

WITH YOU 311

Chapter 311: My Sexual Orientation Is Perfectly Normal (1)

<111111>:[What do you think about him?]

Mister Numbers's questions were getting more and more eccentric... Typically speaking, wouldn't a guy like him be more interested in learning more about the ladies in the school? Why would he suddenly express interest in another man? This...

The more Shi Yao thought about the matter, the more bizarre she found it to be.

Lin Jiage was indeed one of the more renowned figures in G University. Just from He Tiantian and the others' usual gossip, she could roughly determine just how popular Lin Jiage was with the female populace. Even during the examination two days ago, she saw a girl inviting him out to eat. Could there be a chance that Mister Numbers, towards Lin Jiage...

Thinking up to this point, Shi Yao could no longer concentrate on anything else anymore. She quickly replied to <111111>'s message.

...

Lin Jiage's initial intention was just to divert the topic away from Peppa Pig due to how awkward and embarrassing it was for him.

Perhaps it was due to a night of insomnia, or perhaps it was because he rarely spoke with any girls and so his train of thought was a little out of it; he couldn't think of a good topic no matter how hard he racked his head. At this point, he suddenly realized that this might be a good opportunity for him to understand Shi Yao's image of him in her head, so he decisively chose to turn the topic towards himself.

After typing "What do you think about him?", Lin Jiage suddenly felt a little tense inside.

This was a tension he had never felt as far as he could remember... It was tinged with a bit of expectation, as well as a little bit of fear and nervousness.

It felt like an eternity had passed before his ringtone sounded.

His hand immediately darted for his phone, and he saw that Shi Yao's message said:[Could it be that Lin Jiage is your Yin Zhiping?]

What the heck does that mean? Just how in the world am I related to Yin Zhiping?

Updates by . com

Without thinking too much into it, Lin Jiage replied with a[?]?.

This time, Shi Yao replied quickly:[What I mean is that do you harbor special thoughts toward Lin Jiage?]

Lin Jiage was stunned for two whole seconds before the meaning behind those words struck him.

Does Soft Bun think that I like Lin Jiage?

So, the message that she sent earlier, 'Could it be that Lin Jiage is your Yin Zhiping', meant that... I've been sullied by me?

Just what kind of nonsense does Soft Bun store in that small head of hers?

Lin Jiage took in a deep breath and suppressed his urge to pry open Shi Yao's head to see what was inside before replying: *[What are you talking about?]*

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>: *[But if you don't like him, why would you ask me that question just now?]*

Even if the partner was himself, and it was indeed true that he loved himself a lot, he still couldn't allow Soft Bun to think that he liked men...

Thus, Lin Jiage replied without hesitation: *[Of course not. My sexual orientation is perfectly normal.]*

...

Ah... It would be enough for Mister Numbers to deny that he didn't like Lin Jiage, why did he have to tell her that his sexual orientation was normal?

Feeling a little embarrassed, Shi Yao typed out: *[Then why did you ask me that question?]*

<111111>: *[Isn't he very popular in our school? I was just a little curious to see what you thought about him.]*

Well, it was still understandable since Lin Jiage was indeed a celebrity in G University—there were many times where Shi Yao was in the school canteen and she would hear other girls gossiping about him.

Just that, I didn't think a guy like Mister Numbers would turn out to be so nosey as well...

With such thoughts in mind, Shi Yao tapped on her phone and replied: *[I see...]*

[Well, I think that Lin Jiage is...] Shi Yao tilted her head sideways and pondered for a moment. She suddenly recalled the response which Mister Numbers gave a long time ago when Expert asked him whether her voice was nice or not, and she found it exceptionally apt for the current situation, so she continued typing: *[... just so-so.]*

Chapter 312: My Sexual Orientation Is Perfectly Normal (2)

...

Following the ringtone of his phone, *'ding dong!'*, Lin Jiage immediately opened his eyes and picked up his phone.

[Well, I think Lin Jiage is...]

As Lin Jiage read through Shi Yao's words, he instinctively began holding his breath.

He had to mentally prepare himself for roughly three seconds before he slowly moved his gaze to read the following words.

[... just so-so.]

In this instant, Lin Jiage felt as if someone had clubbed him on his head, causing his mind to turn completely blank.

It took a while before he finally blinked his eyes lightly, and his engine which had sputtered to a halt finally whirred back to action.

I think Lin Jiage is just so-so... just so-so...

Was this Soft Bun's impression of him?

Well, he was indeed guilty of saying many horrible words to her, so it was understandable why her impression of him would be so bad. However, he felt that he'd been treating her pretty well lately, so even if he wasn't at a full score, he should at least be around 90 points...

Alright, maybe 90 points is a little too high... But even if that wasn't the case, I should at least be at 80 points, right?

Did her words, 'just so-so', mean that I didn't even score 70 points in her mind?

Updates by . com

Lin Jiage really couldn't accept Shi Yao's evaluation of himself. He tried his best to steady his emotions before he replied to Shi Yao's message: *[That's too vague. Can't you give me something more concrete?]*

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>: *[Something more concrete? He's good-looking, smart, and comes from a well-to-do family... All in all, he's the type of guy that most girls would like.]*

Finally, something that was more reasonable...

Lin Jiage's feelings of indignation finally alleviated a little as he continued asking: *[What about you? Do you like guys like him? Or to be more exact, out of a scale of 100, what score would you give him?]*

...

Mister Numbers sure was nosey. To think that he'd ask if Lin Jiage was the type of person she would like...

Like?

While nibbling on her left thumb, Shi Yao tilted her head and mused deeply.

She knew that Lin Jiage didn't want people to know of their engagement.

Even though they could barely be considered as friends at the moment, still... he probably wouldn't like seeing her talk too much about him to other people... As for whether she liked him or not, well, this simply didn't seem to be an appropriate term to be used between Lin Jiage and her...

Shi Yao thought deeply for a moment before replying <111111>'s message.

...

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>: *[To be honest with you, I do know him but we're not very close.]*

Aren't very close?!

Upon seeing those words, he immediately sprang up from his bed.

In that instant, all of the exhaustion weighing down on him disappeared without a trace.

Aren't very close... In Soft Bun's heart, we're not close at all?

At this moment, Lin Jiage's phone vibrated once more, and a new notification appeared on his screen.

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>:?[*How should I say this? Hmm... I guess the two of us could barely be considered as friends.*]

Barely...

Lin Jiage was a frequent user of this word, but for the very first time, he found it exceptionally jarring.

On the other hand, Shi Yao was still oblivious to the kind of storm she had caused on the other end of her phone and was still sending over messages.

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>:?[*I think that he's still a good person overall. If I really have to give him a score, well, this is just my personal view of him, I think that I should be able to give him 60 points...*]

60 points?

Seeing that the result had completely exceeded his expectations in the opposite direction, Lin Jiage's face was immediately drained of color.

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>:?[*Perhaps 60 points might be a little too low, he's actually quite nice from time to time once you get to know him.*]

Chapter 313: I Only Barely Passed Through Bribery (1)

While the phrase 'from time to time' felt like an eyesore, the term 'quite nice' gave him a little bit of consolation inside...

It seemed like Soft Bun's perception of him wasn't completely doomed yet... He knew that someone like him should have 80 points or so at the very least...

Just as Lin Jiage was reveling in relief, another message from Shi Yao came in once more.

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>:?[*After some thought, I think I'll give him 70 points after all.*]

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>:?[*I still feel like 70 points is still a little too high for him. Forget it, I'll just take the middle point. 65 points should be good enough for him.*]

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>:?[*To tell you the truth, if you asked me this question a while back, I would've definitely given him -100 points. No, it should be -1000 points!*]

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>:?[*But now, after all the delicacies he's treated me with, I guess I have no choice but to give him a passing grade.*]

The four consecutive messages from Shi Yao left Lin Jiage completely dazed.

70 points? To think that it's only 70 points? Isn't that a little too low?

65 points? And it's already good enough for me? Am I really not worth 70 points?

What?! -1000 points? Was your impression of me really that bad in the past?

And my current passing grade is because of all that food I bribed you with... Does this mean that my position in your heart is lower than food?

Lin Jiage had no idea what was wrong with him, but his mood suddenly fell to an unprecedented low valley.

Updates by . com

He thought that he'd be able to sleep in peace after being released from her blacklist, but his insomnia only seemed to worsen.

Instead of replying to Shi Yao's message, he quietly sat on his bed for a while before lying down. He dazedly stared at the white ceiling above him for a very long time before he could finally formulate some thoughts in his mind once more.

It's understandable that Soft Bun's impression of me isn't so good. That's a given after everything that I did, right? I only have myself to blame for running my mouth off because of my childish recklessness back then...

Anyway, it's not too big of a deal, right? After all, it's not as if her impression of me is beyond redemption. No matter what, my score is still a positive 65.

It's a good thing I was smart enough to conceal my true identity as <11111>... Now that I have two identities, even if 'Lin Jiage' blows himself up, I still have <11111> to fall back on... With two identities to work with, I refuse to believe that I won't be able to craft a perfect image of myself in Soft Bun's heart.

Well, despite Lin Jiage's attempts to console himself, he still couldn't help feeling deeply stifled inside.

This seemed to be the very first time in his life that he felt so concerned about another person's opinion of himself?

Sleep... was something that was impossible for him to do now. So, Lin Jiage got off the bed, had a quick shower, and flipped open his laptop to work on his project.

...

Shi Yao's life had fallen into quite a routine in recent days.

If she really had to point out any differences in her life, it would just happen to be two things.

First, there seemed to be quite a lot of girls chasing Lin Jiage recently. His usual once-in-two-days phone call hailing for her 'trash disposal service' for the various tidbits and goodies he received from confessions had turned into a daily affair... and soon, it turned into twice a day, and in recent days, there were signs that it was about to be officially hiked up to three times a day.

Second, there had been a change in the dynamics of the <Sexy and Frisky> group too. In the past, it would usually be her, Juice, or Expert hailing for everyone to play, but in recent days, Mister Numbers had been frequently @'ing her in the group, calling her to play. Sometimes, when she hadn't replied for some time, he would even send her a private message. At first, it was only limited to night-time, but nowadays, Mister Numbers would even contact her early in the morning with a? [*Do you want to play?*]?.

Chapter 314: I Only Barely Passed Through Bribery (2)

In the blink of an eye, it was already Friday.

After finishing her morning classes and having a meal in the canteen, Shi Yao took a look at the blinding sunlight outside and decided to wait until evening, when the sun had set, before heading back home.

As soon as she returned to her dormitory room, a new message arrived on her phone.

It was an invitation from <111111> asking her to play.

Shi Yao wasn't tired, and she didn't feel an urge to take an afternoon nap. Seeing that there were still a few good hours before the weather was good enough for her to make the long journey back home, she decided to accept Mister Numbers' request. She logged into the game and entered the room he had shared with her.

Juice and Expert weren't around.

This was also something peculiar Shi Yao had noticed. Recently, when they were playing, the two of them would often not be around. When she asked them about this in the group chat, they replied that they were busy revising for their exams.

So, when Shi Yao plugged in her earphones, she casually asked, "Are Juice and Expert still busy revising?"

Mister Numbers replied with an "Un" before falling silent.

Even though the time they spent playing together had increased substantially as compared to before, Mister Numbers' reticent personality still remained the same as ever.

Nevertheless, there was still a significant improvement when compared to his completely shut-off attitude stage in the past. At the very least, whenever he played with her nowadays, his microphone would be switched on. Even if they didn't chat with each other, they could still hear vague sounds from the other party's side.

When they were playing the third round, a feminine voice suddenly sounded from Mister Numbers' side, "I'll place the fruits here."

Mister Numbers didn't respond to the remark, and the feminine voice didn't speak anymore either.

Updates by . com

Solely because the word 'fruits' were spoken, Shi Yao asked: "You're at home?"

<111111>: “Un.”

Shi Yao: “Is the person who brought you fruits your mother?”

<111111>: “She’s a maid in my house.”

Shi Yao replied with an “Oh”, and roughly five seconds later, she asked once more, “You live in Beijing?^{1?}?”

<111111> first replied with an “Un” before following up with a “Yeah, that’s right”. As he spoke, he managed to kill a player in the game.

Shi Yao casually remarked, “What a coincidence, I live in Beijing too, though my house is in the suburbs. What about you?”

<111111> reported a rough location.

Shi Yao’s eyebrows shot up in astonishment. Mister Numbers’ house was actually in the vicinity of where Lin Jiage stayed too...

...

At roughly five o’clock, Shi Yao went offline, and Lin Jiage didn’t continue playing either.

He closed his eyes and rested for a while before getting on his laptop to continue his incomplete project.

At roughly seven o’clock, when the maid called for him to head down for dinner, he closed his laptop. As he headed down the stairs, he casually sent a message to Shi Yao, asking: *[Have you arrived home yet?]*

There was no response from Shi Yao, and he didn’t pay any mind to it either.

After dinner, Lin Jiage went to the courtyard to take a quick stroll, and when he returned, he sent another message to Shi Yao: *[Have you finished eating yet? Play?]*

There was still no response from Shi Yao.

So, he switched on the TV and surfed through the channels in boredom for a while before whipping out his phone to send Shi Yao another WeChat message: *[Remember to call me to play after you’re done with your work.]*

Still, there was no response from Shi Yao’s part.

At this point, Lin Jiage wasn’t in the mood to find activities to fill in his time anymore. Thus, he logged onto the game, and he realized that Shi Yao was actually online as well!

So, he sent Shi Yao a message: *[Pull me into your squad after you’re done.]*

He didn’t back out of the game but waited patiently until Shi Yao was done with her game, and he proactively applied to join her squad.

It was a while before Shi Yao finally accepted his request. He quickly put on his earpiece and greeted her with a casual “Hey”.

Following which, the microphone symbol lit up next to Shi Yao's name, but what reached his ears was a male's voice instead: "Hey."

—

Chapter 315: Green Lantern (1)

Following which, the microphone symbol lit up next to Shi Yao's name, but what that reached his ears was a male's voice instead: "Hey."

Because the other party had also replied with a "Hey", Lin Jiage automatically assumed that it was a voice echo from him, so without giving it much thought, he asked once more, "Are you there?"

<Yao Loves Ice Cream> swiftly replied, "I'm here."

The voice that came through the earpiece was, once again, the voice of a male.

Lin Jiage's hands froze on the spot.

This time, the words were different from what he'd said, so he couldn't even convince himself that it was a voice echo from him anymore.

As if someone had clubbed him on the head, his mind went completely blank.

After the person on the other end waited for a very long time without receiving a response, the voice came out of Shi Yao's avatar once more, "Hey hey hey, can you hear me? Can you hear me?"

The clear voice of a male relentlessly grated on Lin Jiage's eardrums. It took a while after those words were spoken for Lin Jiage's eyes to finally move, and before he could even decide on what his next course of action should be, these words had already escaped from his mouth, "Who are you?"

As soon as he said the words, Lin Jiage immediately realized just how foreign and frightening his voice had sounded. Within the utter coldness, one could sense a raging fury. It was a deeply livid voice tinged with a slightly agitated tremor.

The man who was on Shi Yao's account swiftly replied. Perhaps it was due to sensing the hostility in Lin Jiage's voice, his tone wasn't particularly friendly either, "Who are you then?"

Who am I? I'm the man who will very soon become the most intimate person in the world to the owner of the account you're on!

Lin Jiage's gaze turned wintry cold as he replied, "It doesn't matter who I am. What's important is why are you on this account?"

Updates by . com

At this point, Lin Jiage couldn't help realizing that there hadn't been a single response to the many messages he had sent to Shi Yao. This was something that had never happened before. Could she have possibly lost her phone on her way back home?

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage asked, “Did you happen to pick up this phone? List a price, how much will it take for you to return this phone?”

The man on the other side replied, “Bro, are you alright? Which eye of yours saw me picking up this phone? Let me tell you this, I don’t need to pick up this phone in order to use it. I can use it whenever I want to!”

This was the first time Lin Jiage was seeing someone acting so brazenly despite picking up another person’s belongings... He was never one to lose in a verbal fight, so he quickly replied sharply, “You don’t need to explain anything to me. You should reserve that for the police.”

Hearing Lin Jiage’s words, the tone of the man on the other side didn’t weaken in the slightest, “Bro, you really are hilarious, do you know that? Aside from whether I know the owner of this phone or not, just the fact that you’re just a mere online friend, an inconsequential existence to the owner of this phone, why are you sticking your hand up where it doesn’t belong?”

Inconsequential existence? Are you talking about me?

What a joke! How could I possibly be an inconsequential existence to Soft Bun?

Lin Jiage was just about to retort to those words, but before he could say anything, the man’s voice sounded across the earpiece once more, “Do you know who the owner of this account is? Do you know how old she is? Do you know her phone number? Do you know her address?”

“You probably know nothing at all about her, right?”

Hah, I know nothing about Soft Bun? This must be the most ridiculous thing I’ve heard all year!

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage was just about to speak when the man on the other side of the phone continued, “Well, just remain as ignorant as you are about her. You’re a nobody to her anyway, unlike me.”

Chapter 316: Green Lantern (2)

“I’m not bragging to you when I say this, but if you asked the owner of this account which man she cared the most about in the world, she would definitely name me!”

Really, the government should impose a tax on bragging so that people like him wouldn’t dare to speak such big words!

Lin Jiage was just about to reply with a disdainful “Heh heh” sneer, implying that the other party could continue bragging all he wanted, but like the many times before, the man on the other side interjected before he could say a word.

As compared to before, his voice was much louder this time around, and the words he spoke weren’t directed to him either, “Yao, wash an apple for me.”

Even though the voice sounded a little distant, Lin Jiage could still distinctly hear a feminine voice from the other side, “Alright.”

This was a voice that he was extremely familiar with—Shi Yao's.

A second later, he was still sneering at that man for daring to speak such arrogant words, but at this moment, as if someone had sealed his acupoints, he froze on the spot.

There was a minute of silence before he heard light footsteps through his earpiece, and the man's voice sounded, "Thanks, honey."

Following which, Shi Yao replied, "You're welcome, darling."

The crisp sound of the man's teeth sinking into the apple sounded, and a moment later, Shi Yao spoke up once more, "Dinner's almost ready, remember to have some later. I'll go take a bath first."

While chewing on the apple, the man replied, "Sure thing, muah!"

Shi Yao didn't reply to that remark.

As if to intentionally spite Lin Jiage, a few seconds later, that man said, "Make sure to be careful in the bathroom. Don't slip and fall by accident."

Updates by . com

"Yes, yes..." Shi Yao replied, and a sound reminiscent of a door closing echoed through the earpiece.

After which, there were roughly ten seconds of silence before the man spoke up again, and this time, his voice was full of glee, "I believe that I don't need to waste my breath explaining anything more to you, right? I don't care why you're sticking your nose into her business, but I'd like to offer you a warning: I'll allow you to play with her, but don't you dare think about doing anything inappropriate with her. I'll tell you right now that whatever you're thinking about will never happen!"

The man went on quite a long monologue before coming to a halt.

All this while, Lin Jiage was completely silent, but the man didn't pay any mind to that.

It was only until the crisp munching of an apple came to a stop that the man on the other side continued to speak, "Bro, hit ready."

Because there was no response, the man urged, "Bro? Bro? Are you still playing?"

Amidst the man's relentless prompting, Lin Jiage finally recovered from his dazed state.

Without saying a word, he backed out of the game.

Darling... Soft Bun called that man 'darling'...

It was one thing for her to call him darling, but she even washed an apple for that man... And as if washing an apple wasn't enough, she even prepared dinner for him...

And as if preparing dinner wasn't enough, the two of them were even staying under the same roof... And as if staying under the same roof wasn't enough, she even went to take a bath in that man's presence even though it was already in the middle of the night!

Phones should be something extremely private to a person, but she willingly handed it over to that man and allowed him to use it. Not only that, she even allowed that man to play her avatar...

Remarkable. Remarkable. Truly remarkable!

The more Lin Jiage thought about it, the more panicked he became... even though he wasn't too sure what exactly he was panicking about either.

After some time, his phone finally rang.

He instinctively took a glance at his phone, but his mind was so preoccupied that he didn't manage to process who the caller was before picking it up in a daze. He heard the person on the other end tossing him an address and asking him to come out and play, and only then did his overloaded head realize that it was Liang Jiushi on the other end.

After hanging up the phone, he unintentionally caught sight of himself in the mirror. He was dressed in a white T-shirt, and his face looked clean and proper. But for some reason, he felt like he was emanating a green light; a very, very green light.¹⁷

2

Chapter 317: Throw Away Everything That's Green (1)

Lin Jiage stared at his own reflection in the mirror for a very long time until he felt like the greenness of his face was nearly comparable to that of the Hulk. Only then did he finally retract his gaze and head into his changing room.

While he did prefer wearing white clothes, there were plenty of clothes in other colors in his cupboard too.

Most of these clothes were bought for him by his mother and his elder sister, and a huge handful of them still had product labels hanging off them.

Normally, Lin Jiage wouldn't even pay a second glance toward those clothes. But while he was fixing his hairdo, through the mirror ahead of him, he caught sight of a green T-shirt hanging in the cupboard behind him.

Why would such a color appear in his room?

Lin Jiage was stunned for two seconds before he turned around to walk up to his cupboard and tugged out the green T-shirt.

Following which, he saw a pair of camouflage pants consisting of patches of light green and dark green hanging right beside it. A deep frown made its way to his forehead as he tugged out the camouflage pants too.

Before long, he embarked on a strict inspection of everything in his changing room, mercilessly purging everything that carried the color green on it.

Lin Jiage was just about to carry all of these clothes out of his room when on second thought, he turned around and went back in. He found the greenest shirt he could find and switched the white T-shirt he was wearing with it before carrying the whole pile downstairs.

It just so happened that when he stepped into the living room, a maid walked out of the kitchen with a fruit platter in hand, intending to bring it upstairs to Lin Jiage.

Upon seeing Lin Jiage, the maid instinctively wanted to say, "Young Master, have some fruits", but before those words could come out from her mouth, she noticed the striking green T-shirt Lin Jiage was wearing and the pile of clothes with varying degrees of green in his hands, and she froze on the spot. It took ten whole seconds before she shot a perplexed stare at Lin Jiage and asked, "Young Master, may I ask what it is that you intend to do?"

Lin Jiage didn't respond to her question. With a completely expressionless face, he walked towards the hallway, opened the door, and tossed all of those clothes out.

"Young Master, those clothes are still perfectly fine, why would you throw them out like that?" the maid exclaimed anxiously. She quickly placed the fruit platter on the table and rushed to the door, wanting to take the clothes back in.

Updates by . com

On the other hand, Lin Jiage opened the shoe rack, and just as he was about to take out his shoes, he noticed a couple pairs of green-colored footwear inside. So, he took them out and threw them out of the door too.

Even the white shoes that he usually loved to wear, due to the slight hint of green at the back, was heartlessly and unhesitatingly tossed out of the door.

While tossing away those items, he turned to the maid by the hallway and said, "Find a place to store these items. I don't want to see them appearing in my sight."

After saying those words, Lin Jiage took one last look at the shoe rack, and after confirming that there was no problem with the shoes that were left inside, only then did he start to put on a pair of shoes.

"Young Master, it's already late at night. Are you still going to head out?"

Lin Jiage ignored the maid's question.

"I've already sliced some fruits from you. They're the newly-imported New Zealand little apples that you said weren't too bad the last time you tried them. Do you have time to eat some before heading out?"

Lin Jiage was just about to step out of the door when he specifically heard the word 'apple' and froze. Then, he turned around and asked, "Who told you to slice apples for me? When did I say that apples aren't bad?"

"The thing that I hate the most in the world is apples. Don't let me see even a single apple in the house!"

"Also, what's with that green painting on the wall over there? Dispose of it!"

The maid was alarmed. "That won't do, Young Master! It's a masterpiece that the Old Master spent a huge fortune buying from a true master!"

"A masterpiece? Can a masterpiece really be so ugly? Are you sure that person is a true master and not just a con-artist? I don't care how you deal with it, but don't let me see it by the time I come home!" Lin Jiage said as he shot a swift scan through the living room. "Also, what's with that flower arrangement in that vase over there?"

Chapter 318: Throw Away Everything That is Green (2)

The maid had never seen the Young Master acting so unreasonably before, and with a frightened voice, she replied, "Those flowers were ordered by the Young Mistress earlier in the morning."

"Are those fresh flowers? Shouldn't fresh flowers consist of just flowers? Why on earth are there so many green leaves on them? Does that flower shop think that they can dupe their customers just by adding some cheap green leaves with their flowers? Which flower shop do those flowers come from? I'm going to give them a negative review!"

"Later on, I want you to snip off all of the green leaves in that vase and just leave the flowers in there."

As Lin Jiage spoke, he turned his gaze to the other parts of the house and remarked disdainfully, "Also, what kind of flowers are those? Don't you think that their green color looks particularly jarring? Throw them away!"

Maid: "Young Master, that won't do! Those are the plants that the Old Master has raised for quite a few years. You mustn't throw them away!"

"If they can't be thrown away, toss them to the underground storeroom then!" At this point, Lin Jiage could care less whether those green plants could survive even without the presence of light. After thinking of a way out for the maid, he turned his attention to a pair of ear studs placed in a box just above the shoe rack and pointed at them as he said, "What are these? Why are they so green?"

As he spoke, Lin Jiage's hand reached out to grab them.

Fearing that Lin Jiage would toss them out, the maid snatched the ear studs ahead of him and said, "Young Master, you can't toss these away! These are the emerald ear studs that Madam received as part of her dowry. They're invaluable antiques from the Qing Dynasty! If you throw them away, Madam will give you an earful!"

"She might as well change my name to?Lù Jiage?¹?while giving me an earful!" Lin Jiage retorted as he shot a ferocious glare at the maid before leaving the house.

While making his way to the garage, he thought indignantly, *'Dowry? An invaluable antique from the Qing Dynasty? Hah, who knows whether they're fake! With that cringy green color, I wouldn't want them even if someone paid me to accept them!'*

...

Liang Jiushi would call Lin Jiage out to play almost every weekend.

But for the last two weeks, Lin Jiage had been too busy playing games with Shi Yao and he would reject Liang Jiusi's invitations without the slightest hint of hesitation.

Updates by . com

So tonight, when Lin Jiage appeared at the location Liang Jiusi had told him about earlier, Liang Jiusi couldn't help staring at him in amazement, "Brother Jia, you've finally decided to shower me with your love!"

Shower your head! Aren't you insulting my taste?

Lin Jiage shot a glance at Liang Jiusi before walking over to the sofa to take a seat, not bothering to respond to his remark at all.

The compartment that Liang Jiusi had booked was illuminated by a disco ball, so the lighting wasn't particularly bright. So, it was only after Lin Jiage was standing right in front of Liang Jiusi that the latter finally noticed that he was wearing a green T-shirt. He widened his eyes in shock as he remarked, "Brother Jia, did your sense of aesthetics go through a revolutionary change after two weeks of camping at home?"

This time, Lin Jiage didn't even bother shooting a glance at Liang Jiusi. He simply picked up a cocktail on the table and brought it to his mouth.

Just as he was about to sip on it, he couldn't help noticing that the cocktail was a light green color.

Placed on the edge of the wine glass was a green slice of lime, and there was a green peppermint leaf floating on top of the cocktail.

Lin Jiage immediately closed his mouth and dumped the cocktail back onto the table.

"Why aren't you drinking? This is a cocktail that they just came up with. It's delicious," Liang Jiusi said with a perplexed voice.

"You can drink it by yourself!" Lin Jiage spat as he shot a swift glance across the table, and he couldn't help noticing green wine cups, green grapes, and not to mention, apples...

The apples were clearly just washed because there were still water droplets on them.

Was this the same thing that man saw when Soft Bun washed an apple for him?

Just like that, Lin Jiage suddenly found himself triggered, and he bellowed furiously, "Liang Jiusi, can't you just get rid of everything that's green in here?!"

Chapter 319: It's Over (1)

"Why? Do you have a grudge against the color green? If you're not happy, why don't you sing a song to calm your mood? Should I help queue that song you used to love singing, Green Ray?" Liang Jiusi asked.

Following which, he began humming the song as well, *“Waiting in anticipation for a stroke of luck and an unexpected surprise, what an amazing encounter it is. Conquering the mountain peak ahead and layers and layers of cloud, where is the green ray I seek?!”*

After placing the song at the top of the queue, Liang Jiusi took the microphone and placed it right in front of Lin Jiage.

“Inconceivable like a jolt of lightning to me, as if a miracle, sliding right into my life. Like no other I have known, you are the green ray of light...”

It took Liang Jiusi humming this song to the end for him to finally notice that there was something wrong with the atmosphere in the room.

He pondered for a second before slowly turning to look at Lin Jiage.

The young man was staring intently at him, and for some reason, perhaps it was an optical illusion resulting from the green T-shirt he was wearing, there seemed to be a hint of greenness in the depths of his eyes...

A cold shudder suddenly ran through Liang Jiusi’s body as he swiftly took back the microphone in his hands, “Remove. Remove them at once! Right now! I want everything green in this room to be removed this instant!”

Soon, a group of attendants rushed into the room.

Soon, everything in the compartment that had the slightest association with the word ‘green’ was taken out.

After the attendants withdrew everything under Liang Jiusi’s instructions, one of them walked up to him and asked politely, “Is there anything else that I can do for you?”

Before Liang Jiusi could reply, Lin Jiage had already spoken up, “Remove the apples too!”

The attendant was stunned by that bizarre instruction.

Updates by . com

Liang Jiusi was also startled as well, but he swiftly recovered and instructed, “Remove the apples!”

When the attendant finally took the huge platter of apples away, Liang Jiusi finally turned his gaze back to Lin Jiage and asked with a huge smile, “Brother Jia, there should be no more problems now, right?”

Lin Jiage didn’t say a word, but his expression clearly brightened up by a lot.

Liang Jiusi had a lot of friends, so the compartment was very lively. But as if he was an outsider, Lin Jiage sat quietly on the sofa, neither drinking nor singing, not fitting in with the crowd at all.

The others had also noticed Lin Jiage’s strange behavior, so they automatically kept a two-meter radius away from him.

Lin Jiage had no idea how long he sat alone in this crowded environment, but when his attention finally returned back to the room, he saw a certain young lady eating dumplings.

Dumplings...

Staring at that young lady's takeout box, a thought flashed across his mind as he recalled the time Shi Yao ate three huge bowls of dumplings at the breakfast store near G University.

He could still remember how beautiful Soft Bun looked as she ate. Whetting the appetite within him, it left him with a cheerful feeling inside as well.

But as for this young lady...

Watching as she glanced at her phone distractedly while gobbling down the dumplings, Lin Jiage found that the marvelous feelings evoked within him while watching Soft Bun eat were completely absent.

It couldn't be that he only harbored those feelings for Soft Bun, could it?

Lin Jiage pondered for a moment before abruptly talking to the young lady eating the dumplings, "Excuse me, but can I ask that you try not to look at your phone and concentrate on eating those dumplings?"

The young lady was taken aback by Lin Jiage's sudden suggestion, but she didn't turn down his request. Nodding, she put away her phone and began focusing on eating the dumplings.

On the other hand, within less than three seconds of looking at the young lady, Lin Jiage had already begun shaking his head.

The feelings he felt while watching Soft Bun eat still weren't triggered...

Or was it due to the difference in the environment?

Lin Jiage lowered his head and pondered for a moment before speaking up once more, "May I ask if any of you ladies are willing to do me a favor?"

Quite a number of ladies in the room turned their heads around and asked, "What kind of favor do you need?"

Chapter 320: It's Over (2)

Lin Jiage didn't rush to answer their question. Instead, he scanned through the many ladies in the compartment before his gaze finally stopped on the prettiest lady in the room.

Well, there's no denying that she's rather pretty, but she can't come close to comparing to Soft Bun...? However, it seemed like there was no way around it. Due to the limitations in the resources available, he had no choice but to make do with her for the moment...

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage asked courteously, "Are you willing to help me with this favor?"

The young lady nodded her head happily and replied, "Sure!"

Lin Jiage nodded, and he earnestly pondered for a moment as he recalled the time when Shi Yao was taking an examination while he was standing in front of a window, and they happened to meet gazes. He then quickly filled the young lady on his requirements.

Even though the young lady was completely lost on what Lin Jiage was trying to achieve, she still did as she was told.

Thus, Lin Jiage quietly exchanged gazes with the young lady.

Under Lin Jiage's instructions, the young lady would blink her eyes at him from time to time.

Thirty seconds had passed...Lin Jiage found that his heart was as calm as a dead puddle of water. There wasn't even the slightest fluctuation in his mood.

A minute had passed... Lin Jiage couldn't sense the slightest spark from the young lady's blinking eyes.

A minute and a half had passed... Not only did Lin Jiage not feel seduced, he was even starting to get a little tired of the young lady's looks.

Before striking the two-minute mark, Lin Jiage had already given up. He pondered for a moment before asking, "May I trouble you to help me eat an apple?"

The confused young lady nodded.

Updates by . com

Lin Jiage shot a glance at the equally dumbfounded Liang Jiusi and said, "Help me get the attendant to bring in an apple."

Lin Jiage paused for a brief moment before adding, "The larger the apple, the better."

It didn't take long for the apple to be delivered to the compartment.

Lin Jiage instructed the young lady to place all her attention into eating the apple.

After the young lady gave a nod of approval, he began staring at the young lady intently.

The young lady did put all of her attention into eating the apple, but for some reason, Lin Jiage couldn't find the same feeling he felt when he unintentionally caught sight of Soft Bun biting on an apple back at his grandfather's ward. He didn't feel the urge to snap down a photo and eternalize the moment.

Was it due to the bad lighting? After all, it had been the middle of the day back then, and the rays of the sun were perfectly angled on her.

After a moment of deep thought, Lin Jiage instructed for the lights in the compartment to be switched back on before staring intently at that young lad once more... but his efforts turned out to be futile.

Frowning, Lin Jiage pondered for another moment before saying to the young lady, "One last favor. Could you put on a wronged and aggrieved look?"

The young lady thought for a bit before putting on an expression, "Like this?"

Lin Jiage tried to recall Shi Yao's reaction back at the Golden Resplendence after hearing the two ladies gossiping behind her back, then he began giving the young lady a detailed description, "Lower your head slightly and pout your lips a little more... Right, right, right, that's it..."

Lin Jiage stared at her, minute after a minute, but he was still unable to find the heartache he felt when Shi Yao showed such an expression to him.

Could it be that the young lady's makeup was too thick that it was affecting him? After all, Shi Yao usually didn't put on any makeup.

Lin Jiage paused for a bit before proposing, "Can you remove your makeup?"

The young lady showed a look of difficulty, but perhaps because it was a request from Lin Jiage, she eventually nodded with reluctance.

The young lady was really quite pretty. Removing her makeup made her look slightly younger and more pleasant to the eye to Lin Jiage.

Nevertheless, Lin Jiage still couldn't feel any heartache at her wronged and aggrieved face...

Liang Jiusi finally couldn't take it anymore and asked, "Brother Jia, just what in the world are you doing?"

As if not hearing Liang Jiusi's words, Lin Jiage continued staring unblinkingly at the young lady, and as he stared and stared, two words escaped from his lips, "It's over..."

—