

Chapter 381: Longevity Peach Cake (1)

Shi Yao and Liang Mumu exchanged looks for a brief moment. Liang Mumu didn't say a word at all, and Shi Yao remained silent too. A moment later, Shi Yao retracted her gaze and followed Lin Jiayi into the banquet hall.

The birthday of Grandpa Lin was an important annual affair to the Lin Family.

Grandpa Lin was fond of Chinese style decorations, and the banquet hall was decorated in accordance with his tastes. The crystal lights that were originally inside the banquet hall were all taken down and replaced with wooden ceiling lights, and the plastic tables were swapped with rustic wooden ones.

There were quite a few guests who had already arrived at the venue, and every single one of them was dressed up exquisitely.

Shortly after Shi Yao and Lin Jiayi entered the banquet hall, Liang Huiling came in with Liang Mumu and Liang Jiusi as well.

Even though Shi Yao was Lin Jiage's fiancée, her background paled far in comparison to Liang Mumu's.

Liang Mumu had been attending all sorts of banquets with Liang Huiling ever since she was young, so she was acquainted with many people within this circle. She knew the names of most of the guests present within the hall, and she was able to hold light conversations with them too.

However, the same couldn't be said about Shi Yao. Other than being close to the Lin Family, she hardly knew anyone in the banquet hall at all.

Having known Liang Mumu for quite some time now, Shi Yao was well aware that Liang Mumu was extremely skilled at socializing, but she seemed exceptionally into it today.

With a wine cup in hand, she walked into social groups with a dignified smile and carried herself with poise. She seemed able to maintain an elegant demeanor no matter where she was, and these traits of hers swiftly placed her in the limelight within the room.

Even the distant relatives of the Lin Family sitting around Shi Yao had begun talking about Liang Mumu, and their mouths were filled with compliments for her.

While the banquet hall was considerably large, it was still only that big. It was inevitable that Liang Mumu would get close to Shi Yao from time to time.

During times like this, Liang Mumu's voice would seem to raise her voice a little, allowing Shi Yao to hear her words loud and clear.

There was no way Shi Yao couldn't have known that Liang Mumu's actions were deliberate. The latter was doing this to show off and highlight the distance between them.

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But in Shi Yao's view, Liang Mumu was simply making a big fuss out of nothing.

No matter how much better Liang Mumu was at socializing than her, she didn't feel the slightest envy toward her. This was because the Liang Mumu's limelight was overshadowed by that meter high Longevity Peach Cake placed not too far away from her.

Buttercream, shredded coconut stuffing, chocolate, and all sorts of fruits... How enticing is that...

Just as Shi Yao turned her eyes toward the cake for the nth time, the noisy banquet hall suddenly fell a little silent.

But that being said, Shi Yao wasn't in the right state of mind to be really paying attention to her surroundings. Her attention was for too glued to that Longevity Peach Cake to notice what was going on.

She hated how time seemed to crawl at a snail's pace...

Why hadn't the birthday banquet begun yet? When are they going to start distributing the cake at this rate...

The reason why there was a moment of silence in the banquet hall was due to Lin Jiage's arrival.

He had never liked wearing tuxedos, but in view that it was his grandfather's birthday, and that there were many business partners present in the banquet hall, as the only successor to the Lin Family's company, he had no choice but to put on something appropriate for the occasion.

He was wearing a British style tuxedo, which had a simple yet graceful design. It gave him the appearance of an aristocracy. Paired with his exquisite facial features, he looked just like an artwork carefully sculpted by the hands of God.

The banquet hall remained silent for a good ten seconds before hushed whisperings sounded around.

"Is that Old Master Lin's grandson? He looks amazing!"

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Old Master Lin's grandson rarely appears in such events. I always thought that he was young, but before I know it, he's already a grown-up. I wonder if he's betrothed to anyone yet. Our daughter seems to be around the same age as him."

"You can drop that thought now. Old Master Lin has already decided on his granddaughter-in-law many years ago..."

"..."

Amidst the evaluating gazes and discussions of the crowd, Lin Jiage nonchalantly looked around the banquet hall before his gaze finally fell upon Shi Yao and Lin Jiayi.

Compared to those curious gazes directed at him, those two people sure was a refreshing sight to look at...

One of them was busy taking selfies with her camera, and the other one was staring in a certain direction without blinking in the least.

Looking at Shi Yao's face, Lin Jiage could tell that she hadn't noticed the commotion going on in the banquet hall at all. With a deep sigh, he traced her line of sight and finally saw the longevity peach cake which she was looking so fixated at. A row of ellipsis appeared above his head, "..."

So, his presence didn't even come close to matching a longevity peach cake?

Lin Jiage felt utterly helpless. Seeing that Shi Yao had no intention of looking his way at all, he could only start moving his legs and walk toward her instead.

Along the way, there were quite a few people who greeted Lin Jiage.

Other than some elders, there were also a few gorgeous young ladies too.

Out of politeness, Lin Jiage would greet the elders back. As for those seemingly demure young ladies who were looking at him with glowing eyes, he simply directed a nod at them before passing them by.

Even up to the point that he walked up to Shi Yao's side, she was still staring at the longevity peach cake.

So, other than clamping down all of his and Soft Bun's peach blossoms, he still had to fight with delicious food over her affection too?

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Lin Jiage couldn't help but feel that there was a long road ahead of him. Feeling a little stifled inside, he deliberately adjusted his position and stood in the way of Shi Yao and the longevity peach cake.

When Shi Yao's sight of the longevity peach cake was blocked by a massive shadow, a slight frown formed on her forehead and a hint of unhappiness surfaced on her face.

Lin Jiayi, due to her lighting suddenly turning dark, glanced at the huge obstacle known as Lin Jiage and grumbled, "Can't you move aside? You're blocking my lighting over here! You made my photos look darker than they should be!"

The Lin Jiage who had noticed the slight change in Shi Yao's expression and heard Lin Jiayi's complaints: "..."

Was he getting scorned by the two of them?

The frustrated Lin Jiage walked away from the spot and pulled out the chair beside Shi Yao. After settling down on the chair, he turned to Shi Yao and asked, "What time did you arrive?"

"A little past five..." Shi Yao replied concisely as her gaze started drifting off to the longevity peach cake once more.

There were two slightly more gutsy women who came over to propose a toast to Lin Jiage at this moment, but Lin Jiage feigned as if he hadn't heard them at all.

Instead, with his eyes still looking intently at the side of Shi Yao's face, he continued asking, "The driver brought you here?"

Shi Yao didn't even bother looking at Lin Jiage as she replied with a very perfunctorily "Un".

However, Lin Jiage was unfazed by her inattention in their conversation, He continued trying, “The end-of-semester examinations are coming soon. How is your revision coming along?”

Seeing that Lin Jiage had no intention of bothering with them, the two gutsy women could only take their leave embarrassedly.

This time though, Shi Yao finally turned to glance at Lin Jiage and replied uncertainly, “I guess I am somewhat ready?”

Soft Bun is finally looking at me...

Lin Jiage suddenly felt his mood rising to new high. Just as he was about to continue speaking, Lin Jiayi suddenly cut in, “Yaoyao, do you want to take some pictures with me?”

“Sure...” Shi Yao said as she turned to Lin Jiayi.

Feeling as if his hard work had suddenly been undone, Lin Jiage glared at Lin Jiayi with an incensed look in his eyes.

Lin Jiayi simply raised her eyebrows slightly in response before wrapping her arm around Shi Yao to snap a few photos together.

Chapter 383: Final Moments of Glory (1)

As the two of them were taking selfies, they were only snap some close-up shots. However, Lin Jiayi wanted a few full-body shots too. So, she passed her phone over to Lin Jiage and said, “Take some photos for me and Yaoyao.”

She paused for a moment before supplementing, “I want full-body shots.”

Without saying a word, Lin Jiage took the camera over and stood up from his seat.

Before they began the impromptu photoshoot, Lin Jiayi, out of a lack of confidence in Lin Jiage’s photography skills, began instructing sternly, “Take a few more shots at once. I’ll choose the best one out of them all later on.

“Also, while you’re taking our photos, you have to make sure that both my feet and Yaoyao’s are at the bottom of the photo. This will make our legs look longer.

“It should also go without saying that you should turn on the beautifying effect...”

Facing Lin Jiayi’s incessant nagging, Lin Jiage didn’t say a single word at all. He grabbed the phone and began snapping shots of the two.

After taking around twenty to thirty shots, Grandpa Lin’s birthday banquet finally began.

Everyone quickly ended their conversations and headed to their seats as indicated on the tags on the table.

After everyone in the banquet hall had finally settled down, Grandpa Lin finally walked to the forefront of the room and began his speech.

While he addressed the guests, the waiters also began serving the dishes too.

By the time the waiters were done serving the dishes, Grandpa Lin was also mostly done with what he had to say. He received a wine cup Auntie Sun was passing over and proposed a toast to everyone present in the room.

After that, everyone began to dig into the food.

During this period of time, there were quite a few people who approached Grandpa Lin to have a toast with him and present their birthday presents.

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Shi Yao, Lin Jiage, and Lin Jiayi, who were seated on the same table as Grandpa Lin, also offered their blessings and gifts to Grandpa Lin too.

Liang Mumu was seated on the table right behind Shi Yao's. During the entire course of the meal, she had been keeping an eye on Shi Yao, and just as Shi Yao was about to present her gift to Grandpa Lin, she inconspicuously nudged the woman seated beside to her.

The woman raised her gaze to look at Liang Mumu, only to see Liang Mumu gesturing toward Grandpa Lin's table with her chin. Understanding Liang Mumu's signal, she turned to Grandpa Lin's table and saw Shi Yao presenting her gift to Grandpa Lin.

So, she put on a smile and spoke up, "Old Master Lin, aren't you going to open up Yaoyao's present and see what she has gotten for you?"

Hearing those words, Shi Yao turned over to look at the woman who had just spoken up.

It was a familiar face. She couldn't recall the name of that woman, but she had some impression of her.

Back then, when she first went to Golden Resplendence together with Lin Jiage, that woman was one of the two who had talked bad about her outside the washroom.

She was also the person who was with Liang Mumu when she accompanied Lin Jiage to the shopping mall to pick out Lin Jiayi's present during her birthday.

It was clear that the mastermind behind that woman's actions was no other than Liang Mumu, be it the badmouthing incident back at the Golden Resplendence or the question that she was asking right now.

Grandpa Lin didn't think much into the question. After hearing those words, he beckoned for Auntie Sun to unwrap the present Shi Yao had prepared for him with a beaming smile. When he saw the inkstone inside, his smile brightened even further as he exclaimed, "Yaoyao's present is truly to my liking!"

Hearing Grandpa Lin's response, Shi Yao quickly retracted her gaze from Liang Mumu's side and responded to Grandpa Lin with her eyes curled into crescent smiles, "I'm glad that you like the present I gave you."

Grandpa Lin delightfully replied, "Of course! I treasure anything that Yaoyao gives me. I'll calligraph a few words with this inkstone one of these days and give it to you."

Shi Yao smiled brightly in response, saying, "Thank you, Grandpa Lin."

While Liang Mumu looked at the smile on Shi Yao's face and listened to the conversation between her and Grandpa Lin, a cold sneer slowly formed on her lips.

You should smile all you can now. Let's see whether you can still squeeze out a smile once I have my way with you!

Chapter 384: Final Moments of Glory (2)

You should smile all you can now. Let's see whether you can still squeeze out a smile once I have my way with you!

However, she really had to thank Shen Bailian for this matter. If not for her cooperation, she wouldn't know how to carry on with this play...

There would some words which would appear to be too intentional if she were to say it herself, such as asking Grandpa Lin to open the present Shi Yao had gifted him.

With such thoughts in mind, Liang Mumu turned to Shen Bailian and said softly, "There's still another matter that I need your help on later on."

Hearing Liang Mumu's voice, Shen Bailian put down her chopsticks and said, "No problem. Do what you need to do, and leave the rest to me. I've always viewed her as an eyesore. How can someone who is born in such an ordinary family be allowed to marry better than us?"

Shen Bailian's request of asking Grandpa Lin to open Shi Yao's gift was just a minor interjection, so the guests present didn't think too much into it. The matter passed by quickly.

Maybe it was out of fondness of Shi Yao, or perhaps he really liked the inkstone that much, but after unwrapping the present, he displayed the inkstone openly on the dining table, not asking Auntie Sun to put it back at all.

There were a few sharp-witted people who noticed the inkstone on the table while they were offering their blessings to Grandpa Lin, so they would drop a few words to compliment it.

"Old Master Lin, this inkstone looks not bad at all!"

"Old Master Lin, who was the one who gave you this inkstone? It's obvious that the person has a good eye for stuff!"

These compliments seemed to have really hit the right spot with Grandpa Lin. Even though it was mostly the same few words spoken time and time again, he didn't seem to get sick of hearing them. He would put on a gleeful each time around and, as if showing off his own treasure, he would reply proudly, "It was a gift from my granddaughter-in-law, Yaoyao. Isn't it beautiful?"

Naturally, the guests would then move on to shower praises upon Shi Yao as well.

Grandpa Lin didn't seem to be shaken by all the flowery compliments that were coming in. Instead, he even lifted his chin slightly and put on an attitude that seemed to say, "Like you have to say it out loud! Look at whose granddaughter-in-law she is!"

There was one person who had a strikingly similar expression to Grandpa Lin during the entire duration, and he was no other than Lin Jiage.

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Sitting on Shi Yao's left, he appeared to be eating his food gracefully at first glance, seemingly not paying any attention to the conversation between Grandpa Lin and the incoming guests. However, if one were to take a closer look, there was a proud arch in his brows that seemed to be saying, "Like you have to say it out loud! Look at whose wife she is!"

Meanwhile, Lin Jiayi, who was seated on Shi Yao's right, hadn't been idling around either. As the praises were lavished upon Shi Yao, she would put on a graceful smile that seemed almost as if someone was praising her instead. With a tone that one could hardly call humble, she would interject into the conversation and say, "Allow me to thank you on our Yaoyao's behalf."

As their table was exceptionally close to Liang Mumu's, so whatever that was spoken on Shi Yao's table would be heard loud and clear by both Liang Mumu and Shen Bailian.

It was inevitable that Shen Bailian would feel a little indignant upon hearing so many people complimenting Shi Yao. She leaned toward Liang Mumu and muttered in displeasure, "She's just an ordinary poor lass, so why does Old Master Lin treat her as if she's a treasure?"

"What is so good about her? Has Old Master Lin's eyesight gotten worse due to his old age? It's disgusting just to hear how those people are blindly heaping praises upon her!

"And Sis Jiayi too. She has been the role model of within our ladies' circle in Beijing, and there's no one amongst us who doesn't look up to her. I don't get it. Why in the world does she dote on that ugly little duckling so much?"

In contrast to the angry Shen Bailian, Shen Mumu appeared to be much calmer. She sipped lightly on her soup before replying, "It's the final moments of her glory, there's no need to pay so much heed to it."

Chapter 385: Securing Food for Soft Bun (1)

"It's the final moments of her glory, there's no need to pay so much heed to it."

Following those words, a hint of viciousness flashed across Liang Mumu's eyes.

Yes, enjoy your glory while you can. The more Grandpa Lin complimented and showed you off right now, the greater your fall from grace will be!

What's this called again? Killing a person with compliments?

...

As time gradually approached eight o'clock, Auntie Sun finally got up and apologetically held back the guests who were coming over to offer their blessings and gifts to Grandpa Lin.

It was finally time for the event that Shi Yao had been anticipating the entire dinner—singing the birthday song and cutting the cake.

While the longevity peach cake was indeed massive, there were also many guests present in the banquet hall, so the share that each person received wasn't really that much.

Shi Yao felt her heart falling deeper and deeper into the abyss when she saw how the massive cake grew smaller and smaller with each slice. Eventually, when the massive longevity peach cake was all gone, she had a look on her face that looked almost as if someone had plunged a knife right into her heart.

It took a while before she finally dejectedly picked up her fork and dug into the cake before her.

Grandpa Lin didn't like sweet stuff, so he simply symbolically ate a small portion of it before leaving the rest to Shi Yao.

As if having received a treasure, Shi Yao delightfully received the cake. Even her voice seemed to have become much sweeter at this moment as she said, "Thank you, Grandpa Lin!"

In order to manage her own figure, Lin Jiayi would usually avoid eating food that was high in calories at night. So, just like Grandpa Lin, she symbolically ate a small portion before passing the rest to Shi Yao too.

Having received yet another slice of cake, the smile on Shi Yao's face grew even brighter. With happiness beaming from her face, she replied jubilantly, "Thanks, Sis Jiayi!"

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Taking her reaction into sight, Lin Jiage, who was just thinking 'It's just two slices of cake, is there a need to get so happy over it?' a second ago, immediately pushed his share of the cake, which he hadn't even touched at all, to Shi Yao, saying, "You should have more if you like it..."

By then, Shi Yao had already finished one slice of the cake. She pushed her empty plate to the side before conveniently receiving the one Lin Jiage was passing over. As she stabbed her fork into the cake, she directed a sweet smile toward Lin Jiage.

As her mouth was still full, she didn't say anything to him at all. Nevertheless, her decision to eat what he had passed over first had somehow delighted him...

All of a sudden, it was like a flower had bloomed into Lin Jiage's heart. He looked at his parents and relatives sitting around him and said, "Dad, you can't eat sugary food due to your diabetes. I'll be taking your cake away then so that it doesn't go to waste..."

"Mum, aren't you on a diet together with Lin Jiayi? You should eat less of such food at night..."

"Aunt, you look like you're racing right for 100kg! You really need to control your food intake now. I'll be confiscating this cake then..."

"Uncle, if I remember correctly, you don't like honeydews, right? Look, there's some honeydew on your cake. I'll do you a favor this time around and deal with your cake for you..."

What else can I do? Soft Bun liked to eat it, so I can only fight for food on her behalf...

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage arranged the four plates of cake he had confiscated neatly on the table, pushing them over to Shi Yao whenever she was done with one.

Not too long after the cake cutting ceremony, the guests began to approach Grandpa Lin once more to present their gifts.

Those that were heading over right now were mostly juniors that were in the same generation as Lin Jiayi and Lin Jiage, so there was no need for the rest on the table to be too restrained in their gestures and words.

Shi Yao busied herself with the cakes before her, Lin Jiage busied himself looking at Shi Yao eating cake, and Lin Jiayi picked up her phone and began picking out a few pictures to upload to her Moments page.

Chapter 386: Securing Food for Soft Bun (2)

The moment Lin Jiayi tapped into her photo gallery, she nearly exploded out of rage. She smacked her phone back onto the table and turned her face over to glare daggers at Lin Jiage.

Her overly violent actions caused Shi Yao, who was singlemindedly feasting on her cake slices, to jolt in fright.

Before Lin Jiayi could spit the words “Lin Jiage” through her gritted teeth, she was already met with Shi Yao’s confused gaze.

In that instant, she suddenly found herself unable to voice out those words that were already at the tip of her tongue. Even her furious expression was swiftly replaced with a slight smile.

I can’t act so violently here. What if I were to scare Yaoyao?

Lin Jiayi took in a deep breath and she desperately tried to soothe her anger... and finally, when she had barely managed to push down the rage that was bursting up her chest, she turned to Shi Yao and said, “It’s nothing at all. My hands trembled a little earlier, so my phone nearly slipped out of my grasp...”

Shi Yao replied with a confused “Oh... You should be more careful, Sis Jiayi” before turning her full attention back to enjoying the cake slices laid before her.

Lin Jiayi waited for the instant that Shi Yao’s gaze finally tore away from her before directing a dirty glare at Lin Jiage. Then, she picked up her phone and sent a message to Lin Jiage.

[I told you to snap photos of me and Yaoyao, but what the hell have you been taking?]

[Have you never gone to school before? Do you not understand basic words?]

[When someone tells you to snap photos of who and who, they mean to tell you to take a photo with the two of them inside...]

[So what in the world have you been snapping?]

After sending that message, Lin Jiayi selected a photo and sent it over to Lin Jiage.

[May I ask... where the hell am I?]

Updates by . com

[And this too...]

Lin Jiayi selected yet another photo and sent it over.

[You can only see my hand in there! Where is my face?!]

[And do I even have to say anything about this? You can only see the hems of my clothes!!!]

[This too. I can only see a sliver of my hair!]

[If you can't use the camera, don't! How in the world can anyone have such trashy photography skills?]

Lin Jiayi sent a huge series of messages to Lin Jiage in a huff, but soon, she realized that Lin Jiage wasn't responding at all. So, she turned her eyes away from her phone to look at Lin Jiage.

Lin Jiage had his phone was placed on the table. Due to the massive amount of incoming messages, he would glance at it from time to time. However, he showed no signs of picking up his phone to reply to the messages.

There was a moment that Lin Jiage noticed Lin Jiayi's piercing gaze and glanced in her direction, but he soon turned his eyes back, as if she was nothing more than empty air. He continued looking intently at Shi Yao, and just as the latter was about to finish a slice of cake, he casually raised his right hand to push another plate of cake in front of her.

Seeing this sight, Lin Jiayi gnashed her teeth together furiously.

She had to exert an inhuman level of self-control before she was able to curb the urge to push Lin Jiage to the ground and beat him up. Taking a deep breath, she picked up her phone once more and sent a message to Lin Jiage: [Lin Jiage, you better stop feigning death!]

[Lin Jiage, I dare you to respond to my message!]

[Lin Jiage, I'm your mum!]

After that, Lin Jiayi finally received the response from Lin Jiage she had been waiting for all along. It was a screenshot.

The screenshot showed Lin Jiage forwarding the message she had sent to him over to their mother, Jiang Wangui.

Lin Jiayi instinctively raised her head, only to see her mother's stern eyes looking in her direction.

Lin Jiayi calmed herself down first before flashing Jiang Wangui a smile. When Jiang Wangui finally turned her eyes away, she made sure to thoroughly 'greet' Lin Jiage's 36 generations of ancestors before glancing at the message on her phone that had come in while she was exchanging looks with her mother.

Lin Jiage had sent her another message: [Yaoyao is the only person I have eyes for.]

Chapter 387: Thanks Boss (1)

Who cares about who he has in his eyes?

Besides, who the hell does he think that he's flaunting his love to?

A woman like me, who only has money in my eyes, wouldn't care about such stuff!

Choked up by Lin Jiage's words, Lin Jiayi closed her eyes, took in a deep breath, and another one before finally calming herself down.

After several seconds, a bewitching smile formed on her lips.

Child's play... Does he think that he can anger me just like that?

With such a thought in mind, Lin Jiayi picked up her phone and opened up a photo editing application. She selected the photos Lin Jiage snapped that only had Shi Yao and began fitting better-looking filters on them.

After she was done editing the photos, she selected a few of the better-looking ones and stamped watermarks all over them before sending them over to Lin Jiage's WeChat.

[Don't you think the Yaoyao in the photos look exceptionally beautiful? Don't you feel the urge to get rid of the watermarks and keep them for your own?]

[Well, your sis is not an unreasonable person either. I wouldn't do something as tragic as to tear a couple apart. If you really want the photos, I'll give them to you at a special discounted price of 188 RMB each.]

Seeing that Lin Jiage still wasn't responding to her, Lin Jiayi pondered for a moment before she changed the wallpaper of her phone's home page to Shi Yao's photo and sent a screenshot of it over to Lin Jiage.

[See*, these photos work perfectly well as wallpapers too. I just have to turn on my phone, and Yaoyao appears before me right away.*]

[Hm? Ignoring me? Can I take this as a sign that you don't want the photos?]

[Very well. Since you don't want these photos, I guess I can only delete them and have them disappear from this world for good.]

Updates by . com

[Just saying, Yaoyao rarely wears such formal clothes. It's not every day that you see such an exquisite Yaoyao. It would be a huge pity to miss out on this limited edition good...]

After sending the photo, Lin Jiayi went back into her photo gallery, selected all Shi Yao's photos, and tapped on the 'Delete' option. She took a screenshot of the 'Confirm Deletion' popup and sent it over to Lin Jiage.

[I'm really going to delete them. I hope you won't regret it.]

After sending the message, Lin Jiayi confidently stared at her phone as she began counting down, "3... 2..."

Before she could even count to '1', a series of 188 RMB red packets appeared on her phone screen.

Lin Jiayi delightfully accepted the red packets as she quickly calculated the number of them. After that, she sent a screenshot of the number of red packets and the number of photos she had before asking: [There are still six more photos. Are you sure you don't want them?]

Roughly thirty seconds later, yet another six more '188 RMB' red packets appeared on her screen.

Lin Jiayi quickly collected all of them before sending the remaining five photos to Lin Jiage, saying: [My bad, I counted wrongly. It looks like there are only five more photos. I'll take the last 188 RMB as additional compensation for the service I provided for working on Yaoyao's photos. Thanks, boss!]

Lin Jiage had seen shameless people before, but he had never seen anyone as shameless as that.

He scoffed coldly in his heart as he reached out for his phone to send a word 'Shameless' over to Lin Jiayi. But before his hand could touch his phone, he suddenly heard a familiar yet particularly uncomfortable voice sounding beside him.

"Grandpa Lin, happy birthday! This is the gift that I have prepared for you!"

Out of instinctive reflexes, Lin Jiage raised his head to look at where the sound had come from.

It was Liang Jiusi's cousin. She had a beaming smile on her lips as she passed a gift box over to Grandpa Lin, saying, "Grandpa Lin, I specially picked out this present for you. I hope that you like it!"

As she spoke, she opened the gift box to display the gift inside.

To be honest, Lin Jiage wasn't really interested in what gift Liang Jiusi's cousin had prepared, so he quickly turned his gaze back to Shi Yao instead.

It was just that in the midst of doing so, in his peripheral vision, he caught sight of the item that Liang Mumu was taking out...

Chapter 388: Thanks Boss (2)

It was just that in the midst of doing so, in his peripheral vision, he caught sight of the item that Liang Mumu was taking out...

The gift that Liang Mumu was giving to his grandfather was also an inkstone as well.

This inkstone looked strikingly similar to the one he had specially picked out for Soft Bun.

Or to be more exact, if one didn't take a closer look at it, the similarity was nearly 100%!

Lin Jiage couldn't help but shift his gaze toward Liang Mumu to take a good look at her.

Liang Mumu held the inkstone carefully with both of her hands as she presented it to Grandpa Lin with the same obedient and sweet voice she used, "Grandpa Lin, I was hesitant to give this gift earlier to you because I didn't realize that I had clashed presents with Yaoyao..."

Shi Yao, who had been entirely focused on her cake all this while, heard her name being called and subconsciously raised her head and turned a confused look toward Liang Mumu and Grandpa Lin's direction.

“Grandpa Lin, it wasn’t my intention to clash presents with Yaoyao...” Liang Mumu looked as if she was put in a spot. Halfway through her words, she bit her lips and held herself back. There was a brief moment of silence before she finally began speaking once more, “... However, I still want to apologize to you, Grandpa Lin. I hope you don’t mind receiving the same thing from me as well.”

Seeing this sight, Lin Jiage couldn’t help but clicked his tongue thrice in wonderment.

Liang Jiusi’s cousin sure had formidable acting skills. She should have enrolled in Beijing Film Academy with her talents!

Oh right, given those trashy results of hers, even if she were to apply for it, she probably wouldn’t get in either way... In the end, his Soft Bun was still better. Even though her Mathematics paper is filled with all kinds of mistakes, she was still someone who had managed to get into G University. This must be what they call ‘absolute superiority in intelligence’...

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage turned to look at Shi Yao, only to see that the latter had stopped eating and was looking at Liang Mumu intently. He scrunched his forehead together as he stretched his hand forth and pushed down her head lightly, saying, “Eat your food. Stop looking around.”

Shi Yao pouted in response to Lin Jiage’s words, but she didn’t refute him. She really picked up her fork and continued digging into her cake.

“Why would I mind that?” Grandpa Lin turned to Liang Huiling, who was standing beside Liang Mumu, and said, “Huiling, you have really brought Mumu up well.”

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Liang Huiling replied with a polite smile, “You’re too kind, Uncle Lin. It’s because Mumu likes you and is worried about displeasing you, that’s why she’s acting so obediently. She has never been this way around me at home!”

The smile on Grandpa Lin’s face brightened as he said, “No matter what the gift is, it’s the sincerity that counts.”

As he spoke, he turned to Liang Mumu and raised his hand to accept Liang Mumu’s gift.

It was just that barely after Grandpa Lin lifted his hand a little, Shen Bailian suddenly started talking, “Grandpa Lin, Mumu is really too kind for her own good! You don’t know just how much she respects you. She bought this inkstone for you while we were hanging out with one another overseas over the Chinese New Year. As soon as she set her eyes on the inkstone, she immediately knew that you would love it, and she made up her mind to buy it for you as your birthday gifts. So, even if the gifts had clashed, it’s not Mumu’s fault but Yaoyao’s...”

Liang Mumu immediately interjected sharply at this point, “Bailian, stop talking! It’s already over now, so what’s the point of talking about this now?”

Oh hoh... So this is where the true show starts... She’s using the mouth of another person to drive in the point that Soft Bun was insincere in her gift, stealing the idea of another just to make herself look good? Meanwhile, she would play the good person and ‘not pursue this matter’, is that it?

Lin Jiage sneered coldly in his heart. He glanced at the empty plate in front of Shi Yao and cleared it away before pushing another slice of cake in front of her.

Chapter 389: The Real Inkstone (1)

Perhaps it was because that white lotus of Liang Jiusi's cousin had said the word 'Yaoyao', Shi Yao raised her head once more to look at the duo in front of her.

What is so good about them to look at? Are they better looking than me?

Lin Jiage stretched his hand once more and smacked the back of Shi Yao's head lightly. "If you don't want to eat your cake anymore, I'll have them..."

Upon hearing that Lin Jiage had the intention of stealing her food, Shi Yao immediately lowered her head and protected her cake with her hands. She began to eat the cake hurriedly so that Lin Jiage wouldn't have the chance to take it away from her.

Looking at how Shi Yao was stuffing herself like an adorable hamster, the look in Lin Jiage's eyes softened quite a bit.

He looked at her quietly for a moment before reluctantly turning his attention back to the lousy soap opera that was going on elsewhere.

Shen Bailian had an indignant look on her face after being berated by Liang Mumu. It looked like there were still words that she wanted to say, but respecting Liang Mumu's wishes, she had no choice but to let it go.

Seeing that Shen Bailian had finally stopped speaking, she exhaled deeply before putting back the sweet smile on her face. Taking on the role of a mediator, she turned to Grandpa Lin and said, "Grandpa Lin, don't listen to the nonsense Bailian said. I did buy this inkstone during the Chinese New Year with the intention of gifting it to you as your birthday present, but I believe that Yaoyao isn't like what Bailian said. I know Yaoyao well, she wouldn't do something like intentionally clashing presents with me..."

Liang Mumu's 'good person' act sure is... I really should send her a truck of 'good person' cards... Oh, that's not right. It should be 'good hypocrite' cards...

Unable to stand the act that Liang Mumu was putting on anymore, he was just about to avert his eyes when Grandpa Lin suddenly spoke up at this moment, "Mumu, even if you don't tell me that, I also know what kind of person Yaoyao is. There's no way that she would intentionally clash presents with you. It's apparent that it's a coincidence!"

Hearing his grandfather's words, Lin Jiage nearly burst out laughing.

Did his grandfather really have to be so comedic? It's obvious how Liang Mumu was desperately trying to hint him, but his grandfather actually gave such a response instead. How was she going to continue on with the act like that?

With such thoughts in mind, Lin Jiage very reluctantly turned his gaze back onto Liang Mumu.

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As expected, the smile on Liang Mumu's face appeared to have stiffened a little. Even her voice didn't seem as stable as it was before anymore, "You're right, Grandpa Lin. Mumu isn't that kind of person. Actually, when I learned that Yaoyao was going to get you an inkstone too a month ago, I did consider changing my gift, but I wasn't able to find anything else appropriate, so I ended up coming here with this."

"It's fine, it's fine..." Grandpa Lin said as he received the inkstone in Liang Mumu's hands. He took a brief look at it, and with a tone so polite that one could almost say that it was perfunctory, he remarked "Not bad" before passing it over to Auntie Sun to keep it up.

The attitude he had was vastly different from that when he received the inkstone from Shi Yao.

A mixture of displeasure and indignance gripped Liang Mumu, causing her to grab the hems of her skirt tightly.

She lowered her head and looked at the inkstone given by Shi Yao which Grandpa Lin had placed on the table, and she pursed her lips tightly together. Then, she turned to Shen Bailian and shot her a look.

Receiving Liang Mumu's signal, Shen Bailian suddenly exclaimed with a voice so loud that the two front rows in the banquet hall could hear her loud and clear. "Ah? Am I seeing things? Why is the inkstone which Mumu has given Old Master Lin the same as the one Yaoyao has prepared?"

With a curious look on her face, Shen Bailian rushed to Auntie Sun's side and snatched the inkstone which Liang Mumu had just gifted to Grandpa Lin over.

Chapter 390: The Real Inkstone (2)

Shen Bailian raised the inkstone up high and took a good look at it before carrying it over to the table and placing it right next to the inkstone Shi Yao had prepared.

"Aiya, these two inkstones are really identical to one another! If that's the case, wouldn't that mean one of them is authentic whereas the other one is a fake?"

"... But Mumu, I was with you when you bought the inkstone. You spent 300,000 RMB on it, so it's definitely the real deal. Does that mean that... Yaoyao gave an imitation to Old Master Lin for his birthday?"

"Old Master Lin dotes on her so much, but she actually gave him a fake good? She's the fiancée betrothed to Lin Jiage, the future matriarch of the Lin Family! How could a person like that give an imitation to Old Master Lin? This is really..."

"Bailian, what in the world are you talking about?! Don't you know that this is Grandpa Lin's birthday banquet?" Liang Mumu stomped her foot angrily as she quickly rushed forward to cover Shen Bailian's mouth in order to stop her from running her mouth any further.

Taking this entire scene into sight, the look on Lin Jiage's face turned a little cold.

What are you acting for? It's obvious that you're her accomplice! If you really didn't want that what Bailian woman to run her mouth, you could have stopped her earlier. Yet, you only chose to step forward after she had spat out everything to play the role of the mediator here!

After Shen Bailian fell silent, Liang Mumu discreetly shot a glance at Jiang Wangui.

She knew that Jiang Wangui was a conventional and prideful woman, and just as she had expected, the latter's face had already darkened by quite a bit.

Knowing that she had managed to achieve her aim, her heart trembled in glee. However, on the surface, she still maintained an apologetic expression as she said, "Grandpa Lin, please don't get angry. I didn't expect our gifts to be identical to one another. I only shot a glance at Yaoyao's gift earlier, so I didn't think that it would turn out like that. Bailian has always been forthright with her words, so don't take what she had said to heart. Allow me to apologize in her stead..."

"Besides, as you have said, it's the sincerity behind the gift that counts. Yaoyao has always been very filial to you, so even if she got you a fake inkstone, I'm certain that she doesn't mean any disrespect to you. After all, she's limited by her background..."

In truth, Grandpa Lin didn't pay this matter any heed. Even if Shi Yao had given him a fake inkstone, he would still treasure it well.

It was just that Liang Mumu's words had too many implied meanings in there.

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On top of that, Shen Bailian's agitated and loud outburst earlier had brought the attention of many people over, and Liang Mumu's voice wasn't particularly soft when she apologized either.

Due to that, these words were heard by practically the entire banquet hall.

As such, Liang Mumu's seemingly earnest apology ended up incurring quite a bit of discussion within the room.

"In the end, the inkstone which Old Master Lin has placed on the table so happily turns out to be an imitation good?"

"Isn't that granddaughter-in-law of his a little too unfilial? How could she give away an imitation as a gift?"

"Based on what I heard from the young lady from the Liang Family, it seems like Old Master Lin's granddaughter-in-law comes from a humble background. I really wonder why Old Master Lin betrothed his grandson to such a woman. No matter what, shouldn't the Lin Family find someone worthy of their standing?"

"..."

These discussions swiftly made their rounds in the banquet hall. Putting aside how Jiang Wangui's face was turning more and more awful by the moment, even the relatives of the Lin Family were starting to show awkward and displeased looks too.

And at this very moment, Shi Yao really couldn't bring herself to continue eating anymore.

It was not as if she had never wondered about why Liang Mumu had talked about how she had prepared an inkstone for Grandpa Lin as his birthday present.

