

Chapter 162: The Big Bad Wolf That Preys On the Little White Bunny (2)

Before Grandpa Lin could recall what it was, Auntie Sun had already spoken up, "... Isn't it Miss Shi's birthday today?"

As expected of Auntie Sun, you always know what to say at the right time! Look forward to your year-end bonus!

Lin Jiage was extremely gleeful inside, but he didn't let his emotions show on his face, as if the person they were talking about had nothing to do with him at all.

"Right, right, right! It's Yaoyao's birthday today! Aiyo, how could I have allowed this to slip my mind? My memory hasn't been so good since I fell ill. I usually prepare a present for Yaoyao each year, and this year can't be an exception..." As Grandpa Lin spoke, he began issuing instructions to Auntie Sun, "... Call our family cook and have him bake a cake right now. Also, get our driver to buy a gorgeous set of clothes for our Yaoyao. Remember, it must be an entire set! That includes a pair of shoes, a bag, and accessories! We need to prepare a birthday red packet for her too. Most importantly of all, a feast! Get the head chef from China World Hotel to prepare a sumptuous meal according to Yaoyao's taste..."

Auntie Sun recorded everything Grandpa Lin said before adding, "Should I have the driver deliver the presents to Miss Shi's house?"

Grandpa Lin felt regretful that he couldn't celebrate Shi Yao's birthday with her, but after some thought, it seemed like there was no other choice.

He was just about to nod in agreement when Lin Jiage, who had waited a long time for this moment, suddenly remarked with a bored look, "You can get the driver to deliver everything to the hospital, then..."

Lin Jiage paused for a brief moment before deciding to use a distant 'her', "... you can call her and say that you miss her to get her to come over. Won't you be able to give her the presents personally this way?"

Grandpa Lin was still feeling deeply bitter that he couldn't be with Shi Yao on her birthday, but when he heard Lin Jiage's suggestion, his eyes immediately lit up, "That's a good idea. Alright, do what this brat suggested."

After which, Grandpa Lin began issuing more instructions to Auntie Sun in preparation for Shi Yao's birthday. Halfway through his orders, he suddenly paused for a moment to shoot Lin Jiage a furious glare, "Not 'her', Yaoyao! If you don't want to address her as Yaoyao, you can use 'my fiancée' instead!"

...

Auntie Sun gave Shi Yao a call at nine in the morning, inviting her over by using the excuse that Grandpa Lin was starting to miss her.

Shi Yao arrived in the hospital ward before eleven.

By the time she was done with the feast and cake which Grandpa Lin had especially prepared for her, it was already three in the afternoon.

In order not to let Lin Jiage and Shi Yao see through his faked illness, Grandpa Lin waited until the birthday celebration was over, then immediately feigned exhaustion to evict the two.

Due to his grandfather's 'relentless nagging', Lin Jiage had no choice but to help Shi Yao carry her presents down.

By the time they arrived at the entrance of the hospital, the driver was already waiting in the car.

Lin Jiage walked to the car with the large amount of bags in his hands, then paused for a moment to say a word about the exceptionally good weather that day. After which, he turned his gaze to Shi Yao, who was about a meter behind him.

He had intentionally asked his grandfather about today's date so that he'd bring her over from her home... Since she was already here in front of him, the rest was up to him now...

In that moment, Lin Jiage suddenly felt that he was a big bad wolf preying on a little white bunny.

Wait, that's not right. I'm a gorgeous hunk preying on Soft Bun.

Chapter 163: You're the Driver, You're the Boss (1)

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage cleared his throat and walked up to Shi Yao, "Do you have some time after this?"

Shi Yao glanced to her left, then to her right.

There was no one next to her. Could Lin Jiage possibly be talking to her?

But he didn't call her name... What if he was actually talking to the driver?

Too dumb! I'm talking to you, where are you looking at?

After shouting inwardly, Lin Jiage asked once more, "Are you free later, Shi Yao?"

Shi Yao was still in the middle of looking around when she heard own name. Only then did she became certain that Lin Jiage was talking to her, and she hurriedly replied, "I think so."

As soon she blurted the words instinctively out of her mouth, she immediately wondered if she was being too honest.

So, after a moment of thought, she added, "Is there something up?"

Lin Jiage cleared his throat, and with a hint of awkwardness in his voice, he said, "There is something... that I'd like your help for..."

Ha?! He wants my help? There are actually times when he needs help from other people?

Shi Yao instinctively shot a glance at the sky. Nope, the sun didn't rise from the west... Am I hearing things then?

While Shi Yao was mumbling silently in her heart, she didn't forget to reply in a soft voice, "What do you need my help for?"

Has Soft Bun's voice always been this gentle and adorable?

Her voice managed to soothe Lin Jiage's heart, such that even his voice had softened, "My sis just took up a new project a while ago, and I want to send her a present. But, I'm not so sure what girls like, so I wanted to ask your opinion."

Ah, so he wants to buy a present for Sis Jiayi... But he could've asked another girl to help him, right? Why did he have to ask me?

While Shi Yao pondered over his actions, Lin Jiage noted her silence and assumed that she was reluctant. Thus, he added, "What's wrong? Is it too much trouble?"

Lin Jiage then paused for a brief moment before continuing, "The reason why I'm asking you is because my sis likes you a lot, and she treats you quite well. She usually brings back gifts for you from overseas. So, I thought that you'd have a better idea of her preferences."

Lin Jiage's words seemed casual, but every single one of them served to heap pressure on Shi Yao.

Shi Yao didn't really know much about Lin Jiayi's preferences, but it was true that the latter would often bring back gifts for her from overseas.

Well... Even if Lin Jiage didn't ask, I should still help pick out a present for Lin Jiayi.

Thus, after hearing Lin Jiage's words, she quickly shook her head and explained, "Ah, it's no trouble at all. I'm just wondering what kind of gift Sis Jiayi would prefer."

"There's no need to rush. You can think about it later when we reach the shopping mall." Seeing that Shi Yao had agreed to it, Lin Jiage turned to the driver and said, "Pass the keys to me."

"Yes, Young Master." The driver walked up to Lin Jiage and gave him the car keys. At the same time, he leaned closer and whispered in a voice audible only to the two of them, "Young Master, I have already prepared the things that you wanted. They're in the car trunk."

Lin Jiage nodded impassively to the driver's words before directing a "Get on the car" to Shi Yao. He then circled around the car and got on the driver's seat himself.

While Lin Jiage was putting on his seatbelt, he realized that Shi Yao was sitting at the back instead, and he froze.

He slowly turned his head around to Shi Yao and asked, "Do I look like your driver?"

Confused by Lin Jiage's question, Shi Yao shook her head obediently and replied, "No?"

Lin Jiage tilted his chin up and gestured at her position as he said, "Then, what do you mean by getting on the backseat?"

Chapter 164: You're the Driver, You're the Boss (2)

What did getting on the backseat have anything to do with you being a driver?

Shi Yao looked at Lin Jiage in confusion, not knowing what to say.

On the other hand, Lin Jiage was rendered speechless.

Do you not get the hint?

It seems like the world is indeed unfair. Despite being fellow humans, there's such a huge gap in intelligence between one and the other...

Lin Jiage was silent for two seconds before he patted the passenger seat and said, "Sit here."

You're the driver, you're the boss.

Shi Yao replied with a long "Ohhh" and then got out of the car to get on the passenger seat.

After fastening his seatbelt, Lin Jiage was just about to start the engine when he noticed that Shi Yao hadn't put on her seatbelt yet. So, he shot her a glance to prompt her.

On the other hand, Shi Yao noticed Lin Jiage's glance but assumed that he was checking something out in her direction. She followed his gaze and looked over as well, but there didn't seem to be anything to see. Thus, she turned to give Lin Jiage a questioning look.

That look... Does she still not get the hint?

How troublesome... Lin Jiage grumbled disdainfully inside as he unfastened his seatbelt and leaned his entire body over to pull Shi Yao's seatbelt into place.

His actions were too abrupt, causing the unprepared Shi Yao to be stunned for a moment. She raised her gaze to stare at him blankly.

At this moment, his upper body was right in front of her. His face was so frighteningly close that she could vaguely feel his breath.

Shi Yao's heartbeat quickened.

On the other side, after fastening Shi Yao's seatbelt, Lin Jiage casually shot a glance at her, only to be met with a pair of dazed eyes staring intently at him.

Lin Jiage's body froze on the spot. It took a moment before he raised his hand to ruffle her head lightly and said, "The first thing you should do after getting in a car is to fasten your seatbelt."

After which, he moved back to his seat, fastened his own seatbelt, and began driving the car.

Silence filled the car, but there was an indescribable feeling of intimacy lingering in the air.

Lin Jiage's hand on the steering wheel seemed to be slightly stiff. Eventually, he pulled down the window and turned on the radio.

A warm breeze swept into the car, accompanied by a soothing melody, warming up the two awkward souls.

...

Lin Jiage's car stopped at W Mall.

Shi Yao had never been to this mall before. Even so, from her association with Liang Mumu, she knew that it was a place where top-notch international luxury brands were gathered. Any item picked on a whim could very well have a five-digit price tag attached to it.

She knew that the Lin Family was wealthy, but was Lin Jiage's allowance that high?

Shi Yao followed Lin Jiage into an elevator in the mall as she subconsciously reached for her pocket.

Why was there such a vast difference between humans? My monthly allowance is only a four-digit figure, but for him, the minimum value of a simple gift is something worth five digits.

While Shi Yao was complaining endlessly on the inside, Lin Jiage suddenly spoke up, "Where should we head to first?"

"Er..." Shi Yao instantly returned from her thoughts, but Lin Jiage's abrupt question had stumped her.

She pondered for three seconds before saying, "Actually, I'm not too sure what Sis Jiayi likes. However, I know that she likes a wide variety of things."

"Bags, makeup, clothes, shoes, accessories, plants, flowers, ceramics... Basically, Sis Jiayi likes everything that's beautiful and expensive."

"Of course, there are a lot of things in this world that are both beautiful and expensive, so I'm not sure what would be a good gift for her either."

"That's not a problem. We can start looking from the first floor," Lin Jiage said.

"Sure," Shi Yao replied, thinking that Lin Jiage's suggestion sounded reasonable. A moment later, she suddenly thought of something and asked, "Right, did you bring enough money with you today? The items here are quite pricey."

Chapter 165: Buy Buy Buy! What Else To Do Since Soft Bun Likes Them? (1)

Do I look poor to you?

Lin Jiage shot a glance at Shi Yao and said, "Kudos to you if you manage to spend it all."

Ah... Am I imagining things? Why does it sound like he's mocking me?

Shi Yao grumbled softly, "I'm just worried that you'll starve at school if you spend your whole allowance here."

Allowance? What's that? I haven't received anything like that for years now!

Hearing those words, Lin Jiage couldn't bring himself to tell Shi Yao that any project he took on would earn him a minimum of six digits.

After pondering for a moment, Lin Jiage could only use a roundabout manner to assuage Shi Yao's worries, "Don't worry. If I run out of money, I can always sell my grandpa's car at the carpark."

“...” Shi Yao thought that Lin Jiage’s joke was really cold.

The elevator arrived on the first floor, and the two of them walked out. Lin Jiage brought Shi Yao into the LV bag store and said, “Since there are too many things that my sis likes, you should just go along with what you like. I think she’ll be happy with whatever you get her.”

Shi Yao replied with an “Okay” before she began to browse through the items earnestly.

...

Half an hour later, they were finally done browsing through the first floor.

In truth, it wasn’t that nothing had caught their sight, but there would always be some kind of dissatisfaction between them. Whenever Shi Yao asked Lin Jiage about the items she’d chosen, he would always reject them.

Arriving on the second floor, before they could even start looking through the stores, Shi Yao’s gaze was already captured by a café not too far away.

Lin Jiage glanced at the other young ladies around him and noted that they were all fixated on the myriad of products displayed in the stores around them. Even the conversations they had were about the newest product from some kind of brand. But when it came to Shi Yao... This is like the eighth time she’s looked at that café after we got on the second floor...

Oh well, what else can I do? I’m the one who brought the lady out, so even if I have to kneel down, it’s my responsibility to make this shopping trip an enjoyable one for her.

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage said, “You must be exhausted after walking around for so long. Why don’t we rest at the café for a bit?”

These words were blatant lies. They had barely walked for half an hour so far...

However, seeing how Shi Yao’s eyes twinkled brightly upon hearing his suggestion, Lin Jiage thought that it wasn’t too bad to lie from time to time.

...

They first spent half an hour on browsing through the first floor, followed by a forty-minute-break in the café. After which, they took twenty minutes to browse through the second floor, then proceeded to rest in the Hong Kong style café on the third floor for half an hour. Following that, they walked for twenty-three minutes on the fourth floor before sitting in a bubble tea shop for another twenty-five minutes. After that, they moved on to the fifth floor... as well as the final level of the shopping mall.

Next to the elevator of the fifth floor was a renowned flower boutique, endorsed by a popular Little Fresh Meat 1 .

Shi Yao suddenly remembered that flowers could be internationally shipped by air, so she suggested, “Why don’t we get a bouquet of flowers before picking out a gift? A bouquet of beautiful flowers would complement Sis Jiayi’s gift quite nicely.”

“Sure.” Lin Jiage nodded as he gestured for Shi Yao to pick out the bouquet.

Five minutes later, Shi Yao had finished choosing the various flowers for the bouquet.

Ten minutes later, the attendant wrapped the flowers beautifully together.

When Lin Jiage went to pay the bill, he took a look at the flowers that Shi Yao had chosen—light pink, light yellow, and light green, a color scheme suited for a youthful girl.

He couldn't help but think that his sister wouldn't like the flower bouquet, but that wasn't a problem. What mattered was that Soft Bun liked it.

After leaving the flower boutique, they browsed through the various shops on the fifth floor before finally arriving at an accessory shop.

While browsing through the various accessories that the store had on display, Shi Yao suddenly stopped. There was a brilliant gleam in her eyes that Lin Jiage had yet to see ever since stepping into the shopping mall.

The accessory she was looking at was a bracelet.

Diamonds embedded on gold; what was notable about the bracelet was that there was a small charm attached to it. It was strawberry-shaped.

To be honest, the bracelet was indeed beautiful. However, it was worth pondering over whether Soft Bun was interested in the bracelet itself or the strawberry charm.

Chapter 166: Buy Buy Buy! What Else To Do Since Soft Bun Likes Them? (2)

Observing Shi Yao's gaze, Lin Jiage turned to the female shop assistant attending to them and pointed to the bracelet which Shi Yao was staring intently at and said, "May I take a closer look at that?"

"Of course, sir. Please give me a moment," replied the shop assistant with an amiable smile. She walked up to the display cabinet and took out the bracelet.

At this moment, Shi Yao couldn't help but glance at Lin Jiage.

Is he thinking the same thing as me—that the bracelet looks beautiful too?

Noticing her gaze, Lin Jiage leisurely moved his lips, speaking words that were contrary to what he believed, "I think that bracelet isn't bad."

That's exactly what I was thinking! Lin Jiage's fashion sense isn't too bad after all!

Feeling a connection, Shi Yao nodded excitedly. "Isn't it? Isn't it? I think that it's not bad too. Especially that strawberry over there, isn't it cute?"

In the end, it really is just the strawberry charm that she's interested in...

Lin Jiage calmly lowered his gaze to conceal the look of silent helplessness reflected in the depths of his eyes.

“Sir, this bracelet is one of our latest products that came in just this spring, and it was designed by our chief designer. It comes in a set with a necklace, earrings, anklets...” As she spoke, the shop assistant took out the other products one by one, not forgetting to promote them at the same time. “... The strawberry is often viewed as a symbol of romance, and its shape is extremely similar to a heart as well. For that reason, it’s also termed as the Fruit of Love. Therefore, the name of this set of accessories is Strawberry Love.”

Lin Jiage initially felt that he was going against his heart for saying that the bracelet was not bad, but after hearing the shop assistant’s statement, the bracelet mystically looked more and more satisfactory to him. Thus, he turned to Shi Yao and asked, “Which one do you think we should go with?”

Shi Yao initially thought that there would only be a single bracelet, but after watching the shop assistant take out a set of accessories, each with a strawberry charm attached... she suddenly didn’t know which one to choose.

Faced with Lin Jiage’s question, her eyes swiftly darted from accessory to accessory, but even after a long moment of hesitation, she still couldn’t give an answer. She eventually resorted to examining the price tags, and in view of Lin Jiage’s finances, she pointed to the cheapest anklet and spoke hesitantly, “This one?”

Taking in her entire reaction, Lin Jiage couldn’t help but remember the day of their physical education lesson, when Lu Benlai offered her a bag of drinks and asked her to pick one.

Back then, she also had on the same conflicted expression she’s making now... Did the price scare her this time around? She didn’t even ask whether she could only pick one like she did last time.

Since she’s being so hesitant, not knowing which one to pick or which one she likes better, isn’t it obvious what I have to do?

Lin Jiage didn’t reply to Shi Yao’s questioning look. Instead, he turned his gaze to the shop assistant and said, “Help me wrap up the entire set.”

Of course, the solution was to buy, buy, and buy! What else to do since Soft Bun likes them?

On the other hand, the shop assistant had managed to accomplish her monthly sales target quite easily. She responded with a delighted “I’ll have them wrapped up nicely for you!” and then led Lin Jiage away to settle the bill. Shi Yao was left standing dumbfounded on the spot, mentally calculating the amount of money that Lin Jiage just spent within a single minute.

As expected of the Lin Family! I could feast on whatever I wanted for several months with the amount Lin Jiage spent on his sister’s ‘simple’ gift!

But speaking of which, did Lin Jiage really get that much of an allowance every month? Is this how wealthy families raise their children?

...

After leaving the accessories store, Lin Jiage went to the men’s room.

While Shi Yao was waiting for Lin Jiage outside the bathroom, she caught sight of a familiar face.

She wasn't really surprised to meet that familiar face here.

What did surprise her was the duo accompanying that familiar face.

Why would she be together with them?

Chapter 167: A Little Simpler. Why Can't You Be A Little Simpler When You Speak? (1)

Shi Yao frowned. It appeared that several things were a bit more... complicated than what she'd initially imagined...

In other words, that person didn't change just recently. Or perhaps, that person had been like this from the very start, just that she realized it a little too late.

...

Walking out of the bathroom, Lin Jiage gestured to Shi Yao and said, "Let's go."

The young lady had her head lowered, and she didn't respond to his words.

"Shi Yao?" Perplexed, Lin Jiage called out once more. Then, taking a closer look, he noticed a contemplative furrow in between her brows—she was seemingly oblivious to his presence. Thus, he walked up and placed his hand on her little head and gently ruffled her hair, "What are you thinking about?"

Shi Yao instinctively raised her head to look at Lin Jiage before hurriedly casting away her thoughts. She quickly began tidying her messed-up hair while complaining unhappily, "I'm not zoning out. Also, don't mess up my hair."

"Since you're so short, the closest thing to my hand is your head, so what else can I do?" As Lin Jiage spoke, he demonstrated this again by lifting his hand once more to ruffle her hair.

"I told you, don't mess up my hair!" Shi Yao glared at Lin Jiage with puffed up cheeks as she tidied up her hair again. "Besides, I'm not that short!"

Lin Jiage lifted his eyebrows as he patted Shi Yao's head lightly. "Alright, shorty. We'll talk about your hair next time. Now, we have to deliver the presents to my sis.

"I don't have my sister's address at the moment, so I'll have to give her a call first."

As he said those words, Lin Jiage whipped out his phone with his free hand.

He intentionally lowered his phone so Shi Yao could clearly see the word 'Sis' on the phone screen.

However, what Shi Yao didn't know was that the number behind the word 'Sis' had actually been changed to another phone number of his that he didn't use frequently, and the phone had also been switched off at that.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is unavailable, please try again later."

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is unavailable, please try again later."

“Sorry...”

On the fifth unsuccessful dial, Lin Jiage couldn't help but frown, “That's weird. Why would my sis turn off her phone? What's she doing?”

Lin Jiage dialed the number one more time, but it was still the same system message. His patience finally ran dry, and he said, “What a bummer. I was going to give her a surprise, but it turns out that her phone isn't even on. Since that's the case, I'm not going to bother anymore!”

Right after Lin Jiage spoke the words, the background music playing in the mall happened to switch to another song.

“A little simpler. Why can't you be a little simpler when you speak? Please leave out that needless drama, you're not an actor, so don't act out those scenarios in your head...” 1

There's something really wrong with this mall...

Lin Jiage looked at the ceiling of the shopping mall before glancing down at the items he was holding. With a conflicted expression on his face, he began to say, “It looks like I won't be able to give my sis her surprise anymore. But what should I do with all this stuff? I have no use for them at all...”

“I have no opinions on your performance, I just want to see how you'll tie up the loose ends. The sorrow you play out is too superficial, like an untalented actor...”

Halfway through the song, which seemed determined to tear down his performance, Lin Jiage suddenly appeared to realize something, and he turned to look at Shi Yao, “... Why don't I give them to you instead?”

Saying this, Lin Jiage took out the fresh flowers and accessories he'd just bought and presented them to Shi Yao as he continued, “You can treat it as a token of gratitude for accompanying me this afternoon...”

Chapter 168: A Little Simpler. Why Can't You Be A Little Simpler When You Speak? (2)

Shi Yao subconsciously took a step back before she vehemently shook her head. “I can't. These things are simply too valuable, I can't possibly take them—”

“I was the one who bought them. If I say it's fine, it's fine!”

“No, I really can't...” Shi Yao's head shook vehemently as if she was a den-den daiko.

“Since that's the case, I guess I'll just have to throw them all away then...” After saying these words, Lin Jiage started walking toward the nearest trash can with the bag of valuable accessories in his hand.

Shi Yao was taken aback for two seconds, and just as Lin Jiage raised his hand to toss the bag into the trash can, she swiftly ran forward and grabbed his sleeves.

Without saying a word, Lin Jiage turned around to look at her.

If I keep saying that I can't accept them, is he really going to toss away those valuable accessories just like that?

Shi Yao carefully assessed Lin Jiage's expression, but the serious look on the latter's face seemed to suggest that he wasn't joking.

In Shi Yao's moment of hesitation, she visibly felt his sleeves slowly inching out of her grasp.

She tried to pull him back forcefully, but the disparity of strength between them rendered her efforts futile. At the last moment, she could only anxiously exclaim, "Thank you then!"

Lin Jiage nodded slightly, gesturing back a "You're welcome". After Shi Yao received the fresh flowers and accessories from his hands, he took them away again and said, "I'll help you carry them first."

Shi Yao replied once more with a "Thanks".

Are all rich people this stubborn? So stubborn that if someone doesn't accept a gift they bought, they'll just toss it away without any hesitation?

But those accessories were really expensive... It's not as if we're that close, so I really feel guilty accepting something this valuable from him...

The more Shi Yao thought about it, the more unnerved she felt. After a moment of thought, she spoke up, "If you don't mind, shall I treat you to dinner tonight?"

Lin Jiage had no problems with her suggestion. "Sure."

But when Shi Yao thought about it once more, she didn't feel like treating him to a meal was enough. After all, the accessories were really expensive...

She contemplated for a while longer before adding, "Why don't we treat this as your birthday present to me then? And I'll give you a present in return for your birthday..."

Speaking up to here, Shi Yao found that this idea was simply too fabulous.

Secretly giving herself several thumbs up, she asked Lin Jiage, "... Is that okay?"

"Sure." Lin Jiage was silent for a moment before continuing, "Do you know when my birthday is?"

Of course, I know! Grandpa Lin invites me to your birthday banquet every year...

But before Shi Yao could reply, Lin Jiage had already replied to his own question, "My birthday is on the 27th of October."

Just like that, Shi Yao's response was forcefully stuffed back down her throat.

If he's so eager to tell me, then why did he bother asking if I knew when his birthday was? Couldn't he just go ahead and tell me the date...

Shi Yao retorted in her mind for a moment before replying to Lin Jiage with an "I see" to indicate that she'd taken note of it.

After returning to the car, they swiftly settled where to have their dinner later on. Lin Jiage didn't seem to be in a rush to start the car, choosing to take the bracelet out from its exquisite packaging instead, "You should try putting it on to see if it fits or not. If it's not your size, we can still head back up and swap it."

Actually, while they were strolling through the shopping mall, there was one occasion where Shi Yao had nearly bumped into another person, so Lin Jiage quickly grasped her wrist to pull her aside. Making use of that opportunity, he was able to roughly estimate the size of her wrist, but nevertheless, he was still worried that he might have made a miscalculation...

Shi Yao replied with an “Orh”, then reached out to grab the bracelet and put it on herself. However, Lin Jiage showed no intention of releasing the bracelet, so she could only present him with her white and slender wrist instead.

The bracelet was a perfect fit for her, not just size but aesthetically as well. She had a lighter skin tone which complemented well with the brilliant diamond and crimson strawberries, accentuating her youthful appearance...

Lin Jiage couldn't help but stare a little longer at it. However, the words that fell out of his mouth were a million miles away from his true thoughts, “My sis is a lot taller than you, but it's a good thing that she's thin, so you happen to fit her size too.”

Chapter 169: If We Round Off Your Height, You'll Be Roughly The Same Size As Me, 2 Meters (1)

“It's a good thing that she's thin, so you happen to fit her size too.” This sentence, she could still accept.

But—“My sis is a lot taller than you.” Surely it wouldn't have made a difference if he left that out!

It wouldn't even affect the message he was trying to express!

Shi Yao's cheeks puffed up in anger as she shot back furiously, “I admit that Sis Jiayi is really tall, but I'm not short either!”

Sis Jiayi was just exceptionally tall, okay? At a height of 1.75m, Sis Jiayi was taller than most men. That, paired with her disposition, formed such a striking image that you couldn't help wanting to kneel before her and call her queen...

In the face of Shi Yao's explanation, Lin Jiage looked at her slender figure from head to toe before silently starting the car engine.

Lin Jiage's assessing gaze and silent response made Shi Yao feel as if he was inwardly saying, “There's no need to debate the truth.” The car drove out of the parking lot, but Shi Yao was unwilling to take his comment lying down. She said indignantly, “I'm really not short! In the world of girls, my height can already be considered as not that bad!”

“Right, right, right, you're not short. If we round off your height, you'll be roughly the same size as me, two meters tall...” Lin Jiage replied lazily as he paid the parking toll.

“...” For a moment, Shi Yao was so choked up that she had no idea how to respond.

How could there be someone like this in the world? He's appealing to the eye when his mouth stays shut; like a beautiful piece of scenery that you'd never get tired of seeing. But as soon as his lips start moving, it's as if he'd die if he didn't choke someone to death with his words.

He's the very embodiment of that internet slang 'staying single through one's own capability'...

Hm? Why does that sound so familiar? I feel like I've heard or said it somewhere before...

Grasping onto the feeling of déjà vu, Shi Yao tilted her head as she swiftly ran through her memory, and she suddenly recalled a certain Mister Numbers' venomous tongue...

Particularly with Mister Numbers' "Yes yes yes" from last night. It was in the exact same tone as Lin Jiage's...

Thinking about it now, there were indeed many similarities between Mister Numbers and Lin Jiage... Could they possibly be the same person?

Ah... Surely we wouldn't be so fated to each other? That kind of plotline only happens in novels. It's not like I'm the female lead of a story...

...

It was already late at night, and most restaurants had already closed. So, Shi Yao brought Lin Jiage to the most famous food street in Beijing.

The entire street was filled with crayfish stores.

A second before, Lin Jiage was still parking his car. A second later, Shi Yao was already introducing the place to him as they got down from the car. "From here until the end of the street, there are a total of 48 crayfish stores. Let's go and eat at Taste of Home; they have the best crayfish here!"

48 crayfish stores... Miss, are you so free that you come in the middle of the night to count the number of crayfish stores they have here?

Lin Jiage didn't reject Shi Yao's suggestion, but he casually dropped her a remark, "You seem to be rather familiar with this area."

Completely oblivious to the fact that Lin Jiage was teasing her, Shi Yao took Lin Jiage's words at face value and nodded earnestly, "Of course! I always come here for supper, you know. I know this entire street from back to front, and I have the wifi password of every single store here!"

As if fearing that Lin Jiage would think that she was just boasting, she even took out her phone to show him her wifi connection, saying, "See, the wifi connection changes by itself! I even have the passwords saved in my phone. This one too..."

To have his teasing remark so earnestly responded to, it was the first time Lin Jiage found himself choked speechless by Shi Yao.

Alright, Miss. I admit it. If you ever claimed that you're second when it comes to food, I bet that no one would be conceited enough to claim that he's first.

They reached Taste of Home, and since Lin Jiage was with her, Shi Yao 'extravagantly' opted for the compartment seats.

Chapter 170: If We Round Off Your Height, You'll Be Roughly The Same Size As Me, 2 Meters (2)

They reached Taste of Home, and since Lin Jiage was with her, Shi Yao 'extravagantly' opted for the compartment seats.

The waiter swiftly handed them the menu, but Lin Jiage didn't take it. Instead, he gestured for Shi Yao to order instead.

Having visited Taste of Home multiple times, it didn't take Shi Yao too long to place her order.

Of course, since she was treating, she felt that it was necessary for her to show some sincerity as well. Thus, she specially ordered the large crayfish which she couldn't even bring herself to order usually.

After Shi Yao was done choosing their dishes, the waiter routinely repeated the order once more, "Confirming your order, one large portion of Spicy Crayfish, one large portion of Thirteen Spices Crayfish, one large portion of Garlic Crayfish, one plate of Grilled Scallop, and one plate of Lamb Skewers..."

Shi Yao nodded her head, preparing to respond with a "That's right", but before the words could leave her mouth, the young man sitting across from her had already directed a nonchalant question to the waiter, "Are you sure that's right? Just one portion for every dish?"

The perplexed waiter nodded. "I'm certain. Would you like to change your order?"

Lin Jiage shot a strange look at Shi Yao.

Why is she being so reserved today? Is it because she's running out of her monthly allowance? She doesn't need to worry about it since I wasn't going to let her pay for the bill in the first place...

Thus, after a moment of thought, Lin Jiage turned to the waiter and said, "Three portions for all ordered dishes."

"Sir, do you mean that you'd like to have three portions for all the dishes that the Miss just ordered?" Thinking that his ears were playing tricks on him, the waiter sought for confirmation.

"That's right, three portions..." Lin Jiage repeated his order once more. A moment later, he changed it, "... Ah, no. What I mean is, three large portions."

It took a moment before Shi Yao realized that Lin Jiage was altering the volume of food according to the bowls of dumplings she'd had during their breakfast together. Astonished, she anxiously waved to the waiter and said, "No no no, don't listen to him! Just listen to my order, one large portion for every dish."

When the waiter finally left, Shi Yao turned her head back to Lin Jiage and explained, "We won't be able to finish three portions."

Lin Jiage calmly nodded as he explained his previous actions as well, "I thought that you'd need three portions—ah, no, it should be three large portions—of whatever you ate."

Shi Yao was sipping on her water and almost choked after hearing his sudden explanation.

It took a while before Shi Yao finally soothed the harsh sensation away, and she continued drinking her water. At this moment, Lin Jiage calmly continued where he left off, "If I think about it, we did order three large portions this time too. It's just that they're in different flavors."

And this time, Shi Yao really choked on her water... To others, having a handsome man to accompany them for dinner would whet their appetite, but for her, it was a life-threatening encounter! Who knew when he'd drop another remark during the meal that would choke her to death...

...

In the end, they added two more large portions of crayfish and cleaned those dishes up beautifully as well. Satisfied, Shi Yao took off her gloves.

Her hands were stained with oil, and even the wet tissue provided wasn't enough to clean them properly. After informing Lin Jiage that she was going to the bathroom, she left the table.

But ten minutes soon passed, she still wasn't back yet.

After secretly paying the bill, Lin Jiage waited patiently for Shi Yao's return. He soon felt that something was amiss, and this feeling was growing stronger by the moment. Thus, he reached out for his phone and called her.

The call was successful, but no one picked up on the other end.

Unable to remain seated, Lin Jiage took both his and Shi Yao's coats and left the compartment. He quickly asked the nearest waiter for directions to the bathroom before heading over hurriedly.

At the entrance of the bathroom, he saw Shi Yao.

But at this moment, there were a few additional figures standing around her.

Of the group, the person that stood out the most was a woman. In this slightly chilly weather of early spring, she was dressed in strangely revealing clothes.

She had heavy makeup on—smokey purple eyeliner paired with long and curly false eyelashes and dark-red lipstick.

Lin Jiage stared at her for some time, but he still couldn't recognize who she was.

But she then said, "I've been waiting for you for a very long time, Lin Jiage." It was only then that Lin Jiage finally recognized who she was.

Qin Yiran.