

**Chapter 371: Immodest! (1)**

At this moment, Shi Yao emerged from the changing room as well.

Lin Jiage swiftly raised his head to look at Shi Yao.

The young lady wore a white dress with many hand-embroidered flowers on it, matched with a pair of light pink high heels chosen specially by the store attendant. She emanated a refreshing air of youth, reminiscent of an exquisite painting.

A hint of wonderment flashed across the depths of Lin Jiage's eyes. Unbeknownst even to him, he fell in a daze.

"Yaoyao, your clothes are gorgeous..." Lin Jiayi assessed Shi Yao from head to toe and offered a sincere compliment. After which, she turned to Lin Jiage and prompted, "... Lin Jiage, what about you? What do you think of Yaoyao's clothes?"

Jolted out of his daze, Lin Jiage hurriedly lowered his gaze to conceal the fact that his eyes momentarily were glued to Shi Yao.

Roughly two seconds later, he raised his gaze once more to look at Shi Yao.

Beautiful. She was truly beautiful... If he had to pick a flaw, it would be that the neckline of the silk dress was a bit too low, revealing a small portion of her breasts...

Without any hesitation, Lin Jiage remarked, "It..."

Barely after enunciating a word, Lin Jiage suddenly fell silent.

That wouldn't do. He couldn't say that the dress was ugly, especially since Soft Bun liked to hear compliments... Moreover, he was intending to confess to her a few days later. Considering how her image of him was already lying in the danger zone, he couldn't afford to compromise it any further...

Lin Jiage weighed his options before swiftly changing his words, "... It looks not bad. Quite refreshing."

Lin Jiayi's eyes lit up, "Since it's not bad, shall we buy it?"

I really don't want to buy it... But Soft Bun's happiness is the most important of all...

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Gritting his teeth, Lin Jiage nodded, "Buy!"

A smile immediately broke out on Lin Jiayi's lips. She turned to the manager and said, "Have the clothes Miss Shi and I am wearing wrapped up."

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Five minutes later, Lin Jiayi and Shi Yao had switched into another set of clothes, and they emerged from the changing room one after another.

As usual, Lin Jiayi asked for Lin Jiage's opinion on her clothes, only to receive a perfunctory "Un" from him without being spared a glance at.

But when Shi Yao stepped out of the changing room, Lin Jiage's gaze immediately shot up, and with just a glance, he was already mesmerized by what he saw.

It was a short skirt this time around. Her top wasn't revealing, but when it came to the bottom... it was simply too short! More than three-quarters of her legs were exposed in the open...

"This set of clothes sure is..." Out of habit, Lin Jiage subconsciously attempted to voice out his true thoughts. But halfway through his words, the word 'immodest' vanished in the depths of his throat, replaced with the word, "... charming."

And that was exactly what Lin Jiayi had been waiting for. She giggled gleefully on the inside, but on the outside, she put on a distressed look as she remarked, "These clothes are beautiful, but the previous ones are gorgeous too. Which one should Yaoyao pick then?"

How can I allow Soft Bun to be conflicted over what to buy?

Even though he hated both sets of clothes, Lin Jiage still calmly glanced at the manager by the side and said, "Wrap these up too."

Lin Jiayi hurriedly chirped in, "Wrap up the ones I am wearing as well."

...

Another five minutes later, Shi Yao switched into another set of clothes.

It was still so ravishing that Lin Jiage found it hard to avert his gaze from her. However, the back was made out of lace, allowing her fair skin vaguely showing through the fabric. It made her look exceptionally seductive...

This must be what they call erotic wear... However, Lin Jiage dared not say these words out loud.

At this point, he was already on the verge of tears. However, he had no choice but to force himself to remain calm and dignified on the sofa.

Who could have thought that there was such a tragic price to pay for doting Soft Bun... This time around, he could not even be bothered to speak to the manager anymore. He simply waved his hand to indicate for the latter to wrap the clothes up.

### **Chapter 372: Immodest! (2)**

It took the trio four hours before they finally concluded the battle.

On their way to the elevator, Lin Jiayi and Shi Yao were leisurely enjoying their ice creams amidst joyful chatter. In contrast to those two, Lin Jiage was lugging along many bags of different sizes behind.

As the three of them boasted attractive faces, they caught many glances from passers-by.

While they were passing by the washroom, Lin Jiayi, who had finished her ice cream at this point in time, suddenly halted her footsteps and flashed a gentle smile toward Shi Yao, “Yaoyao, I’ll be heading into the washroom to wash my hands. Are you coming as well?”

Shi Yao looked at the remaining ice cream in the cup she was holding and quickly gobbled the remaining bit up. When she was finally done, she raised her head to look at Lin Jiayi, and her eyes curved into beautiful crescents as she nodded her head in agreement, “Sure!”

Having received Shi Yao’s agreement, Lin Jiayi turned her gaze toward Lin Jiage.

In the moment that she turned her head over, the smile she had directed toward Shi Yao disappeared without a trace, and even her voice became cold and composed, “You can wait here for me and Yaoyao.”

After finishing her piece, she did not bother waiting for Lin Jiage’s response before grabbing Shi Yao’s wrist and leading her toward the washroom.

Lin Jiage watched as Shi Yao walked toward the washroom, only finally retracting his gaze after her silhouette disappeared from view. He leaned lazily against the glass railing of the shopping mall, waiting for the two ladies with a bored look on his face. Perhaps out of boredom, his gaze was focused downward, where his foot tapped on the ground ceaselessly with a light ‘tak tak’ sound.

It didn’t take too long for a couple of girls to pass by his side, and some of them whipped out their phones to snap shots of him.

Lin Jiage didn’t raise his head to take a look, but he could sense their presence. As those girls persistently lingered in the area, he started to get a little impatient. With a slight frown between his brows, he turned his sights toward the entrance of the female washroom.

There were no signs that Lin Jiayi and Shi Yao would be coming out soon... Seeing that the girls still weren’t leaving, he straightened his body and lugged the bags of clothes into the male washroom.

It wasn’t his primary intention to enter the washroom, but after walking in, a thought suddenly surfaced in his mind.

He didn’t mind keeping Lin Jiayi waiting, but he didn’t want Shi Yao to wait too long for him after leaving the washroom. Thus, he swiftly washed his hands before carrying the bags out once more.

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But as he was walking out of the male washroom, he caught sight of a trash can in his peripheral vision. Then, his gaze slowly lowered to the bags he had in his hands.

He couldn’t interfere with what Lin Jiayi was wearing, and he couldn’t be bothered to do so either. Even if she were to race across the streets nude, he wouldn’t voice the slightest word of objection...

However, the same didn’t apply to Soft Bun... Soft Bun was his. Any skin of hers that was revealed to others was equivalent to a loss to him.

The only reason why he praised those clothes desperately and bought them was so as to not incur Soft Bun's displeasure... But just because he was willing to spend his money on those clothes didn't mean that he would allow Soft Bun to put them on!

He knew that if Soft Bun were to really bring these clothes home, he wouldn't be able to stop her whether she wanted to wear them to school or out in the streets. The one and only way he could stop Soft Bun from wearing those clothes was to prevent them from falling into her hands in the very first place!

Everyone had times that they erred, and he was no exception to the rule either...

Having sorted out his thoughts, a gleam flickered across Lin Jiage's eyes. He walked toward the trash can with widened strides and browsed through the clothes in those bags one by one. Whenever he spotted clothes that he was unwilling to see Soft Bun wearing, he would unhesitatingly stuff the entire bag into the trash can.

All he would have to do later on was to feign as if he had accidentally left those bags behind in the washroom, and that should settle the matter!

Maybe Soft Bun would feel pity over those clothes, but it was not as if he could be blamed for them either.

There was no such thing as an infallible man, and to err was human!

### **Chapter 373: Whitewashing (1)**

Even he had to praise himself for his sharp wits! All it took was a spark in his mind for him to resolve the dilemma which had frustrated him for many hours.

Lin Jiage went through the contents of the bag once more to ensure he had not missed out on any indecent clothes before making his way out with the remaining bags.

But barely after taking two steps, he was halted by a sudden thought.

Even though it was an act, he had to make sure that it was convincing... Wouldn't it be too obvious if only Soft Bun's clothes were lost?

Contemplating the possible scenarios, Lin Jiage made up his mind and tracked his steps back to the trash can. Casually, he reached into the bag and grabbed two pieces of Lin Jiayi's purchases before flinging them into the bin.

Satisfied, he once again turned towards the exit. However, just like before, he was struck by another thought. Remembering how Lin Jiayi had used Soft Bun to coerce him into being her porter and ATM, he had to collect some interest from her. Without any hesitation, Lin Jiage reached into the bag and pulled out the piece of clothing Lin Jiayi fancied most and stuffed it into the trash can as well.

He was all-too-familiar with Lin Jiayi's personality. If this piece of clothing were to go missing, she would spare no expense to repurchase it again.

While footing the bill earlier, the attendant had informed Lin Jiayi that this piece was limited edition and it was the only one available in the country. If she wished to repurchase it, she would have to spend a great deal of money and effort to get it...

She was the one who tried to take advantage of him in the first place. For that, she would have to shed some blood as compensation...

To be able to resolve the problem of Soft Bun's choice of clothing and exact revenge on Lin Jiayi all at once... He sure was a genius!

Lin Jiage double checked once more to ensure that everything was in order before strolling out of the washroom with lighter loads both in hands and heart.

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At roughly four-thirty, while the girls were still shopping, Lin Jiage had already made a dinner reservation at Beijing Hotel.

So, after the trio had finally completed their shopping and returned back to their car, Lin Jiage drove them to the hotel.

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As soon as they arrived at their destination, the manager of the hotel immediately welcomed them passionately before ushering them toward the compartment they had booked.

After settling comfortably in their seats, the waiter handed Lin Jiage the menu.

Lin Jiage pushed the menu to Shi Yao and gestured for her to order instead.

It was only after Shi Yao was done ordering did Lin Jiage pass the menu on to Lin Jiayi. Lin Jiayi took a glance at the menu and ordered Sham Tseng Roasted Goose and Braised Cabbage in Broth.

While they were making the order, the waiter kindly advised, "Mr Lin, you seem to have ordered a little too much food. It might be difficult for you to finish everything."

Lin Jiage was just about to nonchalantly wave his hand and remark that "It's fine" when beside him, Shi Yao suddenly lifted her head and said, "Did we order too much? It would be terrible if we wasted food. Why don't we strike off two of the dishes?"

Hearing Shi Yao's voice, Lin Jiage swallowed the words he was about to say back in and changed them to, "You're right. It would be shameful of us to waste food. Pass me the order list, I'll see which dishes we should strike off."

"Yes, Mr Lin." With a smile on his face, the waiter handed Lin Jiage the order list.

Lin Jiage scanned the order list contemplatively for a moment before finally pointing at the two dishes Lin Jiayi had ordered, indicating to the waiter, "Strike off these two dishes."

"Understood." The waiter took the order list back from Lin Jiage's hands with a smile before continuing, "As per your request, I will remove these two dishes from your order. If you have no other requests, I will get the chef to start preparing your food."

Lin Jiage nodded wordlessly, acknowledging the waiter's words.

With that, the waiter quietly retreated from the room with light footsteps, leaving the trio to their own devices.

The television in the private dining compartment was currently tuned into a fashion runway show.

Lin Jiage did not pay much attention to the fashion runway show initially. However, when his gaze swept across the screen for the third time, the words which Soft Bun had said to him not too long ago while they were gaming flooded into his mind. She had claimed that he liked girls with huge breasts, long legs, and a coy voice. She even added that what he viewed to be most important in a girl was not her face but her butt...

### **Chapter 374: Whitewashing (2)**

It suddenly flashed across his mind that this might be an excellent opportunity for him to cleanse his reputation...

However, he wasn't particularly knowledgeable about this runway fashion show...

With such a thought in mind, Lin Jiage took out his phone and searched up the show on the internet. After gaining some understanding about it, he finally opened his mouth, "This show seems to be quite popular recently. The audience is quite interested to see these models pitting themselves against one another..."

Lin Jiayi took a glance at the screen and remarked extremely nonchalantly, "Many of the clothes in the show is sponsored by our company."

At which, she paused for a brief moment before adding, "I was the one who negotiated the agreement."

Who cares about where the clothes in the runway fashion show come from? Also, what did you mean by saying that you were the one who negotiated the agreement? Are you trying to win praises from me? Dream on!

Lin Jiage feigned ignorance to Lin Jiayi words.

On the other hand, Shi Yao's eyes lit up, and she looked at Lin Jiayi with eyes filled with reverence, "Sis Jiayi, you are incredible!"

Lin Jiage could not help but sneer a disdainful 'Heh' in his mind. Was Soft Bun a fool? He was the one who was a family with her... She should be standing on his side, not Lin Jiayi's!

In order to prevent Lin Jiayi's boasting from interfering with his plan, Lin Jiage quickly interjected and changed the subject, "Who's the current first place in the fashion show again? If I recall correctly, her name seems to Xia... Xia..."

"Xia Tian. She's a very beautiful model. A huge proportion of the audience would vote for her each episode, and she's especially popular amongst the guys. That's because she has..." Shi Yao was the one who had finished Lin Jiage's sentence. But halfway through her words, she realized that it might not be too appropriate for her to directly say that Xia Tian was big-breasted, so she opted for a more reserved term instead, "... a more voluptuous figure."

Bullseye!

Glee flourished in the depths of Lin Jiage's heart, but he did not allow any trace of it to show on his face. Looking impassively at the television before him, he asked nonchalantly, "Which of the models is her?"

Shi Yao turned to the television as well, and when there was finally a close-up shot on Xia Tian's body, she immediately pointed her out to Lin Jiage.

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Lin Jiage glanced at the figure of the model on the television and shook his head in disapproval, "She's popular amongst the audience? Her figure is too imbalanced that it feels unnatural, and her breasts... Are they fake?"

While he was speaking, the screen moved on to do another close-up on another one of the models. This model had a naturally tall stature, and as if to emphasize this trait, she wore a pair of high heels which made her legs look exceptionally long. He commented, "She doesn't look beautiful either. It's not as if she's Optimus Prime, why does she need such long legs for?"

"This model is even more disgusting. Can't she speak properly? Why does she have to reply in such a coy manner while the host was interviewing her? Does she think of the audience as her parents or lover?"

"This is even more unacceptable. She looks no different from a man! There isn't the slightest demure that a lady should have from her..."

"And this model... her looks are still acceptable, but isn't she a little too plump?"

"..."

Every time the screen did a close up on a model, Lin Jiage would drop a comment or two.

And amongst the many comments he had made within this duration, Shi Yao did not hear a single complimentary remark from him.

This was especially so when it came to the models whom she thought fitted with Lin Jiage's perception of ideal beauty. He would pick on them with even greater fervor, to the point where she was starting to get a little light-headed.

For some reason, he seemed to be very different from the person she knew through the photos Liang Mumu had sent her...

While Shi Yao was still perplexed over this confusing situation, another model appeared on the screen. She had huge breasts, long legs, and more importantly of all, a huge bottom... This pretty much checked out the list of desirable traits that Lin Jiage saw in the opposite gender...

Lin Jiage should finally say some kinder words now, right?, Shi Yao thought.

But things did not progress in a direction that she thought it would. The words that dived into her ears a moment later were instead, "This is even worse. With a bottom like hers, she would probably need to take up two seats by herself wherever she goes!"

Surely not? These models pretty much spanned over all genres of beauty... and yet, he was still able to pick flaws out of every single one of them?

Just how eccentric and unique must his sense of beauty be?

Shi Yao couldn't help but ask earnestly, "Why does it seem like you have a problem with all women? Could it be that you swing the other way?"

Lin Jiage had barely picked up a glass of water when he heard those words, and his hands shook.

Crap! Did I accidentally go too far? Not only did I fail to whitewash myself, I even gave Soft Bun the impression that I'm homosexual?

"Otherwise, why don't you just tell us directly what kind of woman do you find attractive? You really should stop criticizing all of them like that," Shi Yao added.

Too fearful at the notion that Shi Yao would misunderstand that he was interested in guys, Lin Jiage's response circumvented his brain and shot right out of his mouth, "I find a woman like you attractive."

### **Chapter 375: You Can Eat Anything You Like, But You Can't Simply Say Anything You Want (1)**

Too fearful at the notion that Shi Yao would misunderstand that he was interested in guys, Lin Jiage's response circumvented his brain and shot right out of his mouth, "I find a woman like you attractive."

Shi Yao had never expected to hear such a response from Lin Jiage. In the moment that Lin Jiage's words sounded, her fingertips shuddered a little, and her heart inexplicably began to run amok.

Lin Jiage... What on earth was he thinking about?

It was just a moment ago that his mouth was so foul that she really wanted to use a toilet paper to stuff it shut, but in the next moment, he suddenly dropped such a remark...

It was not that she had never been complimented for her looks before. Her height suddenly shot up when she was fifteen, and her breasts began to rise. Her skin gradually became brighter, and her eyebrows seemed to have blossomed overnight. It was a transformative change. Those who knew her said that she was an ugly duckling who had grown into a white swan, and those who did not would be awed by her looks and compliment her.

Initially, she would still feel a little embarrassed at being complimented, but she gradually grew used to it with time.

Before closer friends, she could be thick-skinned and boast that she was born with natural grace. To those whom she was less familiar with, she would graciously thank them for their compliments and politely return one.

But for some reason, she found herself unable to keep her calm when it came to Lin Jiage. Furthermore, it was different from the embarrassment that she initially felt when others praised her for her looks. Rather, it was a kind of fluster that even she couldn't determine where it originated from.

While Shi Yao's mind was wandering around the place, a chuckle escaped from Lin Jiayi after hearing Lin Jiage's words.



Hearing the chuckle, Shi Yao raised her gaze to first look at Lin Jiayi before slowly turning her eyes to Lin Jiage.

Lin Jiage was still staring at her. She couldn't tell whether it was because she was thinking too much, but she seemed to sense some bizarre intentions within his gaze.

She met his gaze for a short three seconds before diverting her eyes away.

Despite so, she could sense that Lin Jiage was still looking at her, and this situation left her feeling a little unnatural.

Her eyes rolled around nervously before she raised her head once more with feigned composure. Once again, she turned her gaze toward Lin Jiage.

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But even though her gaze was directed in Lin Jiage's direction, her eyes were still wandering around. She was unable to bring herself to meet Lin Jiage's eyes.

Her cowardice left her feeling a little stifled inside, but she forced herself to speak with a casual tone, "Lin Jiage, your joke isn't funny at all..."

Lin Jiayi finally cracked after hearing Shi Yao's response, and she nearly spurted the tea she was drinking out.

Due to her frequent excessive responses, Lin Jiage shot her a warning glare.

However, Lin Jiayi wasn't affected by it at all. She continued staring at Lin Jiage and Shi Yao with a curious glint in her eyes, as if a spectator watching a drama unfolding before her eyes.

On the other hand, after he had warned Lin Jiayi with a glare, he turned his gaze to Shi Yao and said, "I..."

He had barely said a single word when Shi Yao, fearing that what he was going to say would leave her feeling even more flustered inside, interjected anxiously, "You're lucky that those women are in the television. If they were here with us, what you are doing wouldn't be complimenting me but laying a trap for me. You would be drawing all of their ire upon me, you know?"

Those words left the smile on Lin Jiayi's lips blooming even more brightly.

In the many years that she had known Lin Jiage, this was the first time she was hearing Lin Jiage complimenting another person.

But it did not seem like his first attempt to compliment someone was going too well...

Why is it so fun to see Lin Jiage being forced into a difficult position? This is so much better than those nighttime soap operas...

At this point in time, the nature of the glint in Lin Jiayi's eyes had already turned from one of excitement to gloating over someone else's misfortune.

In contrast to Lin Jiayi's exhilaration, the expression on Lin Jiage's face was starting to become a little tense.

He was not joking with her at all, and he was not trying to draw anyone's ire upon her either. He was earnestly trying to compliment her...

### **Chapter 376: You Can Eat Anything You Like, But You Can't Simply Say Anything You Want (2)**

Lin Jiage's lips began moving once more, but this time, before he could say a word at all, Shi Yao had already cut in, and she brought the topic even further away from the main point he was trying to put across.

"If this was a drama about the imperial harem, and you are the emperor and we're all your concubines, your obvious favoritism will cause me to be shunned by everyone else. Just that joke of yours would get me poisoned to death before the sun rises tomorrow! What is that called again? Yes, you can eat anything you like, but you can't simply say anything you want! Someone might just lose her life just because of something you said on a whim!"

Right after Shi Yao said those words, the doors to the compartment opened, and a waiter pushed a small cart into the room and served the dishes.

It was only then that the tense Shi Yao finally calmed down a little. She muttered meekly, "That, I'm a little hungry now. Since the dishes are already here, let's dig in."

As Shi Yao spoke, she picked up the soup ladle and served a bowl of soup for Lin Jiayi first before proceeding to do the same for Lin Jiage too. After that, she gestured with a smile, "Let's eat."

Lin Jiayi thanked Shi Yao whereas Lin Jiage showed no reaction toward the bowl of soup served by Lin Jiage. Instead, his eyes still remained fixated on Shi Yao's face.

It was only till she lowered her head to drink the soup did he finally lower his gaze to conceal the disappointment in his eyes.

He could tell that she had tried so hard to get so many words in earlier was to stop him from saying anything else.

Did she really think that he was joking, or was this an instinctive reflex from her due to her embarrassment? Or was he to take it as a hint that she was unwilling to hear his true feelings?

Lin Jiage shot another glance at Shi Yao and saw that she was wolfing down the food before her.

Perhaps it was because of how delicious the food was, she didn't appear to be as nervous as before.

Lin Jiage opened his mouth to say something, but in the end, not a single word came out of him at all.

If his words really made her feel uncomfortable, it might be better for him... not to say them at all... It was never his intention to put her in a spot, after all.

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It was already nine at night by the time they were done with dinner. Lin Jiage chose to send Lin Jiayi back home first.

In order to drag the time out till the closure of the shopping mall, Lin Jiage intentionally passed by the exit they were supposed to head into on the highway and ended up taking a huge detour. In the end, what that should have been a twenty minutes journey ended up dragging out for over an hour before they finally arrived at the Lin Family Residence.

Using the excuse that it was dangerous for a lady to return home at such an ungodly hour, Lin Jiage insisted on sending Shi Yao back home, so neither of them got off the car.

On the other hand, Lin Jiayi got down and opened the back trunk, only to realize that a huge chunk of her bags had gone missing. She carefully counted them yet again and found that they were indeed seven of them that weren't around.

So, she shouted for Lin Jiage and asked, "Why are so many of my bags missing?"

Hearing those words, Shi Yao and Lin Jiage immediately got off the car.

They counted the bags in the back trunk too, and there were indeed quite a few of them missing.

Lin Jiage racked his head as he tried his darndest best to recall what happened earlier in the day before finally saying, "I placed some of the bags by the side when I went to the washroom earlier to the day, and I think I forgot to take them with me..."

"You forgot them? Have you gone senile?!" Seeing how so many of the clothes that she loved had gone missing due to Lin Jiage's mistake, Lin Jiayi immediately lost her temper. "You are a useless ATM machine!"

While Shi Yao thought that it was a huge pity that those items had gone missing, she also knew that it was just a moment of carelessness that Lin Jiage left those items back in the washroom. Besides, he did accompany them and carried their bags for them for the entire day.

So, she tugged Lin Jiayi's sleeves and said, "Sis Jiayi, he didn't do it intentionally. Don't blame him for it."

"I..." After hearing Lin Jiayi's words, she had no idea where she could vent that the rage cramped up in her belly.

She couldn't allow herself to leave a bad impression with Yaoyao...

So, Lin Jiayi first 'greeted' Lin Jiage's eighteen generations of ancestors thoroughly before finally tossing over these words, "Forget it, I will let you off this once on Yaoyao's account, you useless ATM machine!"

After that, she picked up her bags before heading into the residence.

### **Chapter 377: Can I Ask You Out (1)**

"Sorry, it was my fault."

After Lin Jiayi stomped furiously back into the Lin Family Residence, Lin Jiage finally spoke up, "I'll compensate you for those clothes that you have lost."

To be more exact, he had chosen to wait until now to say these words. This was the only way for him to avoid getting taken advantage of by Lin Jiayi under the pretext of 'By the way, me too'.

Shi Yao hurriedly shook her head and waved her hands in a fluster, saying, "No need no need, you were the one who paid for those clothes in the first place anyway..."

Amidst her words, she got back onto the car and fastened her seatbelt before earnestly adding on, "... I was planning to return you the money we spent earlier today anyway."

Lin Jiage was about to start the engine when he heard a phrase that surprised him. All of his actions immediately stopped on the spot as he asked in bewilderment, "You were going to return me my money?"

"Of course! It's your money, it's only right for me to pay you back!" Shi Yao replied as a matter-of-factly, thinking nothing much of it.

Lin Jiage pressed his lips tightly a little as he slowly shifted his gaze from Shi Yao's face to the road ahead of him. All this while, he didn't say a thing at all.

Noticing the abrupt silence drifting between them, Shi Yao couldn't help but notice that something was amiss. So, she tilted her head over and asked, "What's wrong?"

Lin Jiage quickly snapped out of it. He glanced at Shi Yao and shook his head, replying, "Nah, nothing at all."

After that, he turned his gaze back to a lamppost beside him. The residence located beside the lamppost had cultivated a wall of roses, and it was blooming in splendor.

This time around, he didn't daze out for too long. Before Shi Yao could voice her doubt once more, he had already stepped down on the accelerator.

*Soft Bun is actually thinking of returning my money... Are the two of us so distant from one another in her heart?*

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In the past, when he wasn't that interested in women, he had never paid so much attention to minor details before.

He remembered that there were quite a few times that Song Chaoxi fought with his girlfriend and ended up being evicted out of his house, leaving him no choice but to miserably return back to Room 501 to stay with them. During those times, Song Chaoxi would share those petty reasons behind their fights, and he would always think that they were so unbelievably boring.

In his view then, he thought that it was a waste of energy for anyone to think so deeply into such minor matters.

So, in contrast to Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou, he would rarely put his view out during those moments.

However, one of these occasions suddenly surfaced in Lin Jiage's moment at this moment.

The argument that time seemed to be about the father of Song Chaoxi's girlfriend falling ill and desperately needed money for treatment. Song Chaoxi's girlfriend didn't come from a wealthy family, so in the end, she resorted to borrowing from a high-interest rate lender.

When Song Chaoxi learned about that matter, he flew into a rage. He berated her for not looking for him when she was in trouble.

That was the one time he saw such a major fallout between Song Chaoxi and his girlfriend. When Song Chaoxi returned to the dormitory and borrowed money from him, he said these words, "I feel like my girlfriend has never thought of having a future together with me before."

He felt that Song Chaoxi was being a little ridiculous for blowing up a simple matter like that to such massive proportions, so he replied Song Chaoxi with these words, "You're a man, do you need to fuss over such minor details? You're being too sensitive here!"

How did Song Chaoxi reply to him back then?

He said, "Boss, you don't get it. It's only when you genuinely love someone that you fuss over even the details. That's why you want to be the first person she comes to whenever she's in trouble."

He didn't bother arguing with Song Chaoxi any further than that because he was really unable to understand that point of view. He thought that the latter was being simply too concerned with too many things for no reason.

But at this very moment, when he heard that Soft Bun would return him his money, he suddenly felt like he could understand a little on how Song Chaoxi felt back then.

But it was a pity that he was different from Song Chaoxi.

Song Chaoxi was in a relationship with his girlfriend, so he could express his anger and displeasure. On the other hand, he didn't even have the right to do so...

### **Chapter 378: Can I Ask You Out (2)**

"Ah? You are heading the wrong way. You should have turned at the bend ahead..."

After what felt like an eternity, Shi Yao's voice suddenly sounded in his ears.

Lin Jiage finally snapped out of his daze.

It was then that he realized that in the midst of his wandering thoughts, the car had already reached the vicinity of Shi Yao's house, and he nearly drove overshot.

He quickly stepped on the brake, and the car swiftly decelerated. After that, he turned at the bend that Shi Yao mentioned earlier.

It was only after the car returned back on the path that Lin Jiage suddenly remembered the reason why he came looking for Shi Yao today.

He was intending to ask her out for a date to confess to her... Or could this actually be considered as their first date?

But how was he supposed to approach the topic?

Lin Jiage pondered for a moment before he asked, "Are you very busy recently?"

"Hmm, I wouldn't say that I'm busy, but there have been quite a few matters recently..." Shi Yao thought that Lin Jiage was just chatting idling with her, so she simply replied casually too. "... Isn't it Grandpa Lin's birthday two days later? And the following day after his birthday will be our end-of-semester examination..."

Lin Jiage blurted out in astonishment, "It's already the end-of-semester examinations?"

Shi Yao was slightly surprised to hear those words from Lin Jiage. She looked at him with disbelief in her eyes as she asked, "Do you really not know it, or are you just feigning it?"

"Feigning it?" Lin Jiage frowned for a moment before replying, "The only exam I ever remembered was the National College Entrance Examination. Other than that, I don't really pay attention to anything else..."

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"Then what if you forgot about your examination?"

Shi Yao was only asking this question casually, but who could have thought that Lin Jiage would nod his head earnestly and reply, "That did happen once before. I forgot about one of my examinations on my Year 1 Semester 2, and it was only when my lecturer gave me a call did I know about it. By the time I rushed to the school from my home, the exam duration has already passed the half-mark. Going by the rules, I should have been allowed to enter the examination venue, but luckily, the invigilator was quite close with my dad, so he allowed me to enter. After that, I took half an hour to finish the paper and submitted it."

Half an hour?

Nearly everyone in G University agreed that Lin Jiage was a genius who didn't have any flaws at all, but if he only spent half an hour to finish his paper, his results should be quite disastrous, right?

Having finally managed to pick a flaw with Lin Jiage, Shi Yao blinked her eyes and asked curiously, "Did you manage to finish your paper then?"

*Me, unable to finish my paper? Impossible!*

Lin Jiage said playfully, "Give it a guess."

*Guess? Is he embarrassed about his poor results?*

Shi Yao bit on her fingernails as she asked, "Were your results unsatisfactory?"

*Unsatisfactory? Is this how little Soft Bun thinks about me?*

Lin Jiage shook his head.

But before he could give away the answer, Shi Yao had already widened her eyes in realization as she exclaimed, "I know! You failed the examination!"

"..." Lin Jiage fell silent.

It felt like he was trying to boast, but somehow the other party wasn't getting his point at all.

With a deep sigh, he replied, "How is that possible? My results in G University have been straight A+. I would have been fine for that examination even if I only had 20 minutes left. Let me put it this way for you, I spent 14 minutes 30 seconds to finish answering the entire paper. The reason why I forgot about the examination in the first place was because it was nothing more than a few fill-in-the-blanks and multiple-choice questions, so I didn't pay it much heed."

*So... he didn't get me to guess the outcome because he did badly for the examination, but he was trying to boast about how smart and incredible he is?*

Shi Yao had to stroke her chest a few times before she finally managed to soothe the trauma coming from the realization of the unbreachable gap between an ordinary student and a genius.

Soon, the car stopped right beneath Shi Yao's house.

She thanked Lin Jiage before she pushed the door open. It was then that Lin Jiage suddenly shouted for her, "Shi Yao!"

Shi Yao turned around to look at Lin Jiage.

Facing Shi Yao's clear eyes, Lin Jiage's heart suddenly thumped in nervously as he gulped down his saliva unconsciously. He said, "Are you free after the end-of-semester examinations?"

Shi Yao tilted her head slightly as she replied, "It'll be the holidays then. Of course I'll be free."

"Then..." Lin Jiage lowered his gaze to look at the date and noted that it was the 23rd day of the month. So, he lifted his head and said, "30th is the second day of the break, right? May I ask you out that day?"

### **Chapter 379: I'll Wait For You (1)**

"Then..." Lin Jiage lowered his gaze to look at the date and noted that it was the 23rd day of the month. So, he lifted his head and said, "30th is the second day of the break, right? May I ask you out that day?"

He's asking me out?

A hint of astonishment flickered across the depths of Shi Yao's eyes.

Seeing the look in her eyes, Lin Jiage quickly added, "It's just Mountain Changming. You can treat it like a short summer camp..."

Summer camp... Did this mean that she wasn't the only one he was asking out?

Shi Yao was a little moved, but her sixth sense as a woman was telling her that the 'summer camp' Lin Jiage was talking about was unlikely to be the same one she had in her mind.

Lin Jiage could sense Shi Yao's hesitation, so he lowered his face slightly as he uttered with seeming nonchalance, "I heard that there's a river filled with wild fishes, and they smell exceptionally fragrant

when barbecued. The farmhouse 1 there also makes excellent braised pork with chestnut, and I heard from a friend that the wild vegetables they have there are really on another level..."

Barbecued fish? Braised pork with chestnut? Wild vegetable?

As delicious dishes surfaced one after another in Shi Yao's mind, the sixth sense of a woman that was tingling inside her immediately got overpowered by a greater force.

Without any hesitation, she nodded her head vehemently and agreed to it, "Sounds good! What time are we meeting that day?"

"..."

It turned out that his charms weren't enough to ask her out for a date. He still needed to rely on delicacies to tempt her...

Lin Jiage was speechless for a moment before he replied, "I'll be setting off 9 o'clock in the morning that day, so I should be able to reach your place by ten. I'll drive you there."

"Ah? But it's not on the way for you, right? Mountain Changming and my house are in opposite directions from your place. It'll be too troublesome to have you drive over to fetch me," Shi Yao replied. "I'll just grab a taxi there instead. It won't be too much trouble anyway. Let's meet directly at the entrance of Mountain Changming instead."

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Lin Jiage thought about it for a moment before agreeing to it, "Sure. It's a deal then! Let's meet at the entrance of Mountain Changming at eleven o'clock that day then."

Shi Yao's eyes curled in crescents as she replied with a "Un un". Then, she added, "If there's nothing else, I'll be heading up then."

"Un, go on," Lin Jiage said.

He got down the car together with Shi Yao, opened the back trunk, and took her items out for her before passing it over. Then, still feeling a little worried, he repeated it once more, "Don't forget. 30th of this month, eleven o'clock, Mountain Changmin."

"I'll remember it."

"See you then."

"See you," Shi Yao replied before she turned around and left.

Barely after taking two steps, Lin Jiage suddenly called her yet again, and she turned around to look at him.

"Goodnight," Lin Jiage said.

Shi Yao smiled and replied with a "Goodnight" too. Then, she stared at Lin Jiage for two seconds before she turned around and returned back to her home with light footsteps.



Lin Jiage waited at the bottom floor till the lights in Shi Yao's bedroom finally lit up. Only then did he finally get back onto his car and drive back into the city.

Due to him 'carelessly' tossing away Lin Jiayi's clothes, he knew that he would surely be cornered by her as soon as he got home. So, he chose to head to school instead.

After he got back to his dormitory, he had a bath before lying down on his bed. He squeezed his waist, and the sharp pain he felt told him that it was all real, and that he had really asked out Shi Yao.

He buried his face into his blanket as a smile spread out widely on his face.

Worried that Shi Yao might not be able to find the location or would accidentally head to the wrong place that day, he picked up his phone and sent a message to Shi Yao: [I'm home.]

Before Shi Yao could reply, he pasted the address of Mountain Changming he had copied from off the web and sent it to Shi Yao: [This is the address of the place we're going to meet. 11 o'clock in the morning. See you there.]

A short while later, the screen of his phone lit up. A message had come in, and it was from Shi Yao: [See you there.]

See you there... No matter what happened, he would wait for her till she arrived...

### **Chapter 380: I'll Wait For You (2)**

...

Over the next two days, Shi Yao was busy with studying for the end-of-semester examinations. As the date of the examination crept closer, the time she spent on games reduced correspondingly too.

As a result of that, Lin Jiage, who had never known the word 'revising', ended up spending several hours less on games each day too. So, he ended up having quite a bit of free time on hand.

In the blink of an eye, it was already Tuesday, the day of Grandpa Lin's birthday.

The birthday banquet was set to start at five-thirty, and the location was Beijing's China World Hotel.

That afternoon, Shi Yao had lessons all the way till four-thirty. As time was tight, she didn't have time to get a make-up artist to work on her. So, after she returned to her room, she had a quick bath before changing into her formal attire. With the help of He Tiantian and Leng Nuan, she managed to do up a light make-up before leaving the room in a hurry.

The driver Grandpa Lin had sent over was already waiting downstairs for her.

Seeing Shi Yao walk out of the dormitory building, the driver quickly got down and opened the car door for her.

It was fortunate that it was a Tuesday, so the road condition wasn't too horrendous. Even though they had only begun setting off at 4:45PM, it was only 5:15PM when they arrived at Beijing's China World Hotel.

After the car came to a stop, the driver got down to open the door for her once more. Shi Yao thanked him promptly before she lowered her head, got down the car, and began making her way into the hotel.

There was a sign placed outside that pointed out the direction to the banquet hall for Grandpa Lin's birthday banquet.

Following the signs, Shi Yao was able to find her way to her destination with relative ease.

After she got out of the lift, she immediately saw Grandpa Lin welcoming the other guests at the entrance of the banquet hall. He had a walking stick in hand, and Auntie Sun was standing right next to him. From time to time, Grandpa Lin would greet the incoming guests with a bright smile on his face and shake their hands.

Shi Yao intentionally slowed her footsteps and waited for the crowd to disperse before she finally walked up to the latter and said, "Grandpa Lin, happy birthday!"

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"Yaoyao, you're here?" The smile on Grandpa Lin's face clearly became even more amiable upon seeing Shi Yao. "Auntie Sun, bring Yaoyao to her seat!"

"Ah, there's no need for that!" Shi Yao quickly shook her head. "Grandpa Lin, you should have Auntie Sun accompany you by your side. I can find my way around by myself. Besides, I think I just spotted Sis Jiayi!"

Grandpa Lin traced Shi Yao's gaze and saw Lin Jiayi too. She was currently in the midst of chatting with a guest, whose company was partnering with their company for a project.

Despite so, Grandpa Lin was still concerned that Shi Yao might feel uncomfortable disrupting Lin Jiayi from her conversation and, as a result of that, end up sitting alone. So, he called out to his granddaughter, "Little Yi!"

Hearing the voice, Lin Jiayi shot a glance at the entrance, and her eyes lit up. She quickly excused herself from the person she was speaking to before walking over hurriedly with her high heels.

She started off by calling out "Yaoyao!" before she turned to Grandpa Lin and asked, "What's wrong, grandpa?"

"Yaoyao is here. Accompany her around. Don't get too caught up with entertaining the other guests that you end up neglecting her," Grandpa Lin said.

"Got it, grandpa. Don't worry about it! I'll be taking Darling Yaoyao away with me then!" As Lin Jiayi spoke, she wrapped her hand around Shi Yao's arm.

Barely after Shi Yao was dragged into the banquet hall together with Lin Jiayi, she suddenly heard a familiar voice calling out "Uncle Lin" behind. She subconsciously turned her head around to take a look.

Wow, it sure is a coincidence...

Just a moment after she arrived at the banquet hall, those from the Liang Family arrived too.

Liang Huiling walked right up to Grandpa Lin with a warm smile on her face and started chatting with him. Liang Jiusi was looking around the room, seemingly trying to find someone. And as for Liang Mumu... her eyes were directed straight toward Shi Yao.

Perhaps it was because Liang Mumu had heard the conversation between Grandpa Lin and her earlier, Liang Mumu's lips were pursed tightly together.