

WITH YOU 241

### Chapter 241: KFC, McDonald's, H?agen-Dazs, Yi Dian Dian (1)

Time slowly ticked by, but as the sun set in the west, dyeing the entire city orange, Lin Jiage still wasn't able to contact Shi Yao. Parking the electric scooter by the side of the road, he called Lin Jiayi.

The phone rang for a moment before cutting off. Then his phone vibrated, and a notification popped up on the screen.

Lin Jiayi:?[*Out with Mom. Client.*]

Lin Jiage thought for a moment before typing:?[*Do you have any friends that you're very close to?*]

While Lin Jiayi couldn't exactly be called a girl, she should still know a female's mind far better than him.

Lin Jiayi immediately replied:?[*I do.*]

A second later, another message came in from Lin Jiayi:?[*My very close friend is money.*]

Lin Jiage: "..."

A moment later, Lin Jiage typed on the keyboard and sent:?[*Can you give me something that can breathe?*]

Lin Jiayi:?[*Something that can breathe...*]

Lin Jiayi:?[*Then, the panda, our national treasure. It looks so expensive that it might even be worth more than money.*]

*I knew that I shouldn't have asked her..?.* Lin Jiage:?[*Another restriction. It should be a human.*]

Lin Jiayi:?[*Then you should've just asked who I was closest with from the start! What do you mean 'something that can breathe', who in the world taught you this language?*]

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Lin Jiage felt the urge to smash his phone.

Lin Jiayi:?[*The person I'm closest with is, of course, my little cutie Yaoyao.*]

*Soft Bun?*

Lin Jiage was unwilling to use Soft Bun even for a hypothetical situation, so he asked again:?[*Other than that?*]

Lin Jiayi:?[*Since you're asking me who I'm closest with, it's a given that there would only be one person. If there are two people, can they still be considered to be a close friend? Or do you have two people who you love the most in your heart? You might be able to love multiple people at once, but I can't. I'm walking down the faithful route, the faithful route!]*

*Alright, I'll acknowledge the first part, but what's with the second part??Faithful... Is this a term you should be using to refer to Soft Bun?*

Lin Jiage felt deeply displeased. Nevertheless, he still got to the main point:*[Fine. Take for example, if Yaoyao were to betray you, how would you feel?]*

In the WeChat messages, it showed Lin Jiayi was typing for some time before a message finally came in.

Filled with expectations, Lin Jiage tapped in to take a look:*[Yaoyao will never betray me.]*

Lin Jiage:*[Hypothetically.]*

Lin Jiayi:*[Such a hypothetical situation doesn't exist.]*

Lin Jiayi:*[I believe in Yaoyao.]*

Lin Jiayi:*[Do you not believe in Yaoyao?]*

Lin Jiage:*[This has nothing to do with whether I believe in her or not. Like I said, hypothetically! Do you know what hypothetically means? It means an example, a pseudo situation!]*

Lin Jiayi:*[The recipient rejects participating in your hypothetical situation.]*

Lin Jiage gritted his teeth:*[You forced me to marry you, the emperor, as your queen when we were kids. Isn't that a hypothetical situation too?]*

Lin Jiayi:*[Can you be compared to Yaoyao? You can be casually used in a hypothetical situation, but not Yaoyao. No means no!]*

Lin Jiage immediately whipped out his trump card:*[Offer a price. How much will it cost to make you willing to do this hypothetical situation?]*

Lin Jiayi:*[No price will do.]*

*Damn it, she's not taking the carrot or the stick?*

Giving up, Lin Jiage backed out of his WeChat and continued calling Shi Yao.

He tried three times, but all three were in vain.

After hanging up the phone, he saw that Lin Jiayi had messaged him:*[Don't think that I don't know that this is another one of your little schemes. If I did this hypothetical situation with you, you would definitely threaten to give this chat record to Yaoyao and blackmail me into giving back your money. I'm telling you right now, I won't fall for your trap!]*

## **Chapter 242: KFC, McDonald's, H?agen-Dazs, Yi Dian Dian (2)**

*Are you a lunatic... Who in the world is trying to scheme against you? Like anyone is bored enough to do that!*

Lin Jiage continued dialing Shi Yao's number, but before he could press call, another message from Lin Jiayi came in:*[You're such a sinister person, so sinister that you send shivers down my spine.]*

*Shiver more, then..?*

Ignoring Lin Jiayi's message, Lin Jiage continued dialing Shi Yao's number.

Many calls later and still no one picked up at the other end. Just as Lin Jiage thought his efforts would end up useless, the call finally connected. Shi Yao's voice sounded from the other end, "Hello?"

Before the call connected, Lin Jiage had countless words he wanted to ask Shi Yao.

*Are you okay? Are you feeling sad? Are you...*

But when she finally picked up his calls, he found himself at a loss for words instead.

He only jolted out of his daze state after she spoke again, "Lin Jiage?"

Lin Jiage blinked his eyes before asking, "Why didn't you pick up my calls?"

Shi Yao: "I switched my phone to silent. I only saw your calls a second ago..."

*Phew...? Lin Jiage heaved a sigh of relief. So that's what happened...*

"About that..." Perhaps due to Lin Jiage's prolonged silence, Shi Yao spoke up once more. "... Did something urgent happen? Why did you call me so many times?"

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"I..." In this instant, Lin Jiage wasn't too sure how he should answer her.

Her voice still sounded normal at the moment, but if he said that his older sister told him about what happened with Liang Mumu, would that be peeling at her scab?

Lin Jiage thought deeply about what to do. But in spite of that, when she called out "Lin Jiage" once more through the phone, these were the words that thoughtlessly escaped from his mouth, "Don't you still owe me a meal?"

After asking this question, Lin Jiage wanted to bite his tongue off.

*You pig head, can't you find a better excuse than that?*

On the other end, Shi Yao quickly replied, "Oh, that's right. Don't worry, I haven't forgotten about that. So, you're calling me to get that meal back? Sure. How about later? I happen to be free tonight."

Lin Jiage didn't want to confirm it, but it seemed a little too late at this point. He could only force himself to spit out a word of agreement, "Alright."

Shi Yao: "I'll choose a place and send the address to you later. Let's meet right at the place?"

"Why don't you tell me where you are? I'll pick you up." Lin Jiage glanced at the electric scooter he had borrowed, and after some thought, he decided that it could somewhat be considered as a car. So, he added, "I have a car."

"Is that so? Alright then..." Shi Yao said, "... I'm currently at the entrance of KFC."

*Ah... Beijing has at least a hundred KFC stores. How do you expect me to look for you with such a vague description?*

Lin Jiage: "Are there any other landmarks aside from KFC?"

"Let me take a look..." A second later, Shi Yao added, "... There's also a McDonald's too..."

*That sure is helpful...?* Lin Jiage was rendered speechless.

Seeing that Lin Jiage wasn't speaking, Shi Yao continued, "Other than McDonald's, there's a Hagen-Dazs by the side, and next to Hagen-Dazs is a Yi Dian Dian. Their milk tea is really delicious. It's about to be dinner time soon, but their queue is still incredibly long..."

*Lady, do you only recognize landmarks that are related to food?*

Noting that Lin Jiage still wasn't speaking, Shi Yao's voice continued, "How long will it take you to come over? I'll go queue up at Yi Dian Dian now. I should be done by the time you arrive. Do you want a drink too? Their matcha milk tea is heavenly, I love it! Is it okay if I order the same thing for you too?"

### **Chapter 243: You're the One Treating, I'll Listen to You (1)**

*You're Soft Bun; whatever pleases you.*

Lin Jiage replied, "Sure."

A momentary pause later, Lin Jiage added, "Take a photo of the opposite street and send it to me."

Shi Yao: "Sure, no problem."

Thirty seconds after hanging up, Shi Yao sent him the photo.

Tapping on the photo to enlarge it, Lin Jiage noted that the focus of the photo was a restaurant.

*"..."? Really, is there only food in the eyes of a glutton? If stuck tidbits all over my body, would Soft Bun's eyes remain completely fixated on me?*

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage enlarged the photo and finally saw a distinctive landmark in the background. This allowed him to roughly determine Shi Yao's current location.

In order to reach Shi Yao, Lin Jiage would have to pass by the school. Thus, he pondered for a moment and decided to make a call to his home's driver, instructing him to drive over to school and wait for him.

...

It was Sunday, and Shi Yao wasn't in an area where crowds tended to gather, so the traffic condition was quite smooth. About twenty minutes later, Lin Jiage arrived at the Yi Dian Dian branch which Shi Yao had talked about.

Before stopping the car, he swiftly glanced out the window and caught sight of Shi Yao's silhouette.

She was still queuing up, and there was only one person left in front of her.

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Lin Jiage smoothly parked his car by the side of the road. He picked up his phone before getting off the car, making his way towards Shi Yao.

Just a moment after he arrived by her side, he heard her light and sweet voice, "Two cups of matcha milk tea with?milk foam?¹?."

The cashier swiftly made the order for Shi Yao before saying, "That will be 40 RMB."

"Alright..." Shi Yao replied as she looked down to grab her purse.

But before she could take it out, Lin Jiage had already removed a hundred yuan note from his pocket and passed it over to the cashier, "Take mine."

Stunned, Shi Yao turned her head towards Lin Jiage and said, "But we agreed that I would treat you to milk tea..."

"It's fine..." Lin Jiage replied casually as he took the change and receipt from the cashier and walked over to the collection counter.

Shi Yao followed behind him.

Since it was only 40 RMB, Shi Yao decided not to squabble with Lin Jiage over it. Nevertheless, she still said her thanks.

Lin Jiage didn't respond to Shi Yao's thanks, but his eyes kept drifting over to her face as he silently assessed her expression.

She looked no different from normal. Her face which rarely had makeup on was clean as usual, and her eyes were also perfectly clear.

But if one were to look closely, it was obvious that there was a hint of dejection in between her brows.

*In the end, it seems like the matter with Liang Mumu still affected her mood?*

*But that's only to be expected... It's easy to rationalize something internally, but it's always hard to carry out in action. People always say that betrayals should be dealt with promptly and decisively, but when the deed is actually done, who can really avoid bleeding on the inside?*

*There were some memories that could only wear down through the passage of time...*

Not too long later, it was their turn to collect their drinks.

Lin Jiage took the milk tea and then led Shi Yao to his car.

It was only after Shi Yao finally fastened her seatbelt that Lin Jiage took out a cup, poked in a straw, and passed it over to Shi Yao. "What do you want to eat?"

Taking the milk tea, Shi Yao said her thanks before returning the question, "Is there anything you prefer?"

Lin Jiage: "I'm fine with anything."

He then paused for a moment before adding, "You're the one treating, I'll listen to you."

"Alright then..." While biting on her straw and sipping her milk tea, Shi Yao took out her phone and quickly browsed through the net. A moment later, she turned over and asked, "Shall we eat? Szechuan cuisine?"

## **Chapter 244: You're the One Treating, I'll Listen to You (2)**

The spicy-adverse Lin Jiage unhesitatingly nodded and replied smoothly, "Sure."

Shi Yao placed her phone in front of Lin Jiage and said, "Let's go to Shu Garden. This is the address..."

Having grown up in Beijing, Lin Jiage only had to take a look at the address of the restaurant for him to roughly know its location. He nodded slightly to gesture that he knew where to go before driving his car.

Along the way, Lin Jiage looked as if he was earnestly driving his car as he stared at the road ahead of him, but the truth was that his mind was actually busy spinning over other matters.

Even though he had found an excuse to meet up with her by saying that she owed him a meal, he wasn't about to actually let her treat him... But what excuse could he come up with that would let him foot the bill naturally?

Just as they were about to arrive at the restaurant, Lin Jiage looked in the rear mirror and spotted the bag that Shi Yao casually placed by her side.

If he hid her bag, she definitely wouldn't be able to pay the bill... But her bag was a little too big, so it wouldn't be easy to hide it. And she would definitely reach for her bag when getting off the car. Thus, this plan was unlikely to work.

At the last minute, Lin Jiage decided to change his target to Shi Yao's purse.

Given the bag's size, she would definitely keep a close eye on it at all times. But the same couldn't be said about her purse...

Lin Jiage swiftly scanned the road ahead of him. Then, he drove his car to the outermost lane and searched for the nearest exit out of the main road, before finally driving into an alley.

The alley was filled with cars and bicycles, so it wasn't easy to pass through it. After driving in for a moment, he found that the road had become so narrow that his car couldn't pass through it, so he could only slowly reverse out of the alley.

He reversed the car for some distance, then drove forward a little, as if trying to create some space so that he could reverse out of the alley. However, that seemed to be of little help, and he ended up repeating the same actions again and again. Seemingly left with no choice, he could only turn to Shi Yao apologetically and say, "Sorry, but can you get down and help guide me from outside?"

"Sure." Not finding anything wrong with the request, Shi Yao nodded and got out of the car.

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Lin Jiage could obviously reverse out of the alley with ease, but he still lowered his window and asked non-stop, “Is there space to reverse to the right?”

“What about the left?”

“There’s no problem reversing like that, right?”

Under Shi Yao’s ‘assistance’ and ‘leadership’, Lin Jiage finally managed to back out of the alley. Then, he turned to her and said, “Move back a little further. I’m worried that I’ll accidentally hit you...”

When he saw Shi Yao backing away about ten meters as per his instructions, he swiftly reached for Shi Yao’s bag on the passenger’s seat.

The first time, he dug out a packet of sweets.

The second time, he dug out Shi Yao’s phone.

The third time, he dug out an apple.

*An apple... Isn’t she afraid of making her bag too heavy?*

Lin Jiage speechlessly toss the apple back into the bag. He continued fumbling around the bag and before long, he came into contact with something soft. He couldn’t tell what it was, so out of sheer curiosity, he took it out to take a look. It had a greenish, flowery appearance, but he could still recognize what it was—sanitary pads.

Lin Jiage’s ears reddened a little. As he reversed the car, he continued fumbling around Shi Yao’s bag, and after coming into contact with several energy bars, he finally found a very small purse.

*Did she intentionally get herself a small purse so that she’d have more space to store food in her bag?*

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage unhesitatingly took out Shi Yao’s purse and threw it beneath the passenger’s seat.

### **Chapter 245: I’ll Listen To Any Opinion That You Have (1)**

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage unhesitatingly took out Shi Yao’s purse and threw it beneath the passenger’s seat.

He checked again and again to ensure that the purse was well-hidden, then reversed the car over to Shi Yao’s side and unlocked the car door.

Shi Yao got in the car, and Lin Jiage calmly drove the car to the restaurant entrance.

After safely parking the car in place, Lin Jiage waited for Shi Yao to leave the car with her bag before he took off his safety belt and headed down as well.

Entering the restaurant, a waitress swiftly led them to an empty table. Along the way, Lin Jiage couldn’t help but notice two QR codes on the wall—one for AliPay and the other for WeChat Pay... This restaurant supported AliPay and WeChat Pay?

*So, even though I hid her purse, it was all for nothing? I actually have to hide her phone as well?*

*Faint... Why did society have to progress so quickly?*

Lin Jiage calmly pulled his chair out and took a seat as he shot a glance toward Shi Yao's phone.

Since they were sitting face to face, Lin Jiage could clearly see that the energy bar on the top-right corner of Shi Yao's phone was already blinking red.

*That means that her phone is running out of battery...*

Lin Jiage lowered his gaze and did a swift mental calculation before he beckoned for a waitress and said impassively, "We'd like to order now."

The waitress passed him a menu with a smile as she replied, "Sure."

Lin Jiage took the menu, but he passed it over to Shi Yao right after, saying, "You order. I can eat anything."

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Shi Yao didn't stand on ceremony either, and she started ordering a couple of dishes. From time to time, she would turn to Lin Jiage and ask, "Is this alright?"

Lin Jiage would nod nonchalantly in response. But while Shi Yao was busy ordering, he suddenly whipped out his phone, tapped into his WeChat, found Xia Shangzhou's name, and sent him a [?]??. Then, he placed his phone on the table and continued watching Shi Yao order the dishes.

Roughly a minute later, Lin Jiage's phone rang. Xia Shangzhou had responded to his WeChat message: [Boss, is something wrong?]

Instead of replying to Xia Shangzhou's message, he chose to call him. At the same time, he pointed to his phone with his free hand, gesturing to Shi Yao that he needed to pick up a call.

The call quickly connected. Completely ignoring whatever Xia Shangzhou was rambling about on his side, Lin Jiage randomly said, "Mr. Xia, it's a pleasure to talk to you."

The phone was silent on the other end for three whole seconds before Xia Shangzhou's quivering voice sounded, "Boss, did you dial the wrong number?"

Paying no heed to Xia Shangzhou's words, Lin Jiage continued, "Mr. Xia, is it a convenient time for you to talk?"

At this point, Xia Shangzhou's voice wasn't just quivering anymore, it was trembling, "B-boss, I'm very convenient! Feel free to ask me to do anything, just don't call me Mr. Xia!"

Lin Jiage: "Very well. I just read the message you sent me, and it seems like you have some opinions you would like to raise to me..."

Xia Shangzhou: "No, definitely not! I don't have any opinions about you at all! Boss, you are my sky, my earth, and my air! How could I possibly have any opinions about you..."



Lin Jiage: "It's not as convenient to talk through texts, so if you don't mind, let's discuss this over the phone instead. It would be easier for us to get our views across that way. Alright, feel free to raise any opinions that you might have..."

Xia Shangzhou: "Daddy, I was wrong! I shouldn't have secretly sold two bottles of Mai Dong to our neighbors and used the money to buy duck neck..."

Lin Jiage: "Don't worry, I'll listen to any opinion that you have, so feel free to speak..."

Xia Shangzhou: "Alright then, Daddy. I admit. It wasn't two bottles, it was twenty bottles...But Lu Benlai was the one who came up with the idea! I'm just his accomplice..."

## **Chapter 246: I'll Listen To Any Opinion That You Have (2)**

Lin Jiage: "Mr. Xia, what are you talking about? Why would I be angry?"

Xia Shangzhou: "Daddy, I beg of you to let me off! I'll confess, alright? I'll confess to everything! This afternoon, I couldn't find any socks to wear, so I took a new one from your cupboard! I'll buy you a new pair after this, no, I mean ten pairs! Also, I accidentally used the wrong hand towel after washing my hands yesterday. I know that you value your cleanliness, so I'll get you a new one too... There should be nothing else other than that..."

Lin Jiage: "Mr. Xia..."

Xia Shangzhou: "Alright, alright! Let me think... There's still... still... There was one time I didn't have any tissues, so I took a packet from your cupboard... But it was really just once, I promise! I really didn't—"

Before Xia Shangzhou could finish his words, Lin Jiage had already pressed down on the power button of his phone and forcefully shut it off. Then, acting as if his phone had run out of battery, he desperately pressed on the 'Home' button before eventually turning to Shi Yao, "I have some urgent matters to handle at the moment, but my phone just ran out of battery. Can I borrow your phone for a moment?"

Without the slightest doubt for Lin Jiage's words, Shi Yao unhesitatingly passed her phone to him.

Lin Jiage didn't take the phone straight away, and he glanced at the pitch-black screen instead.

Shi Yao was stunned for a moment before she understood what his look meant. She quickly unlocked the screen with her fingerprint, and Lin Jiage finally took the phone with a "Thanks".

He called Xia Shangzhou once more and continued, "Mr. Xia, my apologies. My phone ran out of battery earlier. Please continue sharing what you were saying just now..."

"B-B-B-B-B-Bosss?" Xia Shangzhou stuttered for quite a while before he cried tearfully, "I already confessed to everything just now, for real! Boss, if I'm still holding something back from you right now, I'll be your son..."

"Boss, at least I'm willing to admit my mistakes, but that grandson of mine, Lu Benlai, he's done far worse than that! Boss, just two days ago, he stepped over your bed with his dirty feet just because it was faster for him to grab a Mai Dong... Also, I've been obediently following your rule of drinking at least

three bottles of Mai Dong a day, but Lu Benlai didn't. He secretly poured them into the toilet bowl and flushed them down... Also also, Lu Benlai's also been bragging to other people about your laptop! He secretly took a selfie with it and claimed that it's a laptop that he just bought..."

Amidst Xia Shangzhou's endless confessions, Shi Yao's phone beeped in warning, signaling that the battery was on the verge of running out.

Lin Jiage took a look at the screen—there was only 1% of the battery left.

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He didn't rush to return the phone back to Shi Yao, continuing to place it by his ear and replying courteously, "Mr. Xia, I have taken down what you told me, and I'll earnestly think over your opinions and give you a response then..."

"Boss, you really don't have to take down what I said or give me a response, I'll do whatever you want me to do, so please..."

As Xia Shangzhou desperately wailed, Lin Jiage unhesitatingly hung up the phone before passing it back to Shi Yao with a polite "Thanks".

As Shi Yao reached out to take her phone from his hand, he glanced down at Shi Yao's phone screen, and as he'd planned, the phone automatically shut down because the power had run out. Thus, with an apologetic tone, Lin Jiage said, "I'm terribly sorry, I accidentally used up your phone's battery."

### **Chapter 247: I'll Write You An IOU (1)**

Their food had already been served on the table by the time Lin Jiage got off the phone.

Shi Yao had been stuffing some food into her mouth when she heard Lin Jiage's words. Not in a convenient state to speak, she could only shake her head in response.

While she was taking her phone from Lin Jiage's hands, she noticed the deep look of guilt in Lin Jiage's eyes. She quickly swallowed whatever she was chewing and looked at Lin Jiage with her large, earnest eyes, "It's fine."

Perhaps it was her sincere expression that convinced Lin Jiage, but the latter finally retracted his gaze and picked up his chopsticks.

...

After the meal, Shi Yao called over the waitress for the bill.

Unlike before, Lin Jiage didn't argue with her for the bill this time around. Instead, he leisurely leaned back on his seat, watching as the waitress delivered the bill into Shi Yao's hands.

Shi Yao took a look at the total price before asking, "Can I pay by WeChat Pay?"

The waitress replied, "Sure."

So, Shi Yao reached out for her phone, but when the screen refused to light up after she pressed the power button, she suddenly remembered that Lin Jiage had used up her battery earlier. Thus, she flashed an apologetic smile to the waitress and said, "I just remembered that my phone is out of battery. I'll pay by card instead."

"Sure, Miss." As she spoke, the waitress began typing in the sum on the card reader.

Shi Yao rummaged through her bag, but perhaps she discovered that she couldn't feel her wallet, but she brought the bag closer and lowered her head, searching through it seriously.

Time slowly ticked by, and when Shi Yao's hands whipped out a certain greenish, flowery packaging for the second time, Lin Jiage suddenly recalled how he'd touched that packaging earlier as well and blushed in embarrassment. He cleared his throat and asked, "What's wrong?"

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Having rummaged through her bag three times, Shi Yao turned to Lin Jiage with a distressed look and said, "I think... I might have forgotten to bring my purse..."

*Ah? I assumed you would anxiously say that you lost your purse, but instead, you're saying that you forgot to bring it... This memory span... Is everything else not as important as food?*

Lin Jiage was silent for a moment before he whipped out his wallet from his pocket, "It's fine, I'll pay."

After swiping his card and signing on the receipt, Lin Jiage and Shi Yao rose to their feet and walked out of the restaurant, one after another.

A second after getting in the car, Shi Yao spoke up with a reddened face, "About that... I wasn't trying to get out of paying for the meal. I really forgot to bring my purse..."

And as if Lin Jiage wouldn't believe her, Shi Yao even opened up her bag and passed it over to him.

Since she had messed up the contents of her bag after rummaging through it, a certain greenish, flowery packaging happened to be at the very top. Catching sight of it, Lin Jiage's face burned a little as he replied with an unfathomable "Mm" and then averted his gaze.

On the other hand, Shi Yao noticed Lin Jiage's reaction and didn't know what to make of his response.

*He's the one who called her and asked her to pay back the meal she owed him, but it ended up with him paying the tab. Does he really think that I did it intentionally?*

This thought left Shi Yao feeling uneasy inside. Thus, she spoke up softly once more, "I'm really not trying to avoid buying you a meal. Why don't we do this instead? I'll pay you back for the meal just now, so treat it like I borrowed some money from you. Or maybe I can write an IOU and sign it right here for you?"

Lin Jiage's eyes remained firmly fixated on the road ahead of him as he replied, "There's no need for that."

"If that won't work, why don't I treat you to two meals, no, I mean three..." Before Shi Yao could finish her words, she caught sight of something through the car windows and abruptly fell silent.

## Chapter 248: I'll Write You An IOU (2)

Noting that Shi Yao had abruptly stopped talking, Lin Jiage shot her a perplexed glance and saw that her attention had been captured by something beyond the car windows. Thus, he traced her line of sight.

She was looking at two girls.

One of them was holding onto a box of fried chicken while the other was holding onto a cup of ice cream.

*Did she forget what she about to say after seeing other people holding food? She can't even look away from it?*

*Did she have to be so gluttonous? How embarrassing...*

Lin Jiage slapped his forehead helplessly, and he made up his mind to buy her some fried chicken and ice cream later so that she wouldn't have to look at other people with envy...

A second after this thought formulated in his mind, Lin Jiage suddenly saw the girl holding the fried chicken placing a drumstick into the mouth of the girl holding the ice cream. Shortly after, the girl holding the ice cream scooped a spoonful of ice cream and fed it into the mouth of the girl holding the fried chicken. As the two girls fed one another, satisfied smiles surfaced on their lips.

In that instant, Lin Jiage seemed to have noticed something, and he quickly turned to look at Shi Yao.

As the young lady stared at the joyous pair of friends, she seemed to have raked up some past memory in her mind, and her eyes looked a little distant.

Even though her face didn't express a lot of emotion, her slightly pursed lips still revealed hints of her dejection.

*Did I misunderstand? She got distracted not because of the food in their hands but because their actions had reminded her of... Liang Mumu?*

*So, even though she looks fine on the surface, she's unhappy on the inside?*

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage slowed down his car before gradually coming to a stop by the roadside.

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Shi Yao had been staring fixedly at the two girls beyond the car window, but after noticing that the car had stopped, she turned her head towards Lin Jiage with a puzzled look.

Meeting her gaze, Lin Jiage pointed to the nearby KFC and said, "I need to go to the bathroom."

Shi Yao nodded slightly. After Lin Jiage got off the car, her gaze slowly drifted back to the two girls.

At this point, they had already walked far away, so she could only see their silhouettes. But through their slight movements, she could still feel the intimacy and joy between the two of them... She couldn't help but remember how simple and happy her days with Liang Mumu had been back then...

...

Barely after taking a few steps into the KFC, Lin Jiage turned to look at Shi Yao in the car.

The young lady had turned her sights back to the two girls, and perhaps it was because he wasn't around, but the dejection and regret on her face were much more visible than before...

He couldn't help but feel a slight ache in his heart.

A second later, he turned around and walked further into the KFC. He took out his phone, switched it on, and first logged onto the game. Seeing that Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou were both online, he proceeded to head to Lu Benlai's WeChat and typed: *[Half an hour later, let's meet in the KTV? near our school.]*

Lu Benlai quickly replied: *[Boss, I have a cold and a mild fever. Can we meet up another day?]*

*Heh... A cold and a fever, and you're still playing games?*

Ignoring Lu Benlai's question, Lin Jiage typed: *[I heard that two days ago, in order to quickly get to the Mai Dong, you stepped on my bed with your dirty feet?]*

Before Lu Benlai could respond, Lin Jiage had already begun crafting his next message.

But halfway through, Lu Benlai sent a 'pitiful' emoji over before adding: *[Boss.]*

Disregarding Lu Benlai's attempts to act coy, Lin Jiage continued typing: *[The 3 Mai Dong a day quota, I heard that you fed your Mai Dong to the toilet bowl instead?]*

### **Chapter 249: Coaxing Yaoyao (1)**

Lu Benlai replied with a 'pitiful emoji' before sending: *[Daddy...]*

Again, ignoring Lu Benlai's message, he continued as if he was doing a monologue: *[In order to brag to others, you hugged my laptop and took a selfie, claiming that you just bought it?]*

Lu Benlai sent a 'kneeling' image before hurriedly adding: *[The recipient is currently on his way over to the stated KTV and will arrive in roughly ten minutes. So, he will be unable to respond to your messages for the time being. He seeks your understanding for this matter.]*

*Wouldn't it be so much better if you did that right from the start? I really wasted my time typing those words out.*

Lin Jiage continued typing swiftly: *[There won't be an understanding for you but a request: to coax Yaoyao.]*

Lu Benlai: *[What?]*

Lu Benlai: *[Boss, how can I do that? Little Junior belongs to you, so if anyone should coax her, it should be you! And if my future wife finds out that I went to coax Little Junior, wouldn't she make me kneel on durians?]*

Is Lu Benlai haggling with me?

Lin Jiage couldn't even be bothered to type anymore. He copied the message above and sent it again: *[I heard that two days ago, in order to quickly get to the Mai Dong, you stepped on my bed with your dirty feet?]*

*[The 3 Mai Dong a day quota, I heard that you fed your Mai Dong to the toilet bowl instead?]*

Lu Benlai: [Alright, alright! I'll do it, alright?]

*You should have done that right from the start...*

After dealing with Lu Benlai, Lin Jiage tapped into Xia Shangzhou's WeChat and began typing out a message.

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Having learned his lesson from Lu Benlai, he was much more decisive and concise this time around: *[Half an hour later, let's meet in the KTV near our school.]*

*[There's only one request: coaxing Yaoyao.]*

*[I won't accept any rejection because—]*

[You secretly took twenty bottles of Mai Dong and sold them to the neighbors at a discounted price, and then used the money earned to buy duck neck for yourself.]

*[You took a pair of socks from my cupboard because you didn't have any to wear this afternoon.]*

*[You accidentally used my hand towel after washing your hands.]*

Before Lin Jiage could finish sending his entire string of messages, Xia Shangzhou had already replied: *[Daddy, rest assured! It's only right that I help you coax Mommy. Only when Mommy is happy will I be happy as well. I'll definitely use everything I have at my disposal to bring a smile to Mommy's face!]*

Lin Jiage finally stopped typing after seeing those words. He backed out of his chat with Xia Shangzhou and tapped into the chat with Lin Jiayi. There, he sent a pin location and typed: *[Half an hour later, this KTV.]*

In order to avoid Lin Jiayi's expensive appearance fee, he added: [Yaoyao will be there.]

For quite a while, the screen displayed that Lin Jiayi was typing, and this was the eventual message that Lin Jiage received: *[At first, I decided on the prices of my appearance fee—8,888 for an hour, 18,888 for two hours, and 28,888 for three hours. However, for the sake of my Yaoyao, I'll waive those fees this time around!]*

Lin Jiage didn't respond to Lin Jiayi's message. Putting away his phone, he walked out of the KFC and returned to the car.

After fastening his seatbelt, Lin Jiage glanced at Shi Yao and asked, "You don't have to worry about tonight's dinner. If you really feel bad, why don't you join me for a gathering?"

Shi Yao stared at Lin Jiage and blinked her eyes in confusion. "Gathering?"

Instead of replying to Shi Yao's question, Lin Jiage asked, "Can you drive?"

Shi Yao nodded. She obtained her driving license during the summer break after she took the National Higher Education Entrance Examination.

Lin Jiage nodded. As he turned the steering wheel to move the car out of its parking lot, he continued with a nonchalant tone, "I'm probably going to get drunk during the gathering, and I won't be able to drive by then. If you really feel bad, you can chauffeur me around later on. The tip will be tonight's dinner."

## **Chapter 250: Coaxing Yaoyao (2)**

Their earlier dinner had cost a total of 367 RMB... Didn't her chauffeuring service seem to be a little too overpriced?

Feeling that it wouldn't be right to take advantage of Lin Jiage like that, Shi Yao pondered for a moment before proposing, "Why don't we do it this way instead? I'll chauffeur you around today as an apology and to show my gratitude, so you don't have to pay me for that. As for the dinner, I think that I should still pay you back..."

Thinking that it was a good idea, Shi Yao turned her head to Lin Jiage and asked, "What do you think?"

*My main goal is to get you to attend the gathering anyway; the process doesn't matter...*

With this thought in mind, Lin Jiage replied, "Up to you."

...

By the time Lin Jiage and Shi Yao arrived at the KTV near their school, Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou had already gotten a room and were waiting inside.

Pushing the door open, Lin Jiage was immediately given a warm welcome by the blackmailed Lu Benlai, "Boss!"

Xia Shangzhou also greeted him with a voice that was even more jovial than Lu Benlai's, "Boss!"

Ignoring those two, Lin Jiage immediately stepped aside to let Shi Yao enter.

Upon seeing Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou, Shi Yao politely greeted them, "Nice to meet you, seniors."

On the other hand, seeing that the star of the show had arrived, a radiant smile immediately blossomed on Lu Benlai's face as he cordially replied, "Little Junior, nice to meet you too!"

Not to be outdone, Xia Shangzhou stood up and gestured warmly to the sofa and juice on the table, then spoke in a voice that was even more affable and intimate than Lu Benlai's, "Little Junior, nice to meet you. Here, here, have a seat. We also have some juice, so please help yourself..."

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In the face of their excessive friendliness, Shi Yao took half a step back instead and said, "About that, I'm sorry to interrupt you all. Actually, I'm only here as a chauffeur..."

Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou were stunned by those words. "Chauffeur?"

"Mm," Shi Yao replied with a smile. Then, she glanced at Lin Jiage standing beside her and said, "I'll be driving him back later if he drinks."

So, while enslaving them to come here and coax Little Junior, their boss actually forced Little Junior to serve as his chauffeur?

Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou quickly turned to look at Lin Jiage.

Facing the duo's penetrating glares, Lin Jiage didn't seem to be fazed in the least. Instead, he casually lifted the phone in his hand and waved it slightly.

Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou instantly understood his meaning—he was threatening them over what he'd just written on WeChat.

As a decisive individual, Lu Benlai immediately turned to Shi Yao and said, "Little Junior, you sure are incredible to know how to drive at such a young age!"

Xia Shangzhou was quick to understand what to do as well. He swiftly picked up the bottle of juice on the table and twisted it open while spouting nonsensical words from his mouth, "Little Junior, you don't know how much I admire women who can dr—"

But before Xia Shangzhou could finish his words, a chilling glare from Lin Jiage's direction caused him to stutter in fright, "... dr-drive..."

After stuttering for a moment, Xia Shangzhou suddenly seemed to realize something, and he quickly withdrew the hand that was offering the opened bottle of juice to Shi Yao. Instead, he brought the bottle to his lips and gulped it down clean.

To his relief, Lin Jiage's expression seemed to relax slightly after he finished the bottle of juice.

Heaving a sigh of relief on the inside, he took another bottle of juice, and despite saying "Little Junior, please have a drink", he was actually passing the bottle over to Lin Jiage instead.