

Chapter 281: Sleep Is A Verb Here (1)

He stared at the ceiling for a very long time before he came to his senses.

He couldn't quite remember the first time he'd met Soft Bun anymore. The only distinct memory that he retained was how much he hated the girl who had abruptly barged into his life.

In truth, he couldn't really remember how she looked like back then. The only impression she'd left on him was her scrawny frame and yellowish hair, reminiscent of an emaciated countryside bumpkin.

Ever since he warned her not to intrude into his life, it seemed like other than being forced to bear their engagement, she really hadn't disturbed his life at all.

And such was their relationship until a very long time later, when they both met in an elevator at the SKP Mall.

That day, he really hadn't recognized who she was. In fact, even after Liang Mumu said that she was Shi Yao, he still felt dubious about it.

However, it didn't seem like he had paid much attention to her back then. All he thought was that she was rather pretty.

If his grandfather hadn't fallen ill all of a sudden, they probably wouldn't have as many interactions between them.

It should be around that time that Yao Loves Ice Cream walked into his life as well.

Thinking about it now, it sure was coincidental. Shortly after learning that Yao Loves Ice Cream was a glutton from her Moments page, he brought Soft Bun to one of Liang Jiusi's gatherings to appease his grandfather. There, he heard her singing three songs, all related to food. Through that, he learned that Soft Bun was a glutton too.

That very same night, he saw Soft Bun being mocked by others. Looking at her distressed state, he couldn't help feeling uncomfortable. In order to take her out of that awkward situation, he kissed her. Then, two days later, when Yao Loves Ice Cream was being teased by others in the game, he inexplicably found himself stepping forward to help her as well, just like he'd helped Soft Bun back at the Golden Resplendence too.

Most likely, the curtains were raised from that day.

It was clear that Yao Loves Ice Cream was Yao Loves Ice Cream whereas Shi Yao was Shi Yao, but somehow, the two of them could easily trigger the same emotions within him... And those emotions were so completely similar that he couldn't help thinking of them as the same person.

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This drove him to carry out certain actions which even he could hardly comprehend himself.

If Xia Shangzhou hadn't brought it up to him today, he wouldn't have realized that there was anything inappropriate about the current circumstances.

Xia Shangzhou said that he liked Soft Bun... Admittedly, Soft Bun was a very special existence to him, so special that she was the only one who could induce sensations and feelings which he had never experienced before in his many years of life.

Could these sensations and feelings be what Xia Shangzhou referred to as 'like'?

With opened eyes, Lin Jiage pondered over the matter for a very long time, but he couldn't come up with an answer. Thus, he picked up his phone.

He searched for Lin Jiayi's WeChat, and just as he was about to type out a message, he was suddenly reminded of the person whom Lin Jiayi once loved, and his fingers abruptly halted.

This topic was simply too sensitive to his sister, so asking her that question was no different from tearing off her scab to reveal a bleeding wound...

But other than his sister, who else could he ask?

Lin Jiage glanced at the sleeping pair of single dogs beside him and quickly gave up on that notion. Then, he looked up the only attached person in their dormitory room, Song Chaoxi¹?, and asked: *[How does it feel to like someone?]*

Song Chaoxi instantly replied: *[You want to sleep with her.]*

Sleep with her?

Lin Jiage's expression stiffened awkwardly.

Song Chaoxi's message came in once more: *[Sleep is a verb here.]*

Verb?

Cough... Lin Jiage didn't reply to Song Chaoxi's message. Instead, with a reddened face, he put down his phone.

The one who was more unreliable than the netizens was his sister, and the one who was even more unreliable than his sister was Song Chaoxi...

Chapter 282: Sleep Is A Verb Here (2)

Barely after these thoughts formed in Lin Jiage's head, he suddenly remembered a dream he had one night. In that dream, he and Soft Bun... did an indescribable act...

As this thought surfaced in his mind, Lin Jiage's face turned even redder, and even his ears were starting to burn up.

That dream I had... Is it just like Song Chaoxi said... I want to sleep with her?

Alright. Even if what Song Chaoxi and Xia Shangzhou said were true, and I really do like Soft Bun... how can that explain the part about Yao Loves Ice Cream then?

Does the fact that I've never dreamed about sleeping with Yao Loves Ice Cream mean that I don't like her?

But if I really don't like Yao Loves Ice Cream, why would I stand up for her when people bully her in the game? Why would I teach her how to kill people in the game when she's unhappy? Why did I have to die together with her in the same place after seeing that screenshot of Xia Shangzhou riding on the same motorcycle as her?

Lu Benlai said that he would take care of Yao Loves Ice Cream in the game because they were friends, but what about me? Is it friendship for me too? But even as a kid, I've never had any friends of the opposite gender before, so why should Yao Loves Ice Cream be an exception?

Plus, Xia Shangzhou said that he was flirting with Yao Loves Ice Cream in the game, so could my actions be considered as flirting? But there were so many girls in the game, and it's not as if I've never played with a female player before. So why would I treat only Yao Loves Ice Cream like that?

This was freaking harder than a complex high-mark Mathematics exam question!

Why do I have to deal with something like this?

The more Lin Jiage thought about it, the more confused he became. Eventually, he could only toss and turn on his bed in utter irritation.

Could it be that Yao Loves Ice Cream was too similar to Soft Bun? But why would that be the case then?

This really felt like a confusing puzzle to him, and pondering over the issue only seemed to further muddle his thoughts. Eventually, he shook his head forcefully to fling away the chaos in his mind.

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But barely two seconds after Lin Jiage fell silent, he started flipping around his bed once again.

In the end, he couldn't help make a fervent wish: *How good would it be if Soft Bun and Big White Chubby were the same person...*

...

There was a common examination amongst all Year 1 students in G University that weekend.

The topic was "Outline of the Fundamental Ideology of Marxism".

The examination was organized by the school, and the Year 1 students were all randomly allocated to an examination hall.

The purpose of this examination was to test others on a deeper understanding of the various types of ideologies.

The invigilators were the teachers of the respective classes, but since the examination wasn't that important, most of the time, they would just assign a student from one of their senior classes to help them do the invigilating.

Shi Yao's examination hall was on the fourth floor whereas Leng Nuan and the others were on the first floor.

After parting on the first floor, Shi Yao was making her way up the stairs when she received a message from He Tiantian on their WeChat group: *[Yaoyao, I might've complained about how we're not in the same exam hall when we were eating earlier, but now I'm glad that we're not.]*

While climbing up the stairs, Shi Yao typed on her phone: *[What's wrong?]*

Jiang Yue: *[The ones invigilating us are Campus Farce Qin and Han Jing!]*

Shortly after Jiang Yue's response, He Tiantian sent a photo over.

There was only Qin Yiran in the photo; Han Jing was nowhere to be found. She looked much thinner than usual, and despite putting on some makeup, the black circles underneath her eyes were still very pronounced.

While Shi Yao was still examining the photo, she received a message from Leng Nuan: *[Yaoyao, who's your invigilator?]*

Chapter 283: Do Your Paper Well, Don't Cheat (1)

Shi Yao happened to arrive at the entrance to the examination hall by then, so she replied with a *[Let me take a look]* before glancing into the classroom.

A tall male student dressed in a simple white shirt was standing at the podium, and he was busy organizing the examination papers.

Even though his head was lowered, preventing her from seeing his face clearly, Shi Yao still recognized who he was with a single look.

It can't be such a coincidence, can it? My invigilator is actually Lin Jiage?

Shi Yao instinctively halted midway into the classroom.

It was only when the other examinees reminded her that she was blocking the way that Shi Yao finally regained her senses. She quickly apologized while backing to the side, giving way to those behind her.

And again, after those examinees entered the classroom, only then did she realize that this classroom was her examination hall as well. To give way, she just had to enter the room. There was no need for her to back off to the side...

Shi Yao inwardly criticized herself for her silliness as she shuffled back to the entrance of the examination hall and walked into the classroom.

At this moment, Lin Jiage was done organizing the papers, and perhaps he had sensed someone entering—he nonchalantly turned his gaze toward Shi Yao’s direction.

And sensing Lin Jiage’s gaze, Shi Yao’s footsteps subconsciously halted as well.

A few days ago, when the two of them traded messages, he told her that he was her friend. Did this mean that everything he said about not wanting anything to do with her was now annulled? So as friends, should she start greeting him now?

While Shi Yao was still deep in thought, a person suddenly came over and greeted her, “Hey, Little Junior. What a coincidence!”

Shi Yao instinctively turned her head to look—it was Lu Benlai. Today, he was dressed in a light pink T-shirt.

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Ah... Well, admittedly, the T-shirt looked really nice, but do you have to be so fashionable?

Shi Yao muttered in her heart as her lips curled into a smile, and she greeted Lu Benlai, “Senior Lu, morning.”

Shortly after Shi Yao said those words, Lu Benlai had the conspicuous feeling that the aura emanating from Lin Jiage had turned a little abnormal.

Did I... jump the gun? Did I make a mistake greeting Little Junior first, so Little Junior ended up greeting me first instead?

Lu Benlai’s brain quickly whirred into action, and in the next moment, he clutched his stomach and exclaimed, “Ah! My stomach suddenly hurts! I need to use the toilet for a while. You two can continue chatting, I’ll be right back...”

After which, Lu Benlai slipped out of the classroom.

Completely oblivious to the abnormal situation happening around her, Shi Yao was thinking that since she’d already greeted Senior Lu, it was only natural for her to greet Lin Jiage as well. Thus, she turned her head around and smiled at Lin Jiage with her eyes. “Senior Lin, good morning.”

Senior Lin, good morning... Senior Lu, morning...?He had one more word than Lu Benlai...

Lin Jiage’s mood immediately perked up, and he even made the rare exception of speaking two consecutive sentences, “Morning.”

And then: “What’s your examinee number?”

Shi Yao took out her examinee ID before replying, “Twenty-six.”

Lin Jiage pointed at the column by his right and said, “Your seat is on the fourth row.”

She was just about to see how the tables were arranged when Lin Jiage suddenly informed her...

Shi Yao replied with a smile, “Thank you, Senior Lin”, and after a slight moment of silence, she added, “I’ll be heading to my seat first then.”

Lin Jiage calmly nodded and replied with an “Mm”.

Shi Yao didn't say anything anymore. She turned around, but before she could move her feet, Lin Jiage suddenly spoke up once more with a crisp tone, “Do your paper well. Don't cheat.”

Chapter 284: Do Your Paper Well, Don't Cheat (2)

Those six words nearly made Shi Yao's legs collapse.

Cheat? Who's going to cheat?

I have the Marxism ideology all memorized in my head! There's no need for me to cheat at all!

With such thoughts in mind, Shi Yao turned to look at Lin Jiage with what she thought of as a ‘furious glare’.

But on the other hand...

Her puffed-up cheeks sure do make her face look round, but why is she staring at me with such an adorable look? Is she trying to act cute?

Lin Jiage's gaze couldn't help lingering on her face for a while before he reluctantly lowered his head. As he picked up the papers to distribute them, he said, “You can't cheat even if you try to act cute with me!”

Shi Yao widened her eyes.

Act cute? Which eye of yours sees that I'm acting cute?

Forget it. Seeing as you're the invigilator today, I'll let you off this time...

Shi Yao pouted in displeasure. This time, she didn't bother saying anything or making any gestures; she headed right to her seat instead.

Shi Yao and the others had entered the examination hall on the dot, so barely a few minutes after she was seated, the bell signaling the start of the examination rang.

Lu Benlai and Lin Jiage took half of the examination papers each. Initially, Lu Benlai was standing at the area closest to the window, but prior to giving out the papers, he noticed that Lin Jiage was staring at him intently, and his body suddenly froze. It took two seconds before he realized that Little Junior was in his ‘section’. So, he very knowingly walked over to the ‘section’ closer to the door before distributing the papers.

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After the papers were distributed, the entire classroom was plunged into silence. All of the examinees were sprawled over the table, writing quickly on their papers with pens in hand.

Lin Jiage stood right beside the window, and from the moment the examination started, his eyes remained fixated on Shi Yao.

After obtaining the paper, Soft Bun's pen swiftly moved across the paper...*Judging from her current state, did she really know how to do the paper, or was she randomly answering all of the questions, wanting to just get it over and done with?*

Then again, that serious look on her face while doing her paper is honestly endearing... Also, her mouth keeps moving silently as well. Is she reading the question?

Hm... They say that slow-witted people have to mouth out the words as they read in order to process it. Maybe there's some truth in that statement. After all, I only have to take a glance at the question to know the answer...

Sometime later, Lin Jiage noticed that Shi Yao had already flipped to the next page on the paper.

Is she fumbling her way through the second page after fumbling her way through the first?

Yeesh, if this wasn't an exam, I'd really like to take a photo of this with my phone.

Just forty minutes into the exam, Shi Yao's pen had already come to a halt.

Ah... A two-hour paper, but she finished it in forty minutes? Well, fumbling through a paper is bound to be faster than answering each and every question seriously...

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage changed his standing posture as he continued staring at Shi Yao intently.

It was still fine when Shi Yao was answering the paper; her attention was absorbed by the question, so she didn't pay much attention to what was happening in her surroundings. However, she was now done with her paper. As she took her time checking for any wrongly written words, she couldn't help noticing that Lin Jiage's gaze was firmly plastered onto her.

Why is he doing that? Is he afraid that I'll cheat?

After changing two wrongly written words and confirming that there was no mistake with the paper, she noted that Lin Jiage's gaze was still fixated on her. So, she put down her paper, cushioned her chin with her arm, and stared back at Lin Jiage as well.

Why is Soft Bun looking at me? It's one thing for her to look at me, but she's blinking from time to time as well... Is she trying to send me sparks?

Or did Soft Bun prepare some secret notes, and she can't cheat with me staring at her so intently? So, she has no choice but to give me a hint this way?

Hmph, does she think that I'd let her cheat just because she blinked her eyes at me a few times? Do I look like such an unprincipled person?

As these thoughts emerged in Lin Jiage's mind, he saw Shi Yao blink at him once more.

Fine! Since the person doing it is Soft Bun, I'll reluctantly overlook it just this once...

Chapter 285: Actress Bun's Folded Note (1)

Lin Jiage looked at Shi Yao for a while longer before unwillingly averting his gaze elsewhere.

Soft Bun should be happy with this... She can finally refer to her notes with no worries now...

But in the end, Lin Jiage still felt a little troubled on the inside, so he would glance inconspicuously in Shi Yao's direction from time to time.

Hm? When did Soft Bun become so gutless? I'm not even looking at her anymore, but she's still too afraid to cheat?

A slight frown furrowed Lin Jiage's forehead. After a moment of pondering, he finally looked at the young man sitting in front of the podium with his arm supporting his lower jaw, nearly drifting to sleep—Lu Benlai.

Maybe this guy is stopping Soft Bun from referring to her notes?

Lin Jiage lowered his gaze contemplatively for a moment.

Since I've grudgingly decided to overlook Soft Bun this once, I should just overlook the whole thing to the very end...

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage walked over to Lu Benlai's side and began 'awkwardly conversing' with him in a hushed voice.

In the midst of their strange conversation, Lin Jiage didn't forget to glance discreetly at Shi Yao every now and then.

The young lady was finally not looking at him anymore. With her pen in hand, she seemed to be scribbling something on a blank paper distractedly.

Is she doing that to hide the fact that she's secretly referring to her notes?

Who would've thought that on top of being a glutton, Soft Bun would be an actress too... Hmmm, Actress Bun. Surprisingly, that nickname has quite a nice ring to it...

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Thinking up to this point, even Lin Jiage failed to notice the slight smile curling up on his lips.

On the other hand, Lu Benlai was seriously in the middle of discussing Math problems with Lin Jiage when he suddenly noticed the latter's abrupt smile. Perplexed, he asked, "Boss, what are you smiling for?"

Am I smiling?

Lin Jiage lifted his hand slightly to cover his lips. Clearing his throat, his expression immediately reverted back to its usual cold and aloof state. "It's nothing. Continue what you were saying..."

And as Lu Benlai resumed chatting about the topic, Lin Jiage sneaked another peek at Shi Yao for the nth time.

Judging from the present look on her face, it didn't seem like she was randomly doodling anymore but seriously writing something down...? *Is she finally starting to get down to work?*

Lin Jiage intentionally averted his gaze away from Shi Yao while forcefully pressing Lu Benlai to discuss boring Math problems with him.

It wasn't until Shi Yao put down her pen that he finally ended his conversation with Lu Benlai. He leisurely made his way back to the windowsill and lazily leaned against it as he shifted his gaze onto Shi Yao.

Surprisingly, the young lady was looking at him... and more importantly, the hand that she'd placed on the table was actually waving lightly at him...

Is she calling me over?

Lin Jiage remained motionless on the spot, his eyes still glued to Shi Yao's face. However, as Shi Yao continued to beckon for him, he eventually put on a look of helplessness. With an attitude reminiscent of an invigilator walking down the rows to check on the students, he took one round around the room before eventually stopping by Shi Yao's side.

Shi Yao passed a very small folded paper to him.

This is... Did Soft Bun fail to find the answer in her secret notes, so she's looking to me for help?

As an invigilator, I'd be a sinner if I allowed her to do that!

On the other hand, after seeing that Lin Jiage wasn't taking the paper note, Shi Yao thought that he didn't see it. So, she pushed the note closer to Lin Jiage and even blinked at him to gesture for him to quickly accept it.

She's sending sparks at me again to seduce me...

Lin Jiage struggled internally for a second. Then, he swiftly glanced at his surroundings to confirm that no one was looking in this direction before discreetly reaching out his hand to sneak the paper note away, hiding it in his palm. After which, with an attitude that suggested that nothing had happened at all, he walked away from Shi Yao's table.

Chapter 286: Actress Bun's Folded Note (2)

Lin Jiage continued strolling around the examination hall for a while before he finally stopped at the podium. He snatched away the examination papers which were already crumpled after serving as Lu Benlai's elbow cushion for hours and began browsing through them.

To think that I'd actually succumb to temptation and fall to the dark side... Wait a minute, the issue isn't really that severe. At most, it could only be considered as an 'unspoken rule' right?

While reading through the papers and memorizing the answers in his heart, Lin Jiage's mind wandered all over the place.

While the 'unspoken rules' usually consist of a sexual relationship, I fell after the blinking of the eye? If someone found out about this, won't I seem a little too easy?

And again, would Soft Bun need to use 'unspoken rules' on me? At most, this could only be considered as... the husband going along with the wife...

Lin Jiage looked through the answers for the multiple choice questions and filled in the blanks. When he was certain that Shi Yao would be able to obtain eighty marks at the very minimum with the answers he'd gathered thus far, only then did he finally take a pencil from the table, tossed Lu Benlai with an "I'm going to the bathroom", and walked out of the examination hall.

He quickly entered a bathroom and locked himself in a cubicle before taking out Shi Yao's note from his pockets.

Despite living for so many years, this is my first time helping someone else to cheat. It's pretty exciting just thinking about it...

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage unfolded the paper note and picked up the pencil, but just as he was preparing to write down the answers on the paper, he suddenly saw a sentence scribbled over it: *[I still owe you a meal...]*

?????

This wasn't in line with the script... Isn't Soft Bun supposed to ask for my help to cheat in the exam? Why would she suddenly talk about food?

Taken aback, Lin Jiage read on.

[... It just so happens that I don't have any classes this afternoon. If you're free, why don't I treat you after this?]

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[If you agree to it, please tick the food you prefer from the choice of selections below:]

[A (Mala Stir-fry Pot),?B (Crayfish), C (Skewers),?D (Hot pot), E (Beijing Cuisine),?F (Hunan Cuisine??), G (?Cantonese Cuisine??)]

Isn't passing notes around in the examination hall supposed to be about cheating? Yet, to think that it's actually a multiple choice question about food!

So, the stuff that she was writing down so seriously while he 'awkwardly conversed' with Lu Benlai was actually this?

Having been tightly slapped by reality, Lin Jiage didn't know whether he should laugh or cry. He stood in the bathroom for a long time before he eventually consoled himself: *[I'm not the one who did something wrong. It's just that Soft Bun is too different from normal people...]*

Lin Jiage sighed deeply with a hint of helplessness in his tone before writing on the note with the pencil: *[I choose H (Anything)]*

While folding the paper up once more, Lin Jiage hesitated for a moment before tearing out the portion which he'd written. Then, he carefully folded the rest of the paper which contained Shi Yao's handwriting before placing it back into his pocket.

This seems to be the first note that Soft Bun has given me... Better keep it for commemorative purposes...

When Lin Jiage returned to the examination hall, he noticed that Shi Yao had continued scribbling distractedly on a paper, just like she did when he was awkwardly conversing with Lu Benlai earlier.

Since she wasn't copying down her notes, that must mean that her distracted scribbling wasn't an act... But then, what in the world is she scribbling on the paper then?

While Lin Jiage was feeling intrigued by the matter, he had somehow already arrived right in front of Shi Yao's table.

Sensing Lin Jiage's presence, Shi Yao lifted her head to look at him.

Lin Jiage casually tossed the paper onto her table, and before leaving, he shot a glance at the work beneath Shi Yao's pen.

This look nearly made him choke on his saliva...

Soft Bun wasn't scribbling randomly but doodling... She had filled the entire draft paper with food that could be eaten—strawberries, apples, oranges, ice cream, sweets...

Soft Bun's rationality had been devoured by her own gluttony!!

Chapter 287: If There's a Restaurant In the World Called Anything, It Would Surely Be Explosively Popular (1)

After Lin Jiage finally walked away, Shi Yao discreetly opened the note he had left on her table? *[H (Anything)]*...

In the list of options she had written down, there was no H option! Lin Jiage was sidestepping the topic—not giving a proper answer at all.

If he were to take an examination with such an attitude, he would definitely score a zero.

If there was a restaurant in the world called anything, it would surely be explosively popular.

If...

Amidst Shi Yao's wandering thoughts, the examination finally came to an end.

Following how they'd distributed the examination papers earlier, Lu Benlai was in charge of collecting the papers for the examinees closer to the door whereas Lin Jiage was in charge of collecting the papers for Shi Yao's section.

In contrast to the amiable smile on Lu Benlai's face, Lin Jiage's expression was so nonchalant that he even appeared cold. It almost felt like he was a loan shark hounding down a debtor to pay up instead of an invigilator collecting the papers...

In the row on the right of Shi Yao's—seated third from the back—sat a beautiful lady. Her appearance was classy and fashionable, especially with her honey tea hair, which happened to be the trendiest hair color this year. Her very presence seemed to naturally command attention.

Throughout the whole examination, Honey Tea Hair had raised her hand a total of three times, and each time her hand was up, her eyes would be completely focused on Lin Jiage. But to her disappointment, the one who approached her to resolve her problems was Lu Benlai every single time.

Lu Benlai first started collecting the papers from Honey Tea Hair's row. Most examinees left the examination hall right after their paper had been taken, but Honey Hair Tea remained on her desk, whipping out her compact mirror to check on her appearance and to touch up her lips. Even when most of the people around her had already left, she still continued to remain in the examination hall.

On the other hand, Lin Jiage started collecting the papers from the row closest to the windows whereas Shi Yao was seated more toward the center. Making a swift calculation, she would be the fourth last examinee which Lin Jiage would be collecting the examination paper from.

Not too long later, the examination hall was already three-quarters empty, but Honey Tea Hair still remained seated in her chair, seemingly busy with something.

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When Lin Jiage was collecting the paper from the third seat from the back of Shi Yao's row, the seat directly left of Honey Tea Hair, Honey Tea Hair turned her head and directed a radiant smile at Lin Jiage. Right in front of the other students still in the classroom, she spoke up without any reservations, "Senior Lin, do you have some time later on?"

It was hard to tell whether Lin Jiage hadn't heard her words or that he was feigning deafness, but he swiftly snatched the examination paper from the hands of the examinee seated next to Honey Tea Hair before moving on to the next student.

Honey Tea Hair wasn't discouraged by Lin Jiage's actions though. "Senior Lin, if you're busy right now, I can wait till you're done collecting the papers..."

But before Honey Tea Hair could finish her words, Lin Jiage, who had finally reached Shi Yao's side at this point in time, suddenly spoke up, "Wait for me later. It'll take me roughly ten minutes..."

Shi Yao instantly knew that Lin Jiage was referring to her treating him to a meal, but this didn't seem like an appropriate moment, especially since Honey Tea Hair was talking to him... She subconsciously turned her head to shoot a glance towards Honey Tea Hair.

I'm talking to you, so what are you turning away for?

The frowning Lin Jiage used the stack of papers in his hand to lightly pat Shi Yao's right cheek, conveniently blocking her view of Honey Tea Hair while he was at it. "Did you hear what I said?"

Slightly scratched by the papers, Shi Yao puffed up her cheeks and glared at Lin Jiage angrily, "I heard you!"

Acting cute again...

Lin Jiage couldn't resist patting Shi Yao's head with the papers once more before moving on to collect the remaining three papers ahead. After which, he headed to the podium and combined his stack of papers together with Lu Benlai's before sealing them into a confidential file.

Lin Jiage had said ten minutes, but in truth, he spent less than five minutes delivering the papers to the staff room and returning back to the examination hall where Shi Yao was at.

Chapter 288: If There's a Restaurant In the World Called Anything, It Would Surely Be Explosively Popular (2)

Only Shi Yao and Honey Tea Hair were left in the large examination hall, causing the place to feel slightly cold.

Honey Tea Hair was still fiddling with the cosmetics in her bag. Even though her actions appeared very demure, the frequent looks she directed toward the door betrayed the impatience she felt inside.

By comparison, Shi Yao looked much more calmer than before. Resuming what she did during the examination, she used her pencil to doodle on a piece of scrap paper in order to pass the time.

When Lin Jiage finally returned, he didn't enter the examination hall but waited outside instead.

In this moment, a warm ray of sunlight shining through the windows was falling on Shi Yao's face, making her skin look far more radiant than usual.

Lin Jiage was about to call for Shi Yao, but this scene stopped the words halfway through his throat. His casual look gradually turned into an intense stare instead.

It was a pity that someone just had to break this beautiful scenery soon after...

"Senior Lin!"

Hearing the words spoken by Honey Tea Hair, Shi Yao turned to look at the entrance of the examination hall as well.

Meeting her gaze, Lin Jiage ignored Honey Tea Hair's greeting and beckoned Shi Yao over instead, "Time to go."

Shi Yao replied with an "Mm" as she started to pack up her stuff.

Within this interval, Honey Tea Hair had already walked over to Lin Jiage with her pink Chanel bag, and standing gracefully right before him, she said, "Senior Lin, I'm Luo Guan, Year 1 from the Chinese Faculty. May I know if you have some free time right now? If it's okay with you, I'd like to treat you to a meal."

While Honey Tea Hair was speaking, Shi Yao was already done packing her bag and was walking over in their direction.

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Lin Jiage's original intention was to simply disregard this young lady who kept persistently trying to chat him up, but when he saw Shi Yao walking towards him, he contemplated deeply for two seconds before saying, "I'm sorry, but you should ask her that question instead."

Honey Tea Hair was stunned for two seconds before she turned around to face Shi Yao.

Similarly, Shi Yao was completely caught off guard by Lin Jiage's remark too.

Another lady was inviting him out for a meal, but why in the world was he involving her in it too?

The Honey Tea Hair directed a judgmental look towards Shi Yao, carefully assessing her from head to toe. When she saw the unprestigious brand of clothing that Shi Yao was wearing and the outdated bag she was carrying, a hint of disdain surfaced in the depths of her eyes.

Shi Yao was no fool either. She could, of course, see the provocation in the other party's eyes; she just didn't think much of it, choosing to turn her gaze toward Lin Jiage instead.

She wanted to ask Lin Jiage why he was making Honey Tea Hair direct the question to her, but just as she was about to move her lips, Lin Jiage spoke up once more. His tone remained considerably cool like before, but different from how he spoke to Honey Tea Hair, the words he directed toward Shi Yao carried an inconceivable hint of indulgence, "Don't worry, I'll never go out with other girls behind your back."

What does it have to do with me whether you go out with other girls or not?

Shi Yao widened her eyes in confusion.

However, it seemed like Lin Jiage wasn't planning on giving Shi Yao the opportunity to speak at all. He turned to look at Honey Tea Hair and said, "I'm sorry, but it seems like I can't accept your suggestion. Look, my Yaoyao seems to be a little unhappy..."

U-u-unhappy?

Just which eye of yours sees that I'm unhappy?

And also, my Yaoyao?! J-j-just when did I become your Yaoyao?

Shi Yao opened her mouth to speak, but once again, before she could say a word, Lin Jiage had already walked to her side and snatched her bag from her hand. Then, wrapping his hand around her waist, he 'guided' her out of the examination hall.

Shi Yao's body stiffened instinctively at his touch, and she subconsciously attempted to struggle free from his hand.

Lin Jiage allowed her to escape halfway from his grasp before pulling her back into his embrace. Then, acting as if she was so angry that she wouldn't even let him hug her, he whispered softly into her ears in order to coax her, "Alright, don't be angry anymore. Look, didn't I reject her in front of you?"

Chapter 289: I Have Held Her Waist Before (1)

As he spoke, Lin Jiage discreetly took a look behind him.

The face of Honey Tea Hair had become so awkward that her complexion was starting to look a little awful.

The moment he saw this, only then did Lin Jiage finally retract his gaze, relieved. His coaxing words didn't stop as he led Shi Yao away—in fact, due to being some distance away, he even intentionally raised his voice in order to ensure a certain someone would hear him, “Besides, didn't I ignore her every time she tried to speak to me?”

“I didn't want to talk to her, but it's not good to drag things out. I had to reject her properly. If I didn't, she might have taken my silence as consent instead, and that would've been way worse!”

“...”

Lin Jiage's words shot forth one after another, leaving no interval for Shi Yao to interject at all.

After they left the building, safe out of Honey Tea Hair's sight, Shi Yao could finally exclaim, “Wait wait wait wait wait!” Only then did Lin Jiage stop his seemingly incessant monologue.

Lin Jiage had been holding her close throughout the entire journey, and since it was summertime, the season where everyone dressed light, Shi Yao could clearly feel the warmth and sturdiness of his chest.

His natural fragrance kept assaulting her senses as well.

Her heartbeat quickened slightly, and when Lin Jiage stopped speaking, she ended up stuttering “You you you you you” for a long time with a reddened face before she finally recalled what she wanted to say, “What are you doing?”

“Oh...” In contrast to Shi Yao's flustered appearance, Lin Jiage appeared much more composed. “... I'm recruiting your help.”

Recruiting my help?

Shi Yao blinked at him, staring at Lin Jiage with an uncomprehending look in her eyes.

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Then, it suddenly dawned on her that, in this instant, she was still being held in Lin Jiage's arms.

A burning sensation engulfed her face, and she instinctively lowered her head as she hurriedly struggled free from Lin Jiage's grasp.

At first, she wanted to ask him what he meant by recruiting her help, but after this brief awkwardness, she found herself unable to speak a word.

Silence lingered between the two for quite some time before Lin Jiage spoke up, “There's no way I could have given you a heads up given the situation, so I acted without permission... By recruiting your help, I meant that I was using you as an excuse to reject that girl...”

At which, Lin Jiage paused for a brief moment before asking hesitantly, “... Do you mind?”

In truth, Shi Yao didn't particularly care about it either, just that he'd held her and walked for quite some distance...

The crimson-faced Shi Yao wasn't too sure how to respond to Lin Jiage at this time, so she ended up maintaining her silence instead.

On the other hand, Lin Jiage stared at her slightly reddened neck for a long time before speaking up once more, this time in a deeply apologetic tone, "I just thought that it'd be fine since we're friends. If it really bothers you, I'll remember not to do it again in the future..."

Thinking that Lin Jiage had misunderstood her silence for anger, Shi Yao hurriedly shook her head and interjected, "No, that's not it... Actually, I don't really mind helping you..."

She was just a little embarrassed... but how could she possibly say such a thing in front of him!

Shi Yao pondered for a moment, and she eventually decided that the best course of action in this situation was to change the topic, so she said, "Well... Aren't we going to eat now? Let's eat... mala stir-fry pot, how about that?"

Lin Jiage nodded casually, putting on a look as if he was fine with eating anything, "Sure."

There was a brief moment of silence between them before he continued, "You can lead the way."

Shi Yao quickly nodded with an "Un un" before setting forth toward the school gates.

Lin Jiage quickly followed behind her.

The two of them didn't say a single word along the way, but from time to time, Lin Jiage would shoot a glance in Shi Yao's direction.

As he looked, he couldn't help but recall the waist he had wrapped his hand around earlier.

Even through her blouse, he could still feel the softness of her body...

Chapter 290: I Have Held Her Waist Before (2)

Even through her blouse, he could still feel the softness of her body...

Her waist is so slender, the kind that you can easily wrap your hand around.

She has a pleasant scent, and it smells just like her too—a little milky, a little sweet...

As these thoughts flickered past Lin Jiage's mind, he couldn't help but look at Shi Yao's waist once more.

Due to her walking movement, her hips were constantly swaying.

Lin Jiage's gaze followed the motion of her hips intently, and as he looked on and on, his ears began to burn up...

And to his astonishment, he actually started wondering if her waist would feel even softer and more supple if she weren't wearing clothes instead!

Just how did such a dirty thought pop up in his mind? In fact, he even had the urge to try how it felt for himself... Was this what Song Chaoxi meant by 'wanting to sleep with her'?

...

Shi Yao brought Lin Jiage to a mala stir-fry pot store that was part of a chain store located in a shopping mall not too far away from their school.

It was currently lunchtime, so there were quite a number of people around. They had to queue for a while before they managed to get a seat.

Shi Yao was the one who placed their orders, and when the attendant asked how spicy the food should be, Shi Yao turned to Lin Jiage and asked, "Are you fine with extremely spicy?"

Even a little spicy is hard for me to accept, much less extremely spicy...

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Despite thinking this in his head, Lin Jiage nodded with a perfectly composed expression, as if he'd be fine with anything at all, "Sure."

Then, he pondered for a brief moment before turning to the attendant and saying, "Add another bowl of white rice to the order."

The attendant quickly jotted down the order before taking his leave. In less than twenty minutes later, the dishes they ordered were served to the table.

Lin Jiage stared in horror at the pot filled entirely with red chili before him. Under Shi Yao's passionate invitation, he picked up a slice of pork belly with dread and placed it into his rice bowl. He rolled it back and forth on his rice for quite a while, and after removing a huge chunk of the chili from the slice, only then did he finally put it into his mouth.

But with just a single bite, Lin Jiage immediately froze from the explosion of flavor in his mouth.

He didn't want Shi Yao to notice his reaction, so he forcefully controlled the expression on his face as he slowly chewed on the meat. It was a long moment of agony before he finally managed to swallow that small slice of pork belly.

He lifted his head to look at the young lady in front of him, and she seemed to be relishing in the dish, as if they weren't eating from the same pot at all.

She sure is good at eating spicy food...

It seemed like he'd have to learn how to eat spicy food to maintain the harmony of their future life together... Un... Next week, the menu for Room 501 shall be: Steamed Fish Head with Chili Pepper, Mala Tofu, Water-boiled Beef Slices, Duck Blood Curd, Stir-fried Chili Chicken...

However, Lin Jiage didn't spend too much time pondering over food because he recalled another matter that was even more important—the issue concerning Soft Bun and Big White Chubby.

He spent the entire night yesterday twisting and turning around, barely catching a wink of sleep, all the way until daybreak. But even so, he still couldn't find an answer to his dilemma.

It was just like Lu Benlai had said; the reason why he took care of Yao Loves Ice Cream in the game was because she was a girl. He felt that the girl he liked should be able to understand him this much...

Or maybe, should he ask Soft Bun to see what she thought about this matter?

Lin Jiage lowered his gaze as he contemplated deeply for a short moment before he raised his head and called out, "Shi Yao."

Shi Yao was still delightedly tackling the mala stir-fried pot before her when she heard Lin Jiage's call, so she tilted her head up and asked, "Hm?"

Lin Jiage: "There's something I'd like to hear your opinion on, is that okay?"

Shi Yao nodded vigorously, "Sure, ask me anything you like."

Lin Jiage took a brief moment to organize his thoughts and words before continuing, "I..."

Just after speaking that single word, he suddenly paused.

It didn't seem like a good idea for him to admit that he was the person in question...

So, after two seconds of hesitation, Lin Jiage continued, "... have a friend who recently got to know two girls."