

Chapter 401: It's Just Zhou Zhuang Dreaming of a Butterfly, Your Grace Is Also An Ordeal (1)

Sis Jiayi, don't lie to me. I know that I'm not very smart, but...?

Shi Yao looked at Lin Jiayi's beautiful and slender hands before turning to the chair behind her, and with a slightly doubtful frown on her face, she asked, "Is it... like that?"

"Is it not?" Lin Jiayi returned the question. Perhaps it was because she didn't think that the excuse she found wasn't very logical, she added, "I guess not, haha... To tell you the truth, Yaoyao, I'm usually not like that. I think it's because my period is coming recently..."

Speaking up to this point, Lin Jiayi suddenly felt like she had found the perfect reason to cover it up, so she happily elaborated more on it, "... Yaoyao, you also know that during this period of time, our mood tends to become inexplicably irritable... We, women, tend to have just those few days in the month..."

Agreeing deeply with that, Shi Yao's eyes glimmered in agreement as she said, "It's the same for me too! Every time it comes, my mood would just feel a little down. Usually, I would feel very blissful if I could eat something, but in those few days, no matter how I eat, I would feel like there's something heavy in my heart. It just feels uncomfortable..."

Lin Jiayi quickly followed through with what Shi Yao was saying to divert the topic away, "Oh? Yaoyao, which days do you usually feel unwell?"

Meanwhile, Lin Jiage heard the conversation between those two women loud and clear.

Is this how women tended to communicate with one another when gathered together? Weren't they talking about how violent Lin Jiayi was a moment ago? How in the world did it turn into a discussion about periods?

Besides, Lin Jiayi is actually asking Soft Bun which days she felt unwell... Is she trying to find out about Shi Yao's menstrual cycle?

It wouldn't be good for him to listen in to such a private topic amongst them, right?

With such thoughts in mind, the slightly reddened-faced Lin Jiage diverted his gaze away to look out of the window, but yet, his body was clearly inching toward Shi Yao.

"Me?" Shi Yao tilted her head and pondered for a moment before replying, "I think it's coming soon. It's usually on 28 or 29 every month. Just a few days more..."

"You have to make sure to keep yourself warm in those few days. Try not to stay under the air-con for too long. If you get chills in your body, your stomach will start to hurt. Also, if you feel unwell in the next few days, remember to drink some brown sugar tea. Aside from that, try to cut down on cold and spicy food. That'll make you feel a little better... Ah, you have to make sure not to overexert yourself too..."

Updates by . com

Hearing the advice that Lin Jiayi was offering Shi Yao, Lin Jiage's forehead furrowed a little.

He had never known that there were so many things to take note of during those few days when the ladies were feeling unwell.

He pondered for a moment before he picked up his phone, tapped into his notebook, and began typing. By the time he was done taking down notes on everything Lin Jiayi had said, he turned his attention back to the conversation between those two girls, and their conversation had already moved on from periods to soap operas...

Wow, the minds of women sure leap from one place to another fast...? Lin Jiage couldn't help but remark in his heart.

"Oh right, Yaoyao. I just remembered that a partner from France just brought me some chocolates a few days ago. I was intending to give it to you today, but I forgot to bring it along with me. It's in my office's fridge at the moment..." As Lin Jiayi had failed to rein in her anger earlier and went on a rampage, she was desperate to mend the impression Shi Yao had of her, so in the end, she made up her mind to head to her office to bring the chocolate over.

"... It happens that there's a document that I need to bring home from the office, and my office isn't too far away from here either. Since there's still a while before grandpa's birthday banquet comes to an end, I'll make a trip there right now. Yaoyao, you must wait for me, okay? I'll bring the chocolates over for you..."

Chapter 402: It's Just Zhou Zhuang Dreaming of a Butterfly, Your Grace Is Also An Ordeal (2)

Lin Jiayi was a very decisive person who tended to act right after making up her mind. Right after she said those words, she grabbed her bag and rose to her feet. She tossed the words "Take care of Yaoyao well" over to Lin Jiage before leaving swiftly.

...

As Lin Jiayi had some alcohol at the birthday banquet, she didn't drive to her office. Instead, she called her family's driver over to the entrance of Beijing World Hotel.

It was already nine at night at the moment, but in this busy metropolitan city, the streets were still a little jammed.

In order to pass her time, Lin Jiayi sat on the back seat and fiddled with her phone.

Some time later, her phone suddenly popped out a notification indicating that her battery was running low. So, she passed her phone over to the driver to have it charged.

Left with nothing to do, she lowered her car window.

There were many pedestrians along the streets. Lovers were huddled together, strolling down the streets. While passing through an overhead bridge, she saw a few peddlers selling phone stickers and all sorts of accessories. There were also some roadside stores selling barbecued meat...

Taking in such a sight through the car window, she realized that it had been a long time since she had been to a night market.

The traffic condition finally alleviated a little, and the car began to move steadily ahead. Nevertheless, its speed was still rather slow.

As the scenery outside retreated endlessly from her, Lin Jiayi suddenly caught sight of a man dressed in a white shirt. He was riding on a bike as he crossed the street. The night wind was a little strong, and it tugged on his white shirt persistently.

Lin Jiayi stared at the man for a long time, and the more she looked at him, the more familiar she felt he was. So, she shouted out in agitation, "Stop the car!"

The driver immediately stepped on the break.

Updates by . com

"Miss Lin..."

But before the driver could ask what was going on, Lin Jiayi had already gotten off the car, sprinting right toward the man riding on his bike.

She was wearing high heels, so it wasn't convenient for her to run around. The road was also a little uneven, and in a moment of inattention, she sprained her ankle.

It wasn't a serious sprain, but it still hurt a little. She quickly took off her high heels, and holding her elegant dress up, she continued chasing after the silhouette with her bare feet.

But no matter how fast Lin Jiayi was, she couldn't have caught up with a bicycle.

Fortunately, there was an intersection ahead, and the lights happened to turn red. The bicycle stopped at the traffic light.

While gasping for air, Lin Jiayi ran over to the bicycle, and without even resting for a moment, she reached out and grabbed the shoulder of the white-shirt man riding on the bicycle and called out, "Qin Ting..."

The white-shirt man turned his head around in astonishment.

He met eyes with Lin Jiayi, and some time later, he finally asked, "Is there anything I can help you with?"

Lin Jiayi didn't say a word. She simply stared at the man in a daze.

The lights in front turned green. The man was in a rush to leave the area, so he glanced at the hand Lin Jiayi had on his shoulder and asked once more, "Miss, may I know if there's anything..."

This time, before he could finish his words, Lin Jiayi had already snapped out of it. She hurriedly released the man's clothes and said, "I'm sorry, I got the wrong person."

"It's alright..." the man replied politely before cycling away.

Soon, his silhouette disappeared amidst the huge crowds of the city.

But Lin Jiayi remained rooted to the spot.

Cars passed by her, and there were all sorts of bustle around her, but Lin Jiayi wasn't moving at all.

Of course she had gotten the wrong person... How could it possibly be him...

That person from earlier on only had that bit of resemblance to the person she remembered in her memories...

He was the greatest swindler in the world. He promised to spend his life with her, but he ended up leaving her in this world...

No matter how beautiful the future he had promised her was, in the end... it was just Zhou Zhuang dreaming of a butterfly.

Chapter 403: Let Me Tell You a Secret (1)

“Miss Lin? Are you alright?”

The driver who had followed Lin Jiayi all the way here called out to her a few times before she finally responded.

She shot a glance at the driver, but she didn't say a word.

The driver placed the high heels he had picked up and placed it before Lin Jiayi, saying, “Miss Jiayi, your shoes.”

Lin Jiayi quietly slipped her feet into those high heels before walking over to the car.

The driver rushed forward and opened the door for Lin Jiayi.

Lin Jiayi lowered her back and got into the car.

By the time the driver got onto the car and set off, Lin Jiayi had already reverted back to that proud and domineering lady of the Lin Family that others were familiar with, as if that moment of helplessness she had on the streets was just a dream.

After passing by the intersection ahead, the congestion eased and the remaining part of the journey was a smooth ride.

Soon, the car arrived before the building of the Lin Family.

Upon seeing the car, the security rushed forward and opened the car door for Lin Jiayi.

Lin Jiayi told the driver “You can first return to the hotel” before getting off the car. She ignored the security guard's greeting and walked into the office building gracefully with her high heels.

...

Updates by . com

The birthday banquet of Grandpa Lin might have started early, but it didn't end early due to that.

After sending off waves of guests, it didn't take long for only the relatives of the Lin Family to be left in the room. Lin Jiayi had been gone for two hours by now, but she wasn't back yet.

When Shi Yao headed to the washroom, she dialed Lin Jiayi's number for the third time, and just when she thought that no one would receive the call again, it suddenly connected.

"Yaoyao?"

Upon hearing Lin Jiayi's voice, Shi Yao was finally able to put her heart at ease. She said, "Sis Jiayi, Grandpa Lin's birthday is ending soon. Are you heading back?"

"Ah, I nearly forgot... Yaoyao, I got held up by some work, so I won't be able to head over right now. Sorry about that. I'll send the chocolates over to your school tomorrow."

Even over the phone, Lin Jiayi sounded as gentle as ever.

But for some reason, Shi Yao sensed that something was amiss. She frowned a little as she said, "It's fine, Sis Jiayi."

There was a short moment of silence between them before she asked concernedly, "Sis Jiayi? Are you... fine?"

"I'm fine, of course I'm fine. What could happen to me? I'm busy earning money!" Lin Jiayi's chuckle sounded through the phone.

It seems like I was thinking too much into it...?

Shi Yao heaved a sigh of relief as her heart settled a little. "Alright then, Sis Jiayi. I won't interrupt you from your work anymore."

"Muacks, Darling Yaoyao. See you!"

Shi Yao replied with a gentle "See you" before hanging up the phone.

After she kept her phone, she tidied herself up first before walking out of the washroom. She headed over to the basin, and just as she turned on the tap, the door of the washroom opened again.

Hearing the sound, Shi Yao instinctively glanced at the doorway through the mirror.

It was Liang Mumu.

Her complexion didn't look too good, possibly because she had cried for a bit earlier. The makeup which she had spent a great deal of effort to put on had run. Her mascara had smudged the area around her eyes black.

Liang Mumu also saw Shi Yao too, and after a short look, she simply walked over to the tap just beside Shi Yao as if they were strangers.

Shi Yao didn't think that there was anything that had to be said between her and Liang Mumu, so she calmly washed her hands before heading out.

But barely after taking a few steps, Liang Mumu suddenly called her, "Shi Yao."

Chapter 404: Let Me Tell You a Secret (2)

But barely after taking a few steps, Liang Mumu suddenly called her, “Shi Yao.”

Why is she calling out to me?

Shi Yao was perplexed, but she didn’t have any intention of stopping for Liang Mumu.

“Shi Yao...” Liang Mumu called out again, her voice slightly higher than before this time around. “... Don’t misunderstand. I don’t have any other intention for calling out to you...”

As Liang Mumu said those words, Shi Yao could hear the sound of hurried footsteps behind her, and she knew that Liang Mumu was following her.

A slight knit formed in between Shi Yao’s eyebrows, and she hastened her footsteps.

Do you take me to be someone who would stop just because you told me to? I have no interest in what you have to say...

“Shi Yao, what are you running off for? Or are you afraid of something? Are you afraid that I’d hit you?” Liang Mumu shouted.

I used to think that Liang Mumu was a fairly smart person, but looking at it again, she really seems to be lacking in self-awareness... Does she think that I would treat her the way I used to after everything that had happened?

With such thoughts in mind, Shi Yao moved even faster than before.

“Shi Yao, I swear that I won’t hit you...”

Does she really think that I’m afraid of her hitting me?

Without turning around or stopping her footsteps, Shi Yao replied, “I’m afraid that I’ll hit you...”

Updates by . com

Perhaps it was because Liang Mumu was triggered by those words or that she felt that she was unable to keep up with Shi Yao, she got straight to the point, “Shi Yao, I’m calling you because I want to tell you a secret, and that is...”

Right after Liang Mumu said the word ‘secret’, Shi Yao immediately interjected coldly, “Liang Mumu, how in the world did you manage to convince yourself that I’d trust your words?”

As she said those words, Shi Yao finally halted her footsteps. She turned around to look at Liang Mumu with a solemn look on her face, and she said, “Liang Mumu, I have no interest to hear the secrets you know of, and you can certain that I won’t believe you either. I know what’s running through your mind. You simply wish to fracture relations. Did you think that I’m incapable of doing anything except to eat?”

Shi Yao paused for a moment before continuing on, “I might have still thought of you as an acquaintance before everything that has happened today, but right now, you’re nothing more than fleeting clouds to me.

"I can understand why you detest me so much, but I can't forgive you messing around during Grandpa Lin's birthday banquet. I know that Grandpa Lin favors me, but he dotes on you a lot too. You're being a cold-blooded ingrate for trying to pull something like this during such an occasion."

After saying that had to be said, Shi Yao turned around and walked away.

Perhaps Liang Mumu might really have words for her, but she had no intention of hearing it at all.

...

At the same time, on the first floor of Beijing World Hotel, Lin Jiage personally walked Uncle Ge out.

"Uncle Ge, I am really grateful to you for your help today."

"What are you being so courteous with me for? Back then, you went to all lengths to get the painting I fancied for me, and I owe you a favor for that. Back then, I promised you that I'd help you with whatever you asked for..." At this point, Uncle Ge suddenly chuckled to himself. "... It's just that I didn't think that you would ask me to just speak a few words on Miss Shi's behalf... You're really making a huge loss here..."

"Loss?" Lin Jiage lowered his head slightly as he spoke. "Uncle Ge, when have you seen me making a loss before?"

Chapter 405: Freebie? (1)

Given that he had managed to help Soft Bun this time around, not only did he not consider it as a loss, he even thought of it as a huge profit even...

How do those words go again? Even a thousand gold bars aren't worth a single smile on Soft Bun's lips... As long as it brought happiness to Soft Bun, I would spend as much money as it takes!

"I've known you since you were younger, and this is the first time I've seen you care so much for a lady... Back then, you only spoke with guys and shunned all girls. No matter how we coaxed you about it, you simply wouldn't talk to any girl at all. Your father and I were worried that there might be some problem with you, that you might like guys instead of girls. When your grandmother was still around, she would carry you around all the time and show you photos of all kinds of beautiful actresses..."

"..." Lin Jiage was rendered speechless.

Was he that pathetic of a person when he was younger?

"Alright, it's not early anymore, so let's not talk about such stuff now. I hope that the next time I see you, I'll be able to receive a wedding invitation for you and Miss Shi."

Those words sound like music to my ears...

The frown on Lin Jiage's forehead immediately vanished, and he replied, "Uncle Ge, I appreciate your good wishes."

After that, he opened the car door for Uncle Ge personally.

After Uncle Ge left on the car, he turned around and returned back to the hotel.

Lin Jiage was intending to head to the second floor to look for Shi Yao, but just as he walked to the elevator, he happened to catch sight of a familiar figure loitering at the entrance of the first-floor washroom.

It was Liang Jiusi. He had a cigarette between his fingers, and he was currently chatting with a beautiful young woman.

The both of them were holding phones in their hands, and they appeared to be trading phone numbers.

Heh, he's still in the mood to flirt around?

Updates by . com

Lin Jiage halted for a moment before changing his direction toward where Liang Jiusi was instead.

Meanwhile, Liang Jiusi, who had just received the number of a woman he was talking to, suddenly felt shivers running down his spine. Through sheer instincts, he turned around, only to see a cold-faced Lin Jiage walking toward him.

Horrified, Liang Jiusi's hand trembled in fear, causing his phone to fall to the ground.

Without any hesitation, he immediately stooped down, picked up his phone, and without checking whether it was damaged from the fall or not, he turned tail and fled.

In response, Lin Jiage hastened his footsteps too.

Liang Jiusi fumbled through a door and dived in, only to realize that he had entered the emergency staircase. So, he desperately tried to hold the door shut, only to be overpowered by Lin Jiage in the end.

Seeing that the line of defense had fallen, he decisively chose to dash up the stairs instead.

Yet, before he could even scale two flights of stairs, Lin Jiage had already pinned him down to the ground.

"Bro, bro, my dearest big brother, I'm wrong, alright? I know that I'm wrong..." Left with nowhere to escape, Liang Jiusi unhesitatingly pleaded for mercy. "Bro, you can hit me, but can you just spare my face? I'm counting on my face to make a living..."

"Wuuu... I already begged you not to hit my face, so why are you still punching me... You are robbing me of my livelihood as a beautiful man... Bro, I really didn't know about what Mumu has done... Ouch ouch ouch! It was just a slip of a tongue, I meant to say Liang Mumu, Liang Mumu!!!

"Hero, show me some mercy..."

"I'll give you my stash of erotic magazines alright... Hey, even if you don't want my erotic magazines, you can say so! There's no need to hit me even harder, right?"

"Yowch, it really hurts! I promise you that I'll discipline Liang Mumu once I get home... No, I'll get my parents to ground her... Does that still not work? Fine, I'll convince my parents to have her send back to her old home... It should be fine, right? Once she's back to her old home, she won't be able to full anything anymore..."

“If it’s still not enough, how about I send that little fiancée of yours a gift then...”

Chapter 406: Freebie (2)

“If it’s still not enough, how about I send that little fiancée of yours a gift then...”

Lin Jiage, who was just about to stop when he heard that Liang Jiusi would send Liang Mumu back to her old home, heard the following words and raised his fists back up.

There is still a freebie that comes with this too?

With such a thought in mind, Lin Jiage raised his fist and said, “Potato chips!”

“No problem! I got everything you need, be it yogurt, pudding, jelly, Oreo, White Rabbit Candy, QQ Candy, beef jerky!”

And with this, Liang Jiusi was finally let off the hook.

...

After Grandpa Lin’s birthday banquet, Shi Yao turned her attention back to dealing with the end-of-semester examinations.

It was only after all of the examinations were over did she finally got back onto the game again.

Very coincidentally, even though she hadn’t said anything on the <Sexy and Frisky> WeChat group yet, <111111> was online when she got onto the game, and he even invited her to join his squad.

Shi Yao tapped on the ‘Accept’ button.

After entering the room, before she could even say a word, Mister Numbers’ voice had already sounded through her earpiece, “You’re finally liberated?”

Shi Yao knew that he was referring to the end-of-semester examinations...

She did tell him a week ago that she would be staying away from the game for a while in order to revise for her end-of-semester examinations.

Updates by . com

“Un, I’m finally liberated...” Shi Yao paused for a moment before asking, “... Aren’t you having your examinations just like me too? Are you not liberated yet?”

“Me?” Mister Numbers’ doubtful voice sounded. It was then that he started the game, and when they finally arrived at the ‘starting island’, he replied, “It’s not about the examinations liberating me but me liberating the examinations...”

Hah. Given how you spend your time all on games, it’ll be a wonder if you are able to score well in your examinations!

With such thoughts in mind, Shi Yao said, “Are you just guessing your way through for your papers?”

“You must be joking!” Mister Numbers replied with a soft but proud chuckle. “I am the correct answer itself.”

Correct answer? Heh! If so, I am the invigilator then!

Shi Yao grabbed a beef jerky and put it into her mouth as she said, "Wow, you're so amazing... Now, if only the rest of you is as formidable as your mouth..."

<111111>: "I'm not lying to you, my answers are all the correct answers. If the answer key is different from mine, there must have been a problem with the answer key..."

In order to stop Mister Numbers to continue boasting, Shi Yao chose to keep her silence instead.

As <111111> leaped out of the plane together with Shi Yao to head to Georgopol, he said, "... I'm really not exaggerating at all. Back when I was in Middle School, I would usually close my eyes throughout the entire lesson. As soon as I open my eyes, my teacher would think through his words what he said for three seconds before quickly correcting himself..."

Yes yes yes, you're not exaggerating at all. It's just how braggarts usually are...

I'm just worried that at this rate, your nose will grow so long that you'll have to drag it around the room like a broom.

Realizing that even her silence couldn't stop <111111>'s bragging anymore, Shi Yao could only intentionally change the topic, "Oh right, I nearly forgot. Do you remember how you introduced me to a friend when I wanted to head to the antique market the last time around?"

As Shi Yao spoke, both of their avatars finally landed on the ground.

Mister Numbers casually shattered a windowpane nearby, and with a 'huala', he entered a room. After that, his voice sounded through the earpiece, "I remember."

Before Shi Yao could continue on, Mister Numbers asked, "What's wrong?"

Shi Yao: "Something really amazing happened. It's so amazing that you won't even believe it!"

Chapter 407: To Cooperate With Your Play, I Shall Feign Ignorance (1)

<111111>: "Since you have already said that I won't believe me, why are you still telling it to me?"

Shi Yao: "..."

What should I do? I really, really want to sew that vicious mouth of Mister Numbers up!

<111111>: "But well, it's my hobby to listen to unbelievable things!"

Shi Yao: "..."

Did I misinterpret what Mister Numbers said? Was he actually not trying to put me down?

<111111>: "Quick, don't keep me in suspense..."

Given how earnestly curious Mister Numbers is, I suppose that it really was just a passing remark earlier. He didn't mean anything much by it...

So, Shi Yao finally began speaking, "You see, I bought an inkstone at the store you recommended to you. Do you want to guess how much I spent on it?"

...

On the other side of the phone, when Lin Jiage heard Shi Yao's question, he nearly instinctively blurted out "200?", but before he could say it out loud, Shi Yao's voice had sounded once more, "You definitely won't be able to guess it!"

You must be kidding me! I was the one who set the price of the inkstone, so how could I not know how much it cost?

Nevertheless, despite having such thoughts in his mind, Lin Jiage still swallowed the "200?" that was already at the tip of his tongue and replied with a "50,000?" instead.

Shi Yao: "As expected of a tycoon. The first figure you come up with is already in the ten thousand..."

Updates by . com

A song that had the lyrics of 'To cooperate with your play, I shall feign ignorance[1]' surfaced in Lin Jiage's mind, then he said, "Then... 5000?"

Shi Yao shook her head and said, "That's an entire semester worth of my allowance."

Just what should I become in order to dance along with your play[2], Lin Jiage sang these words in the depths of his heart.

She was the one who asked him to guess, so why was he getting shot down here?

Women sure are wilful... But well, I'm willing to go along with her wilfulness anyway.

So, Lin Jiage continued guessing, "3000? 1800? 1000? 800?"

"Forget it, forget it! I knew that you wouldn't be able to get it!" As if a teacher finally giving up on a student, she finally gave away the answer, "Actually, I spent only 200 RMB on it!"

"Oh, what an unbelievable price!" Lin Jiage said these words with an agitated tone while calmly sniping down an enemy with his rifle.

Shi Yao: "Hah, that's already shocking for you, isn't it? Well, what I'm going to tell you next will really shock the living daylights out of you! Do you know how much that 200 RMB inkstone is worth?"

I do... but... It's because I love you that I chose to put on an act and fulfill you[3]...

After singing this line, Lin Jiage asked, "How much does it cost?"

He thought that Shi Yao would make him guess like earlier on, but who could have thought that the latter would actually excitedly tell him the price, "It's worth 200,000 RMB!"

Ah? She's not going along with the script...

Lin Jiage pondered for a moment before exclaiming, "Wow, that's incredible!"

Maybe it was due to his compliment getting to her head, but Shi Yao continued boasting gleefully, "Isn't that so? I think that I'm really formidable too! I managed to buy a 200,000 RMB inkstone with just 200

RMB? Who in the world would be able to do something like that? I really suspect if I have been born with some kind of cheat key, that's why I was able to strike the jackpot!"

Okay, as long as you're happy.

Everything you say is right.

Anyway, I'm the only one who knows the truth. I won't tell you that your cheat key is actually named Lin Jiage.

Lin Jiage allowed Shi Yao to continue boasting on without interrupting her.

...

"... Aiyo, what can I do? I'm simply blessed with such great luck that things just go my way. Aren't you envious?"

Hugging onto a gun, Shi Yao followed behind Lin Jiage and entered the Safe Zone while bragging endlessly.

It was just that before she could finish her words, a message suddenly arrived on her phone. She was in the midst of controlling her avatar, so she accidentally tapped onto it. There, she saw a video...

[1] Lyrics from the song 'Actor' by Joker Xue

[2] Lyrics from the song 'Actor' by Joker Xue

[3] Lyrics from the song 'Actor' by Joker Xue

Chapter 408: To Cooperate With Your Play, I Shall Feign Ignorance (2)

It was because the person in the video was extremely familiar to Shi Yao, so she couldn't help but play it.

It was only after she finished watching the video did she realize that the person who sent the video was a person whom she wanted absolutely nothing to do with.

What did Liang Mumu intend to do by sending her this video? To prove that the secret she told her the other day during Grandpa Lin's birthday was true?

But Liang Mumu forgot one thing. Until she verified the matter with her own eyes, she wouldn't believe anything that she said.

While Shi Yao was deep in thoughts, her phone suddenly vibrated.

Snapping back to reality, she noticed that it was a notification from WeChat. <111111> had sent her a message: [You disconnected?]

Shi Yao quickly replied: [I received a message and accidentally tabbed out.]

Mister Numbers didn't respond to her anymore, and she didn't say anything either. She quickly tabbed back into the game.

Due to the sudden interjection from Liang Mumu, Shi Yao didn't continue bragging to Mister Numbers anymore.

While she was tabbed out, the Blue Zone had further narrowed, causing her to lose half of her health bar due to the poison.

It was normal for her to be in such a plight, but what was weird was that even though Mister Numbers could have run away on his own, he still remained by her side and took damage, losing a lot of health for nothing.

Shi Yao quickly healed up as she asked, "Why didn't you run away?"

...

Hearing Shi Yao's words, Lin Jiage's eyebrows shot up a little.

Updates by . com

Do you even need to ask that question? Of course I'm here to stay with you...

However, Lin Jiage didn't say those words out loud. Instead, he began to guide his avatar with a series of smooth movements to maneuver into the Safe Zone.

He crouched along the bushes and took out a Bandage to recover his health points. After that, he turned to Shi Yao and said, "It has been too long since I tasted poison. I missed it."

...

Shi Yao was in the midst of drinking her yogurt when she heard <111111>'s response and nearly spurted it out.

That answer... What a Mister Numbers-ish response! 82 marks, no more and no less! Otherwise, his inflated ego might really just float him up to the moon!

With such thoughts in her mind, Shi Yao asked, "I didn't know you're a poison junkie. Are you what they call a dooper?"

"What about you?" Mister Numbers replied as he rose from the bushes after healing up. He leaped onto a boulder with a 98K in hand, and as he scanned the surroundings with his scope, he asked, "Is a beautiful lady like you a dooper too?"

Beautiful?

Hearing that word, it was as if flowers had suddenly bloomed in Shi Yao's heart. She completely forgot that she was mocking Mister Numbers a moment ago, and she said, "Yes, you're exactly right! Oh my, handsome dooper, I have long heard about your good looks. What a pleasure to meet you..."

<111111>: "You're too courteous. I have also long heard that you're as beautiful as a fairy, beautiful dooper..."

Mister Numbers sure knows how to speak...

Shi Yao gobbled up her jelly as she replied joyfully, "You're flattering me, handsome dooper. I have always been perplexed as to what the word 'handsome' entails until I finally met you. As it turns out, you're the very definition of the word itself!"

<111111>: “You’re too courteous, beautiful dooper. If you go on the streets and someone compliments you for your look, you mustn’t say that they’re flattering you. They’ll accuse you of being hypocritical and beat you up. You don’t know how your existence dazzles people so.”

Shi Yao was complimented to the point where she was feeling a little high, such that her words weren’t even passing through her brain anymore, “Say, you’re so handsome that it enrages the gods, and I’m so beautiful that all are jealous of me. Aren’t we a match made in heaven?”

Match made in heaven?

A moment after those words slipped out of Shi Yao’s mouth, she realized that she might have used the wrong words.

Chapter 409: You Take Charge of the Beauty Side, I’ll Handle the Handsome Side (1)

Just as Shi Yao was about to correct the mistake, <111111>’s voice suddenly sounded in her earpiece, “Un, I can’t agree more with that. You’ll be in charge of the beauty side, and I’ll handle the handsome side. You’ll pick up the medicine and I’ll be the one to kill the enemies. More than a match in heaven, it’s like we’re a fated couple, made to complement each other...”

Ah... Fated couple? Made to complement each other... Mister Numbers sounds like a particularly loose man...

Seeing how lightly Mister Numbers was taking all of this, Shi Yao didn’t feel too pressured by her words anymore. So, she decided that there was no need to correct it anymore.

She thought that this would be the end of it all, but who could have thought <111111> would continue on, “Since we’re a match made in heaven, why don’t you establish a couple relation inside the game?”

C-c-couple relation?

Is Mister Numbers joking with me?

Shi Yao’s hands trembled so intensely that she nearly dropped her yogurt to the floor.

While patting her chest in relief that she didn’t accidentally commit the grave sin of wasting her yogurt, she replied uncertainly, “Ah? What did you say?”

“I said why don’t we establish a couple relation between us?”

As Mister Numbers spoke, Shi Yao saw him raising his gun and firing a bullet. In the next moment, a notification which she was ever sed to seeing appeared—<111111> killed <Vote Power Stones> with 98K.

Afterward, the words surfaced on the screen of her phone: Winner winner chicken dinner!

Ah? They had already won? But she hadn’t done anything at all...

Just as Shi Yao was going to compliment Mister Numbers for his skills, the latter continued speaking, “... Over at the bottom left corner, you can see it once you tap in. I’ve already applied for it, so you just have to accept it...”

Huh? This matter isn't over yet?

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Shi Yao blinked her eyes in confusion. "That, may I ask why do you suddenly want to establish..."

Shi Yao felt a little embarrassed to say 'couple', so she went on it with a more reserved term, "... intimate relations with me..."

"No other reason. Didn't you mention that we're a match in heaven earlier?"

But that's just usual business bootlicking! Are you taking it for real?

Shi Yao was just about to say "Aren't we just joking around?", but it appeared like Mister Numbers had guessed what she was going to say and retaliated in advance, saying, "I praised you with utmost sincerity from my heart. It can't be that you're just praising me for the sake of it, can you?"

In the face of such overwhelming peer pressure, Shi Yao could only swallow her initial words and say, "No, of course not! My compliments for you come from the bottom of my heart, and they're even more real than the eels I had for lunch!"

"I trust you!" Mister Numbers spoke with utmost sincerity. "So, you should go and accept the couple request then."

So, if she were to reject the request, it would mean what she had said earlier were all false?

It was supposed to just be business bootlicking, but somehow, she ended up marrying herself out in the game?

Shi Yao followed <111111>'s instructions, and she soon saw the request to confirm the couple relation.

It's just a game anyway, it doesn't matter for us to become a couple here...

Shi Yao gritted her teeth and tapped on the 'Accept' button.

Returning back to the main lobby, Shi Yao said, "I've accepted your request. My first marriage in games is given out just like that..."

"What a coincidence..." Perhaps it was Shi Yao thinking too much into it, but she somehow sensed an inexplicable gentleness and delight in Mister Number's voice. "It's also my first marriage in games..."

Chapter 410: You Take Charge of the Beauty Side, I'll Handle the Handsome Side (2)

"If there are things that I fail to do well, I'll have to ask this beauty to pardon me."

Are we trading pleasantries now?

Shi Yao pondered for a moment before returning with a pleasantry, "Yes, it's the same for me as well. If there are any inadequacies about me, I would be thankful if a dashing man like you could bear with it."

"Un."

Mister Numbers replied with a single word before falling silent. Most likely, he had returned back to the game.

In this moment of silence, Shi Yao munched on her apple as she stared blankly at the wall ahead of her... Had her instincts gone awry? Why was it that she felt like she had... somehow been baited into a trap? It's as if she hadn't even realized that she had been sold, and she was still foolishly going along with it...

...

It was already eleven at night by the time they ended the game.

Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai hadn't returned to the dormitory yet.

After Lin Jiage bade his farewell to Shi Yao inside the game, he put aside his phone and went to take a bath.

While he was wiping himself dry, he heard a ruckus sounding outside the door and guessed that Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai had returned.

And coincidentally, just as he walked out of the washroom, Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai walked into the room too, causing both sides to meet one another.

Xia Shangzhou: "Boss, do you know how pitiful I am?"

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Lu Benlai: "Boss, your Little Lailai has never been so miserable before! Do you know?"

"I don't know..." Lin Jiage replied as he wiped his hair dry. There was a slight pause before he added on, "... and I'm not interested to know either..."

Xia Shangzhou: "Wuuuu, how heart-wrenching! Boss, you really don't love me anymore!"

Lu Benlai: "It's all your fault, grandson! Definitely your mistake! Otherwise, how could boss not care about me too?"

Xia Shangzhou: "Pui, you grandson! You were clearly the one who dragged me down!"

Lu Benlai: "Hey, how can someone as handsome as me possibly drag anyone down?"

"..."

Facing the two chatterboxes before him, Lin Jiage sat quietly as he grabbed a hairdryer and blew his hair dry.

By the time he finally put down the hairdryer, he glanced at the duo sitting by the side, and it looked like they were really brooding over something.

Forget it! Since it's a joyous day for me and Soft Bun, I'll make an exception and show some concern to them...

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage walked up to them, took a seat, and asked, "Come, let me hear just how pitiful and miserable the two of you have been."

Xia Shangzhou: "I'll go first!"

Lu Benlai: "Oi, I'm your grandpa. Don't you know how to respect your elders?"

Xia Shangzhou: "Gramps, haven't you heard of the phrase 'caring for the youths'?"

Lu Benlai: "Alright then. Since my grandson has already said so, I guess I've no choice but to let you go first."

Completely unaware that he had been taken advantage of, Xia Shangzhou immediately turned to Lin Jiage and started ranting, "Boss, I know that we are already Year 4s and need to go for internships during the holidays, so I sent my resumes everywhere. Ah well, there's one thing that I didn't tell you. Actually, I sent a copy of my resume to your company, and I didn't tell you that because I'm afraid that you'll speak up for me due to our relationship. As you know, I'm an outstanding and upright individual who never resorts to taking the back doors. I want to succeed with my own capabilities..."

"You're thinking too much. Other than Soft Bun, I won't open a back door for anyone," Lin Jiage smashed Xia Shangzhou's delusions without any hesitation.

"Boss... can't you at least spare me some face?" Xia Shangzhou clutched his chest as if he had just received fatal damage.

Lin Jiage's lips moved a bit, but he eventually held himself back.

So, Xia Shangzhou got back to the topic on hand, "As reality shows, even if our boss doesn't open a back door for me, I'm still able to make it with my own capability. Just as I thought, I received the acceptance call from our boss' company."