away to pick up a call, she was forcefully thrown out of the plane, and after drifting in the air, she was an easy target for the other players to shoot down.

But the other three... shouldn't have died so quickly either?

Shi Yao took a look at the room and saw that [Juice] and [Expert of the Monkeys] weren't online, and [111111] wasn't even in the room.

Thus, Shi Yao entered the [Sexy and Frisky] WeChat group and saw new messages in the chat.

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Sis Yao, did you disconnect?

[Expert of the Monkeys]: @[Yao Loves Ice Cream]

Shi Yao replied: [A call came in earlier. I went to pick it up.]

[Juice] instantly replied: Someone also called our boss right after the game started, so he left to pick it up.

[Yao Loves Ice Cream]: Oh.

Hmm... It seemed like she and Mister Numbers were sharing a lot of coincidences today. She met a lunatic, and so did he. When she picked up a call, he received one too...

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Sis Yao, are you still playing?

Shi Yao took a look at the time and saw that it was already ten-thirty. After recalling that she had to make a trip to the hospital tomorrow morning, she replied: [I'll pass. I have something to do tomorrow morning, so I'm heading off to bed now.]

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Ah, goodnight then.

[Juice]: Goodnight.

[Tide], who hadn't appeared for the entire day, also replied: Goodnight.

Shi Yao replied with a 'goodnight' as well before exiting the WeChat group to take a bath.

Lying on her bed, Shi Yao picked up her phone to set an alarm and then suddenly saw a private message from [Expert of the Monkeys]: [Sis Yao, if you're going to play tomorrow, make sure to tell me in advance.]

Shi Yao replied with a smiley emoji and a single word: [Sure.]

After a short pause, she suddenly recalled the tense atmosphere in the game just now, so she couldn't help but send another message out of curiosity. [What happened today? Why did it feel like everyone was acting strange just now?]

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Oh, it's our boss. We were playing basketball in the afternoon, and our boss suddenly got a call and left the campus. When he got back, he had this frightening look on his face. So then Juice and I decided to lie low for the time being, so we don't get caught in the crossfire. Otherwise, it'll be a disaster if our boss refuses to foot the bill for our grand weekend dormitory feast!

So she wasn't imagining things. [111111] had really been in a bad mood, causing the atmosphere in the game to feel so heavy and cold...

At this point, Shi Yao suddenly remembered [Expert of the Monkeys] talking about how [111111] was looking at a message sent by a girl, so she casually asked: [Maybe your boss had his heart broken?]

[Expert of the Monkeys]: You must be joking! Had his heart broken? That's impossible! Our boss doesn't even have a girlfriend! He's even more virtuous than Xiaolongnü!

Youngster, that's not how you should use the word 'virtuous'...

[...] Shi Yao sent an ellipsis over to show that she had been rendered speechless. A moment later, she added: [Xiaolongnü was tainted by Yin Zhiping. 1 ]

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Is that so?

[Expert of the Monkeys]: Aiya, forget that. In any case, it's impossible for our boss to have his heart broken. This is a secret, but in his 21 years of living, our boss has remained a virgin...

—

Lin Jiage's internal dialogue: So what if I'm still chaste? I'm proud of that! I'm saving rubber for my country!

## **Chapter 29: Anything That Counts As A First Time, They're Still Intact For Him (1)**

Virgin...

Even though her identity stayed anonymous through the phone, her face still couldn't help reddening upon seeing that word.

Unaware of Shi Yao's state, [Expert of the Monkeys] continued sending messages to Shi Yao.

[It's one thing for him to be a virgin, but to date, he hasn't had a single girlfriend yet.]

[In other words, not only is our boss's first night still intact, his first love, first kiss, first hand-holding, first hug...]

[Expert of the Monkeys] seemed to be thinking about what other 'firsts' there could be, but unable to think of anything, he eventually sent this: [...in any case, anything that can count as a first time, they're still intact for our boss!]

First hug, first hand-holding, first kiss, first night...

After seeing these explosive terms, Shi Yao's face reddened even further.

It would've been enough for Expert to say that their boss didn't have a girlfriend, why did he have to use so many suggestive terms...

Shi Yao rarely talked about the opposite gender with other people, so she had no idea how to respond to [Expert of the Monkeys]'s words. Eventually, she decided to just flee from the situation. [It's already late, and I need to sleep soon. Bye bye.]

However, Shi Yao didn't go to sleep immediately.

She scrolled through the Moments page in her WeChat and left some likes on the late-night foodie pictures sent by her friends. When the clock was about to reach eleven, she finally exited from the Moments page.

The [Frisky and Sexy] group came into her view.

Shi Yao suddenly remembered that she'd wanted to look at [111111]'s profile the previous night, but had cast that thought aside when He Tiantian brought back dinner.

Thus, she tapped into [111111]'s profile, and her face collapsed at what she saw, 囧.

His Moments page was completely black, his profile picture was completely black, and the short introduction written beneath said: 222222.

His album was completely empty, and there was only a single post in his Moments page: 333333

Mister Numbers sure... did love his numbers...

Shi Yao remarked internally before exiting from WeChat to sleep. However, in a moment of inattention, her finger accidentally tapped on the 'Add' button.

S-she had actually sent a friend request to Mister Numbers in a moment of carelessness...

...

The next day, at eight in the morning, the Lin Family's chauffeur punctually arrived in front of G University's entrance.

By the time Shi Yao arrived at the military hospital where Grandpa Lin was admitted to, it was already nearing nine.

Auntie Sun had called Shi Yao earlier, asking her to call when she arrived at the hospital so that she could head down to bring her up.

However, Shi Yao asked Auntie Sun for Grandpa Lin's ward number instead. That way she wouldn't have to trouble Auntie Sun when she arrived and could head up by herself.

Lin Jiage had an elder sister called Lin Jiayi, who was currently studying at a university overseas.

Lin Jiage's parents had moved to Hong Kong after the Spring Festival due to their family business.

However, Lin Jiage still had four aunts, and the Lin Family's old residence had many servants as well. As such, Shi Yao thought that the single ward which Grandpa Lin was staying in would surely be packed at the moment.

But when she pushed the door open and greeted 'Grandpa Lin', her body froze.

In the clean and spacious ward, other than Grandpa Lin lying on the hospital bed, there was only Lin Jiage.

### **Chapter 30: Anything That Counts As A First Time, They're Still Intact For Him (2)**

Her calling out 'Grandpa Lin' seemed to surprise him, drawing his gaze towards her.

In the moment her eyes met his, Shi Yao abruptly paused in the middle of entering the room.

It was fortunate that Grandpa Lin had heard Shi Yao's voice as well and said in the next moment, "Yaoyao is here? Come over..."

Shi Yao quickly turned her gaze away from Lin Jiage to shoot a sweet smile towards Grandpa Lin. She carried over the tonics she had specially bought from the supermarket earlier that morning to his bedside.

...

"Yaoyao, have you had breakfast yet? If not, I'll get Auntie Sun to call home and prepare something for you."

"Yaoyao, how are you doing in school lately? Are there any students or teachers bullying you? If there are, feel free to tell me. I donate quite a sum to your school each year, and I have a close relationship with your principal as well..."

"Yaoyao, is the food in your school not delicious? You seem to look thinner than you were at the Spring Festival. This won't do. It looks like I'll have to buy out a stall in your school canteen. Tell me which restaurant's food you prefer, and I'll talk with their head chef to have him work at your school..."

Lin Jiage, who was sitting on the sofa by the window, couldn't help but frown at hearing his grandfather's endless words.

When he received news that his grandfather had fainted last night, he immediately rushed straight to the hospital, neglecting to even change out of his slippers.

He stood by his grandfather's bed for the entire night, unable to sleep at all.

His grandfather had woken up shortly before Shi Yao arrived, and after feeling worried for the entire night, Lin Jiage quickly called for the doctor.

It was only when the doctor said that his grandfather's condition had stabilized that he was finally able to put down the heavy stone in his heart.

After recalling that his grandfather hadn't eaten a thing, Lin Jiage asked him what he'd like to eat. However, before his grandfather could reply, she suddenly entered. After which, it was as if he didn't exist at all—his grandfather ignored him entirely and focused all his attention on expressing his concern for her instead.

The doctor had instructed him to prepare some food for his grandfather after he woke up.

Seeing that his grandfather didn't intend to reply to his question, Lin Jiage asked once again, "Grandfather, what would you like to eat?"

"Yaoyao, remember to visit me when you have time. It will be hard for you to take care of yourself living alone in the school dormitory, so you should visit our home more often so that we can fatten you up."

Lin Jiage's frown deepened.

Staring at his grandfather who was completely ignoring him, he raised his voice and asked once more, "Grandfather, the doctor said that you have to eat something. Tell me if there's anything you'd like, and I'll get someone at home to send it over—"

"Anything." This time, before Lin Jiage could finish his sentence, Grandpa Lin interrupted his grandson unhappily, his tone sounding displeased.

After which, without even sparing a glance for his grandson, Grandpa Lin continued to speak to Shi Yao. Compared to the tone he'd taken with Lin Jiage just a moment ago, his voice became doting and kind once more, "Yaoyao, if there's anything that you want, you must make sure to tell me. I'll have Auntie Sun buy it for you..."

Just who is your real grandchild? Why don't you ask me what I want and have Auntie Sun buy it for me?

As this thought flashed through Lin Jiage's mind, Grandpa Lin suddenly remembered something and turned to his grandson, "Hey, when you make the call to Auntie Sun, tell her to prepare some Coconut Sago. Yaoyao likes that a lot..."

After issuing this instruction to Lin Jiage, Grandpa Lin quickly turned his attention back to Shi Yao, "Yaoyao..."

Hey?

Yaoyao?

Did he not have a name? Must his grandfather express his favoritism so blatantly?

Furthermore, just when his grandfather was finally willing to speak to him, it ended up being for her sake?

Lin Jiage couldn't stand looking at this duo anymore, so he simply turned away to look out the window.