

### Chapter 361: An Nonexistent Possibility (1)

Unconvinced, He Tiantian cast Shi Yao a doubtful look and pressed on, "You're lying! Just by looking at the number of clothes Senior Lin has bought you, I will never in a million years believe that there is nothing going on between the two of you..."

However, as doubts flourished in her mind, a realization suddenly hit her. Capitalizing on a short pause to work out her thoughts, He Tiantian shared her new findings, "... Yaoyao, if what you are saying is true, does that mean Senior Lin has a crush on you?"

"Definitely not!" Shi Yao refuted the claim even more firmly than before.

As though trying to further concretize her answer, Shi Yao added with even more firmness and determination in her tone, "There's no way he will ever fall in love with me!"

He Tiantian: "Why not?"

Shi Yao didn't say a word, but the cruel words which Lin Jiage had uttered into her face in her younger days swarmed into her mind. Pressing her lips slightly together, she climbed onto her bed wordlessly.

He Tiantian could vaguely sense the change in Shi Yao's mood, so she tactfully chose not to pursue the matter.

Silence ensued in the room.

The silence lasted for approximately half a minute long before it was broken by Shi Yao. Adopting a much gentler tone this time around, she addressed He Tiantian, "Tiantian, are you busy right now?"

He Tiantian shook her head, "No."

Shi Yao's reply did not come immediately. Confused by the lack of reply, He Tiantian looked at Shi Yao and saw that the latter had her gaze fixed on that box of clothes on the table. However, her eyes were vacant, as though deep in thoughts.

It was moments later before Shi Yao finally continued, "Can you help me figure out the total price of all the clothes in that box?"

"Hm?" The request puzzled He Tiantian initially. However, the mechanisms in her mind swiftly clicked into place, and she asked in astonishment, "You... By asking me to help you figure out the total price, are you intending to return the money for the clothes to Senior Lin?"

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Shi Yao nodded her head weakly as a soft "Yes" escaped from her lips.

He Tiantian's lips quivered. The words "But why?" almost escaped from her mouth instinctively before she was reminded of Shi Yao's earlier reaction, and she quickly swallowed the words back in.

As friends, she should respect the personal boundaries of Shi Yao. If Shi Yao did not want to share her concerns, she should respect her decision...

So, He Tiantian cheerfully agreed to her request, "Sure! I will total it for you right now."

"Thank you." Shi Yao smiled at He Tiantian before turning toward the window.

In the past, the snacks that Lin Jiage gave her were always gifts from his admirers. If she had turned them away, he would have just binned them.

However, the significance of these clothes was different. He had got them specially for her as a form of apology.

Even though Lin Jiage and her could be considered friends now, it was still inappropriate for her to receive such an expensive gift from him. Based on her preliminary evaluation, that box of clothes should worth at the very least a five-figure sum... This was similar to how she had never touched the expensive presents and pocket money she had received from Grandpa Lin. She never thought that those truly belonged to her, and she felt that she should return everything back to the Lin Family when the engagement between her and Lin Jiage was officially canceled.

From the text exchanges she had with him just now, she was convinced Lin Jiage would never take the clothes back. Therefore, the only thing left that she could do was to return the money he had spent on the box of clothes to him when the time came...

As her thoughts straightened themselves out, another doubt popped up in her mind. Shi Yao blinked her eyes lightly.

What was wrong with He Tiantian? How did she come to the conclusion that Lin Jiage had a crush on her?

How was that even possible...

The feelings Lin Jiage had towards her now could at most be considered as non-hostile... As for love...

Based on what she had heard from Liang Mumu in the past, the ladies who were said to have any relationship with Lin Jiage were all beautiful and rich, coming from backgrounds that were compatible with the social status of the Lin Family...

No matter how she thought about it, it was impossible for Lin Jiage to fall in love with her.

Just like how the sun would never rise from the west and how money would never fall from the sky, such a possibility was nonexistent.

## **Chapter 362: An Nonexistent Possibility (2)**

"Yaoyao? Yaoyao?"

He Tiantian had to call Shi Yao a few times before the latter came to her senses. Shi Yao looked at He Tiantian blankly for a few moments before she remembered the favor she had asked of her, "You're done?"

“Un. I have written down all of the prices clearly on this paper...”

Shi Yao thanked He Tiantian before taking the piece of paper. She quickly glanced through the recorded figures before folding the paper in half and placing it under her pillow.

It was only then did Shi Yao finally recall that Mister Numbers was still waiting for her in the game. She hastily picked up her phone and sent Mister Numbers a text: *[Are you still in the game?]*

<111111>: *[I am.]*

Seeing <111111>'s reply, Shi Yao hurriedly logged back onto the game.

As soon as she entered the room, <111111>'s voice immediately flowed into her ears through her earpiece, “Did you receive a package from someone?”

How did Mister Numbers know someone had sent her a package?

Thinking that it was just a random guess, Shi Yao was inwardly impressed by his keen intuition as she answered, “Yeah.”

“From a guy?” Mister Numbers continued on with the conversation as he started the game. “Could it be from that handsome and rich fiancé of yours?”

Amazing! He had guessed it right again!

Feeling incredulous, Shi Yao asked, “How did you know?”

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<111111>: “It was a blind guess.”

Shi Yao: “Oh.”

After a short pause, <111111> continued on with the topic, “Your fiancé actually treats you pretty well...”

*Pretty well? I guess he's still not too bad sometimes...?*

Shi Yao replied slightly perfunctorily, “It's alright.”

...

*Alright? That's such a careless answer!*

As his own wingman, Lin Jiage diligently promoted himself, “There are many rich men in the world, but many of them aren't willing to spend it on the girls they like. I think it's not bad that your fiancé is willing to go this far for you.

“You should know, there are some guys who cheat even when they already have someone.

“That's why, when you meet a good man, you should really cherish him...”

Silence ensued for quite a while after Lin Jiage finished his piece. He waited for a while, but Shi Yao's voice didn't sound in his earpiece.

Did that mean his advertising failed?

It was known that over-advertising could sometimes lead to feelings of repulsion instead...

Lin Jiage pondered for a moment before decisively changing the topic, "May I ask you a question?"

Shi Yao finally replied to him, "Sure."

Lin Jiage: "What kind of flowers do you like? It can't be that, just like what's popular on the net, you are actually fond of receiving bouquets of money?"

Shi Yao, "Of course not! I like snack bouquets!"

"Oh..." Lin Jiage replied absentmindedly. He carefully aimed at the player in the opposite building and took a shot before continuing with the conversation, "If you have a day in life to let loose completely, what are the top 3 things you would like to do?"

Thinking about how she should reply the question, Shi Yao let out a long, contemplative "Hmmm..." before finally answering, "Eat more, eat fuller, eat better!"

"..." Lin Jiage was speechless. Moments later, he asked, "Is there anything else you are capable of other than eating?"

"Of course..." , Shi Yao's exceptionally cheerful and light-hearted voice flooded his ears, "... I know how to feel hungry."

He should have kept his mouth shut...

Lin Jiage shook his head helplessly. Leading the conversation back on track, he asked, "Is there anything you wished to have ever since you were young?"

Without the slightest hint of hesitation, Shi Yao shared, "I want to own a gigantic house. It would have biscuit walls, cotton candy beds, chocolate floor, sweet closets, and ice cream refrigerator. Strawberries and pineapples would be hanging off the walls as ornaments, and there would be a cake sofa which I can lie and nibble on. I would have yogurt flowing out of the tap, and the road leading up to the house would be made out of nuts..."

### **Chapter 363: All Restaurants In The World Will Be Free (1)**

"..."

Lin Jiage was stunned into silence for quite a while. A certain remark he had seen on the internet flashed across his mind: *[Y-you sure are ambitious!]*

He tried his best to calm himself down before returning back into the conversation once more. While scanning the surroundings for enemies, he asked with a nonchalant tone which suggested that he was engaging in casual chatter, "Do you have any dreams?"

“Of course I do! Who doesn’t have any dreams?” Shi Yao replied as a matter-of-factly. Without waiting for Lin Jiage to ask her what her dream was, she frankly gave away what it was, “Do you know what my dream? My dream is for a day to come where all restaurants in the world will be free!”

While the dreams that others harbored were to become scientists, world champions, number one tycoon in the world, her dream had already transgressed into the realm of fantasy...

At least dreams still had a chance of fulfillment, but fantasies could only remain as fantasies.

“...” Lin Jiage was speechless for a long while before he finally found his voice back, “You sure have a grand dream!”

Following that, he swiftly moved on to the next topic, “Do you have any regrets in life?”

“Of course! If I didn’t have any regrets, I wouldn’t have had the dream I just told you about!” Shi Yao exclaimed before sighed in deep sorrow, as if lamenting her own tragic fate. “The greatest regret I have in life is for the heavens to bestow upon me the properties of a glutton, only to neglect to make me wealthy to go along with it!”

!!!!!!

Again, it was something to do with food!

But thinking back, of all of the answers he had received, only the last one could be remotely considered to be ‘normal’.

While harboring such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage remarked with a nonchalant tone, “It doesn’t matter whether you are wealthy or not. You can always marry a wealthy man to make up for it.”

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He paused for a brief moment here before continuing on, not neglecting to make use of this ideal situation to promote himself, “Didn’t you mention that your fiancé is from a well-to-do family? If you marry him, won’t the greatest regret of your life be resolved once and for all?”

Shi Yao: “What you said makes a lot of sense...”

Hearing those words, the edges of Lin Jiage’s lips curved upward in glee. It seemed like his self-promotion was not completely useless after all...

Shi Yao: “... but it’s a pity that I won’t be marrying him.”

Lin Jiage’s body immediately jolted straight up. Agitated by the words he had just heard, he asked, “Why?”

“Why are you so agitated over this?” There was a hint of bewilderment in Shi Yao’s voice as she asked the question.

“Am I?” Lin Jiage asked. After saying those words, he realized that he had indeed reacted a little excessively to her words, so he quickly added, “I’m not agitated by your words. I am agitated by the group approaching us from 235°...”

Shi Yao replied with an “Oh”, seemingly taking his words for it.

Not wanting to catch her suspicion, Lin Jiage didn’t probe further on the issue right away. He quickly cleared away the group at 235° before continuing with the conversation, “Isn’t it contradictory for you to call him your fiancé and yet not marry him?”

“That’s not it. The relationship between me and my fiancé is a little complicated. How should I put this across to you...” Perhaps it was because Shi Yao was trying to find the words to express herself, she fell silent for quite a while before she finally continued on once more. “... Anyway, the thing is that he doesn’t like me...”

“How...” Barely after uttering a word, Lin Jiage realized that his emotions had gotten the better of him once more. He quickly took in a deep breath and forced his tone to return to its usual leisurely state before continuing on, “... How do you know that he doesn’t like you?”

“I’m not dumb, I can see with my own eyes...”

Hearing Shi Yao’s words, Lin Jiage scoffed in the depths of his heart: *But you really are dumb!*

Unaware of Lin Jiage’s reaction to her words, Shi Yao continued on with her story, “... My fiancé doesn’t like girls like me. He likes girls with huge breasts, long legs, and a coy voice. What he views to be most important in a girl isn’t her face but her butt. The bigger her butt is, the more attracted he is to her...”

## **Chapter 364: All Restaurants In The World Will Be Free (2)**

Freak!

What on earth did he just hear?!

Was that really him?

Was the fiancé Shi Yao was referring to really him?

Why was he unaware of his love for girls with huge breasts, long legs, and a coy voice? Furthermore, who in the world said that he wasn’t interested in a girl’s face but her butt? He didn’t have that kind of fetish!

This was definitely the worst insult he had ever received in his entire lifetime!

*Who is the one who uttered such lies about me before Soft Bun? I swear that I’ll teach that fellow a lesson he’ll never forget!*

Lin Jiage gritted his teeth in fury as he concocted malicious ploys as to how he would destroy the person who dared to flame him before Soft Bun. It took quite a while before he managed to calm his emotions sufficiently to ask, “Are you sure that you aren’t misunderstanding something about your fiancé?”

“I don’t think it’s a misunderstanding because I have a...” Shi Yao’s voice suddenly trailed away at this point. It took several seconds before she spoke up once more, “... There’s a girl who knows him told me about it. She would send photos to me often, and the girls whom my fiancé hangs out with always have those distinctive traits.”

Even though Shi Yao didn't reveal the name of the girl, Lin Jiage already had a good idea who she was.

So, the culprit was Liang Jiusi's cousin... He wasn't the type who liked to hurl expletives, but he couldn't find another word more fitting than 'b\*tch' to describe Liang Jiusi's cousin...

While Lin Jiage was still teetering on the edge of a mental breakdown, Shi Yao's voice sounded in his ears once more, "That's not all. I think my fiancé might not be too healthy in the mind either..."

The hand which Lin Jiage was holding his hand with shuddered upon hearing those words.

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*W-what? How am I not healthy in the mind?*

"A while ago, I saw an erotic magazine on his desk. It was in Japanese, but I have learned the language before. I was able to recognize the words on the cover of the erotic magazine, and it has something to do with SM and a father-daughter relationship. Do you get what I'm saying?"

*The heck do I get it!*

At this very moment, Lin Jiage didn't want to understand anything at all. All he wanted to do was to strangle someone to death—that damned dog, Liang Jiusi!

To think that the matter regarding the erotic magazine hadn't passed yet... No, that would be an understatement. Not only had it not passed it, it had even severely affected the dignified and dreamy impression Soft Bun had of him...

Liang Jiusi's cousin was ill in the mind, but Liang Jiusi was no better either! Those two cousins were really toxic to him!

As countless 'screw this' raced across Lin Jiage's mind, Shi Yao's voice sounded in his ears once more, "Say, it's already weird enough that he's interested in SM, right? But not only so, he even has inclinations toward father-daughter relationships... It's scary just to think about it! Do you think that guys who are interested in such matters are not healthy in the mind?"

*Can I choose not to answer this question??*, Lin Jiage wondered.

However, it was unfortunate that the heavens would never bend to the will of a man. Shi Yao's voice sounded once more, "Hm? Why aren't you saying anything? Did you not catch my words?"

"I'm listening," Lin Jiage replied.

"Oh. I thought that I have disconnected from the game..." With dogged determination, Shi Yao pressed the question on, "... So, do you think that my fiancé is not healthy in the mind?"

Having been asked the same question twice, it didn't seem like he could avoid the question anymore... Sighing deeply in despair, he replied, "I... guess so?"

"What do you mean by 'I guess so'? Do you think that there's nothing wrong looking at that kind of stuff? Or could it be that you are the same as him..."

Before Shi Yao could finish her words, Lin Jiage had already hurriedly refuted, "That's not it! I don't look at that kind of stuff..."

Since there was no escaping from this matter, it seemed like he had no choice but to put himself down. After all, it would be unwise to compromise both of his identities at once!

Gritting his teeth resolutely, he said, "I think your fiancé might really be not healthy in the mind."

But in the end, Lin Jiage still couldn't bring himself to end the conversation right there, especially not after hearing Soft Bun's current impression for him. As if a fish making its final struggle for life, he paused for two seconds before adding, "However, I still think that it could be a misunderstanding. Even if the erotic magazine is on your fiancé's table, it doesn't necessarily mean that it belongs to him."

### **Chapter 365: The Youth of Five Virtues (1)**

"Maybe you're right..." Shi Yao remarked in agreement before trailing off. A moment later, she continued, "... I think we have strayed a bit too far from our initial topic. Forget it, let's not talk about my fiancé anymore. All in all, what I want to say is that the probability of me and him getting together is zero."

*Zero?*

*May I ask which formula did you use to calculate out this probability?*

*As a top student in the Math Faculty, the answer that I have arrived at each time I tried to calculate this probability is 100%. To put it in simpler terms, even if we were to repeat this for another hundred times, the outcome will still end with us coming together...?*

Lin Jiage was dying to argue this matter, but he feared that he would incur Shi Yao's suspicion if he were to get hung up over a matter like this. Left with no choice, he could only suppress that stifled feeling in his chest and force himself to remain silent.

Math had never been Soft Bun's strength. Back then, she got half of the questions in her Math paper wrong when she did it before him. So, there was no need for him to pay any heed to the probability she has calculated out... There was no need to question it? at all—it had to be wrong!

What was more crucial at the moment, aside from deciding how to confess to Soft Bun, was for him to find a way to make Soft Bun realize that he didn't have such peculiar tastes in women, and more important than that, convey to her that he was extremely healthy in the mind!

In the first place, he was a very positive young man, definitely qualifying as a Youth of Five Virtues<sup>1</sup>!?

But speaking of which, what were the five virtues again?

Excellence in studies, righteousness in thought, positive attitude in work, adherence to rules, and excellence in conduct... No, that wasn't right. It should be... excellence in income, diligence in housework, expertise in cooking, positive attitude toward Yaoyao, and most importantly, ensuring that Yaoyao is well-fed...



...

They continued playing for quite a while, concluding their final game only at six-thirty in the evening as Shi Yao said that she was intending to head out for dinner.

Before going offline, Lin Jiage habitually asked, "Are you still playing later at night?"

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Shi Yao quickly replied, "Probably not. It'll be a little difficult tonight. Our finals are coming up next month, so my roommates and I are intending to brush up on our schoolwork at night."

"Oh, I see," Lin Jiage replied. Recalling how Shi Yao had no classes tomorrow based on the timetable that he had acquired through certain means, he asked, "What about tomorrow?"

Shi Yao: "Tomorrow won't do either. I'm heading to the antique market."

Lin Jiage frowned in bewilderment upon hearing those words. He was unable to connect the dots in the spur of a moment, "Antique market? You dabble in the antiques as well?"

"It's not like that. An elder who treats me really well is having his birthday very soon, so I'm intending to pick out a birthday present for him..." Shi Yao replied.

Realization finally dawned upon Lin Jiage after hearing those words.

He must have hit his head somewhere to actually forget about something as important as that...

Speaking of that matter though, he had already picked out a suitable inkstone for her. It was just that he hadn't found a feasible way to hand the inkstone over to her yet. Since she had raised this matter with him, this was actually a godsent opportunity for him to do so...

Harboring such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage asked, "Are you intending to pick out an antique for that elder?"

"Yeah, that's what I'm intending to do..."

"The antique market is complicated though. It's quite easy to get scammed there. Do you know anyone there?"

"I don't. That's why I'm a little frustrated over this matter. I think I'll just wander around and try my luck tomorrow..."

"Do you need my help then?"

"Hm? How do you intend to help me?"

"I happen to have a relative in the antique market. I can give you his number. If there's anything you need help for, you can just look for him. As long as you show him my WeChat account, he'll give you a decent discount on whatever you need..."

Through the earpieces, Lin Jiage heard Shi Yao squealing in delight, "Really? That would really be great! Do send me your relative's contact number..."

“Alright. I’ll send you his number through WeChat,” Lin Jiage replied.

After which, he backed out of the game, tapped into WeChat, and sent a string of numbers over to Shi Yao.

### **Chapter 366: The Youth of Five Virtues (2)**

After receiving Shi Yao’s thank you message, Lin Jiage replied with a [You’re welcome] before backing out of WeChat. He searched for the phone number he had just sent Shi Yao and dialed over.

“There’ll be a young lady named Shi Yao calling you later on. Give her your store address, and she’ll look for you in your store tomorrow... Right, remember to bring the inkstone I requested you to buy for me along as well. Treat her as an ordinary customer and sell the inkstone to her...

“Also, make sure that you don’t give anything away that betrays my involvement in this matter... You don’t need to care that much. You just have to do as I instruct you to...

“If there’s nothing else, I’ll be hanging up...

“Ah, no. That’s right, don’t raise the price too high. Keep it low, but don’t make it so low that it would incur doubts...

“What would be suitable? Hm... 200RMB should do...

“That’s none of your business. I was the one who bought it at 200,000RMB, and I’m willing to sell it to her at 200RMB. Oh, I’ll have to remember to send her a 200RMB red packet so that she doesn’t have to spend a cent on this...

“It’s none of your concern. I have the money, and I like to do good deeds without leaving my name behind. What can you do about it?”

After hanging up the phone, Lin Jiage tapped into his WeChat once more and selected the chat with Shi Yao.

He quickly selected the red packet option and typed in 200RMB, but just as he was about to send it, he suddenly hesitated for a second. After which, he quickly changed the 200RMB to 80RMB while adding the following words in the red packet message: *[Thank you for the Level 3 Helmet]*.

After the red packet was successfully sent, he swiftly went on to send another two more red packets of 80RMB each. The messages tagged to the two red packets were namely *[Thank you for your AWM]* and *[Thank you for your Level 3 Armor]* respectively.

Lin Jiage quickly went through everything once more and confirmed that everything was in order. After which, he kept his phone and called Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai out for dinner.

As he was heading out of the dorm, he suddenly recalled the 80RMB red packets he had just sent out and a tinge of joy touched his heart.

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He wondered if Soft Bun got his hint... 80RMB is equivalent to 50RMB + 20RMB + 10RMB...

While the number 80 was a little shabby, it was the largest sum he could create out of 520... It represented his willingness to give her however much money she wanted!

(In Chinese web slang, 520 means “I love you”. The pronunciation of 520 sounds similar to “I love you” in Chinese.)

...

As soon as Shi Yao received the phone number sent over by Mister Numbers, she dropped the other party a text to start a conversation.

After some simple exchanges, she received the other party’s store address and made an appointment to meet the other party at his store at eleven o’clock tomorrow morning.

Accompanying Shi Yao along on her visit to the antique market were Jiang Yue and Leng Nuan.

In truth, He Tiantian had wanted to come along as well, but she was called out by the teacher to head to the library to organize some books.

The store which Mister Numbers had introduced to her was quite easy to find. It was a walk less than a hundred meters away after Shi Yao and the others got off the train.

As Liang Mumu had already specified the nature of her present, Shi Yao got straight to the point and said that she wanted to get an inkstone as soon as she stepped into the store.

“What a coincidence! I happened to have acquired an inkstone just yesterday...” The store owner turned around to bring out an inkstone out as he began to introduce the history behind it.

With just a quick glance, the inkstone had already caught Shi Yao’s eye.

It was an exquisite inkstone with its color and design both emanating grandness.

Based on her understanding of Grandpa Lin, she had no doubt that he would love this inkstone.

However, judging from the imposing appearance of the inkstone, Shi Yao could tell that it was bound to be quite expensive.

With a jittery heart, she queried the price. When she heard that the price of the inkstone was only 200RMB, she unhesitatingly paid the sum and took the inkstone away with her.

As Shi Yao left the antique market together with Leng Nuan and Jiang Yue, she caught sight of a familiar face.

*She... What is she doing here?*

### **Chapter 367: A Bone-chilling Coincidence (1)**

As Shi Yao left the antique market together with Leng Nuan and Jiang Yue, she caught sight of a familiar face.

*She... What is she doing here?*

Shi Yao unwittingly halted in her footsteps to look at that person, her head tilted slightly in contemplation.

“Yaoyao?” Leng Nuan had walked a few more steps forward when she suddenly realized that Shi Yao wasn’t following along, so she turned around and called for her.

There was no response from Shi Yao.

Jiang Yue also turned her head around to beckon Shi Yao, “Yaoyao, what are you standing there in a daze for? It’s a really hot day. You’ll get sunburned standing out in the open like that...”

Shi Yao still did not move.

Noticing an anomaly in Shi Yao’s response, Leng Nuan traced her gaze. When she finally saw the person whom Shi Yao was staring at, her eyes widened in surprise, “What is she doing here?”

“Who is it?” Jiang Yue asked in intrigue. Upon seeing that Leng Nuan had gone nonresponsive as well, she traced Leng Nuan’s gaze as well. Soon enough, her mouth fell agape in astonishment and she exclaimed, “Campus Farce Qin? She’s actually in the antique market as well? Isn’t this too much of a coincidence?”

“It’s indeed too much of a coincidence, to the point that it sends shivers down my spine...” Leng Nuan remarked contemplatively.

“Ah?” Jiang Yue was startled by Leng Nuan’s remark. “Nuan, are you serious? I am about to be baked under the hot sun, but you are actually shivering over here?”

Shi Yao, who had been silent all this while, turned around and met Leng Nuan’s eye, “You’re right. It’s so coincidental that I can’t help but think that it’s a deliberate action instead. Well, we’ll find out very soon, once we head over to take a look.”

“Un,” Leng Nuan nodded in agreement.

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Jiang Yue was even confused after listening to the conversation between the two of them. She looked at Leng Nuan before turning her gaze to Shi Yao, the look on her face more blank than ever, “What are the two of you talking about? I don’t understand at all...”

“It’s fine that you don’t understand. Follow us...” Leng Nuan said as she held Jiang Yue’s elbow and brought her over to Shi Yao’s side. After which, the three of them returned down the road they had just come from, back to the store where Shi Yao bought her inkstone from.

This time, they did not enter the store but waited in the shadows instead.

Due to the sweltering weather, Jiang Yue swatted her hand furiously to cool herself down as she asked in confusion, “I don’t get it at all. What are the two of you up to? Why are we hiding over here?”

“If we really want to know what Campus Farce Qin is up to, we should be following right behind her, right...”

“How long more do we need to wait for? When can we go...” At this point, one could already hear lethargy creeping into Jiang Yue’s words.

Just as Jiang Yue was about to lose her patience, Qin Yiran finally appeared in the vicinity.

But this time, she was not alone. She had another person standing right by her side.

And the person standing beside Qin Yiran was someone whom Shi Yao was even more familiar with—Liang Mumu.

Seeing such a sight, the withering Jiang Yue immediately sprung back to life with a full HP bar, “My gosh, am I seeing things? Campus Farce Qin is actually acquainted with Liang Mumu?”

Leng Nuan was much quieter than the agitated Jiang Yue, but the astonishment in the depths of her eyes was apparent.

Only Shi Yao remained perfectly calm in this situation. Pursing her lips lightly together, she gazed fixedly at the duo as they entered the antique store where she bought her inkstone from amidst light chatter and laughter.

Qin Yiran and Liang Mumu did not stay in the store for too long before returning to the streets once more.

Compared to before they entered the store, the smile on Liang Mumu’s face had blossomed much more radiantly, and there were even some hints of excitement if one were to observe closely.

Perhaps it was due to the sweltering weather, neither Liang Mumu nor Qin Yiran was willing to remain under the scorching sun for too long. Their footsteps were brisk, and it didn’t take long for them to disappear from sight.

“Say, do you know why Qin Yiran and Liang Mumu went to the store where we have just gone to earlier?” Jiang Yue asked.

Leng Nuan pondered for a moment before shaking her head, “I can’t figure out their intention.”

“Yaoyao, what about you?” Jiang Yue directed her hopes toward Shi Yao.

### **Chapter 368: A Bone-chilling Coincidence (2)**

Even though Qin Yiran and Liang Mumu’s silhouettes could no longer be seen on the streets anymore, Shi Yao’s gaze still remained fixated at where they had departed, as if in a trance. Even the words she muttered were at odds with the question Jiang Yue had asked her, “In the end, it’s just as I have thought...”

“What?” Jiang Yue failed to catch Shi Yao’s words clearly.

However, Shi Yao was too absorbed in her own thoughts to respond to Jiang Yue. With a dazed look in her eyes, she continued mumbling, “I have already guessed that this would be the case, but I didn’t have any evidence to confirm it. This time around, I have really verified it with my own eyes...”

When the ‘*Female Student from G University Spends Each Night With a Different Partner?*’ scandal first came out on the school forum, she had already guessed that the mastermind was in cahoots with Liang Mumu.

In fact, when she spent the night digging up the user who had posted the scandal, she was surprised that the culprit was Qin Yiran and not Liang Mumu.

The reason why she had suspected Liang Mumu was because Qin Yiran was unlikely to know where Lin Jiage lived. Taking a step back, even if Qin Yiran managed to find out where Lin Jiage lived by some chance, there was still no reason for her to spend so much effort and time following and gathering so many photos on her... After all, in the eyes of those in the G University back then, Lin Jiage and her were nothing more than unacquainted strangers.

However, Liang Mumu was Lin Jiage’s neighbor and her friend. It would not be too difficult for her to acquire those photos.

Qin Yiran was likely to be nothing more than a pawn in Liang Mumu’s eyes, a piece she could manipulate in order to achieve her aims. It was a pity that Qin Yiran was unaware of this, devotedly running errands for Liang Mumu even to this day...

“Yaoyao, what on earth are you saying?” Jiang Yue asked in bewilderment, thinking that Shi Yao was spouting nonsense. Receiving no response, she raised her tone and asked, “Yaoyao, I don’t understand what you are saying at all! It’s almost as if you are talking Mathematics to me!”

Finally hearing Jiang Yue’s words, Shi Yao reined in her thoughts and smiled at Jiang Yue, “It’s nothing much. Let’s go have lunch.”

Jiang Yue probably didn’t want to fry her brain over all those complexities either. Seeing that Shi Yao wasn’t replying to her question, she grumbled a simple “Alright” before grabbing Shi Yao’s arm and leaving the area.

However, Leng Nuan still felt a little unsettled by the matter. On the way to the train station, she advised worriedly, “Yaoyao, the fact that they have appeared here means that they intend to do something. You must really watch out.”

Shi Yao nodded in response, “I know, but I can’t figure out what’s running through their minds either. It seems like they are trying to understand what kind of inkstone I bought? Well, there’s probably more to that... Forget it, let’s not think about it anymore! There’s bound to be a way out when we come to that point. It’s not a bad thing that we have bumped into them today; at least, I would know that I have to be wary around him. Still, this inkstone... Nuan, can I leave it with you for the time being? I’m afraid that something might happen to it if it remains in my hands...”

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Leng Nuan: “Sure, that’s fine with me. I think you should keep the inkstone case with you though. In the off case that they try to tamper with the present, all they would find is just an empty case.”

Jiang Yue, who was walking in the middle of Leng Nuan and Shi Yao, looked as if she had just drunk three vats of wine, “I’m starting to think that you aren’t just talking Mathematics now. You two must be jumbling Physics and Biology into your words too...”

...

Having settled Grandpa Lin's birthday present, Shi Yao's heart was finally able to settle at ease, allowing her to devote her attention to studying for her finals.

Spending her time among eating, revising, and gaming, the days passed by swiftly. In the blink of an eye, a new month had already dawned upon her. Summer holidays were around the corner, but before that, there was still her finals to deal with, and Grandpa Lin's birthday was coming right up as well.

### **Chapter 369: My Younger Brother is Nothing Compared to My Sister-in-law (1)**

...

The truth was that Lin Jiage had been rather busy during this period of time as well.

Other than managing the projects he had taken on, he had to help out with the organizing of his grandfather's birthday banquet, and more importantly, he had to plan out his confession to Shi Yao as well.

Loaded with work, his days also passed by swiftly. A week before his grandfather's birthday, he received a call informing him that the things he had ordered were ready. That was one matter struck off his task list, but it was swiftly replaced with another concern: How could he ask Shi Yao out after his grandfather's birthday banquet?

While he was vexed over this matter, another two more days passed.

It was the weekend, and as his grandfather's birthday banquet was just next week, Lin Jiage returned back home to check if there was anything that needed help with.

Saturday afternoon, Lin Jiage and Lin Jiayi were the only ones at home to have lunch.

Having arrived earlier in the dining table than Lin Jiage, Lin Jiayi finished her meal faster and placed down her chopsticks first. Despite so, she remained seated on the dining table, showing no signs of leaving at all.

Lin Jiage's instincts told him that there was something amiss with Lin Jiayi. Nevertheless, he continued with his meal unhurriedly and gracefully, completely treating Lin Jiayi as if she was nonexistent.

It took quite a while before he finally ate his fill. As soon as he placed down his chopsticks, Lin Jiayi passed a serviette over to him, saying, "Come, wipe your lips."

Such incongruous actions could only mean that treacherous currents are hidden beneath the exterior...

Glancing at Lin Jiayi's impeccable smiling face, Lin Jiage didn't take the serviette offered by her. Instead, he took another one from the dining table himself and wiped his lips slowly.

The serviette offered by Lin Jiayi can't be called a serviette but money notes...

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With such a thought in mind, Lin Jiage tossed the serviette he had used on the table and prepared to leave the dining table. He knew that he had to get away from the dangerous figure who had been eyeing him the entire meal.

However, before he could even rise to his feet, Lin Jiayi had already spoken up, "My beloved brother, our grandfather's birthday is coming up, but I still don't have a gown ready yet. Can you accompany me to the mall in the afternoon to help me pick out some clothes?"

It was a question which Lin Jiage did not even have to spend a single second thinking about in order to answer, "No."

Only a fool would go shopping with her... Is she the type who needs someone to shop with her? What she really needs is an ATM machine!

"Are you really going to be that cold-hearted and callous to me?" Lin Jiayi blinked her eyes. "Then... why don't I put it this way then? My beloved brother, our grandfather's birthday is coming up. Have you prepared your clothes yet? If not, why don't I accompany you to the mall in the afternoon to help you pick out your clothes?"

Lin Jiage's response was even sharper and more decisive than before, "There's no need for that."

Only a dimwit would accompany her for her shopping trips... Is it even possible for such kindness to come from her?

"Jiage, I am really concerned about you. How can you reject me so heartlessly?" Lin Jiayi sighed sorrowfully. "As the saying goes, 'a grown son can't be retained'. You aren't even married yet, but the relationship between us has already grown so distant..."

(This is an adaptation to the phrase 'a grown daughter can't be retained'. In ancient China, daughters are usually 'married out' because a wife is expected to follow her husband. Back then, it meant that parents mustn't attempt to keep their daughter to themselves no matter how much they miss her because that would be no different from holding her back. In modern days though, it has become a phrase that symbolizes heartlessness. Once the daughter marries out, it would be as if she's cutting all ties with her parents, thus hinting at the callousness of a daughter.)

Heh... Isn't money the only factor you take into account when you measure the closeness of your relationships with others?

Lin Jiage scoffed coldly inside as he rose to his feet and walked away, completely paying no heed to Lin Jiayi's theatrics.

In the face of her escaping prey, Lin Jiayi did not fluster at all. Instead, she sat confidently in her chair as she continued with her lamentation, "... My younger brother really comes nowhere in comparison to my sister-in-law. Forget it! I was hoping to find someone to help us carry our bags, but since my younger brother is unwilling to help us on this little favor, I guess I'll just have to go out alone with my sister-in-law then..."

Lin Jiayi shot a glance at Lin Jiage as she spoke, and just as she had expected, the latter's footsteps had trailed to a halt.



The corners of her mouth inched upward as she continued, "... Since my younger brother bears to see two weak ladies lugging their bags along, I guess we have no choice but to rely on ourselves then!"

After saying her piece, Lin Jiayi got up, stretched her back lazily, and confidently strutted out of the dining room.

### **Chapter 370: My Younger Brother is Nothing Compared to My Sister-in-law (2)**

*Two weak ladies? Soft Bun could be termed as a weak lady, but you... Are you sure you aren't a female bandit?*

Lin Jiage was well aware that it was all a trap, but as if his feet were glued to the floor, he was unable to move at all.

What was even more annoying was that even though Lin Jiayi was prattling nonstop earlier, all of a sudden, she wasn't saying a word at all anymore.

Watching as she passed by his side, Lin Jiage knew that it wouldn't take long for her to leave the dining hall. Knowing that he had already lost this battle, he gritted his teeth tightly and surrendered helplessly, "I'll carry your bags."

But Lin Jiayi's footsteps showed no signs of halting.

Knowing what she was up to, Lin Jiage's jaws clenched even more tightly together. But for Soft Bun, there was nothing that he could not tolerate.

It was just a moment ago that he said that only a fool and a dimwit would go shopping with Lin Jiayi. Since he was already a fool and a dimwit, he had nothing else he could lose anymore!

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage took in a deep breath to suppress the indignance in his heart before speaking up once more, "I'll be your chauffeur too!"

But Lin Jiayi simply walked further and further away. In fact, it seemed like she was speeding up even.

That black-hearted woman!

Lin Jiage cursed Lin Jiayi from the inside to the outside eight hundred times, but the words that came out of his lips were instead, "I'll be your ATM as well!"

As if someone had flicked her switch, Lin Jiayi's footsteps finally came to a halt. She turned around and revealed a beaming smile on her face, "Great! Since you are so earnest, I guess I'll reluctantly allow you to serve as the porter, chauffeur, and ATM for me and Yaoyao!"

Looking at Lin Jiayi's ravishing smile, Lin Jiage sneered disdainfully in his heart.

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*Who in the world is the one who said that Lin Jiayi's smile is so exquisite that it is impossible to pick a fault with it?*

*They must be blind! Impossible to pick a fault with? There's clearly a dagger hidden right beneath that smile of hers!*

If Lin Jiage had a choice, he would really want to reject having a sister like that!

...

Shi Yao and Lin Jiayi had agreed to meet at the entrance of SKP Mall at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It would usually take roughly twenty minutes to get from the Lin Family Residence to the mall, but before the clock had even struck two, Lin Jiage was already urging Lin Jiayi to leave the house.

As a result, the two of them ended up waiting almost an hour at the entrance of SKP Mall before Shi Yao finally arrived.

Shi Yao thought that she would only be going out with Lin Jiayi, so she was slightly startled to see Lin Jiage around as well. After greeting Lin Jiayi with a sweet "Sister Jiayi", she hesitated for a moment before greeting Lin Jiage with a smile as well.

In response, Lin Jiage looked at Shi Yao and replied with a very soft "Un".

Anxious to embark on her shopping spree, a mere second after Lin Jiage responded to Shi Yao's greeting, Lin Jiayi had already grabbed Shi Yao's arm and pulled her away to the nearest Gucci store.

As they made their way over to the store, Lin Jiayi began chatting with Shi Yao.

"Yaoyao, you don't have to bother about Lin Jiage. He's basically an ATM machine which comes with the functions of a porter and a chauffeur..."

As Lin Jiayi was a SVIP member for all of the stores in SKP Mall, there was no need for them to pick out their clothes personally. As soon as they entered a store, the manager would personally escort them to the VIP room and present them a catalog of the newest designs to pick from.

As a seasoned shopaholic, Lin Jiayi had mastered the art of visioning how the clothes would look when worn. As soon as she took the catalog, she swiftly pointed out the designs that caught her eye. Soon, the store attendants carried a pile of clothes into the VIP room.

Lin Jiayi stood up and swiftly separated the clothes into two halves. After which, she instructed for the store attendants to bring one of the halves to Shi Yao for her to try the clothes out.

Shi Yao and Lin Jiayi took a changing room each.

Lin Jiayi was the first one to be done changing. Stepping out of the changing room, she examined herself closely in the mirror while asking Lin Jiage, who was seated on the sofa by the side, "Does it look good on me?"

Fiddling with his phone, Lin Jiage did not even bother raising his head before replying with a perfunctory "Un".

At this moment, Shi Yao emerged from the changing room as well.