

Chapter 321: Poisoned Down to the Very Bones (1)

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..."

"What?" Liang Jiusi was completely confused by Lin Jiage's words. "What's over?"

However, Lin Jiage was too absorbed in his own thoughts to pay attention to Liang Jiusi.

He withdrew his gaze from the young lady and whipped out his phone. Tapping into his Gallery, he scrolled down to find the photo he shot of Shi Yao biting down on a crimson apple from back then...

With just one glance, he found that his heart—which had remained still when gazing at the young lady earlier—had begun leaping back into life once more.

He had stared at the young lady for so long in order to find that feeling from before, but to no avail. And yet, that feeling came to him so easily from a mere still photo...

Lin Jiage raised his hand and lightly pressed it against his chest in order to feel the beating of his heart. His mouth began moving once more, softly muttering the same words he'd said earlier, "It's over, it's over, it's really over..."

"Brother Jia, what are you talking about? I don't get what you're trying to say! What do you mean 'it's over'? And what are you looking at?" As Liang Jiusi spoke, he leaned forward to catch a closer glimpse at Lin Jiage's phone screen, but the screen switched off right before his eyes.

On the other hand, Lin Jiage was still too deeply affected to care about his surroundings. Words continued to pour softly from his mouth, "I've been poisoned, I've really been poisoned..."

"Poisoned?" Liang Jiusi's voice hiked up several notches. "What do you mean 'you've been poisoned'? You still look perfectly fine to me..."

"Soft Bun..." Lin Jiage softly muttered two words.

His voice was too quiet for Liang Jiusi to clearly catch all of it, so he only heard the last word, "Bun? What bun? You want to eat a bun? What kind of filling do you want? I can get it for you right now..."

In the middle of Liang Jiusi's seemingly endless prattling, Lin Jiage's lips moved once more, "Song Chaoxi is right. She's right. All of them are right..."

Updates by . com

Song Chaoxi told him that the most direct proof of a man's feelings toward a person he liked was the urge to sleep with her.

Soft Bun told him that his actions were clear signs that he liked her...

Back then, his only thought was that if they were going to insist that he liked her, then so be it.

It was only at this very moment that it dawned on him that they were all right. He did like her... It was a feeling of fondness that came from the very depths of his heart.

He really did like Soft Bun... Even though he had no idea when this feeling started, there was no denying that he really liked her...

Even though he'd realized it a little late, his feelings for her definitely existed.

At this point, Lin Jiage couldn't help mumbling under his breath, "... I've really fallen for Soft Bun's poison now..."

"What? You've fallen for some bun poison? Did the filling go bad because of the hot weather, so you got food poisoning? If that's the case, you should really go to the hospital to do a checkup..." Liang Jiusi started rambling incessantly again.

With this, Lin Jiage finally managed to fish himself out from his sea of thoughts. The first thing he was made aware of was Liang Jiusi's endless nagging. With a slight frown on his forehead, he tossed behind an "I'm leaving" before decisively walking out of the compartment, completely disregarding Liang Jiusi's questions.

He walked along the roadside to get to his car, and once inside, he ended up blanking out for a while. He then stepped on the accelerator and started driving aimlessly around night-time Beijing.

He didn't notice where he was heading to exactly, but by the time he became aware of his surroundings once more, the tall buildings by the roadside were already sparse, and the illumination had turned visibly darker. It took him a short moment to realize that he had already driven out of the city, quickly making his way to Shi Yao's home.

Chapter 322: Poisoned Down to the Very Bones (2)

It was only when Lin Jiage had reached the edge of Shi Yao's house that he stepped on the brakes.

Once the engine sputtered to a stop, Lin Jiage got off his car and glanced at the building that Shi Yao lived in.

Other than the one that was lit with rather weak lighting, the other flats were all pitch black.

So... is Soft Bun already asleep?

Had that man left her house yet?

He admitted that he was lacking in understanding when it came to Soft Bun, but he knew that she was the only daughter in her house, so she didn't have any younger or older brothers... If that was the case, who could that man possibly be?

After listening to their conversation, he could feel that their relationship wasn't that of ordinary friends.

Are Soft Bun and that man really...

For some reason, Lin Jiage couldn't bring himself to think any further down this path anymore. At this point, he suddenly recalled the very first message that Shi Yao had sent to him: *[Lin Jiage, this is Shi Yao. The reason I'm texting is to tell you that I want to cancel our engagement.]*

Cancel their engagement... How could he have forgotten about this? In the six years since he came to know of her existence, the very first time she'd actively contacted him was to say that she wanted to break off their engagement...

That matter had left him perplexed for quite some time. For six years, she had never opposed this marriage, but why would she want to cancel it all of a sudden?

But even though he was perplexed by it, he didn't try to think deeper into it before...

Could her reason for wanting to cancel the engagement be due to that man?

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The moment that such a thought formulated in Lin Jiage's mind, he suddenly found his heart beating anxiously in fear.

Did Soft Bun actually have someone she really loved?

If that was really the case, what could he do?

Unlike Xia Shangzhou, he couldn't imagine extinguishing the sparks of his feelings just because he found out that the person he liked was attached to someone else.

If his guess turned out to be true, and Soft Bun had someone she loved and wanted to cancel their engagement because of it, what should he do?

Should he selfishly attempt to retain her just to fulfill his own desires?

Lin Jiage's expression slowly turned grim.

While he was fully aware that this was all just his own speculations, he still considered the matter seriously.

Time slowly ticked by.

The night grew deeper and deeper. By the time the surroundings had turned so silent that the calls of the cicadas sounded deafening, only then did Lin Jiage finally reach the answer from the depths of his heart.

If his guess was true, and she really did have someone that she loved and wanted to break off their engagement to be with that person... then he would willingly back off. He would willingly give up on his happiness in order to fulfill her happiness.

This was really a disaster; a true, true disaster... Apparently, he liked her far more than he'd initially imagined.

Otherwise, why would he end up thinking about everything from her perspective, worrying about her feelings for every single matter?

It seemed like he'd really fallen for her, and he had fallen really, really deep.

He wasn't just afflicted with the Soft Bun poison... the poison had already sunk deep into his bones, and there was no medicine in the world which could treat him anymore.

...

Lin Jiage remained at Shi Yao's doorstep for the entire night.

At eight in the morning on the second day, Shi Yao walked out from her flat.

Two thoughts instantly popped up in Lin Jiage's head—should he immediately drive away and flee, or should he crouch down and hide in the car for the time being? Following which, a thought came into his mind. Didn't he secretly take out her purse to stop her from footing the bill a while back? Thinking again, her purse should still be below the passenger seat of his car.

Some time had already passed since then, and the car had been washed every single day. Nevertheless, as long as no thorough cleaning was made, no one should have noticed her purse.

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage reached out with his hand for the bottom of the passenger seat.

Chapter 323: What Do You Think Of This Color? (1)

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage reached out with his hand for the bottom of the passenger seat.

A pleasant surprise—he realized that her purse was actually still there...

It seemed like even the heavens were helping him... With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage took out Shi Yao's purse.

Having found a legitimate reason, he fearlessly pressed his horn.

The harsh sound of the car horn immediately drew the gazes of several early risers loitering around the area.

And of course, this included Shi Yao as well.

Being in the closest proximity to his car, the car horn was the most jarring to her. As such, when she turned her head over, her expression was filled with irritation.

However, when she caught sight of Lin Jiage's face beyond the windshield, she visibly jolted a little from astonishment. She then began making her way over to Lin Jiage's car.

When Shi Yao was just about to reach his car, Lin Jiage opened his car door and walked out with her purse in hand.

Upon seeing Lin Jiage getting out, she subconsciously wanted to ask him why he was there. Just that, before the words could form at the back of her throat, she had already noticed the T-shirt he was wearing.

It was actually green... And furthermore, it was the type of green that could dazzle—if not blind—one's eyes...

Shi Yao's footsteps froze in place. Even the words she planned on asking Lin Jiage ended up jumbling the back of her mind.

On the other hand, as Lin Jiage watched Shi Yao walk in his direction, his first instinct was to tell her that her purse was with him.

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The only problem was that before he could do so, he noticed that Shi Yao was looking at him with a peculiar gaze.

Why is she looking at me with like that? Is there something wrong with me?

Thinking this, he lowered his gaze to see just where Shi Yao was looking at.

And what he immediately caught sight of was his bright, bright green shirt. Only a fool wouldn't realize the reason behind Shi Yao's strange expression.

Lin Jiage was silent for a moment, but seeing that Shi Yao's eyes were still persistently fixated on his T-shirt, he had no choice but to speak up, "Are my clothes very weird?"

Hearing Lin Jiage's question, Shi Yao anxiously tore her eyes away from Lin Jiage's shirt and looked at his face. Despite her heart blazing with curiosity, she still replied politely, "I-It's not weird... at all..."

If it's not weird, why are you staring at it so intensely then?

Lin Jiage didn't expose Shi Yao and replied with an "Orh" instead. There was a brief awkward silence before he continued, "Then, what do you think of the T-shirt color?"

Shi Yao was deeply tempted to reply "So-so", but... She made sure to keep her facial expression in check before replying with false composure, "It's... It's quite green?"

Green...? That single word immediately reminded Lin Jiage of his entire night of indignance. So, he spoke up again, and this time his voice carried a grievous tone, like someone who had been wronged, "Then, do you think that this is a nice color?"

Well, there's definitely no problem with the color green, but the color of the T-shirt you're wearing... I really can't find the words to describe it...

However, Shi Yao still didn't dare to say the truth. She had also noticed that there was something rather wrong with Lin Jiage's voice.

She couldn't tell if it was just her imagination, but for just a split moment, she actually felt that his eyes looked a little aggrieved...

Shi Yao's heart shuddered a little from her 'mistaken perception'. Then, with a smile on her lips, she said her first truthful words to Lin Jiage today, "Well, the color of your shirt is really, really bright..."

“Un, I know. It’s the kind of bright green that dazzles your eyes,” Lin Jiage said. For some reason, the unhappiness in his voice seemed to have deepened a fair bit.

What should I do? I keep hearing resentment in Lin Jiage’s words, and it somehow feels much more intense than before...

Just as Shi Yao was wondering how to reply to Lin Jiage, someone suddenly called her name, “Darling Yaoyao...”

Chapter 324: What Do You Think Of This Color? (2)

Just as Shi Yao was wondering how to reply to Lin Jiage, someone suddenly called her name, “Darling Yaoyao...”

Darling Yaoyao?

This voice and this tone... It’s clearly that man from yesterday...

Lin Jiage instinctively turned to look in the direction the voice had come from.

A young man wearing a black shirt with short sleeves had just walked out of Shi Yao’s flat, and he was currently making his way over to Shi Yao.

The moment she heard that voice, Shi Yao also turned to look on reflex.

She wanted to respond to the young man, but before she could speak, she suddenly felt a chilling sensation emanating from behind her.

She subconsciously looked back at Lin Jiage, but other than seeing him staring fixedly at an area in front of her, there didn’t seem to be anything strange with him.

This is really weird. Why did I suddenly feel like that?

Shi Yao couldn’t help scratching the back of her head as she wondered.

In the short ten seconds that Shi Yao turned around to look at Lin Jiage, the young man had already walked over to her side.

And within those short ten seconds, Lin Jiage had managed to inconspicuously assess the young man from head to toe, conducting a practical comparison between the two of them in his heart.

Looks-wise, that guy is somewhat decent... But compared to me, his eyes are a little too small, his nose bridge is a little too flat, his mouth is a little too big, and his face shape isn’t distinct enough. In fact, even the guy’s skin isn’t as delicate as mine!

Updates by . com

In terms of height, that guy is still acceptable as a man... But in the end, he’s still shorter than me. As for body proportion, it’s clear who the winner is here. Also, isn’t his leg hair a little too thick?

His hairstyle doesn't look that nice either, and his taste in clothes is too crass... and despite being a man, he's actually wearing an ear stud. Also, aren't his fingers a little too short and stubby?

While Lin Jiage was busy comparing himself with the young man on every single aspect, perhaps it was due to the young man noticing that Shi Yao hadn't responded to his calls—he spoke up once more, “Darling Yaoyao.”

As he spoke, he even raised his hand to flick Shi Yao's forehead lightly.

Does this man even have the most basic upbringing and etiquette? Speak if you must, but how indecent are you to touch another person in broad daylight?!

It was as if Lin Jiage's eyes had been fixed in place with glue; his gaze remained firmly on the man's hand that had flicked Shi Yao's head just now.

Conversely, Shi Yao didn't show the slightest displeasure at the young man's actions. Instead, she pouted sullenly and shot the young man a glare which was seemingly angry but devoid of any heat, “How many times have I told you not to hit my head?”

Yeah, she doesn't want your hand anywhere close to her!

Lin Jiage inwardly hmped as he continued to stare at the young man's finger intently.

But halfway through his thoughts, he suddenly noticed a certain detail which nearly caused him a mental breakdown. *?How many times have I told you not to hit my head... many times have I told you... many times...? In other words, that guy has flicked her head many times?*

Meanwhile, the young man replied with a chuckle, “Well, who asked you to be so short?”

Shi Yao didn't seem to mind that remark too much, and she looked at the young man and asked, “Why did you come down?”

Are they going to start chatting just like that? Are they going to just treat him like he was invisible?

Still staring intently at the young man's finger, Lin Jiage cleared his throat, pretending like he was very uncomfortable.

Young Man: “I was worried that you'd be lonely, so I thought about it and decided to keep you company for breakfast.”

Shi Yao: “Then I really should give you a huge thank you, shouldn't I?”

Young Man: “There's no need for that between us!”

Chapter 325: Oscar-Worthy Best Actor (1)

Who wants to have anything with you? Also, did she not hear me just now?

Lin Jiage waited for a few seconds, but it seemed like Shi Yao had no intentions of bothering with him. So, he tried to clear his throat again, and this time, his voice was much louder than before.

Young Man: "Right, Darling Yaoyao. Where should we eat?"

At the mention of food, Shi Yao's eyes immediately lit up. "I haven't decided yet. I feel like eating dumplings, fried dough sticks, and Grandpa Wang's buns..."

Young Man: "Well, in that case, Darling Yaoyao, why don't we buy some fried dough sticks and bring them over to the dumpling store? After that, we can buy some of Grandpa Wang's buns on our way back home and have them for lunch."

Shi Yao was extremely satisfied with this arrangement. Her eyes curled into crescents as she replied, "That sounds wonderful!"

Standing by the side, Lin Jiage looked at Shi Yao's smiling face and coughed two more times.

Can Soft Bun's bar for laughing not be that low? And that guy should stop playing such despicable tricks too. How could he suddenly mention food in front of Soft Bun?

The young man smiled in glee, "How about it? After listening to my plans, don't you think I'm really smart?"

Shi Yao nodded. "Yes, yes. You're the smartest—"

You call that being smart? Aren't you misunderstanding the meaning of that word?

Before Shi Yao could finish her sentence, the neglected Lin Jiage had already interjected with a loud groan. He then bent his body toward the car, using one hand to prop himself against the car and the other to clutch his stomach tightly.

Afraid that Shi Yao would continue to ignore him, as he bent forward, he intentionally bumped against her shoulders lightly.

Updates by . com

The perplexed Shi Yao turned her head around, and as soon as she saw the state of suffering that Lin Jiage was in, her eyebrows immediately knitted together in concern as she asked worriedly, "What's wrong?"

In response to Shi Yao's concern, Lin Jiage waved his hand stiffly, as if he was trying to hold himself back as he replied with a strained voice, "It's nothing."

At the same time, he secretly shot a glance at the young man behind Shi Yao.

Hmph! Do you think that you're the only one who knows how to hog the spotlight? Let me show you how mistaken you are! Watch and I'll show you the acting skills of an Oscar-worthy Best Actor!

With these thoughts, Lin Jiage's expression suddenly distorted even further from pain. In order to make it seem more convincing, he even made his body shudder a little.

His response appeared to make Shi Yao even more anxious, "Look at you, how is this nothing? Where does it hurt?"

While asking, Shi Yao noticed that Lin Jiage was clutching his abdomen, so she asked again, “Is it your stomach?”

As if the pain had rendered him incapable of speech, he nodded his head strenuously amidst his labored breathing. A moment later, he spoke in a soft, feeble voice, “I’ve been a little too busy recently and I haven’t been able to eat regularly, so my gastritis is acting up again...”

“Actually, I was still feeling better yesterday, but last night, I went with some friends to the suburbs for a short break. Right after watching the sunrise, I was about to drive back to the villa to have breakfast when I noticed your purse in my car. I didn’t want you to think that it was missing and panic?and since the villa isn’t too far from your flat, I rushed over to deliver it to you...”

See that, boy? This is what being smart truly means!

Not only did I switch Soft Bun’s attention back to me, I also scored some brownie points too!

After all, I endured my stomach pain just to bring her missing purse back to her as soon as possible...

With these thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage suddenly looked overwhelmed from another wave of pain, and he inadvertently let loose a stifled gasp. A moment later, he continued, “... It’s probably because I didn’t have enough for dinner last night and I also skipped breakfast this morning, so now my gastritis is acting up again...”

Author’s Note: Look at that acting skill, that intelligence, that pettiness, and that jealousy—is there anyone else in the world who can compete with him?

Chapter 326: Oscar-Worthy Best Actor (2)

Despite seeing the purse that she’d been looking for during the last couple of days, Shi Yao was more worried about Lin Jiage. “Do you want me to accompany you to the hospital?”

“There’s no need for that...” Lin Jiage waved his hand. Then, as if he was suddenly hit by a particularly excruciating wave of pain, he clutched his bright green T-shirt so tightly that it was getting warped out of shape. “... I-I’ll be fine after a while. Once I go back to the villa and get some medicine, I should be fine... Here’s your purse. If there’s nothing else, I-I’ll be leaving n-now...”

After saying those words, Lin Jiage reached for his car door, but as if the pain had sapped him of his strength, he wasn’t able to pull it open despite tugging at it for some time.

You’re already in so much pain that you can’t even open your own car door—how do you expect to drive back?

Shi Yao pondered for a moment before glancing up at her flat. She quickly made up her mind, turning to Lin Jiage and said, “Why don’t you get some rest at my home first? You’re in no condition to drive right now. I’ll get you some medicine, and you can go back to your villa once you feel better, okay?”

Boy, remember how you bragged that you were in Yaoyao’s home last night? Well, take a good look at this then...

Having achieved his objective, even though Lin Jiage couldn't wait to dash right into Shi Yao's home this very instant, he still 'very gentlemanly' asked, "Will that be convenient for you?"

"Of course, it's definitely convenient!" Shi Yao exclaimed. "Can you still walk? Do you need me to support you?"

Lin Jiage didn't reject Shi Yao's offer anymore. Uttering a word of thanks, he allowed Shi Yao to prop his arm up and support him into the apartment building.

In order not to give himself away, Lin Jiage intentionally walked slowed his footsteps.

...

Shi Yao's house wasn't too big, only roughly around a hundred square meters or so. However, its layout was very warm.

It was early in the morning, and both of her parents had already left.

Updates by . com

After entering the house, Shi Yao took a look at Lin Jiage's condition, and after a moment of hesitation, she brought him to her bedroom and asked, "Are you okay with resting on my bed?"

Soft Bun's room, as well as the bed that Soft Bun sleeps on...

Suppressing the glee in his heart, Lin Jiage weakly nodded his head as replied in a very polite and restrained manner, "Thank you."

After Shi Yao helped Lin Jiage to her bed, she swiftly took out the medicine box and rummaged through for some gastric medicine.

And the completely healthy Lin Jiage unhesitatingly swallowed the medicine that she brought to his lips.

After which, Shi Yao poured Lin Jiage a cup of warm water and said, "Since your stomach isn't feeling too well, it's better if you don't eat outside food. If you're fine with it, I can prepare some porridge for you?"

Lin Jiage gave a slight nod before replying reservedly, "Sorry for the inconvenience."

"Rest well then..." Before heading to the kitchen, Shi Yao—who was still feeling worried—turned to the young man and instructed him, "I need you to take care of him. Help him with anything that he needs, okay?"

The young man didn't reject Shi Yao's instructions. He walked into her bedroom and casually grabbed a comic before pulling out a chair to sit on.

Roughly two minutes later, Lin Jiage shot a glance at the young man and asked, "Hey, can you help me? I need to go to the bathroom."

The young man put down the comic and walked over to the bed. Just as he was about to reach out to help Lin Jiage up, the latter suddenly rolled down to the ground.

Didn't you say that you have a special relationship with Soft Bun, and you're the man that Soft Bun cares the most about in the world? Very well, let's see if your relationship can withstand my trials then! Just wait till I tell Soft Bun that you deliberately let me fall to the floor...

Having planned out everything carefully, Lin Jiage was just about to release a pained moan to draw Shi Yao over when the bedroom door suddenly opened, and an apron-wrapped Shi Yao walked in and said, "Right, Lin Jiage. I forgot to introduce him to you. He's my younger brother."

Chapter 327: Northern Wall Gu Nanqiang (1)

Younger... brother?

As those two words reached Lin Jiage's ears, he suddenly felt as if someone had poured a pail of freezing cold water over him, causing his entire body to stiffen. Then, with a slightly higher-pitched voice filled with incredulity, he asked, "Younger brother?"

The man who had left him feeling suffocated with jealousy for the entire night was actually Soft Bun's younger brother, or in other words, his future brother-in-law?

As the saying goes, 'love a person, love her entire family'. Soft Bun's younger brother was as good as his own younger brother... In other words, the young man was someone he should fawn on, not scheme against and harm...

Wait a minute, isn't Soft Bun an only child? Where did this younger brother come from? Could it be that her father or mother had some affair outside, and this guy here is an illegitimate child... Pui pui pui! How could he think of his future father-in-law and mother-in-law in that way?

Lin Jiage quickly shook away all of the random thoughts from his mind. Perhaps Shi Yao had noticed the incredulity in his voice, but right as he was about to ask where this younger brother came from, she had already started answering his question, "That's right. He's actually my cousin, to be exact—the son of my father's sister. He's the same age as me, but he's younger than me by five months. Since his birthday falls after the new year, he's still in his third year in high school, so he's having his National Higher Education Entrance Examination next month..."

Ah, so the young man isn't some illegitimate child but Soft Bun's cousin, which is the same as being my cousin... Still, since Soft Bun views him as her younger brother, it would be wrong for me to scheme against him and put him out of Soft Bun's favor...

While Lin Jiage's mind was still churning at full speed, Shi Yao's slow mind finally processed the fact that Lin Jiage was lying on the ground, and she asked with a frown, "Lin Jiage, why are you on the floor?"

Hearing that question, Lin Jiage immediately replied without the slightest shred of hesitation, "Oh, I wanted to go to the bathroom because of my stomachache, but I lost my balance and fell down. This has nothing to do with your younger brother at all."

That answer made Shi Yao and her cousin simultaneously turn to stare at Lin Jiage.

Cousin: "?????" *You're the one who fell down by yourself, why are you mentioning me?*

Shi Yao: “?????” *! I was only asking out of concern. Why did you bring up my younger brother?*

Lin Jiage was slightly stunned for two seconds before he realized that he'd nearly given himself away in a moment of recklessness. Thus, he hurried to clarify, “I just didn't want you to get the wrong idea.”

Updates by . com

“Oh, I see...” Shi Yao remarked as she walked over to Lin Jiage to help him up. Suddenly recalling a certain matter, she said, “... Oh, I haven't finished introducing my younger brother yet. His name is Nanqiang, Gu Nanqiang. Just like the saying, not turning back till you hit the Northern Wall, that? Nanqiang¹?...”

Those words provoked Gu Nanqiang, who had been silent all this while, to protest in discontentment, “Darling Yaoyao, how many times have I told you not to use that idiom when introducing me!”

But Shi Yao ignored Gu Nanqiang's disgruntled protests. She simply turned to him and gestured to Lin Jiage, saying, “This is Lin Jiage. I think you should know him even if I don't introduce him to you.”

After introducing the two to each other, Shi Yao realized that Gu Nanqiang wasn't saying anything at all, so she prodded him and asked, “Aren't you going to greet him?”

Like an obedient puppy, Gu Nanqiang replied with an “Orh” before he turned to Lin Jiage and said, “Brother-in-law, pleased to meet you.”

This time, it was Shi Yao's turn to panic. Seemingly embarrassed by Gu Nanqiang way of greeting Lin Jiage, her face reddened slightly as she protested, “Gu Nanqiang, don't speak nonsense!”

Shi Yao then quickly turned to Lin Jiage, about to tell him to ignore her cousin.

But before she could say a thing, the usually cold and reticent Lin Jiage had already spoken up, “Younger Brother, pleased to meet you too. Excuse me for not bringing a gift when it's our first meeting. I'll make sure to make up for that the next time we meet.”

Chapter 328: Northern Wall Gu Nanqiang (2)

Gu Nanqiang: “Thank you, brother-in-law.”

The two calls of brother-in-law had left Lin Jiage's heart in full bloom, and he felt as if he was walking on clouds. It was to the extent that even he, who had never praised a single person in his life before, didn't even realize how sweet his mouth had become, “Nanqiang, I must say that you are really a good-looking person. You are tall with a good physique, your eyebrows are thick, your facial features are very distinctive, and even your dress-up is very fashionable too...”

Those words made Shi Yao direct a very bizarre gaze toward Lin Jiage.

Why... is he so weird today? He is completely unlike how he is usually... For some reason, I am actually seeing traces of a bootlicker on him today... Not just that, I keep getting very weird and terrifying vibes from him today. Is he the one that is weird, or am I just thinking too much about it?

Catching Shi Yao's gaze, Lin Jiage blinked his eyes questioningly. Could Soft Bun possibly be unhappy because he kept showering only her younger brother with praises?

With such a thought in mind, Lin Jiage added, “Yaoyao, as expected of your younger brother!”

Ah... The bootlicking vibe that he is exuding has just gotten much stronger... At this point, it doesn't seem like I'm just imagining things up anymore? Maybe, the pain in his stomach affected his head too?

In view that Lin Jiage was a patient, Shi Yao decided to let the matter drop. “I have to go and check on my porridge now. If you have any needs, feel free to order Nanqiang around...”

As she spoke, Shi Yao turned to Gu Nanqiang and nagged, “And you, stop playing with your phone and reading comics; your exams are just next month! Have you finished doing the paper which Aunt Gu has instructed you to do today yet?”

“Alright, alright...” Seemingly irritated by Shi Yao’s nagging, Gu Nanqiang replied with a hint of impatience in his voice. Nevertheless, he still got to his desk and whipped out a paper from his bag.

Seeing this, Shi Yao turned around and left the bedroom.

Lin Jiage didn’t head to the washroom either. He lay idly on Shi Yao’s bed as he scanned every nook and cranny of her room to pass time.

He had to say that Soft Bun was a true glutton through and through. Her bedsheet was imprinted with strawberries, the hooks hanging on the walls were ice cream-shaped, her bolster was a corn, and even the mat beneath her study desk had sweets of all shapes and sizes printed on it... Speaking of which, her younger brother’s leg hair was really lush, but well, that only served to accentuate his masculinity!

Updates by . com

Soft Bun’s bedsheet sure has a pleasant smell to it; it’s of the same smell as her, sweet and fluffy... With such a thought in mind, Lin Jiage couldn’t help but close his eyes and take in a deep breath. Then, he buried himself in Shi Yao’s pillow and secretly giggled.

How good it would be if he could dominate Soft Bun’s bed for his entire life and never have to leave...

As miscellaneous thoughts flitted across his mind, the young man, who hadn’t slept for an entire day, found himself overwhelmed by the exhaustion he had built up so far, and just like that, he really fell asleep.

...

It was already the afternoon by the time Lin Jiage opened his eyes once more.

Looking around, he found that there was no one else other than him in Shi Yao’s bedroom. Other than that, there was a blanket placed over his body—something that wasn’t there when he fell asleep.

Did Soft Bun put it on him?

Lin Jiage suddenly felt a surge of warmth in his heart.

After which, he carefully placed the blanket by the side, got off the bed, and headed out of the bedroom.

Shi Yao and Gu Nanqiang were seated at a dining table.

With her eyes fixated on the test paper on the dining table, Shi Yao was softly uttering some words that were inaudible from where he was standing.

For some reason, Lin Jiage found this scene exceptionally warm and wonderful. He looked by the side silently for a long while before finally making his way over.

It was only when he came closer did he realize that Shi Yao was deciphering the English paper for Gu Nanqiang.

The first one to notice the presence of another person near them was Gu Nanqiang. He turned his head over to look at Lin Jiage.

“Do you get it?” After explaining the entire question, Shi Yao instinctively asked. Noting that there was no response, she turned her head over to look at Gu Nanqiang and saw that he wasn’t paying attention at all, just as she had expected. So, she asked “What are you looking at” while turning her gaze in the direction where his eyes were directed toward.

Chapter 329: Fathoming the Young Master’s Heart Is Like Searching For a Needle Amidst the Endless Ocean (1)

Upon catching sight of Lin Jiage, Shi Yao’s scoldings trailed to a halt. With a voice that was audibly much softer and tender than before, she asked, “You are awake?”

“Un,” Lin Jiage replied, “Sorry, I fell asleep before I realized it.”

“It’s fine...” Shi Yao replied with a slight smile. “... Is your stomach feeling alright now?”

Lin Jiage nodded before falling silent.

Shi Yao took a pencil to poke Gu Nanqiang’s head, urging him to focus on the paper.

Gu Nanqiang indignantly raised his hand to rub his head, but he still turned his eyes back to the English paper.

After explaining one of the questions, Shi Yao casually turned her head to the side, and all of a sudden, she found herself meeting eyes with Lin Jiage, who had actually been staring at her intently all this while.

The hand which Shi Yao held her pencil with quivered for a short while before she finally said the words that she had been wanting to say all this while, “Um, shall we go out to eat? My dad and mum went for a holiday just two days ago, and there’s nothing to eat at home.”

Without any thought whatsoever, Lin Jiage instantaneously replied with a “Sure”.

The trio had their lunch at somewhere not too far away from Shi Yao’s home.

Of course, how could one have a meal with others without holding a conversation? As such, after taking a seat, Lin Jiage began searching for topics to chat about.

Recalling how Gu Nanqiang was doing papers even though it was the weekends, he thought that the young man’s results shouldn’t be too bad. Thus, he decided to use this topic to kickstart the conversation, “Given how diligent Nanqiang is, his results must be quite good, right?”

“In the mock exam earlier this month, out of a total score of 750, he got 0.” Before Gu Nanqiang had a chance to respond, Shi Yao had already chirped in. “It’s to supervise his studies that I had to come back home.”

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Ah... Did I get the wrong topic?

Lin Jiage reflected on the matter silently for two seconds before speaking up once more, “It’s fine. A single mock exam isn’t reflective of his true ability.”

Shi Yao: “It indeed isn’t. But he also got 0 points in the previous mock exam, as well as the one before it, and the one before before it... You can’t begin to imagine how infuriated my aunt was. She had berated him over this matter, saying that even if he doesn’t know how to do a question at all, he should at least try to guess the answers instead of handing up a blank paper. Do you know how he responded to that? He said that he can’t do so because he’s afraid that his answer to the question would change history. He claimed that he has time-traveled here from the future world, and answering any question correctly would result in the deviation in the trajectory of the future... Heh heh heh.”

It seemed like not only did I start on the wrong topic, I’m also on the verge of cornering myself as well...

Not wanting to offend his cousin just like that, Lin Jiage tried his best to salvage the situation, “It’s just academic results, it doesn’t mean anything much at all. It would be unfair to define his life by his results.”

“It can’t define his life, but that’s not a reason for him not to study hard!” Disapproval was written all over Shi Yao’s face.

Crap. I was too focused on coaxing Cousin Gu that I forgot about my Soft Bun...

Lin Jiage hurriedly nodded in agreement, “You’re right. Studies should always come first to a student.”

As he spoke, Lin Jiage took careful note of Shi Yao’s expression, and to his relief, he saw the disapproval on her face alleviating by a great deal. Thus, he pondered for a brief moment before adding, “Right, I remember you mentioning that your younger brother would have to be doing a Math paper and a Science paper later in the afternoon back when we were leaving the house. It happens that I’m free later on, so I can help you tutor him.”

Shi Yao’s disapproval was swiftly replaced by gratitude, “Thank you, Lin Jiage.”

Lin Jiage’s nervous heart finally settled down, “Don’t worry about it.”

And subsequently, throughout the entire meal, Lin Jiage no longer dared to broach any topic carelessly to close up his relationship with Shi Yao anymore.

...

By the time Lin Jiage was done tutoring Gu Nanqiang on his Math and Science, it was already nearing evening.

Being able to stay at Shi Yao's home for nearly an entire day, Lin Jiage contentedly took his leave, and Shi Yao walked him down.

Chapter 330: Fathoming the Young Master's Heart Is Like Searching For a Needle Amidst the Endless Ocean (2)

Being able to stay at Shi Yao's home for nearly an entire day, Lin Jiage contentedly took his leave, and Shi Yao walked him down.

Before getting on his car, Lin Jiage peered at his dazzling green T-shirt through his side mirror, and he couldn't help but frown.

It was because he thought that he had been cucked that he, by some weird train of thoughts, chose to wear a green T-shirt. But today, he learned that the person whom he thought had cucked him was actually his cousin...

Lin Jiage stopped and pondered for a moment, and right before he stepped onto his car, he couldn't resist turning around to ask Shi Yao, "is this shirt of mine really weird?"

"That's not it. It's just that I've never seen you wearing a shirt with a showy color before, so I was a little surprised at the start," Shi Yao replied honestly.

Actually, with Lin Jiage's appearance and physique, he would be able to pull off any clothes and any color... While the dazzling green T-shirt did catch her off guard at the start, after she got used to it, she had to admit that it actually looked kind of good on him...

After a moment of pause, Shi Yao added, "And actually, I am rather fond of the color green too. It's the color of watermelon and honeydew, my favorite fruits in summer!"

Those words placed Lin Jiage's heart at ease, "Un, me too. I think that green is a fine color."

...

There was a traffic jam on the way back, so even though Lin Jiage drove off from Shi Yao's home at five, it was already seven-thirty by the time he reached home.

A second after his car entered the courtyard, the next second, the maids and servants in the residence immediately flew into panic mode.

"The Young Master is back! Hurry up and hide Madam's emerald earrings!"

"Also, move the Old Master's plants over to the greenhouse."

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"Move the Young Mistress's flowers back to her room for the time being."

"Someone, cover Sir's painting with a cloth... Also, don't forget to hide the apples. Oh yeah, not to forget, those who are wearing green, you must remember to change out of them..."

...

As his car came to a stop, Lin Jiage walked back into his house while fiddling with his keys.

While he was switching his footwear, he couldn't help but notice that someone had covered the painting hanging on the wall with a cloth, and a frown appeared on his forehead. He turned to a maid, which happened to be passing by at the moment, and berated, "What are you all doing? How in the world did you come up with the idea of placing a cloth over a fine painting? Do you not know how valuable the painting is? It's the work of a true master, and the purpose of hanging it in the living room is to bring some life to it. If you are just going to cover it, what's the point of buying it in the first place?"

At this point, Lin Jiage suddenly recalled the apples he had eaten earlier that were personally washed and cut by Shi Yao while tutoring Gu Nanqiang, and as he made his way up to his room, he instructed, "Help me prepare some apples and deliver them to my room."

"Also, come up to my room later on to grab this shirt. I want you to help me wash it so that I can bring it to school tomorrow."

After confirming that he had nothing else, he walked into his room and closed it, leaving a group of dumbfounded maids and servants to stare at one another blankly.

Didn't he say that he hated apples and the color green prior to leaving? He picked on everything that was green in the house, and he even warned them to never let him see apples or anything green around...

Yet, in less than twenty-four hours, he had already changed his mind altogether...

Really, fathoming the Young Master's heart was like searching for a needle amidst the endless ocean!

...

Night time, Lin Jiage messaged Shi Yao to play, as per usual.

This time, the one who played with him wasn't Gu Nanqiang but the real Soft Bun.

At roughly ten-thirty, Shi Yao said that she wouldn't be playing anymore.

Perplexed by Shi Yao's early retirement for the night, he texted Shi Yao on WeChat, asking: [Isn't it still early? There aren't any classes tomorrow either, so why are you leaving so early tonight?]

Soon, Shi Yao replied his message: [I'm going to the hospital to visit a grandpa whom I am very close with tomorrow morning.]

Ah... Is she going to visit my grandfather?

So, as long as he woke up early tomorrow and headed to the hospital, he would be able to meet Soft Bun again?