

Chapter 331: Jiage Dresses Up for Yaoyao (1)

However, in order to ensure the authenticity of the news, Lin Jiage feigned ignorance and nosily asked: [Your real grandfather is in the hospital?]

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>: [That's not exactly it. He isn't my real grandfather, but he's as good as one to me.]

She was really going to find his grandfather! As expected, concealing the true identity of <111111> and using it as a spy was extremely beneficial to him...

Not only was he able to fawn on her through the two identities and increase the chances of changing her perception of him by twofold, he would be able to play as his own spy as well. For one, the news that he had just received would allow him to create a 'coincidental encounter' between the two of them at the hospital tomorrow.

With such a thought in mind, Lin Jiage began typing: [I see. This means that you will be waking up early tomorrow morning?]

<Yao Loves Ice Cream>: [Yeah. I'm preparing to head out at seven tomorrow.]

Seven... If she were to take the train to the hospital, she should be arriving at around eight-thirty or so...

After gathering everything that he needed to know, Lin Jiage didn't linger on the topic: [You should be getting to sleep then. Goodnight.]

Not too long later, Lin Jiage received Shi Yao's reply. It was a 'goodnight' emoji.

He didn't respond to Shi Yao's message. Instead, he put down his phone and turned to his window to gaze at the night sky. Breathing in the fragrance of the flowers from the garden below, he began to imagine the scene of his meeting with Shi Yao tomorrow.

The scenes that surfaced in his mind brought a very slight smile onto his lips.

However, his smile didn't last for too long before it turned into a light, frustrated sigh.

What should I do? I barely ended my conversation with Soft Bun half an hour ago, but I'm already missing her once more...

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Lin Jiage woke up early in the morning of the following day.

He rarely woke up this early, so the gazes that the maids and servants shot him when he walked down the stairs were filled with amazement and bewilderment.

Lin Jiage calmly walked into the kitchen, and right before the shocked—or perhaps horrified might be a better adjective—widened eyes of the maid, he spoke composedly, “Breakfast. I want glutinous rice balls, mango pudding, steamed eggs with milk, tofu crackers, cream puffs...”

“... laba congee, meat bun, and dumplings.”

Lin Jiage listed everything that he remembered Shi Yao ordering back at his home, and after some thought, he added two more things to the list, “And yogurt and cherry apples too.

“Help me pack them in containers to take away. I’m bringing them to the hospital.

“Around four persons’ worth should be enough.”

Lin Jiage contemplated for a while longer, and after checking that there was nothing more for him to add on, he turned around to leave the kitchen. But just as he was about to step out, he couldn’t stop himself from turning around and confirming once more, “Have you memorized everything that I have just said?”

The maid nodded.

However, Lin Jiage didn’t seem to trust those words, “Forget it, I think it might be too much for you to remember. Take out your phone and start a phone recording, I’ll repeat my instructions once more.”

The maid was intending to say that she had really jotted everything down in her mind, but when she caught sight of the slightly knitted brows sitting on Lin Jiage’s forehead, she decided that it would be better to play along. So, she took out her phone and recorded down Lin Jiage’s repetition of his instruction.

The maid thought that it would be over with that, but the skeptical Lin Jiage actually made her play the recording after that! It was only after hearing the full recording did she finally manage to escort that living treasure out of the kitchen.

After which, Lin Jiage returned to his room and bathed and made his hairdo. He even took out the facial products that he had never used to date and applied them to his face.

After ensuring that his face and hair were in impeccable condition, he began picking out his clothes in the changing room.

He spent a whole thirty minutes in his changing room before he grabbed his phone and wallet and headed downstairs.

Chapter 332: Jiage Dresses Up for Yaoyao (2)

Coincidentally, when Lin Jiage stepped into the living room, the maid happened to have finished packing the breakfast he had ordered.

The usual Lin Jiage was a person who radiated a natural glow, but having specially dressed up on this very day, the glow he emanated had reached a point where it could blind eyes. Even as the maids carried his breakfast to the car, they couldn’t help but sneak some peeks at him.

As Lin Jiage walked toward the car, the car doors automatically unlocked themselves.

As two of the maids were placing the huge spread of breakfast into the car trunk, they couldn't help but huddle together and gossip...

"The Young Master today is strangely handsome, isn't he?"

Strangely... handsome?

Standing at the forefront of the car, the sharp-eared Lin Jiage caught every single word the maid said and frowned in response.

What kind of description was that?

"You think so too? Somehow, it reminds me of the phrase, 'a coy lady dresses up for her romantic rendezvous...'"

The frown sitting on Lin Jiage's forehead deepened.

A coy lady dresses up for her romantic rendezvous? Are you sure that such a phrase can be used on me?

It's not like I'm a girl...

After the two maids were done packing the breakfast into the car trunk, Lin Jiage opened the door to the driver's seat, got on, and started the engine.

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As he drove out of the residence, he couldn't help but think that the phrase to describe him should have been 'a coy lady dresses up for Yaoyao'...

Pui! It should be 'a dashing man dresses up for Yaoyao'... Wait, the term 'man' could refer to any man in the world, so wouldn't he be putting on a green hat on himself? That wouldn't do! Since that's the case, the correct phrase should be...

Lin Jiage pondered for a moment, and these words floated into his mind: Jiage dresses up for Yaoyao...

It was early on the weekends, so there weren't too many vehicles on the road. So, Lin Jiage only took roughly ten minutes to reach the hospital.

He didn't hurry up to the ward. Instead, after stopping his car below the hospital, he waited patiently in his driver's seat.

Roughly fifteen minutes later, he finally saw Shi Yao appearing at the entrance of the hospital with an umbrella filled strawberry prints in her hand to ward off the sun.

It was only after seeing Shi Yao walk into the hospital did Lin Jiage finally open his car door and get off his car.

He first took a look at his reflection in the rear mirror, and after confirming that his dress up was on the point, he walked over to his car trunk, took out the many bags of food in it, and began making his way over to the hospital.

Lin Jiage soon arrived at the entrance of his grandfather's ward, but he didn't rush to get in. Instead, he took a long look at the one-way mirror for a moment before finally pulling the door open.

He knew that Shi Yao was inside, but he feigned ignorance of the matter. As he pulled the door open, he greeted with a particularly refreshing voice, "Grandfather."

His greeting produced the effect he wanted. Everyone in the ward immediately turned their heads over to look at him.

Upon seeing who it was, looks of astonishment surfaced on Grandpa Lin, Shi Yao, and Auntie Sun's faces.

Without giving those inside any opportunity to speak, he swiftly closed the door and walked in while saying, "I have brought breakfast here"

As he spoke, he unabashedly looked at Auntie Sun and said, "Auntie Sun, tell me earlier the next time you need me to bring breakfast over."

A look of realization appeared on Shi Yao's face as she quickly reined in the surprise on her face. She smiled at Lin Jiage and greeted him, "Morning."

Grandpa Lin's expression also returned to normal after hearing Lin Jiage's words. He looked at Shi Yao with a dotting smile and said, "Yaoyao, you probably didn't have time to grab breakfast before coming here, right? Join us for breakfast."

Only Auntie Sun's face was still filled with question marks as she stared at Lin Jiage blankly, "???"

Who in the world could tell her when did she tell the Young Master to bring breakfast over?

On the other hand, paying completely no heed to Auntie Sun's questioning gaze, Lin Jiage replied to Shi Yao's greetings with a "Morning" too before placing the food by one side. After which, he turned to Auntie Sun and said, "Auntie Sun, have you forgotten? You sent me a message at an ungodly hour last night. It's really fortunate that I have slept late, or else grandpa would be starving this morning!"

Chapter 333: His Woman Is Not a Person Whom Anyone Can Just Bully! (1)

Auntie Sun thought that she was hearing things, so she blinked her eyes furiously as even more question marks appeared in her eyes, "??????"

Ignoring Auntie Sun's about-to-crumble expression, Lin Jiage nonchalantly continued on with his act, "Hm? Auntie Sun, what's wrong? I have already delivered the breakfast here, so shouldn't you help me prepare the food for grandfather to eat?"

As he spoke, Lin Jiage laid out the dishes one by one on the table.

The appearance of food swiftly caught the entirety of Shi Yao's attention.

Grandpa Lin had always thought of Shi Yao as his treasure, and true to that, the only thing he was interested in was entertaining Shi Yao, "Yaoyao, come and have some glutinous rice balls. There are some buns here too. Don't forget to dig into the laba porridge too..."

Perhaps it was due to Auntie Sun's presence being too weak, but not a single person in the ward noticed the peculiarity in her expression, so no one bothered clarifying with her whether Lin Jiage's claims were right or not. Resigned, she could only go along with Lin Jiage and lay the breakfast dishes out on the table.

When all of the dishes had finally been laid out, Grandpa Lin swiftly noticed something that left a frown on his forehead, "Auntie Sun, why are all of the dishes sweet? Also, there isn't the soybean pudding and fried dough sticks that I love amongst them too!"

Before Auntie Sun could even respond, Lin Jiage, who was in the midst of stirring the dumplings from a thermal flask, had already replied on her behalf, "Auntie Sun is getting on in years, and her memory isn't working too well anymore. There isn't any mention of soybean pudding and fried dough sticks in the message she sent me yesterday."

And of course, Lin Jiage didn't forget to turn his gaze toward Auntie Sun to seek confirmation, "Isn't that so, Auntie Sun?"

Auntie Sun felt deeply indignant, but the look that Lin Jiage was shooting her left her no choice but to play along with him, "Y-y-yes, that's right... Old Master, my memory is really getting worse as the years pass by..."

Fortunately, Grandpa Lin didn't harp too much on the issue. He shot Auntie Sun an empathetic look before returning back to chatting with Shi Yao.

Shi Yao also directed a consoling smile at Auntie Sun before returning back to munching on her bun. As she chewed on it, she quietly listened to Grandpa Lin's concerned nagging and nodded her head obediently from time to time.

"It's fine, Auntie Sun. You don't have to feel too bad about it. It's just a minor mistake, no one will take it into mind." Lin Jiage consoled Auntie Sun kindly as he took away the thermal flask filled with Shi Yao's dumplings and switched it with the one he had just cooled down to the perfect temperature for consumption.

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Even though Auntie Sun remained indignant throughout the entire duration, the atmosphere around the table was still warm and harmonious.

While the food was a little too sweet for the Old Master's liking, Shi Yao's gentle nudging of "Grandpa, you are eating too little. Here, eat this", "This bun is really nice, try a bite of it", and so still induced Grandpa Lin to eat a fair bit.

Lin Jiage didn't speak much during this period of time, but listening to Shi Yao nudge his grandfather to eat more resulted in him eating a fair bit too.

Just that, this atmosphere didn't last too long before it was destroyed by someone.

Just as they were about to wrap up their breakfast, they suddenly heard knocking on the ward door.

Auntie Sun placed down her chopsticks to get the door.

As it was still early, Grandpa Lin, Lin Jiage, and Shi Yao thought that it was the doctor conducting his routine check, so they didn't pay too much heed to it. It was only when Auntie Sun called out "Madam Liang" did the three of them finally turned their heads to the ward door.

The visitor was someone whom all three of them recognized.

She was Liang Jiusi's mother, which meant to say that she was Liang Mumu's aunt too, Liang Huiling.

Upon catching the gazes of Grandpa Lin, Lin Jiage, and Shi Yao, she greeted with a bright smile, "Uncle Lin!"

After which, she walked into the ward amidst the resounding clacking sound of her high heels, revealing her beautiful silk qipao.

It was when she was a distance into the ward did everyone notice that she hadn't come alone. There was another person following behind her.

Chapter 334: His Woman Is Not a Person Whom Anyone Can Just Bully! (2)

The person who had just walked in was someone whom everyone in the room recognized. In fact, to Shi Yao, it was a face that was extremely familiar to her. This was because she was the person whom she had never met ever since the unpleasant event in the hotel on Mother's Day—Liang Mumu.

In the moment that Liang Mumu's gaze met Shi Yao's, the expressions on both of their faces stiffened slightly.

However, this only lasted for a short instant before Liang Mumu turned her eyes toward Grandpa Lin and greeted him with a coy voice, "Grandpa Lin!"

Due to Grandpa Lin's hospitalization, no one told him about the unpleasant affair that had happened with Liang Mumu, so he was completely unaware of it. As such, when he heard Liang Mumu's greeting, he responded with an amiable smile, "Mumu, I haven't seen you for quite a while."

"Speaking of which, I just realized that I haven't come to visit Uncle Lin for quite a while too. I was abroad for the last few days and had just returned yesterday. Mumu told me that you are ill and in the hospital, so I quickly rushed over to pay you a visit..." As Liang Huiling spoke, she passed the tonics she had just bought over to Auntie Sun. "... Uncle Lin, how are you feeling? Are you any better now?"

"I'm already starting to feel better." Grandpa Lin discreetly shot Auntie Sun a glance, gesturing for her to clean up the table, before returning to trading pleasantries with Liang Huiling.

Liang Mumu obediently stood by Liang Huiling's side. While the two elders were chatting with one another, she warmly greeted Lin Jiage and Shi Yao, feigning as if nothing had happened between them in the past, and the tone she took was as if the both of them were still close friends, "Brother Jia, long time no see. And Yaoyao, I really miss you to death!"

Lin Jiage had never responded to Liang Mumu's greetings warmly before, and after that incident, he chose to simply ignore her altogether.

On the other hand, however, Shi Yao couldn't afford to be as willful as Lin Jiage. The Lin Family and the Liang Family had always been close, and to the very end, she was nothing more than an outsider. That incident back then might not have necessarily soured the relationship between the two families, so if she were to make things difficult for Liang Mumu here, she could incur Grandpa Lin's disappointment instead.

And that was exactly the kind of sight that Liang Mumu would have loved to see.

So, after hearing Liang Mumu's words, Shi Yao's eyes curled into crescent smiles as she replied, "Mumu, same here. I really missed you too."

Sitting by the side, Lin Jiage keenly watched the scene unfolding before his eyes. He could tell that Soft Bun had her own difficulties and could only play along with Liang Mumu's act.

But while Soft Bun was completely helpless in this situation, he did have his own way of dealing with this.

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Thus, right after Liang Mumu received Shi Yao's greeting and was just about to speak once more, Lin Jiage abruptly interjected, "Yaoyao, while I was tutoring your cousin yesterday, I realized that he has quite a few conceptual errors. I'll point them out to you now so that you can correct them when you return home later..."

Without giving Liang Mumu any opportunity to speak at all, he proceeded on to instruct Shi Yao to take out her phone to record down his words before raising the important points one had to take note of for the Math and Science papers.

Hearing the words that Lin Jiage had spoken, Liang Mumu's complexion immediately darkened.

Yaoyao... Has Brother Jia begun to address Shi Yao as Yaoyao?

Furthermore, he actually went to tutor her cousin? Just when did Brother Jia grow so close with Yaoyao that he would even help her cousin with his homework...

While reciting the important points to take note of for the National College Entrance Examination, Lin Jiage discreetly sneaked a peek at Liang Mumu. When he saw the strained smile on her face, he retracted his gaze in satisfaction.

You must be joking with me... Is my woman someone whom anyone can just bully?

Chapter 335: Like It? Surprised? (1)

You must be joking... Is my woman someone whom anyone can just bully?

Do you think that we would just play along with your hypocrisy?

Even if Soft Bun is willing to do so, there's no way I would allow it!

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage leaned in closer to Shi Yao and continued calling out “Yaoyao” with a particularly soft and gentle tone.

Doesn't Brother Jia detests getting too close with any woman? But why is the distance between him and Shi Yao so close that his face is almost sticking to her hair?

Also, doesn't he often use a cold and nonchalant voice when speaking with others? Why is his voice so gentle and tender? It's almost as if I have never known him before!

Staring intently at the interactions between Lin Jiage and Shi Yao before her, Liang Mumu's fingers scrunched upward as she clutched the sleeves of her shirt tightly.

Liang Huiling was chatting with Grandpa Lin, Shi Yao and Lin Jiage formed another conversation pair, and Auntie Sun was busy washing the flasks and containers that they had used for breakfast.

In this moment, Liang Mumu's presence suddenly appeared to be extraneous.

It would be impolite for her to interrupt the conversation between the elders, so whenever Lin Jiage stopped speaking, she would try to join in by engaging Shi Yao.

But each and every single time, Lin Jiage would cut in before Shi Yao had the opportunity to respond to her.

This left Liang Mumu in an even more awkward position. She was still standing gracefully beside Liang Huiling, but due to her anger from being snubbed, her legs were beginning to tremble a little.

It took nearly half an hour before Grandpa Lin and Liang Huiling finished catching up with one another.

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Lin Jiage also stopped talking around then.

Grandpa Lin: “Where's Auntie Sun? Did she go out? I was thinking of having her to wash some fruits for everyone.”

“Grandpa Lin, I'll go,” Shi Yao said before standing up and grabbing a couple of fruits.

She was just about to enter the bathroom when Liang Mumu suddenly spoke up with her usual coy tone, “Yaoyao I want to eat some honeydew. Help me cut one, alright?”

Those words brought a knit to Lin Jiage's eyebrows.

Unlike before, Grandpa Lin and Liang Huiling had stopped their conversation, so everyone heard Liang Mumu's words loud and clear.

Unable to put on an act as they did previously—Shi Yao couldn't afford to ignore Liang Mumu in the face of the elders—so she had no choice but to reply with a smile, “Alright, got it.”

After which, she walked back to the fruits basket to picked up a honeydew.

As Shi Yao walked into the washroom, Lin Jiage sat on his seat for a while, and seeing that there was still another honeydew in the fruits basket, he threw out an "I'll go and help" before walking over to the fruits basket, grabbing the last honeydew, and entering the washroom as well.

After washing all of the fruits and bringing them out, Shi Yao quickly looked for a fruit knife and began cutting the fruits into smaller portions.

As the plates prepared in the ward were a little small, Shi Yao divided the fruits into two plates.

One was filled with honeydew whereas the other one was filled with apples, oranges, and grapes.

After putting down the fruit knife, Shi Yao was just about to serve the two plates over when Lin Jiage abruptly reached out for the plate of honeydew and picked it up before she could.

So, Shi Yao could only pick up the plate of apples, oranges, and grapes, and she served it on the table before Grandpa Lin and Liang Huiling.

After which, she opened up a path for Lin Jiage to walk through.

Lin Jiage calmly walked over, and holding the plate with just one hand, he reached out to place it on the table. However, perhaps it was because he wasn't paying much attention to his movement, he ended up releasing the plate in midair, causing it to fall to the ground and shatter into fragments. At the same time, the honeydew slices splattered all over the ground, making them inedible.

Seemingly not expecting such an incident to happen, Lin Jiage looked at the mess on the ground and apologized, "Pardon me, my hand slipped..."

Chapter 336: Like it? Surprised? (2)

An instant after Lin Jiage's apology, Auntie Sun pushed open the door to the ward and returned. So, Lin Jiage turned to her and said, "Auntie Sun, I'll have to trouble you to clean up the mess here and prepare another plate of honeydew."

Auntie Sun: "Yes, Young Master."

Auntie Sun had always been an efficient housekeeper, so it only took a few moments for her to clean up the mess on the ground.

Following which, in accordance with Lin Jiage's instructions, she headed to the fruits basket to grab a honeydew, only to see that there were only watermelons, apples, and bananas inside. Thus, she could only say, "There isn't any more honeydew in the fruits basket. If you want to eat it, I'll head out to buy one..."

Lin Jiage: "I'm not the one who wants to eat it."

Auntie Sun was taken aback by that statement, "Ah?"

Grandpa Lin clarified the situation for her, "Mumu wants to eat some honeydew. Auntie Sun, head down and buy one back."

Liang Huiling hurriedly spoke up, "It's fine, it's fine! There's no need to go through so much trouble for us. We have plenty of honeydew at home too!"

Seeing that her aunt had already said so, Liang Mumu could only go along with it, "That's right, Grandpa Lin. There's no need to trouble Auntie Sun. I was just saying it out a whim. If there's none left, I'll just have it some other time."

Seeing that both Liang Huiling and Liang Mumu had said so, Grandpa Lin didn't fuss too much about the issue either, "Alright then. Come, have some fruits."

With a sweet smile, Liang Mumu replied, "Thank you, Grandpa Lin."

Lin Jiage shot a glance at Liang Mumu's visibly strained smile before falling into a brief moment of thought. Following which, he feigned as if Shi Yao had spoken to him and leaned over toward her, asking, "Yaoyao, what did you say?"

With an apple stuffed in her mouth, Shi Yao could only shake her head to indicate that she hadn't said anything at all.

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But Lin Jiage simply carried on with his act and asked, "You want to drink? Yi Dian Dian? ¹?"

Upon hearing those words, Grandpa Lin immediately joined in the conversation, "Yaoyao wants to drink Yi Dian Dian? Auntie Sun, you should quickly head down to buy a cup then."

Shi Yao hurriedly swallowed down the apple she was chewing in her mouth and said, "No no, I'm good. There'll surely be a long queue for Yi Dian Dian, and it'll be too troublesome..."

"The one queuing up isn't you but Auntie Sun anyway. What do you want to drink from Yi Dian Dian? Tell Auntie Sun and she'll drive over..." Halfway through his words, Grandpa Lin turned to Lin Jiage and asked, "... You drove over, right? Hand your car key over to Auntie Sun..."

Shi Yao: "There's really no need for it. I don't need to drink Yi Dian Dian..."

But it was as if Grandpa Lin, Lin Jiage, and Auntie Sun couldn't hear her words at all. They simply continued as if she didn't exist. The car key was passed over to Auntie Sun, and even the choice of drink ended up being one-sidedly determined by Lin Jiage because she hadn't specified anything.

When Auntie Sun was finally out of the ward, Lin Jiage shot another glance at Liang Mumu.

At this moment, not only had her strained smile vanished, her lips were tightly pressed together too.

Heh... You want to make Soft Bun cut some honeydew for you? Sure, eat it if you can then...

Also, you should know that your weight in my grandpa's heart is completely different from Soft Bun's! You politely declined the offer for Auntie Sun to buy honeydew back for you, and my grandpa immediately took your word for it. But when it came to Soft Bun, as long as my grandpa thinks that she wants to eat something, whether it's real or not, even if she doesn't eat it after it's bought back, my grandpa would still buy it for her!

So, is this outcome to your liking? Are you surprised? Does your face sting?

To dare to bully Soft Bun beneath my eyelids, you must be daydreaming!

On the other hand, completely oblivious to Lin Jiage's scheming, Grandpa Lin turned to Shi Yao and asked, "Yaoyao, what is Yi Dian Dian?"

Shi Yao: "It's a store that sells milk tea."

Grandpa Lin: "Do you like it?"

Shi Yao nodded, "Un. It's just that they always have long queues."

"That isn't a problem at all..." Grandpa Lin waved his hand majestically, thinking nothing of the problem at all. "... Later, I'll get our company to get Yi Dian Dian under our flag. I'll arrange them to get someone to prepare drinks specially for you."

Author's Note: [Heh, isn't this dotting to the max level? Doting from the gramps and the grandson, this is going too far!]

Chapter 337: Top Wingman of the Year (1)

Upon hearing Grandpa Lin's words, Lin Jiage silently gave him a thumbs up in his heart and presented him with the glorious title of the 'Top Wingman of the Year' to him before slowly drifting his gaze toward Liang Mumu's face again.

Compared to her slightly displeased expression from before, her awful complexion was already visible for all to see.

It's not that everyone here was intentionally acting against her, but who told her to mess with Soft Bun again and again?

It's all our first time living as humans, so why are you the only one that have so much trouble?

...

Not long after Auntie Sun left, Grandpa Lin's principal doctor dropped by for his routine visit.

After checking on Grandpa Lin's physical condition, as per usual, the principal doctor began going through his medical condition.

There were indeed some improvements, but overall, it still didn't look too optimistic...

Upon hearing those words, Lin Jiage asked, "Is it fine for Grandpa Lin to be temporarily discharged?"

The principal doctor shot a glance at Grandpa Lin, and after receiving a slight nod of approval, he replied, "A day or two should be fine, but I don't advise him to be out for too long."

Lin Jiage nodded before continuing on, "Grandpa's birthday is on next month, so we'll be arranging a birthday banquet for him. If grandpa's condition still isn't too good then, we might have to trouble you to make a trip to our house to take care of him."

The principal doctor replied, "Sure, that won't be a problem."

Hearing the conversation between Lin Jiage and the principal doctor, Liang Mumu glanced downward contemplatively.

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If Grandpa Lin's birthday is on the next month, then she...

As some thoughts formulated in Liang Mumu's mind, her eyes inconspicuously drifted toward Shi Yao before she lowered her gaze to conceal a scheming glint in her eyes.

When the principal doctor finally left the room, Liang Mumu finally spoke up, "Earlier, when Brother Jia spoke about Grandpa Lin's birthday, I suddenly recalled that Yaoyao has already prepared a birthday present for you around a month ago!"

Shi Yao frowned upon hearing those words.

She did remember when Grandpa Lin's birthday was, but she had been stressing out over what she should prepare for Grandpa Lin on his birthday, so how could she have possibly prepared a present for him a month in advance?

"Grandpa Lin, you are bound to love the present which Shi Yao had prepared! She knows that you love calligraphy, so she specially bought an inkstone for you. I was by her side then, and it was truly..." At this point, Liang Mumu abruptly clasped her mouth with her hands, as if she had accidentally given away a secret. A moment later, she sheepishly lowered her hands and said, "... Ah, I accidentally gave away what the present is. However, I'll keep what the details a secret so that you can look forward to it."

"Inkstone? That happens to be what I really like! That being said, even if Yaoyao gives me something else, I'll still like it as much." As he spoke, Grandpa Lin turned his gaze to Shi Yao and continued on, "... Yaoyao, you actually started preparing my birthday present since a month ago? It seems like I didn't dote on you for nothing!"

Inkstone? Those high-quality inkstones should be rather expensive, right? Is Liang Mumu trying to trip me over because she knows that I don't have much money?

But Grandpa Lin has already said such words, so it seems like I can only go along with it then...

Shi Yao pondered for a moment, and in the end, she could only respond with such words, "Of course, Grandpa Lin. It's your birthday."

Knowing from the very start that Shi Yao could only respond in such a manner, Liang Mumu's lips curled up into a cold sneer.

She knew that Shi Yao didn't have much money, so even if she were to buy an inkstone, it was unlikely that she would be able to get anything good.

On the other hand, all she had to do was to find out the appearance of the inkstone Shi Yao would buy, purchase the authentic one, and present it to Grandpa Lin during his birthday. By then, with her real inkstone contrasting against Shi Yao's fake...

Chapter 338: Top Wingman of the Year (2)

The Lin Family could be considered as one of the aristocratic families in Beijing, so there were bound to be many distinguished individuals attending Grandpa Lin's birthday banquet.

If it were known that Shi Yao had given Grandpa Lin an imitation in front of those members of the high society...

Just the thought of it was enough to leave Liang Mumu's blood racing in excitement.

Such a sight would be truly exhilarating, right? That would be more than enough to make Shi Yao a laughingstock amongst Beijing's circle of aristocrats, right?

Lin Jiage's mother, Jiang Wangui, had always been a particularly proud and lofty individual, and she had a particular loathing for those who were unable to pull their own weight... If her plan succeeded, Shi Yao's impression in Jiang Wangui's heart would drop to the gutters in an instant.

So what if Grandpa Lin liked her? So what if Lin Jiage liked her?

Jiang Wangui was the person who held the most say in the Lin Family. Furthermore, Grandpa Lin was already getting on in age, and he didn't have too many years ahead of him anyway...

So, all she truly had to do was let Jiang Wangui know that Shi Yao was a useless person! Jiang Wangui might not do anything to Shi Yao at the moment in deference to Grandpa Lin's wishes, but once Grandpa Lin was gone...

Thinking up to this point, the cold sneer on Liang Mumu's lips became even more apparent.

She had already failed once during Mother's Day.

There was no way she would allow history to repeat itself on Grandpa Lin's birthday banquet.

She had liked Lin Jiage from a very young age, and this entire time, due to the close relationship between Lin Jiage and her cousin, Liang Jiusi, she had always felt that she stood the greatest chance of all. But who would have thought that an obstacle known as Shi Yao would leap into the picture all of a sudden!

She looked down on Shi Yao's lowly birth from the bottom of her heart, but in order to find out how her relationship with Lin Jiage was progressing, she held in her contempt and befriended her. When she realized that there was no interaction between the two of them, she celebrated gleefully on the inside, all while criticizing Lin Jiage together with her on the surface.

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In fact, even the coincidental meeting they had with Lin Jiage in SKP's lift a long time ago was also something she arranged.

She learned from Liang Jiusi that their group would be eating at SKP that night, so she liaised with a lady from their group in advance.

In the lift, when Lin Jiage couldn't recognize Shi Yao at all, words couldn't begin to describe how avidly joyful she felt. She intentionally asked Lin Jiage why he was ignoring Shi Yao in order to put her in an awkward position.

Over the years, she hadn't neglected to use these little ploys. No matter how different from the truth it was, she would always make sure to fill Shi Yao in on which woman Lin Jiage had gone out to eat with and which woman he had escorted back home. On top of that, she wouldn't forget to emphasize how good the figures of those women were. It was all to crush Shi Yao's self-esteem, making her feel like she couldn't match up to Lin Jiage. Gradually, the distance between Lin Jiage and her would just grow further and further...

As such, she wasn't in the least surprised when Shi Yao told her that she was intending to cancel her engagement with Lin Jiage. It was all within her expectations.

After all, she had been leading Shi Yao toward this outcome one step at a time. For six whole years, she was finally able to usher in such a day. That day, when she parted with Shi Yao, she couldn't help but cry in the car out of agitation. After she finally calmed her emotions down, the first thing she did was to run to the Lin Family and report the matter to Grandpa Lin.

She wanted to create a misunderstanding between the two of them and make Lin Jiage abhor Shi Yao even more.

She was determined. She was confident. But as time passed, the news she received was that Lin Jiage had brought her to one of Liang Jiusi's parties instead... So, she rigged the game they played that night. She thought that Lin Jiage would never kiss Shi Yao, but her assumption was disproved with a tight slap to her face.

It was then that she realized that the one that changed wasn't Shi Yao but Lin Jiage.

She had spent so much time and effort to induce Shi Yao to cancel her engagement with Lin Jiage, but who could have thought that Lin Jiage would actually begin to notice Shi Yao...

Chapter 339: Bury the One Who Dug the Pit (1)

As past events flashed across Liang Mumu's mind, she couldn't help clenching her fists tightly together.

No matter what, she had to succeed during Grandpa Lin's birthday banquet!

...

After the principal doctor left, Liang Huiling and Liang Mumu remained in the ward for a little longer before taking their leave.

So, only Grandpa Lin, Lin Jiage, and Shi Yao were left in the room.

Without Liang Mumu causing any trouble, Lin Jiage reverted back to his usual cold and lofty attitude, leaning against the windowsill while fiddling with his phone.

On the other hand, Grandpa Lin continued chatting with Shi Yao. Their voices weren't too loud.

A peaceful atmosphere drifted within the ward, soothing the hearts of those who were in it.

Lin Jiage didn't hear what the elderly and young duo were chatting about, but as he glanced at the sight by the bed, the coldness between his brows seemed to melt into warmth.

By the time Auntie Sun brought a cup of Yi Dian Dian back, it was already eleven.

From early in the morning until now, Grandpa Lin had feigned illness for roughly four to five hours already. He felt that he might really end up being afflicted with a real illness if he were to continue faking at this rate, so Auntie Sun's return left him feeling as if he'd spotted his savior. With eyes twinkling with restlessness, he began urging Lin Jiage and Shi Yao to leave.

"Jiage and Yaoyao, I'm getting a little exhausted. Since Auntie Sun is back, you don't have to stay here anymore. You should get on with whatever you're busy with..." As he spoke, Grandpa Lin put on an extremely exhausted look and coughed twice before gesturing for Auntie Sun to help him lie down.

In order to make his illness seem more convincing, after Grandpa Lin closed his eyes, he even coughed forcefully a few times.

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Understanding Grandpa Lin's intentions, after Auntie Sun placed the blanket over him, she silently urged Lin Jiage and Shi Yao to leave too. "The Old Master is asleep, so there isn't much point in the both of you staying here anymore. Why don't you two head back and rest for the day?"

Lin Jiage and Shi Yao nodded. The former instructed Auntie Sun to take good care of Grandpa Lin and the latter said her farewell before the two of them were ushered out of the room by Auntie Sun.

Auntie Sun didn't rush back into the ward. Instead, she stood by the doorway until Lin Jiage and Shi Yao entered the elevator before returning to the ward.

A second after she closed the door to the ward, the sickly Grandpa Lin tore away the blanket covering him, leaped down from the hospital bed, and began to practice a Taiji routine.

"It's a good thing that they don't drop by every day, or I really might get ill at this rate.

"Auntie Sun, there should still be one last ice cream left from the ice cream box I told you to buy yesterday, right? Bring it over to me.

"Also, where's my chess set? Take that out too. I'm going to the opposite ward to thrash that Old Sun!"

Hearing Grandpa Lin's words, Auntie Sun flipped up the bedsheet, and at the bottom of the bed, she dragged out a mini-fridge and took out the last remaining ice cream from the box. Following which, she opened the drawer and took out a chess set...

...

Leaving the hospital building, Lin Jiage asked, "Returning to school?"

Shi Yao, who was walking behind him, was stunned for two seconds before realizing that he was talking to her. So, she hurriedly nodded and replied with an "Un".

“I’m heading to the Research Building. Since it’s on the way, I’ll drive you there,” Lin Jiage said as he took out his car key, not having the slightest intention of heading to the Research Building.

But taking Lin Jiage’s word for it, Shi Yao replied gratefully, “Thanks.”

Lin Jiage silently shot a glance at Shi Yao as he pressed on the car key in his hand. Upon seeing the car lights flash, he began walking over to the car.

Shi Yao hurriedly followed suit.

It was hard to tell whether it was out of convenience or not, but when Lin Jiage passed by the front passenger’s seat, he helped her pull open the door and waited by the side. When she finally got in, he shut the door for her before walking over to the other side and getting in himself.

Chapter 340: Bury the One Who Dug the Pit (2)

On the way to school, Lin Jiage picked up a phone call.

As the call lasted for quite a while, by the time it ended, they had already reached the entrance to G University.

Lin Jiage glanced sideways to look at Shi Yao, wanting to ask her whether she was returning to the dormitory or going elsewhere. But before he could say a word, his sharp eyes had caught sight of Shi Yao’s phone screen.

She was scrolling through Taobao?¹?

The first thought that surfaced in his mind was that she was buying snacks, but when he saw the search phrase she had keyed in, he frowned.

Inkstone...? Soft Bun was actually looking at inkstones...

Could it be that Soft Bun hadn’t bought Grandpa Lin’s birthday present at all?

So, what Liang Mumu said back then about Soft Bun buying Grandpa Lin’s birthday present a month ago was actually... a complete lie?

Liang Mumu and Soft Bun’s relationship had already crumbled, so what was Liang Mumu’s purpose by doing this?

The knit between Lin Jiage’s brows further tightened. Roughly thirty seconds later, he felt that he had vaguely arrived at the answer.

If Liang Mumu really wanted to compete with Soft Bun, she would surely exploit Soft Bun’s weakness. And to Liang Mumu, Soft Bun’s greatest weakness was her lack of money.

It wasn’t a problem for Soft Bun to buy an inkstone for Grandpa Lin, but given her limited finances, she could only buy an ordinary one...

Putting aside what Liang Mumu was up to, in any case, the ordinary inkstone that Soft Bun could buy was likely to end up serving as Liang Mumu's weapon... Or to be exact, the weapon lay in the very fact that the present was ordinary...

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So, everything Liang Mumu said back in the hospital ward was actually to dig a pit for Soft Bun?

A sharp glint flashed through the depths of Lin Jiage's eyes.

...

The first one to notice that the car had stopped in front of the female dormitory was Shi Yao.

"We're here...!" Shi Yao blurted out as she turned to look at Lin Jiage.

However, when she caught sight of the young man's slightly off expression, her words trailed to a stop.

On the other hand, Lin Jiage had swiftly stopped the car after hearing her exclamation.

As Shi Yao was about to leave the car, she took another glance at Lin Jiage and saw that his complexion still wasn't too good. After some thought, she mustered her courage and asked, "Did something happen?"

Lin Jiage frowned in bewilderment after hearing those words. A few seconds later, he realized that it might be because his complexion didn't look too well at the moment that such a question was asked, so he hurriedly shook his head and replied, "It's nothing."

There was a short pause before he added, "I was thinking about a project I was working on."

"Oh, I see." Shi Yao didn't doubt Lin Jiage's words at all. With a smile, she said, "I'll be leaving then. Thank you for sending me back."

Lin Jiage replied with a slight smile. "Un."

After which, he watched as Shi Yao walked into the female dormitory before he took up his phone and made a call.

"I have something that I need to ask of you. Help me keep a lookout for high-quality inkstones... Un, price isn't a problem at all. It has to be sufficiently classy... Thanks..." After hanging up the phone, a cold sneer curled up on Lin Jiage's lips.

Wasn't Liang Mumu being a little too naive? Did she really think that she would be able to trap Soft Bun with such a mediocre maneuver?

Very well, let's see who would be the one to fall into the pit in the end!

...

After sending Shi Yao to school, Lin Jiage drove back home.

As he didn't have any lesson on Monday, he didn't return to his dormitory right away. Instead, he stayed in his home for another night.

It was only at ten o'clock on Monday did he have the driver bring him back to the school campus.

Instead of having the driver stop below the dormitory, he alighted right at the school entrance instead.

By the time he strolled leisurely into the dormitory, it was only ten-forty. Given his understanding of those two in his room, they were likely to still be in dreamland. To his surprise, when he opened the door, he saw Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou well-dressed and ready to head out.