

**Chapter 101: She Sure Can Eat (1)**

They both took a seat in the car, and amidst Lin Jiage's sneezes, the car began making its way towards G University.

When they were just about to reach the school, Shi Yao suddenly saw the breakfast store which she frequented, and she subconsciously said, "Let me down here. I want to eat breakfast."

The driver shot a glance at Lin Jiage.

Lin Jiage, who was in the middle of wiping his nose, nodded inconspicuously in response, so the driver stepped on the brake and stopped by the road.

Having starved for an entire night, Shi Yao immediately got down the car and rushed for the breakfast store.

Upon reaching the counter, she immediately said, "Boss, I want three bowls of wontons 1."

You're ordering that many?

Lin Jiage was following behind Shi Yao when he saw this scene. Perplexed, he was about to ask her if she had any friends that were joining her for breakfast when a sneeze interrupted him halfway through.

Noticing the movement behind her, the surprised Shi Yao turned around to look at Lin Jiage and asked, "You're eating too?"

What do you think? If I'm not going to eat, why would I follow you in here?

Lin Jiage took a tissue to wipe his nose, not bothering to respond to her question.

Thus, Shi Yao asked once more, "What do you want to eat?"

With a heavily nasal voice, Lin Jiage replied, "Anything."

Shi Yao: "Then I'll order some wontons for you too, is that okay? This restaurant makes really delicious wontons."

Lin Jiage nodded.

Shi Yao looked at him earnestly and asked, "How many bowls do you want?"

H-how many bowls do I want? Am I hearing things? Is a single bowl not enough? Am I supposed to eat several bowls of wontons?

Lin Jiage's lips quivered silently.

In a tone that sounded like she was making a compromise, Shi Yao said, "I'll order a bowl for you first then. If it's not enough, I can just get you more later. Is that alright with you?"

Lin Jiage nodded loftily once more.

Thus, Shi Yao turned around and said, "Boss, make that four bowls of wontons."

Didn't you order three bowls earlier? Why are you adding another one?

Amidst his sneezes, Lin Jiage finally managed to ask the question currently burning in his mind, "Are you meeting a friend for breakfast?"

Shi Yao looked around to find a seat to settle down in before she replied, "I'm not meeting anyone. It's just the two of us."

Lin Jiage was about to pull out the chair across from Shi Yao's when he froze.

Just the two of us?

In other words, the two of us are going to eat four bowls of wontons?

As that thought popped up in Lin Jiage's head, he suddenly recalled how Shi Yao had asked him earlier "You're eating too?" and "How many bowls do you want?" ...

She couldn't have ordered three portions of wonton for herself, could she?

She's going to eat three bowls by herself?

Lin Jiage assessed the skinny Shi Yao from head to toe and wondered if he was hallucinating as a result of his cold.

Just when he finally managed to calm himself enough to take the seat across from Shi Yao, she suddenly seemed to recall something. Turning her head towards the counter, she shouted, "Boss, I forgot to tell you just now! I want four large bowls of wontons!"

L-I-large bowls?

So, I wasn't hearing things?

Then... maybe her friends asked her to bring back some breakfast for them?

Due to his cold, Lin Jiage's head was spinning a little, so he didn't dwell too much on the question.

...

Very soon, four large bowls of wontons were served.

Lin Jiage picked up his spoon, and as he elegantly stirred his wontons around to dissipate the heat, Shi Yao had already finished half a bowl.

When Lin Jiage was on his third wonton, Shi Yao had already finished one large bowl.

When Lin Jiage was halfway through his bowl of wontons, Shi Yao had already finished her second bowl.

By the time Lin Jiage finished two-thirds of his bowl of wontons, Shi Yao was already halfway through her third bowl.

At this point, Lin Jiage decided to just put aside his bowl of wontons and watch Shi Yao instead.

When Shi Yao's third bowl of wontons finally reached the bottom, Lin Jiage stared at the three empty large bowls before him and blinked his eyes in bewilderment. He blinked again. Then, his shattered soul finally returned to him once more.

So, you really did order three bowls of wontons for yourself?

But that's three large bowls!

It took a long time before Lin Jiage could finally figure out what he wanted to say: She sure can eat!!

### **Chapter 102: She Sure Can Eat (2)**

It took a long time before Lin Jiage could finally figure out what he wanted to say: She sure can eat!!

For a man like him to have less of an appetite than her, how embarrassing!

After having her fill, Shi Yao noticed that Lin Jiage was staring at the three bowls in front of her; he hadn't moved his spoon at all. Not finding any fault in herself, she went ahead and asked, "Are you full?"

Actually, I'm not full yet. It's just that my head is spinning way too much, and it's making me lose my appetite... Lin Jiage replied with a brief "Mm".

One, two three, four... He actually left six wontons uneaten! So much wasted! What a pity!

Shi Yao stared at Lin Jiage's unfinished bowl of wontons and hesitated for a moment before calling for the store owner, "Boss, the bill!"

Young lady, what are you looking at? Don't tell me that you're not full even after eating three huge bowls of wontons? Are you planning on stealing my unfinished bowl for yourself too...

Lin Jiage was honestly scared that Shi Yao would suddenly reach out and take his bowl away, so he discreetly reached out and slowly dragged the bowl closer to himself. He only released his hand after the boss arrived and gave them the total, but only so that he could find some loose change in his pockets.

Shi Yao also reached for her pockets at this moment, "Allow me—"

However, Lin Jiage was the first to place his money in the boss's hand. Turning to Shi Yao, he said, "I don't plan on becoming a gigolo."

Gigolo... Isn't that what people call a man who gets paid to be a woman's lover or escort?

H-he's thinking of himself as a gigolo?

The gaze which Shi Yao directed towards Lin Jiage was turning a little strange.

Meeting her gaze, Lin Jiage was slightly stunned. It took him a while before it struck him that he'd used the wrong phrase earlier.

What is wrong with me?! I keep saying the wrong thing ever since she saw that erotic magazine...

Lin Jiage rubbed his aching temples before adding, "What I meant was that I'm not in the habit of having women pay for me."

"Oh." Shi Yao nodded quickly, expressing that she understood what he meant.

After Lin Jiage received his change from the boss, he stood up and said, "Let's go."

Shi Yao gathered her belongings and obediently followed him.

Surprisingly, the driver was still waiting by the roadside for them.

However, Shi Yao didn't follow Lin Jiage over. "Uh..."

Hearing Shi Yao's voice, Lin Jiage stopped and turned to look back at her. He noticed that she was still standing at the entrance of the breakfast store, and a slight frown emerged on his face.

Shi Yao: "... You should go with the driver. The school isn't far from this place, so I'll just walk there."

Lin Jiage's frown deepened.

Seeing that Lin Jiage wasn't responding, Shi Yao continued to explain, "It's almost time for the morning classes to start, so there's bound to be a huge crowd walking to our school right now. It wouldn't be good if people see us getting out of the same car together..."

It sure was weird. There was nothing wrong with what she said. He was the one who didn't want anyone to find out about their relationship... and yet, she saw his expression getting even darker. Slightly bewildered, she continued, "... So, you should get in the car. I won't be tagging along."

Lin Jiage's lips were pursed very tightly together. The gaze that he directed towards Shi Yao was indescribably frightening.

Shi Yao meekly took a half step backward, and then decided that she should flee for her own safety. "I'll be heading off now. Bye-bye..."

Right after saying those words, Shi Yao began to quickly walk towards the school gates.

But before she could get far, she saw something in her peripheral vision—the dark-faced Lin Jiage was heading towards her with long strides.

What's he doing? Is he going to beat me up?

With such thoughts in mind, Shi Yao quickened her footsteps.

### **Chapter 103: I Suddenly Realized That I'm Very Poor (1)**

However, before she could even cover two meters, she found that her arm was already being grabbed by Lin Jiage.

"Y-y-you—" Before Shi Yao could finish her words, Lin Jiage had already interjected. "You can take the car to school. I'll walk."

Startled, Shi Yao froze for two seconds before she raised her head to look at Lin Jiage.

The young man's expression still looked as awful as before, but his tone was devoid of any anger or displeasure. If she really had to find some adjectives to describe his tone, they would be... dejection and helplessness?

Why would he sound like that?

While Shi Yao was still in a daze, Lin Jiage was already escorting her to the car. He walked to the front and told the driver, "Bring her to school safely. Don't forget the cake in the trunk; make sure to hand it over to her when you arrive."

Driver: "Yes, Young Master."

Without another word, Lin Jiage opened the car door and stuffed Shi Yao in.

In the moment that he shut the doors, he suddenly recalled something. Resting an arm on the car roof while holding the car door with his other hand, he leaned forward slightly and stared at Shi Yao before asking, "Are you very close with Liang Jiusi's cousin?"

Lin Jiage had no idea how alluring his current actions looked to other people.

Shi Yao felt as if there was a little deer housed within her heart, crashing around cluelessly. She gulped down a mouthful of saliva, but no matter how much she tried, she was unable to calm down that little deer.

Lin Jiage assumed that she didn't know who Liang Jiusi was, so he continued, "Liang Jiusi's cousin is that little lady who lives next door to me. Her name is Liang..."

Lin Jiage shot a sideways glance at the driver, and the driver quickly added on, "... Mumu, Miss Liang Mumu."

"Yes, right. That's her..." Nodding, Lin Jiage turned his gaze back to Shi Yao and asked, "... Are the two of you very close to each other?"

Shi Yao strenuously tamed the wild little deer in her heart as she replied, "Mm, we're quite close. Whenever she has any good food, she'll offer me a portion of it."

Young lady... Is that how you decide the closeness of your relationships?

Lin Jiage fell silent for a brief moment before he moved his lips once more, "About that..."

But after barely speaking those two words, he suddenly paused.

Shi Yao raised her head and looked at him, "What's wrong?"

Lin Jiage didn't respond.

Shi Yao waited for a moment before asking quizzically, "Lin Jiage?"

Lin Jiage finally recovered from his absentmindedness. He quickly replied with a "Never mind" before closing the doors. After which, he took two steps back and signaled for the driver to leave.

As the car started to move away, Shi Yao peered through the windows to look at Lin Jiage, who was still standing by the roadside.

The young man had sneezed yet again, so he was currently wiping his nose with a tissue he took from his pocket.

Being good-looking sure had its benefits. Even an inelegant action like that looked like a beautiful picture when he was the one doing it...

After sighing deeply, Shi Yao's attention was drawn back to Lin Jiage's previous question: 'Are you very close with Liang Jiusi's cousin?'

She lowered her gaze contemplatively.

Even though he eventually decided not to speak, she had a rough idea of what he was about to say.

But why would he suddenly stop halfway through his words?

Shi Yao could vaguely understand the reason why he stopped, but she couldn't be too certain of it. Or, to be more exact, she didn't think that such a thing was possible.

How could he be kind-hearted enough to warn her about Liang Mumu?

He and Liang Jiusi were brothers who had grown up together, and Liang Mumu was his neighbor. From a very young age, Liang Mumu had been following the two of them around...

No matter how she thought about it, it didn't seem likely that he would side with her...

...

How strange. He was clearly about to tell her not to hang out with Liang Jiusi's cousin, but...

#### **Chapter 104: I Suddenly Realized That I'm Very Poor (2)**

...

How strange. He was clearly about to tell her not to hang out with Liang Jiusi's cousin, but...

...when those words were right at the tip of his tongue, he suddenly hesitated.

Was he afraid that she'd get upset after learning that her close friend had hidden intentions for getting along with her?

Or that she would accuse him of thinking too much? Or even resent him for thinking so badly of her friend?

Perhaps it was a mixture of both, but it was indeed a fact that he was afraid to upset her... He couldn't help but remember the look on her face when Liang Jiusi's unseemly friends had mocked her back at the Golden Resplendence. He really didn't want her to experience that kind of thing again.

Forget it. It looks like I'll have to find an opportunity to talk with Liang Jiusi and get him to keep a closer watch on that cousin of his.

Speaking of which, how in the world did a person who only read erotic magazines every day have such a devious cousin? It was really hard to imagine that the two of them were from the same family...

However, he had to admit that Liang Jiushi's cousin was quite good at acting. Those casual words that she spoke in front of his grandfather might seem like they were nothing much, but they were effectively telling his grandfather that Soft Bun had a suspiciously intimate relationship with another man, that she was flirting around despite having him as her fiancé.

Why are relationships between women so complicated? How troublesome!

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage strolled casually to the school.

He was completely unaware that within a car roughly ten meters behind him, someone had snapped down the scene that had just occurred.

...

On the road back to his dormitory room, Lin Jiage didn't forget to drop by the school pharmacy to purchase a box of flu medicine.

Pushing open his room door, he assumed that Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai would still be asleep. Contrary to his expectations, he found them standing by the sides of the door perfectly dressed, acting as if they were door guardians.

These two lunatics!

Lin Jiage shot each of them a disdainful glance as he walked into the dorm.

Lu Benlai swiftly followed after him, holding a bottle of yogurt as if it were a cup of wine. He quickly asked, "Boss, here's some alcohol. Now, you can share your story with us!"

Xia Shangzhou quickly grabbed a few slices of ham and a packet of instant noodles before sticking his head over as well, "Boss, I've prepared some side dishes. Tell us about your miraculous encounter yesterday!"

Is it too late to change my dorm room now?

Lin Jiage wondered as he pulled his chair out, sat down, and switched on his laptop.

After seeing that Lin Jiage was ignoring them, Xia Shangzhou's and Lu Benlai's voices became a little meeker.

"Boss, please! Won't you tell us?"

"Boss, do you not love Little Lilai anymore? Nowadays, you never speak whatever's on your mind to Little Lilai anymore, do you know how depressed Little Lilai has been..."

Lin Jiage typed in his laptop password impassively before sticking a USB drive in.

Lu Benlai: "Daddy..."

Xia Shangzhou: "Daddy..."

Lu Benlai: "Son, you're using the wrong address over here. You should be calling him grandpa!"

Xia Shangzhou: "Scram!"

The duo quibbled for a while before realizing they had gone off topic. They turned their gazes back to Lin Jiage, but before they could say a word, Xia Shangzhou noticed the files that Lin Jiage was copying over and exclaimed in astonishment, “Boss, I thought you didn’t want to accept this project? Didn’t you say that the pay wasn’t worth the difficulty? Why are you suddenly accepting it now?”

While tapping on his keyboard, Lin Jiage replied very casually, “Oh, I suddenly realized that I’m very poor.”

“Boss, you’re insulting us over here!”

“That’s right! Putting aside your family fortune, you’ve got at least eight figures in just your personal bank account! Yet, you’re saying that you’re very poor? You’re just showing off to us at this point!”

### **Chapter 105: My Unparalleled and One-of-a-kind Pig (1)**

“Indeed, indeed! Boss, if you keep acting like this, you’re gonna lose me!”

“You’ll lose me too!”

“Heh...” Lin Jiage laughed coldly as if he’d heard a hilarious joke, before speaking in a tone dripping with disdain, “... You talk as if I’ve ever wanted either of you!”

Lu Benlai: “Boss! As long as you wish it to be so, I’ll be yours anytime you want!”

Xia Shangzhou: “Boss, how about tonight? I’ll help you warm your bed tonight! No, I’ll help my eight figures bank account warm its bed!”

The edges of Lin Jiage’s lips twitched upon hearing those words, and he suddenly didn’t feel like speaking to them anymore.

After copying the information, Lin Jiage shut his computer and picked up the books by the side, “We’re about to be late for class. Let’s hurry up and go.”

Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai picked up their books and followed along.

While they were walking out of the dormitory, Lu Benlai asked once more out of curiosity, “Boss, a serious question. What made you suddenly decide to take on that project?”

“That’s right—”

Before Lin Jiage could finish his words, Xia Shangzhou had already snatched the mic, “Boss, don’t tell us that you suddenly feel like you’re very poor or whatever, we aren’t three-year-old kids! No, those words wouldn’t even fool a three-year-old kid!”

“I’m being serious here, I really do think that I’m poor. Recently, I discovered a...” At this point, Lin Jiage paused for a moment. Swallowing the term ‘girl’ back into his stomach, he switched it with another phrase, “... pet who has a really huge appetite. It can easily finish off a meal meant for three all by itself. I’m a little worried that my savings won’t be enough to feed it, so I decided to work harder and bring more money back home.”



Xia Shangzhou widened his eyes in astonishment, "It can finish a meal for three by itself? What kind of ravenous pet are you raising?"

Lu Benlai's mouth opened in shock, "Boss, are you raising a pig?"

"Hahahaha...!" Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou burst into laughter.

Just that, their laughter didn't even survive three seconds before being abruptly cut short.

That was because their boss's face was filled with displeasure.

Being sharp on his feet, it took a mere second for Lu Benlai to switch to an earnest expression and raise a huge thumbs up. "As expected of Boss, even your pet is so refreshing and unique!"

At the same time, Xia Shangzhou's response came amazingly in line with Lu Benlai's, "Boss, please tell me what kind of pet it is. I'd like to raise the same breed of pet too!"

You must be joking? How could Soft Bun possibly be a pig?

Even if she is a pig, she must be an unparalleled and one-of-a-kind pig!

So, if you're thinking of raising one with the same breed as mine... Hehe, dream on!

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage quickened his pace.

Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou continued shouting "Boss!" along the way as they hastened their footsteps to match his.

Lu Benlai: "Speaking of which, Boss, where did you go last night? Did something really happen to you?"

Xia Shangzhou: "That's right, Boss. Don't be like this. Without trust and honesty between us, can we still be considered as roommates? This is the first time you've stayed out on a school day, and I noticed that you've got heavy eyebags too. Clearly, you didn't sleep at all last night! Ahh, I didn't think you'd be such a beast! And you even caught the flu... Wait, did you actually make your move outside?"

Lu Benlai: "The heck, I'm going to get a nosebleed just thinking about it. To think that our boss would be so good at playing around!"

Good at playing around, your head!

At their mention of last night, Lin Jiage's face immediately darkened.

He hadn't slept a wink yesterday, but that wasn't because he'd been busy with any intense activities.

He did stay outside, but it was just to stand at the balcony and suffer a night's worth of cold wind.

If he had to speak about the most mystical encounter he had last night, it would be how he, a top-scorer of the Mathematics Faculty, would actually forget what 1+1 equaled to. On top of that, he, who was renowned to be 'the inviolable existence whom everyone wanted to sleep with', actually ended up catching a cold from bathing in cold water for too long...

## **Chapter 106: My Unparalleled and One-of-a-kind Pig (2)**

It took quite a while for the daydreaming Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai to notice that there was something amiss with Lin Jiage's expression. Afraid that they might have gone overboard with their jokes, they immediately feigned ignorance and changed the topic.

"Student Lu, the weather today seems fine."

"Student Xia, the weather today is indeed fine. A beautiful azure sky filled with many white clouds."

Returning from his thoughts, Lin Jiage first glanced at Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai, who were discussing the weather with serious looks on their faces. He turned to look at the dangerously smoggy sky outside and criticized internally: These two idiots!

In that instant, he was really tempted to pretend that he didn't know them.

While thinking of this, Lin Jiage increased his pace even more.

A second after the trio stepped into the classroom, the school bell rang.

Seated at the very last row, Lin Jiage only listened to the lesson for five minutes before he brought out the newly copied information on his laptop and began reading through it.

There was a section of the text where the letter 'S' appeared rather frequently.

As he stared at it, Lin Jiage eventually found his gaze fixated upon the 'S'.

S, the first letter of Shi Yao's name.

Just when did her name become so deeply imprinted in his mind, that even an alphabet letter could remind him of her?

Stretching his finger forward, Lin Jiage tapped on the 'S' on the screen. His mind slowly drifted back to what happened yesterday...

After his late-night cold shower, he returned to his bedroom and saw that a certain unparalleled and one-of-a-kind pet had flung off her blanket, so he walked forward to pick it up and covered her snugly.

Perhaps due to the warm temperature in the room, her sleeping face had a tinge of redness to it.

In that moment, Lin Jiage suddenly felt the same urge he had in his grandfather's ward yesterday. He wanted to eternalize this moment, and so—

...

Returning back from his thoughts, Lin Jiage suddenly took out his phone and tapped into the Photo Gallery.

There were only two photographs saved inside. One was snapped yesterday afternoon, an image of her munching on an apple in his grandfather's ward. The warm sunshine on her face accentuated the simple satisfaction radiating from her face, perfectly displaying the serene wonders of life.

The other photo was one of her sleeping peacefully. Her long eyebrows were slightly curled upward, slightly resembling the wings of a butterfly. Her scarlet lips were slightly pressed together into a slight pout. It was a face so adorable that it could warm one's heart down to its very depths...

...

Eight o'clock that night, the four-person Chicken Dinner Team of the [Sexy and Frisky] chat gathered punctually in the Great Desert of Miramar.

Today's [111111] wasn't as dazed and inattentive as the [111111] from yesterday, but as a whole, he was still performing beneath his usual level.

At half past ten, [111111] logged out of the game.

Intrigued, Shi Yao asked, "Why did your boss leave so early tonight?"

Surprisingly, the usually noisy Juice and Expert didn't reply to her through the voice chat. Instead, [Expert of the Monkeys] sent a message, [Boss isn't feeling too well today. He has a fever and just took his medicine, so Juice and I won't be able to use the voice chat anymore.] Shi Yao quickly replied with an "I see" before falling silent.

Without the voice chat, Shi Yao couldn't understand what Expert and Juice were up to, so she eventually found herself unable to keep up with their tempo. Expert and Juice would type out messages to guide her along, but as a result of that, they were unable to concentrate fully in the game. In a moment of inattention, their entire team was wiped out.

By the time they finished the game, it was already close to eleven. Thus, Shi Yao told Expert and Juice that she wasn't playing anymore.

She backed out of the game and went to bathe, but couldn't help recalling that [111111] had a fever, and this inadvertently reminded her of Lin Jiage's cold...

### **Chapter 107: Are You Feeling Better From Your Cold? (1)**

It sure is a coincidence. Mister Numbers and Lin Jiage actually got sick at the same time.

Lin Jiage's cold seemed quite bad this morning. I wonder if he's feeling better now?

With such thoughts cluttering her mind, Shi Yao bathed in a daze.

Last night, she caved in to her fatigue and took over his bed. Did he catch a cold from a lack of rest?

A pang of guilt struck Shi Yao's heart.

She didn't have many interactions with him in the past, so she assumed that he would be a lofty and cold guy, a person who would be very difficult to approach. However, after the few encounters she had with him, she realized that he was very different from what she thought. He was polite and filial to his elders. And earlier this morning, he was gentlemanly enough to let her take the car... And speaking of which, the cake which he had the driver pass to her was very delicious as well...

Urk, it seems like I've gone off topic... Shi Yao quickly dragged her thoughts back from the cake.

Should I send him a short message to show some concern?

This question continued to plague Shi Yao even after she was done bathing and had settled into her bed.

Holding her phone, she hesitated for a long moment before she eventually tapped into the Messages icon and scrolled down to find Lin Jiage's name.

For a while, she thought earnestly about how to construct her message before tapping on the screen: [Are you feeling better from your cold?]

Shi Yao intended to tap on the send button, but before her fingertip could reach the screen, she hesitated.

Would it be too sudden of me to send him this message?

After all, he probably still thinks of me as that woman he wants nothing to do with.

Shi Yao pursed her lips slightly as she stared at her phone with conflicted emotions. After a long moment of hesitation, she eventually decided to drop the idea. Switching off her screen, she tossed her phone next to her pillow.

It would be better for her not to get too nosy.

Worrying over whether his cold was severe or not, those were thoughts which she shouldn't harbor either.

From the very start, they were both people from two different worlds. Their worlds might have crossed after six years, but it was just a momentary intersection. Time would eventually pull them further and further apart.

When she proposed the cancelation of their engagement, he agreed to it without hesitation. If it weren't for Grandpa Lin's sudden illness, they would probably be nothing more than strangers to each other right now.

Closing her eyes, Shi Yao turned in her bed.

She wasn't too sure what was going on with her anymore. It wasn't like she had never thought about such matters in the past, but she would usually just think that his words were too hurtful and her pride felt wounded. At this moment, however, she felt that her heart was a complete mess. She couldn't make sense out of it, and she couldn't tell what the origin of the mess was either.

...

The afternoon of the very next day, Shi Yao had no lessons and so decided to sleep in until the afternoon. While waiting for her three roommates to return so that they could have hot pot together, she logged into the game and played for a while.

In this short period of time, she met a new friend—[Northern Tea].

In the evening, while Shi Yao was having hot pot, she received messages from Juice and Expert in the [Sexy and Frisky] chat. They had a social event later that night, so they would be on the game a little later than usual.

Shi Yao replied with a "Got it" before turning her full attention back to enjoying her hot pot once more.

It was only half past eight by the time she returned to the dormitory room. With nothing to do, she logged into the game.

Surprisingly, [111111] was online, and he sent her a squad invitation.

Hm? I thought that they were having a social event tonight... Mister Numbers didn't go?

Shi Yao entered the room feeling a little puzzled, and a moment later, she heard sneezing on the other end of the game.

It was then that Shi Yao recalled that [111111] had a cold.

Was he staying home because of his poor health?

### **Chapter 108: Are You Feeling Better From Your Cold? (2)**

As the thought rose up in Shi Yao's mind, she swallowed back her earlier questions and instead asked, "Are you feeling better from your cold?"

With a heavy nasal voice, [111111] replied with an "Mm".

Hearing that, Shi Yao couldn't help but think of Lin Jiage.

While a cold wasn't a particularly severe illness, it could be quite agonizing for the sick person. She couldn't help wondering how he was doing today.

[111111]: "Ready."

Snapping out from her wandering thoughts, Shi Yao was just about to tap on the 'ready 1' button when she noticed that there were some unread messages in her friend list.

Tapping into her friend list, she noted that the messages were from the gaming friend she had met earlier in the afternoon, [Northern Tea]. "Sis, let me join your team too!"

So after sending a squad invitation out to [Northern Tea], she told [111111], "I'll be pulling a friend into the squad."

...

Room 501.

A man was covered in a thick blanket. His nostrils were stuffed with two wads of tissues, and a cooling patch was stuck on his forehead—it was Lin Jiage.

He assumed that [Yao Loves Ice Cream] would be pulling one of her real-life female friends into the squad, so he didn't pay much attention to it and started the game.

Upon reaching the matching phase of the game, he suddenly heard a male voice in his earphone.

It was from their new squad member, [Northern Tea]: "Sis, have you had dinner?"

[Yao Loves Ice Cream]: "I did."

[Northern Tea]: “What did you eat?”

[Yao Loves Ice Cream]: “Hot pot.”

Seeing how the duo was chatting well with each other, Lin Jiage frowned. Typing on the keyboard, he asked: [Who’s he?]

Yao Loves Ice Cream: [A new friend I met this afternoon.]

Lin Jiage didn’t speak anymore, but an inexplicable feeling of displeasure clouded over his heart. It was the same displeased feeling he felt yesterday in his grandfather’s ward, when he learned that Han Jing had sent a message to Shi Yao.

It sure was weird. How could Big White Chubby and Soft Bun induce the same emotions within him?

[Yao Loves Ice Cream] spoke up once more: [Northern Tea is a really strong player. He brought our team two chicken dinners earlier in the afternoon.]

Heh... From the day we first met, I’ve led you into at least twenty chicken dinners, but why haven’t I heard you call me strong before?

Lin Jiage suddenly found himself in no mood to speak at all.

Ever since the game started, [Northern Tea] and [Yao Loves Ice Cream] hadn’t stopped talking for even a moment.

Whenever [Northern Tea] killed a player, he would ask, “Sis, am I incredible?”

And [Yao Loves Ice Cream] would respond with, “Yes, you’re very incredible!”

Incredible, your head! What is there to boast about, killing a bot in the remote mountains where there’s no one in sight?

Lin Jiage inwardly snorted.

[Northern Tea]: “Sis, there’s a Level 3 Helmet here, come over and pick it up!”

[Yao Loves Ice Cream]: “Coming!”

[Northern Tea]: “Am I great?”

[Yao Loves Ice Cream]: “You’re wonderful.”

Hehehe, wonderful, your head! Who’d have thought that on top of being plump, Big White Chubby would turn out to be so blind too!

Glancing at the blue zone, Lin Jiage swiftly found a car in the area before honking at them repeatedly, signaling for them to get on the car to flee from the poison 2 .

[Northern Tea] first got on the car, followed by [Yao Loves Ice Cream]. After which, [Northern Tea], who was initially sitting at the front passenger seat, swiftly switched to the back so he could sit side by side with [Yao Loves Ice Cream].

Screw that, do they think I’m their chauffeur?

Angered, Lin Jiage stepped furiously on the accelerator and sped his way forward.

[Northern Tea]: “Sis, watch closely as I treat you to a chicken dinner this round!”

Lin Jiage sniffed in his runny nose as he inwardly mocked him disdainfully: Your inferior skills are only enough to deal with bots, yet you still want to carry other people into victory?

### **Chapter 109: Resonance Between Fellow Newbies (1)**

[Northern Tea]: “Sis, you’re pretty skilled in the game too. Earlier today, when someone knocked me down, you were the one who saved me.”

Young man, are you sure that you’re praising Big White Chubby and not insulting her?

Saving others is just common sense in this game, alright! If a player doesn’t even know how to help his fallen teammate up, he might as well just quit the game right now!

Lin Jiage forcefully pressed his finger down on his cell phone, causing the car to travel at maximum speed.

Far from Lin Jiage’s expectations, [Yao Loves Ice Cream] didn’t think that she was being insulted. Instead, she was actually delighted by his ‘praise’. After all, that was her first time valiantly saving others in the game. “I realized that this game isn’t so difficult after all. When I first started, I was too afraid to even move when others were attacking me, but now, I’ve reached a level where I can save other people!”

Is this... the resonance between fellow newbies?

Lin Jiage’s face twitched uncontrollably as he thought: Big White Chubby isn’t just fat and blind, she’s a fool as well!

[Northern Tea]: “Sis, you’re really great. You’re the greatest sis I’ve ever met!”

[Northern Tea]: “Sis, shall we add each other on WeChat later on?”

Add each other on WeChat. ... A second after those five words crept into Lin Jiage’s ears, he immediately stomped on the brake and leaped off the car.

[Northern Tea]: “Player 1, why did you stop the car? The poison is going to catch up with us!”

Ignoring Northern Tea, Lin Jiage tapped on the screen and got onto the car once more. This time, however, he ignored the driver seat and sat in the front passenger seat instead.

[Northern Tea]: “Player 1, you’re not going to drive anymore?”

[Northern Tea]: “If you aren’t going to drive, you should move and let me and Sis sit in front...”

Before Northern Tea could finish his words, the car suddenly exploded. Then, three notifications appeared on the screen—

[111111] killed [Northern Tea] with grenade.

[111111] killed [Yao Loves Ice Cream] with grenade.

[111111] killed [111111] with grenade.

[Yao Loves Ice Cream]: “Why am I dead? What happened?”

[Northern Tea]: “The heck! Player 1, what are you doing?! Why did you kill us with a grenade?!”

Heh. Chat, feel free to continue chatting... Weren't you happily saying that “You're the greatest sis I've ever met!” and “Sis, watch closely as I treat you to a chicken dinner this round!” just now? Why aren't you talking anymore? Weren't you going to treat us to a chicken dinner? Now that our team has been wiped out, let's see you try to treat us to a chicken dinner...

Due to his cold, Lin Jiage's throat was a little sore, so he didn't feel like speaking at all. Facing his teammate's wrath, he leisurely tapped on the screen and sent over a message: [Sorry, my hand slipped.]

[Northern Tea]: \*Faints!\*

While Northern Tea was still complaining grudgingly over their unfortunate wipeout, Lin Jiage prepared a new room and added [Northern Tea] into his friend list.

Soon, his friend request was accepted. However, Lin Jiage didn't start the game.

On the other hand, [Northern Tea] and [Yao Loves Ice Cream] waited patiently for a moment, but the game didn't start. Thus, they began to urge him.

It was only at their urging did Lin Jiage leisurely tap on [Northern Tea]'s name and sent a message over: [When are you coming home?]

Before [Northern Tea] could respond, he sent out another message: [Our second son just woke up, and he's crying from having no milk to drink.]

[Our eldest son still refuses to sleep. He insists on waiting for you to come home before he'll go to bed.]

[Northern Tea]: ??????

When [Northern Tea] finally replied to his message, Lin Jiage acted as if he'd just realized something, and he sent out a message he'd long typed in advance: [My apologies. That was supposed to be for Yao, but I accidentally tapped on your username instead.]

## **Chapter 110: Resonance Between Fellow Newbies (2)**

Four short messages that guided one's thoughts to a very direct conclusion. It barely took any time for [Northern Tea] to understand the current situation surrounding [Yao Loves Ice Cream].

The person whom he'd been coyly addressing as 'Sis' was actually an old auntie in real life. Not only was she married, she even had two children...

[Northern Tea] no longer responded to Lin Jiage's words.

Even though a screen stood between the two of them, Lin Jiage could still feel the other party's heart shattering miserably.



Good. I feel better now that you're in a bad mood.

Lin Jiage also didn't send [Northern Tea] any more messages. He leisurely switched off the chat and returned back to the room.

Instead of starting the game, he began counting mentally. When he finally counted to five, just as expected, the incensed voice of [Northern Tea] sounded, "Screw this! This is really too much! You scammers!"

After which, [Northern Tea] backed out from the room.

And this was the very moment that Lin Jiage was waiting for—

A second after [Northern Tea] left, Lin Jiage suddenly spoke up with a bewildered tone, "Hm? Did something happen while I was in the toilet? Why did your friend suddenly leave the room? Is he not playing anymore?"

...

During [Northern Tea]'s sudden outburst, Shi Yao was in the middle of popping a ham sausage from a newly opened packet into her mouth.

By the time the ham sausage was in her stomach, and she was ready to talk again, [Northern Tea] had already left the room, and she suddenly heard [111111] speaking up.

Thus, she could only change her initial "What's wrong" into "I don't know" to reply to [111111]'s words.

After a moment of contemplation, Shi Yao spoke up, "I'll go talk to him."

So, Shi Yao tapped into her friend list, but after searching it twice, she realized that she was unable to find [Northern Tea]'s name.

"That's weird, why can't I find his name anywhere?"

Shi Yao browsed through the few names within her friend list, and after re-confirming that [Northern Tea] wasn't in it anymore, it suddenly struck her that the other party had removed her from his friend list. Perplexed, she asked, "I was just gone for a moment to open a packet of ham sausage; why did Northern Tea suddenly remove me from his friend list?"

"I didn't do anything either. Why is he suddenly acting like that?"

Recalling the vulgarities which [Northern Tea] had hurled at her earlier, she subconsciously asked, "Maybe those insults were meant for me?"

With a nasally voice, [111111] spoke with the same perplexed tone, "I'm not too sure either, but I don't think that he was insulting you. After all, you didn't provoke him at all..."

[Yao Loves Ice Cream]: "Then why did he suddenly remove me from his friend list?"

"That might be because..." [111111] fell silent for a moment. "... my hand slipped earlier, and I accidentally bombed the three of us to death. He probably thinks that your teammate is too weak, so he doesn't want to play with us anymore?"

Shi Yao pondered for a while, and she felt that there was some sense to [111111]'s words. After all, she did perform excellently in the game, and she even saved [Northern Tea] once earlier in the afternoon. Thus, she nodded affirmatively and said, "That's most likely it."

Two seconds later, she added, "But you're not a newbie. Your hands just slipped. Who hasn't made a mistake before?"

"That guy is pretty demanding..."

Shi Yao assumed that [111111] wouldn't respond to her, as per their usual interactions. Yet, right after she said those words, [111111] replied, "You're right, that person really is too demanding. If it were me, I would never bother with him again!"