

**Chapter 171: He Won't Let Anyone Harm Even A Strand of Her Hair (1)**

Lin Jiage finally recognized who the woman in front of him was—Qin Yiran.

And as for those beside her, while he was unable to name them, he did have some impression of them. They were the people who had blocked Shi Yao's path at the entrance of G University a few days back, and the strikingly tanned, brawny man was amongst the group as well.

Other than them, there were also a few more people who clearly didn't look like students. A brutish air hung around them—they seemed to be those from the underworld.

Shi Yao was tightly surrounded in the middle of them. Upon catching sight of Lin Jiage, she immediately exclaimed, "Lin Jiage, hurry up and get away—"

Her voice was still as soft and gentle as ever, but before she could finish her sentence, her mouth was already muffled by the long-haired man standing behind her.

A hostile frown immediately darkened Lin Jiage's calm face. Without any hesitation, he stepped forward, intending to pull Shi Yao back from the hands of those thugs.

But before he could reach her, the tanned and brawny man had already blocked his path.

However, the one who spoke up was Qin Yiran who was standing nearby with her arms crossed, "Lin Jiage, don't waste your strength. There are too many of us here, so you won't be able to take her away by yourself."

As Qin Yiran spoke, she walked forward and took her place beside the tanned and brawny man.

Upon Qin Yiran's approach, the tanned and brawny man also casually placed his arm on her shoulder.

A hint of disgust flashed across the depths of Qin Yiran's eyes, but she didn't shake off his arm. She stared intently at Lin Jiage as she added coldly, "There's no way I'll let you take her away either.

"But you don't have to worry, I don't plan on doing anything to her yet. However, if you were to..." Qin Yiran tilted her head up and proudly assessed Lin Jiage from head to toe before continuing, "... displease me, I can't guarantee what will happen to her."

Lin Jiage, who had been quiet from the start, finally spoke up. Even though his words were directed at Qin Yiran, his gaze remained firmly fixated on Shi Yao, "I'm the one who provoked you. It has nothing to do with her at all. Let her go."

His words made Qin Yiran chuckle softly, as if she had heard the most hilarious thing in the world. She took out a cigarette and tilted it outward as one of the men lit it for her. She then continued, "Lin Jiage, do you take me for a fool? If I let her go, what would I use to threaten you? Besides, with so many of us here, there's nothing to fear from either of you. And if we do let her go, what if she goes and calls the cops on us?"

After saying those words, Qin Yiran placed the cigarette into her mouth and took a deep puff before exhaling a long stream of smoke.

Lin Jiage creased his forehead in deep disgust at the smell of the cigarette.

Taking in Lin Jiage's response, Qin Yiran chuckled softly. With a harsher tone from before, she scoffed, "Disgusted? But you were the one who made me like this."

"Let me tell you, Lin Jiage. I've spent too much time and effort following you around to prepare for this, so I'm not interested in wasting any more time with you. However, this isn't the place to settle things. Follow me if you want to, but let me warn you first, she's still in my hands."

After saying those words, Qin Yiran glanced at the tanned and brawny man beside her.

Receiving her hint, the tanned and brawny man shot a look at the surrounding men before walking out of the restaurant with his hand around Qin Yiran's waist.

Shi Yao's mouth was still being muffled, preventing her from speaking. However, while she was being dragged out by the group of men, her pair of bright, black eyes remained firmly fixated on Lin Jiage.

She shook her head slightly, indicating for him not to follow along. But even so, Lin Jiage could still see the panic and fear in the depths of her eyes.

## **Chapter 172: He Won't Let Anyone Harm Even A Strand of Her Hair (2)**

In that instant, he felt as if something had viciously grasped his heart, giving him pangs of excruciating pain.

The moment Shi Yao was dragged away, he moved his feet almost mindlessly, following her as if he were a remote-controlled robot.

He wasn't considering whether he'd be able to defeat these men or what would happen to him once he followed them. In that moment, his mind was dominated by just a single thought—since he'd duped a healthy Soft Bun out of her home, it was his duty to see that a healthy Soft Bun was delivered back to her home. He wouldn't let anyone harm even a strand of her hair.

Huge crowds made up of many groups walked to and fro the night street, so no one had taken note of the strange situation over at Lin Jiage and Shi Yao's side.

Many courtyard houses were built next to the streets, and only a few of them had people residing inside.

It was hard to say how Qin Yiran and her gang managed to break the lock on one of these courtyard houses, but the tanned and brawny man easily pushed open the doors to a courtyard house. He switched on its lights before walking in with Qin Yiran in his embrace.

The door of the courtyard house was extremely narrow, and only two men could pass at a time.

Perhaps fearing that an accident would occur while entering the courtyard house, one of the men was stationed behind Lin Jiage.

Shi Yao was in front of Lin Jiage, so while entering the courtyard house, Lin Jiage hastened his footsteps until he was just behind her.

A second later, Lin Jiage stepped into the courtyard house, Qin Yiran lit up another cigarette and asked, "Lin Jiage, I'll give you a choice. Between you and her, who do you think should come in to chat with me?"

But Lin Jiage didn't bother responding to Qin Yiran's question at all. After walking roughly a meter into the courtyard house, just as the man behind him had entered as well, he suddenly made his move.

His actions were swift and sudden, catching Qin Yiran's gang completely off guard. The long-haired man who was covering Shi Yao's mouth didn't even manage to release a yell before he was punched onto the ground. Following which, Lin Jiage grabbed Shi Yao's wrist and pulled her into his embrace before forcefully kicking the man behind him.

At this point, Qin Yiran and her gang had finally moved into action. While spitting vulgarities from their mouths, they swiftly swarmed around Lin Jiage and Shi Yao.

As the courtyard house wasn't very large, the distance between each individual wasn't too far. It took a mere second for the others to rush up to the two of them.

But paying no heed to the group before him, Lin Jiage lowered his head and whispered a single word to the young lady in his arms— "Run."

As soon as that word reached Shi Yao's ears, she suddenly felt a powerful force pressing on her back, pushing her out of the courtyard house. Before she could even steady herself, 'guang lang', the doors of the courtyard house behind her was already shut tight.

And Lin Jiage hadn't followed her out.

Shi Yao's first thought was to call the cops, but when she reached for her pocket, she realized that she hadn't brought her phone with her to the bathroom earlier. It was in the bag she had left in her seat.

Shi Yao's second thought was to barge inside the courtyard house and pull Lin Jiage out with her. She tried pushing on it, but it wouldn't budge.

She swiftly realized that Lin Jiage was jamming up the door.

She couldn't enter, and those men inside couldn't leave either.

That "Run" that he'd whispered was a reminder for her to sprint with all her might as soon as she was out of the courtyard house, all the way until she was finally safe... And from the very start, he had never intended to leave with her.

### **Chapter 173: Soft Bun, Happy Birthday (1)**

Shi Yao pursed her lips tightly in anxiety as she pushed the door with greater force than before.

The door still wouldn't budge. She couldn't see what was going on inside, but she could hear the foul insults and the sounds of punches and kicks sinking into flesh... and vaguely, the sound of someone groaning in pain as well.

Did that voice belong to Lin Jiage? Is he injured? Will he be okay?

He's only one person. He's facing against a gang of people, how can he possibly win?

Shi Yao knew that the rational choice in this situation would be to leave.

But it was as if someone had nailed her feet to the ground—she couldn't move at all. She smacked the door anxiously, frantically shouting Lin Jiage's name, wishing that he would just respond to her so that she'd know that he was still safe...

But despite her efforts, the person on the other end didn't speak a word.

And this left her feeling even more terrified and panicked.

She shouted his name to the point where her throat started to hurt. An unknown amount of time after she struck the door, a crack finally opened.

She saw that elegant young man kneeling down on his knee before her. His clean, white shirt had been stained with many footprints, and his neat and charming hairstyle had been messed up.

Shi Yao opened her mouth, but the voice which had been desperately calling out "Lin Jiage" all this while wouldn't make a sound.

She was so frightened when Qin Yiran and her gang surrounded her and blocked her way. In that instant, she didn't know where she found the courage, but she dashed unhesitatingly into the crowd to hug him tight.

She wanted to ask if he was in pain and whether he was really okay.

She wanted to beg Qin Yiran to stop hitting him, and if she was still angry and indignant, she could come for her instead.

But before she could say a word, Lin Jiage was already roaring at her like a ferocious beast, "I told you to f\*cking run away!"

But as if oblivious to his rage, she continued to run towards him, wanting to protect him from the attacking crowd.

Yet, somehow, he—who was just roaring at her a moment ago—had already pulled her into his embrace to protect her.

With her in hand, there was no way he could continue to fight back. Yet, Qin Yiran still had no intention of sparing him.

Completely protected by him, Shi Yao didn't feel the slightest pain from the gang's barrage of blows. However, she could still feel their punches and kicks through the tremors.

These men had been drinking, so the strength of their blows was completely unrestrained. Even though she couldn't feel a thing, she knew that it was bound to be extremely painful.

Yet, as if nothing was happening at all, he spoke with that familiar nonchalant and deep voice that she knew, "Shorty, are you dumb? I told you to run, so why did you come back here?"

This was the first time she felt that the term 'Shorty' coming from his mouth didn't sound that hateful.

She didn't respond to his question, and she had no idea how she should have responded either.

He spoke once more, "Shorty, what time is it now?"

How could you still be concerned about the time given our current situation!

"Forget it, you probably wouldn't know either..." Without waiting for her to respond, he continued, "... But, it's definitely not midnight yet..."

"Soft Bun, happy birthday."

"Happy birthday, Shi Yao."

Soft Bun, happy birthday. Happy birthday, Shi Yao...

Without any warning, Shi Yao's vision blurred. Tears began streaming down her cheeks.

While Qin Yiran couldn't hear their conversation, the whispers between them had caused her eyes to redden with fury.

Losing all rationality, she grabbed a nearby stick and swung it heavily toward Lin Jiage's head—

But before the stick could land, a racing car with blinding headlights abruptly stopped in front of the courtyard house with a piercing screech.

## **Chapter 174: Soft Bun, Happy Birthday (2)**

The car door opened, and the first thing that entered everyone's eyes was a pair of crimson high heels, followed by slender thighs, then a bright red dress along with silky black hair that reached the waist, and last but not least, an exquisite face which one could hardly find a flaw in.

While the others might be unable to name the mysterious figure who had just arrived, Lin Jiage and Shi Yao knew that person very well.

This was especially so for Lin Jiage. It was because this person was his elder sister, his blood-related sibling from the same father and mother.

Lin Jiayi got to her feet and slammed the car door forcefully. After swiftly sweeping over the surroundings in the courtyard house, she began walking over in her high heels with swift yet graceful footsteps.

She stopped right in front of Lin Jiage and Shi Yao and gazed unblinkingly at Qin Yiran.

Without saying a word, she snatched the stick from Qin Yiran's hand and threw it forcefully to the ground. Then, as if Qin Yiran and her gang didn't exist, she lowered her head to look at Lin Jiage and Shi Yao.

Lin Jiayi's first thought was to lecture Lin Jiage, but before the words could reach her mouth, she noticed the tears on Shi Yao's face. In an instant, her cold and lofty expression turned into one of gentleness and worry. "Yaoyao, did they bully you?"

As she spoke those words, a fiery rage filled with killing intent flickered across her eyes.

Shi Yao shook her head vehemently and replied, "They didn't bully me. They bullied him..."

Lin Jiayi knew that the 'him' referred to her younger brother, Lin Jiage, and she replied with a casual "Oh" as the killing intent she was emanating vanished without a trace. Following which, she directed a disdainful gaze toward Lin Jiage and said, "You can't even protect your woman. How could I have a brother as useless as you?"

Am I still your younger brother, a younger brother who came from the same father and mother?

Lin Jiage shot Lin Jiayi a glance, not bothering to say a word to her.

"You! What do you mean by that look?"

"Lin Jiage, speak! Are you chickening out here?"

"Lin Jiage, I'm talking to you! Are you listening at all?"

Lin Jiayi continued pressuring Lin Jiage into submission with her words, but she didn't receive any response at all. Halfway through her reprimands, the tanned and brawny man bellowed, "Who the f\*ck are you?"

However, not paying any heed to the tanned and brawny man, Lin Jiayi continued to stare at Lin Jiage, who wouldn't look at her, and put on more pressure, "Lin Jiage, have you been beaten silly by them that you forgot how to speak?"

Seeing that he was being ignored, the tanned and brawny man finally yelled with rage, "You b\*tch, I'm talking to you!"

Lin Jiayi seemed to lose her patience after being interrupted twice by the tanned and brawny man. Without even sparing him a glance, she uttered coldly, "Shut up."

"Hell, no one has ever dared to speak to me like this! I'm warning you to scram back to wherever you came from..."

Lin Jiayi was just about to continue her talk with Lin Jiage when she heard those words. She raised her head to look at the tanned and brawny man. "Are you talking to me?"

Lin Jiayi was born with a powerful disposition reminiscent of a queen. With just her words, she was able to scare the tanned and brawny man into silence for a moment.

Straightening up her body once more, she coldly took a step toward him as she questioned, "I'll ask you one more time. Were those words directed at me?"

The tanned and brawny man finally recovered from his daze. Even though he had been overwhelmed by Lin Jiayi's powerful presence, he felt that there was no way a female could possibly do anything to him. Thus, with the same ferocious and coarse voice, he bellowed, "That's right, I'm talking to—"

Before the tanned and brawny man could finish his sentence, Lin Jiayi had already raised her hand and forcefully slapped his face.

### **Chapter 175: The Final Boss (1)**

The slap resounded loudly throughout the entire courtyard house.

One could tell that it had definitely caused extreme pain just from the sound.

The tanned and brawny man didn't expect that the beautiful lady before him could actually slap him so viciously. It was as if his spirit had been slapped out of him—he was stunned for a long moment before he clasped a hand to his face and spat out with gritted teeth, "Hell, you actually dared to hit—"

Once again, before the tanned and brawny man could finish his words, Lin Jiayi was already raising her hand, and 'pah pah', two more red handprints appeared on his face.

This time, without even giving the tanned and brawny man the chance to react, she sent a kick right at his abdomen. After knocking him down, she rushed forward to give him a good pummeling without a care for his many companions nearby.

It was only after the tanned and brawny man started howling from the pummeling that his companions finally recovered from the shock of Lin Jiayi's overwhelming strength. They immediately charged towards Lin Jiayi as a group.

Upon seeing this sight, Shi Yao instinctively shouted, "Sis Jiayi!"

She wanted to remind Lin Jiayi to be careful, but before she could say the words "be careful", Lin Jiayi had already taken off her troublesome high heels. Holding a shoe in each hand, she imposingly ran towards the crowd of men.

Regardless of who was standing before her, as soon as she caught one in her grasp, she would smash that long and slender high heel on the other party's head. Before long, numerous cries of agony filled the courtyard house.

Compared to Shi Yao's worry and shock, Lin Jiage was visibly more composed.

Rubbing his aching back as he rose to his feet, he turned to Shi Yao and asked, "Are you okay?"

Shi Yao nodded obediently. She managed to tear her attention away from Lin Jiayi back to Lin Jiage and asked worriedly, "Are you okay? Are your wounds serious?"

As she asked, she gently reached out to touch Lin Jiage's body.

Her hands were small and gentle. Even though his shirt separated her touch and his skin, he still felt a tickling yet numbing sensation on his body.

Just like that, Lin Jiage's initial response of "I'm fine" froze within his throat.

The gaze which he directed at her gradually grew unnatural, and even the tip of his ears began to burn.

After Shi Yao confirmed that there weren't any bleeding wounds on Lin Jiage's body, she finally withdrew her hand. At this point, Lin Jiage seemed to suddenly recall something. He turned his head toward Lin Jiayi—who was still delightfully venting her excess energy—and said, "Hey, don't touch that long-haired guy. Leave him to me..."

Lin Jiayi took a look at the few remaining men who could hold themselves up, and her gaze finally fell on the long-haired man whom Lin Jiage seemed to be referring to.

A second later, she raised her feet and kicked that long-haired man to the ground.

Witnessing his sister kick him down, Lin Jiage exclaimed, "Hey hey! Didn't I tell you not to touch that guy? Stop it..."

But as if she couldn't hear Lin Jiage's words, Lin Jiayi lifted the up long-haired man again and smashed her fist powerfully into his face.

Amidst the groans of pain coming out from the long-haired man, Lin Jiage bellowed through gritted teeth, "Lin Jiayi, you're doing it on purpose, aren't you?! Didn't I tell you to leave him to me?"

The moment Lin Jiage finished his words, Lin Jiayi carried out a dashing one-armed shoulder throw and smashed the long-haired man onto the ground, rendering him incapable of standing up.

Then, as she turned around to settle the final three remaining men, she calmly shot a glance at Lin Jiage and replied, "Ah, my bad. You should have asked earlier."

## **Chapter 176: The Final Boss (2)**

"Lin Jiayi, is there something wrong with you? I told you to leave that long-haired guy alone way before you even hit him!"

"Lin Jiage, what in the world are you talking about? When did you say that to me? You were clearly speaking to 'Hey' and 'Hey Hey'!"

While Lin Jiayi spoke to Lin Jiage, she managed to knock down another two men.

Hearing her reply, Lin Jiage suddenly didn't feel like speaking to his sister anymore.

On the other hand, while chasing the last man standing, who happened to flee as soon as he caught sight of Lin Jiayi's figure, Lin Jiayi glanced at Lin Jiage and asked, "Lin Jiage, I'd like to know; who's 'Hey' and 'Hey Hey'?"

"Are you 'Hey', and Yaoyao is 'Hey Hey'? Or is Yaoyao 'Hey', and you're 'Hey Hey'?"

"In any case, I do know that my name isn't 'Hey' or 'Hey Hey'..."

As she spoke, she successfully pummeled the last man down onto the ground.



After which, she casually tossed her high heels to the ground before slipping her feet into them. She then tidied up her dress and hair, restoring her usual noble and graceful image, before walking elegantly toward Lin Jiage and Shi Yao.

While making her way over, Lin Jiayi caught sight of the about-to-flee Qin Yiran and paused her footsteps. She turned her head to gaze at the other girl.

Lin Jiayi didn't say a word, but her gaze was more than enough to terrify Qin Yiran into freezing on the spot.

Lin Jiayi assessed Qin Yiran from head to toe before pointing to the ground and said, "I don't hit girls, so drop to the ground yourself and pretend to be dead."

Qin Yiran bit her lips and stared at Lin Jiayi with a pale face, unwilling to move.

Lin Jiayi didn't seem interested in wasting any more time with Qin Yiran, so she bent down and picked up the stick that the latter had intended to hit Lin Jiage with and swung it at her.

A piercing scream immediately escaped from Qin Yiran's mouth as she squatted to the ground and huddled down, "I was wrong! I was wrong! Don't hit me! Don't hit me..."

Qin Yiran repeated those words for a very long time, but when she didn't feel any pain after a very long time, her voice slowly faded to a halt. It took a moment before she realized that she didn't get hit.

Shivering in fear, she hesitantly raised her head and saw that the stick had stopped right above her head.

That sight left her cowering back in fright, not even daring to breathe loudly.

"I was still wondering what kind of formidable person you were, but you're nothing more than a wimp!" Staring down at Qin Yiran, Lin Jiayi sneered in disdain. "You should know, a woman should pursue her love openly and respectfully. A woman like you will never be loved!"

After saying her piece, Lin Jiayi shot a glance at Lin Jiage and Shi Yao and said, "Let's go!"

...

After leaving the courtyard house, the passenger door to Lin Jiayi's car suddenly opened.

Xia Shangzhou frantically scrambled out from the car while clutching his chest desperately. His face pale, he shouted "Boss!" before bending over by the wall to throw up

So this was their boss's elder sister! No wonder their boss, whenever his sister was mentioned, would remark, "The final boss, one that can automatically regenerate her health points and mana points—a truly invincible existence!"

Back then, Xia Shangzhou was thinking about how beautiful their boss's sister was—her looks could easily shake down any ordinary celebrity eighteen streets away, so why would their boss speak of her as if she was a living nightmare?

It was only today that he realized that their boss's words were no exaggeration at all...

He was watching television back at the dormitory room when he suddenly received a pin location from his boss on WeChat. Before he could make sense out of what was going on, the door was suddenly forcefully opened, and a lady so beautiful that his nose almost bled walked in, demanding to know where Lin Jiage was—this woman was Lin Jiayi.

Thus, he showed the pin location to Lin Jiayi, who then requested him to follow her. Of course, who would turn down a request from a lady so beautiful, not to mention for a matter as small as this? However, from the moment he got on her car, he regretted his decision... Could that even be called driving? That was clearly drifting! Throughout the entire journey, he felt as if his organs had been flying all around his body as Lin Jiayi drove speedily over.

### **Chapter 177: Who In The World Wants a Flying Kiss From You (1)**

After she stopped the car, he'd had to rest until now before he barely regained his ability to move.

Yet, he hardly spoke two words after getting out of the car before he ended up vomiting...

That was really too scary... Can that existence really still be called a woman? That's clearly a demon! Compared to her, I feel like I'm the real woman over here!

On the other hand, seeing Xia Shangzhou getting out of his elder sister's car, Lin Jiage was startled for a moment before asking, "Why are you in my sister's car?"

Lin Jiayi interjected with an "Oh" before she began explaining composedly, "I was the one who brought him here. I went home first, but when I saw that you weren't there, I went to your school. After that, he gave me the pin location you tried to send me, so I stuffed him into my car as a GPS navigator."

"..." The young man who was busy puking by the wall could vaguely hear the sound of his own heart shattering into pieces.

GPS navigator... Was she referring to me?

Upon learning the situation, Lin Jiage nodded slightly before falling silent.

Lin Jiayi glanced at her two-seater racing car before asking Lin Jiage, "Did you drive?"

"I did," Lin Jiage paused for a moment before adding, "Grandpa's car is in the parking lot."

"Alright then, I won't have to lend my car to you and Yaoyao then." Lin Jiayi lowered her head to glance at the time. Without bothering to ask for their opinion, she made a decision and said, "I'll meet you at home in half an hour."

After which, Lin Jiayi shot Shi Yao a gentle smile and said, "Yaoyao, today is your birthday. I specially came back to give you a surprise. I left your present at home though, so I'll give it to you later."

Shi Yao: "Thanks, Sis Jiayi."

"Muah!" Lin Jiayi shot Shi Yao a flying kiss.

Hey, speak properly! Don't just send a flying kiss so casually, who in the world wants a flying kiss from you...

A cold frown immediately furrowed its way between Lin Jiage's brows as he stood forward, standing in between Shi Yao and Lin Jiayi. "We'll be leaving first then."

Lin Jiayi nodded, giving her permission. "Go on, go on."

Lin Jiage then softly told Shi Yao, "Let's go." It was only after Shi Yao turned around and left that he began to move too. Walking behind Shi Yao, he positioned himself between her and Lin Jiayi, serving as a human barrier to prevent any interaction between the two.

Seeing that Lin Jiage was leaving, Xia Shangzhou quickly suppressed his nausea and rushed toward the leaving duo, exclaiming anxiously, "Boss, wait for me! I want to leave with you two..."

"Leave, your head!" Lin Jiayi shot her leg out to trip Xia Shangzhou. Then, just as Xia Shangzhou was about to fall to the ground, her hand shot forth to grab his arm before tossing him back into her car. "What do you think you're doing sticking yourself between them? Do you really like being a third wheel that much? You're getting in my car!"

Upon hearing those words, Xia Shangzhou's knees caved in, and he nearly kneeled on the ground. "No! I-I mean, it's fine, Big Sis Lin. I can take a cab back. I've got enough money for that!"

Lin Jiayi replied cordially, "How can I let you go back on a cab? I was the one who brought you here, so it's my duty to see you back safely. You're Jiage's roommate, so why don't I invite you to our house to express my gratitude for your help?"

"I-it's really fine! Boss will invite me over himself..."

"What do you mean by that? Are you looking down on me?"

"No! O-of course not..."

"You'd better etch this into your mind—I am your boss's boss."

"I'm really not looking down on you! You don't know how much I look up to you—"

"Cut the crap, get on the car!"

...

Fifteen minutes later, Lin Jiayi stopped the car in the Lin Family Residence amidst the screeching of the brakes.

Twenty minutes later, Lin Jiage's car entered the Lin Family Residence. The car finally came to a halt, and Lin Jiage and Shi Yao left the car one after another. Only then did the pale-faced Xia Shangzhou, bent before a tree, finally managed to straighten his back once more.

**Chapter 178: Who In The World Wants a Flying Kiss From You (2)**

Lin Jiage shot Xia Shangzhou a strange look as he wondered in his mind, 'Is there something wrong with that guy? What's he doing over there instead of going inside?' However, these were the words that came out of his lips instead, "Where's my sis?"

Xia Shangzhou pointed to the brightly-lit interior and said, "She's inside."

Lin Jiage replied with an "Mm" as he entered the residence with Shi Yao and Xia Shangzhou.

They pushed the door open and changed into a set of indoor slippers, but before they could walk past the foyer into the living room, Lin Jiayi's voice was already calling out, "Is Yaoyao here yet? Yaoyao, hurry up and see what I bought you for your birthday!"

"Coming, Sis Jiayi!" Shi Yao replied before hastening her footsteps. But when she finally saw the spectacle in the living room, she halted.

Lin Jiage shot Shi Yao a questioning look as he glanced over at the living room as well.

Under Lin Jiayi's instructions, the servants of the Lin Family Residence had displayed everything that she had bought neatly on the ground.

Bags, shoes, clothes, accessories, lipsticks...

What was deeply eccentric about the displayed items was that there were actually many items of the exact same design, with the only difference between them being the color.

The last one to enter, Xia Shangzhou, also saw the sight before him—his eyes widened in shock, and his mouth was agape. He stood dumbfounded for a long while before he leaned toward Lin Jiage and whispered in his ears, "Boss, did your sis move an entire department store into your house?"

But before Lin Jiage could respond to Xia Shangzhou's remark, the keen-eared Lin Jiayi was already snapping back at him, "Is there a problem with this?"

"O-of course not, Big Sis Lin! I'm just impressed by how your individualism extends to your shopping habits as well!" Without any hesitation, Xia Shangzhou shot Lin Jiayi a thumbs up and complimented her.

Satisfied by Xia Shangzhou's response, Lin Jiayi generously explained to him, "Well, the truth is that I wasn't too sure what kind of style our Yaoyao likes at the moment, so I bought every color of everything I found fashionable so that our Yaoyao can pick what she likes best."

After saying this, Lin Jiayi walked up to Shi Yao and gently held her hands. "Yaoyao, there's no need to hold back with me. Feel free to pick whatever you like. You don't have to worry about the rest either; I'll use them myself."

So... Did she buy this stuff as a gift to Soft Bun, or is she using it as a reason to shop for herself?

Lin Jiage couldn't be bothered to expose Lin Jiayi, so he circled around the display of items and took a seat on the sofa. From time to time, his eyes would dart uncontrollably over to look at Shi Yao's hands, which were still being held by Lin Jiayi.

How long has she been holding her hand for? Isn't it about time to let go?

“Yaoyao, go ahead and pick out more of them. I bought a little too much this time, so I don’t think that I’ll be able to use them all myself...” After saying this, Lin Jiayi began bringing Shi Yao around the display of items, asking for Shi Yao’s opinion on each of them.

Hah, so you do have some self-awareness after all. You know that you bought too much... Lin Jiage inwardly grumbled as he stared intently at the hand that Lin Jiayi was still firmly holding onto. Thus, he casually dropped a remark, “Don’t you think that you’re making it difficult for her to look through those things by holding her hand like that?”

Lin Jiayi finally released Shi Yao’s hand and said, “I’ll leave you to pick out whatever you like. I’ll go drink some water.”

Shi Yao quickly picked out a few items which she liked before thanking Lin Jiayi.

Lin Jiayi didn’t ask Shi Yao to continue picking a few more items. Instead, she shot a glance at the servants by the side, gesturing them to put those items in her changing room upstairs.

When those items were finally packed up, Shi Yao suddenly recalled something, and she ran out of the residence.

Not too long later, she returned with a bag in one hand and fresh flowers in the other.

#### **Chapter 179: There’s a Limit To How Much A Person Can Brag (1)**

Not too long later, she returned with a bag in one hand and fresh flowers in the other.

Lin Jiage was talking to Xia Shangzhou when Shi Yao came back to the living room. He shot her a glance, but he didn’t pay too much attention to her actions.

On the other hand, Lin Jiayi was a little worried about how the servants would arrange her things. While she didn’t carry anything herself, she still headed up to supervise them.

After returning to the house, Shi Yao didn’t rush off to find Lin Jiayi. Instead, she placed the items she had gotten from the car onto the tea table before taking a seat herself. Then, grabbing a fork, she continued cleaning off the fruit plate which the servants had just served to them.

Upstairs, since Lin Jiayi hadn’t closed her bedroom door, the people in the living room could vaguely hear her smooth but decisive voice.

“If you put this here, where do you plan on placing that? Have you ever learned about aesthetics before? Placing bright red and bright green together is the perfect recipe for ugliness, don’t you know that?”

“If you can’t fit these lipsticks on the dressing table, can’t you think of another way? If I remember correctly, I bought quite a few storage boxes a while back. They’re being kept in the underground storage room. Bring some of them here, it should save some space...”

“Alright, this should be fine...”

In the living room, Xia Shangzhou's lips had never stopped moving, just that his voice wasn't as loud as Lin Jiayi's. "Boss, your sis sure is an amazing woman. She actually managed to beat down a group of men single-handedly! That was really an eye-opener for me!

"Boss, I think your sis is way scarier than you. I think I'm starting to get that idiom, 'there's always a person stronger than the strongest, and there's always a world outside the one we see' ...

"Boss, tell me the truth. Did you grow up being protected by your sis? Or maybe she beat you up a lot? You know, I'm starting to sympathize with you a little. It must've been tough, Boss..."

Shi Yao was in the middle of cleaning up the fruit platter when she heard the last few words that Xia Shangzhou said. She couldn't help turning a curious gaze toward Lin Jiage.

Noticing Shi Yao's gaze, Lin Jiage, who had been maintaining his silence in front of the incessantly-speaking Xia Shangzhou, finally spoke up, "Are you joking with me? Would I need her protection? Let me make this clear, even though she might look powerful on the surface, her skills are only just good enough to deal with those basic thugs. Against me, hehe..."

Shi Yao placed a cherry in her mouth as she stared at Lin Jiage, disbelief clearly reflected in the depths of her eyes.

Xia Shangzhou also assessed Lin Jiage from head to toe, and with an equally skeptical look, he replied, "Boss, there's a limit to how much a person can brag..."

Limit your head, I'm speaking the truth over here!

But the problem was that it was one thing for Xia Shangzhou to doubt him, but what was with Soft Bun's expression? He was only forced into that situation because he had to protect her!

Lin Jiage couldn't be bothered to argue with him, so he simply said, "You guys just wait. See how I knock her down when she comes down later..."

"Knock who down? Let me do it, let me do it..." Lin Jiayi was halfway down the stairs when she vaguely heard the latter half of Lin Jiage's sentence, and she immediately dashed down excitedly to the living room.

She first shot a glance at Shi Yao, but she swiftly rejected that notion, thinking that if Lin Jiage dared to knock her Yaoyao down, she would smack him to death with a pan. After which, she turned to look at Lin Jiage, but she quickly shook her head too. After all, who in the world would knock himself down? Last but not least, her gaze fell on Xia Shangzhou, and she said, "... Navigator, are we talking about knocking you down? Come—"

"No no no, Big Sis Lin! You have to calm down, calm down! Our boss was talking about knocking you down—" Xia Shangzhou immediately leaped up and fled, not forgetting to explain the situation while he was at it.

"Is that so..." Lin Jiayi retracted her feet, which was already on the verge of connecting with Xia Shangzhou's abdomen, before turning to look at Lin Jiage. A moment later, she took a seat on the sofa as well and said, "... Seeing that you've already been pummeled so badly, I'll spare you for today!"

## **Chapter 180: There's a Limit To How Much A Person Can Brag (2)**

Lin Jiage's eyebrows shot up. While his words were directed toward Lin Jiayi, his gaze remained fixated on Shi Yao, "Are you afraid?"

Lin Jiayi: "Me? Afraid? You should know, Lin Jiage, if Grandpa hadn't forbidden me from learning taekwondo when I was six, with all his talk about how ladies should strive to be dignified and demure, I would've knocked you out right now!"

The edges of Lin Jiage's lips twitched.

On any other day, I wouldn't expose your lies, but today is an exception. I can't let Soft Bun think that I can't do it...

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage coldly sneered a "Hehe" before refuting, "Did Grandpa refuse to let you learn taekwondo really because he wanted you to be demure? It's obviously because of that incident when you first entered primary school. You know, when the teacher invited the students up to introduce themselves and display their talents? You walked up to the blackboard and said, 'Nice to meet you all. I'm Lin Jiayi, and my talent is—', and then you lifted your leg and broke the teacher's table into two. You made an entire room full of children burst into tears that day, remember? For half a month, all the students were too scared to talk about you. Grandpa only stopped you from learning taekwondo because he was afraid you'd end up isolated and eccentric!"

Lin Jiayi immediately grabbed a nearby pillow and threw it at Lin Jiage, "Would you die if you couldn't say a word?"

Lin Jiage calmly leaned back, dodging the flying pillow.

The flying pillow flew past him and landed squarely on Xia Shangzhou's face.

Without the slightest sincerity in her voice, Lin Jiayi said, "My fault, Navigator."

Xia Shangzhou rubbed his aching nose, but he didn't dare to vent his indignation. "It's fine, it's fine, Big Sis Lin."

Upon seeing this sight, Shi Yao shot Xia Shangzhou an 'I'll pity you for a second' look before turning her undivided attention back to her fruit platter.

When she finally emptied out the fruit platter, she quickly recalled the official matter at hand. She called out, "Sis Jiayi!" before passing the fresh flowers on the table to Lin Jiayi. "This is for you."

A brilliant gleam immediately twinkled in Lin Jiayi's eyes, and a rare gentleness softened her facial features, "Yaoyao, is this a gift you prepared for me? But, how did you know that I'd be returning today? Oh, I love the present you got me, these flowers are really gorgeous..."

"That's not it, Sis Jiayi. These flowers aren't from me..." Shi Yao quickly shook her head to explain. "... they're from Lin Jiage..."

"Oh, is that so..." The gentleness on Lin Jiayi's face vanished into coldness the instant she heard that the flowers were from Lin Jiage.

However, considering that it was Shi Yao who was passing the flowers to her, she still chose to take them.

“Sis Jiayi, this too...” Shi Yao took out the accessory packages from the bag and pushed them over to Lin Jiayi. “... These are the gifts that Lin Jiage prepared for you. He said that you managed to clinch a big project recently, so he got these just to congratulate you on your success. He was going to have them shipped over to you, but your phone happened to be switched off at the time—”

“You said that Jiage called me?” Lin Jiayi asked doubtfully.

She did switch off her phone on the plane ride back home, but she didn’t receive any missed calls from Lin Jiage when she switched it back on after arriving.

Lin Jiayi was just about to continue probing when a certain young man, who had been sitting perfectly fine on the sofa a moment ago, suddenly groaned loudly as he bent forward with a pained expression.

Noticing his state, Xia Shangzhou immediately tensed up. “Boss! Boss! What’s wrong?”

Lin Jiage didn’t speak a word, but internally, he was thinking how glad he was that his roommate could still be reliable at a critical juncture such as this. On the surface, however, the furrows between his brows were deepening by the moment, as if he was in excruciating pain.