

WITH YOU 421

### **Chapter 421: What's Most Beautiful Isn't the Scenery But You (1)**

Lu Benlai: "One word—handsome! Two words—very handsome! Three words—earth-shatteringly handsome! Four words—Turning gay for you..."

"I'm not interested in you..." Lu Benlai coldly shot down what Lu Benlai was saying before turning to seek Xia Shangzhou's view.

In contrast to Lu Benlai's exaggerating compliments, Xia Shangzhou's answer was even more unorthodox, "Boss, your looks have always been top-notch. Even if you were to wear the emperor's new clothes, everyone would still be marveling at you in awe!"

Emperor's new clothes... Aren't you telling me to run around nude?

Lin Jiage shot Xia Shangzhou a cold glare.

Sensing the eye daggers shooting his way, Xia Shangzhou shuddered uncontrollably. He quickly corrected his words, "Boss, all I mean is that you're handsome. There's no deeper meaning to what I'm saying. You're really, really good-looking. If I was a girl, I would have schemed my way onto your bed by now..."

Lin Jiage chuckled coldly in response. He shot him a 'Dream on!' look before tilted his chin up toward the mirror.

...

Even though they had agreed to meet at the bottom of Mountain Changming at 11 o'clock, Lin Jiage was already there before the clock even struck nine.

He did sleep later than an owl and wake up earlier than a rooster. As he sat in his car and waited, he began to feel a little drowsy.

He took a glance at the time and saw that it was early, so he set up yet another ten consecutive alarm clocks before lowering his seat and closing his eyes.

Ten-thirty, his alarm clock rang.

Lin Jiage woke up and yawned a little before adjusting his seat back upright. Then, he pulled down the rearview mirror and took a look at his own reflection when someone suddenly knocked on his car door.

He glanced over, and surprisingly, it was Shi Yao, who had arrived half an hour early.

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He quickly pushed the rearview mirror back up, opened the door, and greeted her, "Morning."

"Morning," Shi Yao replied. "Have you been waiting here for long?"

"Nah, I just arrived too..."

Shi Yao replied with an "Orh", not doubting his words at all.

The original plan was for him to bring Lin Jiage over to the nearby farmhouse to have a meal after meeting up with one another.

Even though Shi Yao had arrived half an hour earlier, there still wasn't much time to do anything else. So, Lin Jiage decided to go along with his original plan to have breakfast.

Needless to say, Shi Yao wouldn't turn down his offer for a meal.

By the time they headed over to the farmhouse and was done eating, it was already one in the afternoon. The two of them entered Mountain Changming together.

It was in the midst of summer, but Mountain Changming was filled with lush greenery and a beautiful flowing stream. The temperature here was several degrees lower than that in the city, making it a very refreshing hike.

The two of them headed up the mountain along the rock pavement.

There were quite a few visitors here at Mountain Changming with them, and many of them were couples.

Lin Jiage saw some men buying bottled waters for the ladies, so he bought a bottle of mineral water for Soft Bun too. He saw some men holding onto an umbrella to shelter the ladies from the sun, so he bought an umbrella and held it up for Soft Bun too. He saw some men snapping photos for the ladies, so he would turn to Shi Yao from time to time and ask her if she wanted to take some photos for remembrances' sake...

On the way up, they stumbled upon a wishing tree, and there were many wooden tokens wrapped in a red string hanging on it. Lin Jiage saw couples heading over together to make a wish together, so he made sure to pull Shi Yao over too.

As the quick learner Lin Jiage absorbed all the knowledge all around him and put them into good use, the two of them finally arrived at the midpoint of the mountain.

Lin Jiage remembered that it was a 'special period' for Shi Yao, so he would check if she was tired from time to time. Even though Shi Yao told him that she was fine and turned down his offer to ride on a tour bus, in the end, Lin Jiage still called one anyway to drive them up the mountain.

In order to allow the riders to enjoy the sceneries on the way up, the tour bus drove very slowly. By the time they were finally at the mountain peak, it was already in the evening.

The dusk sun dyed the mountain peak with a beautiful orange glow.

Enjoying the cool evening breeze, Lin Jiage relished in the scenery around him. But unknowingly, his eyes slowly moved toward to the lady standing next to him—Shi Yao.

She was snapping shots at the evening sun with her phone.

The scenery from Mountain Changming couldn't be said to be too beautiful, but Lin Jiage felt that this was the most beautiful scenery he had ever seen in his life.

**Chapter 422: What's Most Beautiful Isn't the Scenery But You (2)**

As the sun gradually set, Shi Yao, who was done snapping her shots, turned to Lin Jiage and said, "I didn't think that the scenery here will be so beautiful even though this place isn't that well-known."

"Un," Lin Jiage replied with a nod. He looked into the clouds in the sky as he murmured, "But what's the most beautiful here isn't the scenery."

His words weren't too loud, and it was particularly windy on the mountain peak, so Shi Yao didn't manage to catch what he was saying. She asked, "What?"

Lin Jiage didn't answer her. Instead, he watched as the clouds drifted peacefully for a short while before turning to her and saying, "Nothing much. Let's go and have dinner."

"Sure!" Shi Yao quickly kept her phone as her eyes curled into crescent smiles.

Following that, they began making their way toward a small town at the top of the mountain peak.

Walking behind Shi Yao, Lin Jiage stared at her back as he reminisced what he was going to say earlier.

But what's the most beautiful here isn't the scenery but you.

...

Lin Jiage brought Shi Yao over to an alfresco restaurant.

There was a crowd inside the restaurant, but the place where Lin Jiage and Shi Yao were seated at was relatively quieter.

The dining table was relatively large, and Shi Yao and Lin Jiage were seated opposite to one another. There was a vase of fresh flowers placed at the center of the dining table, and beside it, there was a candlestand with nine candles. Beneath the table was a mosquito coil that was burning quietly.

There was a faint flowery aroma drifting around them coming from the bushes around them.

Lin Jiage had already chosen the dishes beforehand. As soon as they settled down, the waiter walked up and asked, "Mr Lin, shall we serve the dishes now?"

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Lin Jiage responded with a nod.

The waiter replied with an "Understood" before walking away.

Soon enough, another waiter came over with a pushcart and laid the dishes down on the table carefully before leaving.

Shi Yao picked up her chopsticks and picked up a piece of sweet and sour pork. She was just about to dine in to the delicacy when a thought suddenly surfaced in her mind. She raised her head and asked, "Isn't it a summer camp? Where are the others?"

Initially, she thought that the others had already gone up the mountain ahead of them, but there was still no one else other than the two of them even though they were already at the peak of the mountain now...

Hearing Shi Yao's words, Lin Jiage, who was in the midst of serving her a bowl of soup, looked at her with a perplexed frown, asking, "Who are the others?"

"Hm?" Shi Yao blinked her eyes blankly at Lin Jiage for a moment before realization struck her. "We are the only ones at this summer camp?"

"That's right..." Lin Jiage replied with a nod as he placed a bowl of soup right before Shi Yao.

Shi Yao instinctively said "Thank you" before falling silent. A moment later, she remarked, "I thought that there would be others with us for this summer camp."

"There's no one else. I only called you..." Lin Jiage raised his head to look at Shi Yao. One could see the flickering candlelight reflected in his eyes, further accentuating his refreshing and dashing looks.

Shi Yao opened her mouth to say something, but before words could come out, Lin Jiage had already spoken up once again, "There's something I need to talk to you about later on."

It seems like he has called me here to talk to me personally... What a coincidence. I also have something to talk to him about too... Could it be possible that we have the same thoughts in mind?

"I also have something I need to talk to you about," Shi Yao said.

Hm? Soft Bun has something she needs to talk to me about? Could she have prepared some kind of surprise too? But the surprise she prepared probably wouldn't be greater than what I prepared for her...

Trying his best to maintain a composed expression, Lin Jiage said, "Shall we talk after our meal?"

"Sure," Shi Yao agreed to it.

...

An hour later, Shi Yao put down her chopsticks.

After the waiter who had served the desserts left, Shi Yao asked, "So, what is it that you wanted to talk to me about?"

### **Chapter 423: The Best Wingman Has Turned Into the Worst Saboteur (1)**

"What about you? Didn't you have something to tell me too?" Lin Jiage stirred the cup of coffee before him as he thought that he should let Soft Bun talk first. "You can go ahead first."

"Alright then..." Shi Yao didn't stand on ceremony with Lin Jiage. She looked at Lin Jiage for a moment before continuing on, "I found out something recently, and that's that Grandpa Lin has been feigning illness all this while. So, I'm thinking that we can go ahead and inform your family members about the annulment of our engagement..."

*Grandpa? Feigning illness? Inform family members? Annulment of engagement?*

As these terms registered in Lin Jiage's mind, he suddenly fell into a daze, as if someone had smashed a bat into his face multiple times.

The frozen expression of his face still carried hints of dotingness and gentleness as he told Shi Yao to speak first. It took him a while before he gently blinked his eyes and asked with an uncertain tone, "What... are you talking about?"

Did I not express my clearly earlier? Or is he doubting what I said about Grandpa Lin feigning illness?

Shi Yao took a while to reconstruct her words before she spoke once again with the same soft tone as she did earlier, "A few days ago, I received a video of Grandpa Lin and Auntie Sun having a hot pot inside the hospital ward. In the video, Grandpa Lin was brimming with energy, completely unlike a patient..."

"The person who sent the video was a person that I don't really like, so I didn't really trust her words. On the second day of the holidays, I went to pay Grandpa Lin a visit at the hospital. When I arrived at his ward, his condition didn't look too good. He would go into a violent coughing fit from time to time, and his face looked a little swollen. Seeing that, I thought that the person who sent me the video was lying as usual, so I thought nothing much about it.

"Some time later, Grandpa Lin told me that he was tired and he wanted to rest, so I left the ward and began making my way down. However, just as I was about to leave the hospital, I realized that I left my train card back in Grandpa Lin's ward, so I headed back to grab it. When I was about to enter the ward, I saw Grandpa Lin playing chess with another patient from the adjacent ward in his room. He was eating ice cream, and he looked to be overflowing with energy. It was then that I realized that Grandpa Lin has been feigning illness all this while."

As Shi Yao spoke, she took out her phone and tapped into her Gallery. She tapped onto a photo before she pushed her phone toward Lin Jiage and said, "Look, these are the photos that I took that day. You'll know that I haven't been lying to you once you look at them."

Shi Yao's long speech left Lin Jiage in a dazed and confused state. He lay back on his chair quietly for a long while, as if he had been shocked by what he had heard. It took a while before his pupils finally rolled down to look at the screen of Shi Yao's phone.

Just as Shi Yao had described, the photo showed his lively grandfather playing chess with another patient while eating ice cream.

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Completely oblivious to Lin Jiage's thoughts, Shi Yao continued speaking, "I thought of calling you yesterday night to inform you of this matter, but I recalled that we are going on a summer camp today, so I thought that it would be good for us to talk about this matter face-to-face."

The screen of Shi Yao's phone turned black due to the timeout function, but Lin Jiage continued to stare at it in a daze.

Shi Yao waited for a moment, but there was still no response from him. So, she spoke up again, "Weren't we going to annul our marriage? We have postponed it thus far so as to not impact Grandpa Lin's health, but he's fine now. When do you think will be an appropriate time to raise this matter with your family members?"

**Chapter 424: The Best Wingman Turned Into the Worst Saboteur (2)**

Lin Jiage still wasn't speaking at all.

A frown formed between Shi Yao's eyebrows as she called out, "Lin Jiage? Lin Jiage?"

It was only after she called him twice did Lin Jiage's body finally moved slightly. His gaze slowly moved over to her face, and he asked quietly, "What did you say?"

"I said, when will be an appropriate time to raise the annulment of our engagement with your family members?" Shi Yao repeated what she had mentioned earlier.

Lin Jiage replied with an "Oh..." before falling completely silent once more. But this time, his mind didn't blank out as it did earlier.

Things are turning out differently from what I have expected. This is no surprise but a horror!

What is wrong with grandfather? Why did he feign illness all of a sudden? Besides, all of possible timings, why did he have to give himself away right before his confession?

What best wingman? More like the worst saboteur in the history of mankind!

However, Soft Bun mentioned that she only managed to confirm that grandpa is feigning illness yesterday, and the first thing she thought about was to call me and talk about the annulment of our engagement. It's only because she recalled that we have a date today that she decided to postpone it till now...

In other words, from the start to the end, Soft Bun has never forgotten the matter about the annulment of our engagement?

Not only so, but she's also eager to push it through as soon as possible...

This realization caused Lin Jiage to feel a dull ache in his chest. It was just a slight pain, but it made him feel extremely heavy on the inside.

On the other hand, seeing that Lin Jiage had fallen silent once more, Shi Yao opened her mouth once again to call him.

But before she could speak, Lin Jiage abruptly raised his head and asked her a question, "You... have never forgotten about the annulment of our engagement?"

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"Of course, how could I forget about it?" Shi Yao replied without any hesitation at all. "It was out of worry of Grandpa Lin's health condition that I told you to postpone the annulment of our engagement..."

Lin Jiage felt the pain in his chest growing sharper by the moment. He stared at Shi Yao for a long while before he asked again, "Have your thoughts never changed during this period of time?"

Unbeknownst to Lin Jiage, his voice had grown a little hoarse.

Why is Lin Jiage asking this question? It doesn't have anything to do with the annulment of their engagement...

Shi Yao thought about the question for a while, but she was unable to figure out just what Lin Jiage was driving at. So, she said, "Why are you asking this question?"

Lin Jiage tried his best to maintain a casual tone as he said, "I'm just asking..."

"I see..." Shi Yao nodded.

She suddenly recalled how Lin Jiage had called her to the little forest in their school and berated her for using underhanded means to attract his attention by playing hard to get... He even said that there were many women who tried to trick on him, but she was the only one who made him feel disgusted about it...

Could his question be an attempt to sound out whether she carried any other intention about him?

With such thoughts in mind, Shi Yao hurriedly spoke up, "I have never thought of marrying you before; these are my honest words. It was my family who arranged this engagement. My parents have never asked my opinion about this matter, and I didn't dare to go against their words either. I don't have any other intention in mind when I talk about the annulment of the engagement, I mean my words as they are.

"Besides, you have already told me clearly that you don't like me, and I don't like you either. Isn't it good for us to annul our engagement now?"

#### **Chapter 425: You Seek Your True Love, I Find My Ideal Partner (1)**

"We are still young anyway. We'll be free once we annul our engagement. You can seek your true love, and I'll find my ideal partner..."

I-ideal partner...

Lin Jiage was already finding it hard to speak. He could clearly hear something shattering in his chest.

He found it hard to come to grips with the situation. He had never been in such a position before, so he was at an utter loss as to what to do...

This was very different from the situations he had imagined. He had worried about the possibility of him forgetting his words while confessing to Soft Bun, and he had been distressed about the possibility of Soft Bun rejecting him. Of course, he had also envisioned Soft Bun getting extremely touched after seeing what he had prepared for her, possibly even breaking down in tears of joy...

But never in his wildest dreams had he imagined that Soft Bun would raise up past affairs and talk about the annulment of their engagement.

Was I too confident to have thought that she could have become mine, or is this all just a cruel nightmare that I'll wake up from in the next moment...

...

This is weird... Why does Lin Jiage keep falling silent?

Shi Yao waited for a while, but it didn't look like Lin Jiage was going to talk anytime soon. So, she asked, "Why aren't you talking?"

Lin Jiage quickly reined in his thoughts and replied, "It's nothing."

Seeing that Lin Jiage was finally reacting once more, Shi Yao continued speaking, "So, have you thought about which will be the best day for us to come clean with your family members?"

Lin Jiage didn't reply right away. Instead, he pinched his thigh as hard as he could, and the sharp pain shattered all of his imaginations.

This is not a nightmare but a reality... Why isn't it a nightmare?

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How am I to respond to her in such a situation? Am I to tell her that I don't want to annul our engagement, or am I to ask her 'Who told you that I don't like you'?

Does it even matter how I respond? No matter what I say, she would just reject me. She has already made it so clear from her earlier words that she doesn't like him... From the start to the end, she has never forgotten about the annulment of our engagement!

Shi Yao: "Lin Jiage?"

Lin Jiage snapped out of his thoughts. He gazed across the candlelight to look at Shi Yao with an extremely composed look on his face. With an equally nonchalant voice, he said, "Regarding this matter... I need to give it some thoughts."

Shi Yao: "When do you think you can give me a response?"

"I..." Lin Jiage couldn't complete this sentence.

He fell silent for yet another moment before he changed the topic, "... Let's talk about this on another occasion. It's getting late; we should be heading down now."

Without even waiting for Shi Yao's response, Lin Jiage beckoned a waiter to foot the bill.

He received the receipt which the waiter was passing over and picked up a pen to sign on it.

On the other hand, Shi Yao suddenly recalled that Lin Jiage mentioned that he had something to say to her, so she asked, "Oh right, didn't you mention that you had something to say to me too?"

Shi Yao's question caused Lin Jiage to tighten his grip around the pen. His eyelids drooped down a little as he tried to maintain a composed look while signing the receipt. Due to him exerting a little too much force, the tip of the pen pierced through the receipt paper.

When the waiter finally left with the signed receipt, Shi Yao asked once more with a curious tone, "What is it that you wanted to tell me?"

All of a sudden, fireworks of myriad colors whizzed into the air resplendently, immediately capturing everyone's attention.

Amidst the loud explosion of fireworks, cheers could be heard from the crowd.

Lin Jiage turned his head to look at the horizon.



According to his plan, the two of them should have been standing in the observation platform on the mountain peak at this moment, watching the firework show. But now... the fireworks had already been set off, but the two of them were still here...

Chapter 426: You Seek Your True Love, I Find My Ideal Partner (2)

"Mountain Changming actually has a firework show at night? How beautiful..." Shi Yao marveled at the sight before her.

When the firework show finally came to an end, the heated atmosphere in the air finally calmed down once more. Shi Yao and Lin Jiage's attention was pulled back to the dining table.

As they were seated opposite to one another, they inadvertently met each other's eyes.

There was a short moment of silence before Shi Yao asked once again, "You haven't mentioned what you wanted to say yet..."

"Oh..." Lin Jiage seemed to be a little distracted as his voice trailed off. A short moment later, he said, "... It's nothing now."

Nothing?

Didn't he say that he had something to say to me? Why is he saying that it's nothing all of a sudden?

Could it be that I have already mentioned what is on his mind?

"Could it be that you wanted to talk about the annulment of our engagement too?" Shi Yao asked.

Annul your head!

Lin Jiage ignored Shi Yao as he stood up from his seat, indicating that it was time to leave.

Shi Yao took Lin Jiage's silence as an acknowledgment of her words and didn't probe on anymore. She quickly grabbed her stuff before rising to her feet too.

The two of them walked out of the alfresco restaurant and headed over to the bus stop. The tourist bus which Lin Jiage had reserved was waiting there for them.

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Shi Yao got onto the bus and took a seat, only to find out that Lin Jiage was still standing outside at the bus stop. She turned to him and shouted, "Why aren't you getting up?"

With a nonchalant tone, Lin Jiage said, "The driver is waiting for you at the foot of the mountain. He'll drive you back home."

"What about you? Aren't you heading down?" Shi Yao asked.

"I'll head down later on," Lin Jiage replied with a very casual tone,

"Oh... Okay."

Shi Yao thought that Lin Jiage still had matters to attend to, so she didn't dwell too much on this matter.

Seeing that the two of them had ended their conversation, the bus driver turned to Lin Jiage and asked, "Mister, should I drive the Miss down the mountain now?"

Lin Jiage nodded in response.

As the driver walked onto the bus and started the engine, Shi Yao suddenly recalled the matter concerning the annulment of their engagement, and she turned to Lin Jiage once more and shouted, "Oh right! You must remember to tell me once you have decided on a date!"

However, Lin Jiage ignored Shi Yao and walked away without saying a word.

Looking at Lin Jiage's departing back, Shi Yao couldn't help but frown.

Is he unhappy?

But what has he to be unhappy about? I don't recall saying or doing anything today that provoked him...

On the other hand, the driver, who had yet to set off as Lin Jiage and Shi Yao were still talking to one another, turned to Shi Yao and asked, "Miss, shall I start driving now?"

Shi Yao retracted her gaze from Lin Jiage and turned to face the driver to say, "Yes, please do."

"Got it."

The driver stepped on the gas pedal, and the bus began driving down the mountain slowly.

Shi Yao stared at the road ahead for a moment before suddenly turning her head around once more. It was a straight road, so she was still able to see Lin Jiage behind the bus.

The latter had halted his footsteps beneath a lamppost. His head was slightly lowered, seemingly deep in thought.

Just like the person she remembered in her memories, his silhouette itself was still very captivating even when his face couldn't be seen.

But for some reason, Shi Yao felt that Lin Jiage wasn't feeling too happy at the moment. He seemed to be brooding over something.

As the tourist bus drew further and further downward, Lin Jiage's silhouette grew smaller and smaller in Shi Yao's sight.

It was only when he could no longer be seen did Shi Yao finally turn her head back around. She stared quietly at the rows of retreating lampposts before her as she slowly fell into a daze.

Chapter 427: Lin Jiage Fell Out of Love (1)

It was already twelve at night when Shi Yao got home.

As it was already late, she headed straight for the bed after washing herself up, readying herself for sleep.

She had walked a fair bit during the day, such that she was already nodding off even while she was in the car. Yet, as soon as she got on the bed, her drowsiness seemed to evaporate away.

She had no idea what was going on, but when she closed her eyes, she would remember how Lin Jiage looked while she was heading down the mountain.

He was so happy to see her in the morning, and even during the climb, he took care of her very gentlemanly.

Why would he suddenly act in such a way after the meal?

Shi Yao carefully thought about everything that had happened during dinner. It seemed like it was after she mentioned that Grandpa Lin was feigning illness and that they could annul their engagement now that he started acting a little amiss.

Could it be possible that he... he...

Shi Yao nearly leaped in fright at the possibility that she thought of.

Have I eaten the guts of a bear! How could I have thought that Lin Jiage would feel unhappy just because I proposed the annulment of our engagement?

It is true that he's no longer as hateful as he used to be, and he treats me quite nice even. In fact, there are some things that he does that really touches me... But that doesn't mean that he doesn't want to annul the engagement with me...

Shi Yao couldn't help but recall the words that he had said to her a long time ago... Words that had haunted her and crushed her self-esteem.

'I don't want to! Such an ugly, dirty, and shabby-looking girl, I don't want such a fiancée!'

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'My grandfather is the only one who acknowledges you as my fiancée. As for me, you'd better not dream about it. There's no way I'll ever accept you as my fiancée in this lifetime!'

'I'll say it clearly for you today, so listen closely. If, I, Lin, Jia, Ge, fail, to, cancel, my, engagement, with, you, I, will, write, my, name, backward!'

Shi Yao pressed her lips together as she pulled the blanket over her head, attempting to suppress the hint of sorrow that had just started arising from the depths of her heart.

The drowsiness must have been getting to me for me to actually have such thoughts... How could Lin Jiage possibly be interested in me? The reason why he didn't say anything must be because he's thinking about when he should come clean with his family about this matter, or that there's something else bugging his mind.

...

G University male dormitory, Room 501.

"It's already 12 midnight, but our boss isn't back yet. It looks like our boss doesn't intend to be returning tonight..." Lu Benlai remarked casually while playing a game on his phone.

"I thought that other than that dog Song Chaoxi, I'll be the first one to be free from singlehood amongst the three of us, and our boss will be the last one. Who could have thought that our boss would actually rocket beyond us..." Xia Shangzhou replied as his fingers flew around the screen of his phone. "... Little Lailai, left! There's a camper at the left, hit him!"

"Chill, I already saw him! Alright, he's killed!" Lu Benlai reloaded his bullets before responding to what Xia Shangzhou just said, "... I felt the same way too, just that I thought that I would be the first one to be free of singlehood and our boss will be the last one. No wonder they say that the world is an unpredictable place!"

Xia Shangzhou: "Aiyo, it looks like we two lonely men will be doomed to rely on one another in this forlorn Room 501..."

Lu Benlai: "I didn't think that we would marry out two of our mates in the blink of an eye. This room suddenly feels so empty... I'm starting to understand how a father feels when he delivers his daughter to the hand of another man..."

Before Lu Benlai could finish speaking, the door to the room suddenly opened.

Chapter 428: Lin Jiage Falls Out of Love (2)

Lu Benlai reflexively turned to look at the doorway, only to see that the person whom they had been talking about, Lin Jiage, had returned. So, he instinctively shut his mouth.

On the other hand, Xia Shangzhou, who was too immersed in his game to pay heed to Lin Jiage's return, noticed that Lu Benlai had gone silent, so he continued on, "Yeah, I feel the same way too, Our boss feels like our dau..."

"Boss!" Before Xia Shangzhou could finish his words, Lu Benlai immediately cut right in to silence him off.

"What boss? Who do you think you're scaring!" Xia Shangzhou snapped back as he sniped down yet another target in the game. Then, he carried on with the topic they had been talking about earlier, "... Our boss feels like our daughter. I wonder if he'll return often to meet us after we marry him out."

Xia Shangzhou even began singing a little when it came to the last few words.

Lu Benlai tried to cough to hint to Xia Shangzhou to stop speaking. However, the rock-brained Xia Shangzhou simply wasn't sharp enough to catch any hint. He even replied, "What are you coughing about? Are you jealous of my singing? Heh, shall I sing a bit more then?"

Running your mouth needs some skill. Do it well, and you can ruin others. Do it poorly, and you'll be the one to die... Old Xia, if heaven tries to kill you, I can still pit myself against heaven. But I can't help you if you dive single-mindedly straight to your doom!

Lu Benlai sat upright as he continued playing the game, making full sure not to respond to Xia Shangzhou's words at all.

Despite so, Xia Shangzhou still didn't notice that anything was amiss. He really began singing once more, "... Remember to come home often to take a look~ Come home often to take a look~ Even if it's just treating gramps to a bun or have some soup~"

But as Xia Shangzhou sang, he felt a chilling air approaching him from behind, causing shivers to run down his spine. He instinctively turned his head around, and before him stood a towering Lin Jiage.

His hand trembled out of sheer shock, causing his phone to crash straight down to the floor. Even his words had reduced to a stutter as he spoke, “B-b-boss, y-y-you...”

Xia Shangzhou kept tripping over the word ‘you’ for a long time, but he was unable to come up with anything else to say. In the end, he chose to zip up his mouth and shoot Lu Benlai a piercing glare.

Receiving Xia Shangzhou’s look, Lu Benlai responded with a shrug to show that he had already tried his best.

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The furious Xia Shangzhou shot him a ‘Just you wait!’ expression before turning his attention back to Lin Jiage, saying, “Boss, are you tired? Shall I massage your legs for you?”

Lin Jiage didn’t respond.

With a fawning smile on his face, Xia Shangzhou tried once more, “Boss, are you thirsty? Shall I get you a cup of water?”

As he spoke, he shot to his feet and grabbed Lin Jiage’s cup. He headed to the washroom to wash it clean and filled up with refreshing, clear water before handing it over to Lin Jiage.

However, Lin Jiage didn’t take the cup of water.

Xia Shangzhou thought that Lin Jiage was furious at him for his earlier singing, so he tried to fawn on him with sweet words, “Boss, congratulations on becoming a couple with Little Junior. I wish you two a sweet couple life...”

Before Xia Shangzhou could finish his words, Lin Jiage suddenly seemed to have received the greatest shock in his life. His composed expression suddenly turned icily cold, and he glared at Xia Shangzhou and hollered, “Get lost!”

Xia Shangzhou was so terrified by the menacing air that Lin Jiage was putting off that he found himself unable to breathe.

Just as he was thinking that he was really doomed this time around, Lin Jiage suddenly walked past him and headed straight to the balcony with a vexed look on his face.

After Lin Jiage smashed the balcony door shut forcefully, Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai glanced at one another for a good three seconds before speaking up in unison, “Did our boss fall out of love? Lin Jiage actually fell out of love?”

Chapter 429: I Can’t Do This Anymore (1)

An inconceivable look surfaced on Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou’s faces simultaneously.

The two of them looked at one another for another good three seconds before speaking up with amazing unison that it almost looked as if they were sharing the same script, “Am I dreaming? This must be a dream, right?”

Lu Benlai shot Xia Shangzhou a disdainful look as he said, "Can you stop talking at the same time with me?"

Xia Shangzhou sneered coldly as he responded, "You're the one who is copying me! Do you think that I'll be so bored as to intentionally say the same words as you?"

Lu Benlai shrugged with a seemingly magnanimous attitude and said, "Forget it, I'm in no mood to fight with you now. Right now, I'm more concerned about our boss' happiness."

"Hah! What you're truly concerned about is the number of your goddess, isn't it so?" Xia Shangzhou unhesitatingly exposed Lu Benlai's hypocrisy before sighing deeply to himself. "Boss must you feeling horrible at the moment."

"Stop saying words that you don't mean. I reckon that you're more concerned about your future and your freedom!" Lu Benlai ripped off the mantle of duplicity that Xia Shangzhou had put on.

Several seconds later, Lu Benlai sighed deeply and added, "But speaking of which, our Little Junior sure is amazing. She actually snubbed our boss! From this day on, Little Junior shall be my idol!"

"There are so many women who have offered their hearts to our boss, but our Little Junior unhesitatingly rejected him. This really reminds me of the song..." As Xia Shangzhou spoke, he began singing once more, "... Those who love me devote their hearts to me, yet I grieve in sorrow over the one that I love..."

Lu Benlai covered his ears as he exclaimed, "Speak properly!"

Xia Shangzhou: "As expected of the goddess that I look up to! She's like a lone tree that stands proudly aside from the rest of the forest, completely unlike the other shallow women who only looks at faces!"

Lu Benlai: "Hey, what do you mean by 'other shallow women'? Let me tell you that my future wife isn't inside that lousy category of yours!"

Xia Shangzhou: "Hehe..."

Updates by . com

Lu Benlai: "It's the truth anyway! If my future wife is really someone who only looks at faces, she would have already given me her phone number the first time we met!"

"Uweh!" Xia Shangzhou clutched his stomach as he feigned a puking action.

It was at that moment that the door of the balcony opened once more and Lin Jiage walked back into the room.

Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai immediately put on a prim and proper look as they called out "Boss!" one after another.

However, Lin Jiage looked as if he hadn't heard them. He nonchalantly walked past them and entered the washroom.

After the door to the washroom closed, Xia Shangzhou struck his chest as he gasped for air desperately and said, "This won't do. The atmosphere is simply too heavy, I can't take it!"

Lu Benlai: "We have to think of a way to console our boss, or else I'll really die of asphyxiation tonight!"

Ten minutes later, Lin Jiage came out from the washroom.

Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou traded glances at one another before calling out "Boss!" with an exceptionally bright smile on their faces as they gathered around Lin Jiage's side.

Lu Benlai: "Boss, you also know that girls tend to be reserved and shy. It's only normal for your first confession to fall through. She just wants to test your true heart!"

Xia Shangzhou: "That's right, boss! Do you remember a movie called 101 Proposals? The male lead in that show proposed to the female lead 101 times before he finally succeeded!"

Lu Benlai: "Ohhh! I watched that movie too, and it was really heartwarming. Boss, a single failure means nothing at all. Just look at how many times I have been slapped by my future wife in the face—my face is nearly swollen enough to float into the air—but I'm still pursuing her relentlessly!"

Xia Shangzhou: "Boss, don't worry. You'll be able to succeed next time. I believe in you!"

Chapter 430: I Can't Do This Anymore (2)

After drying his hair, Lin Jiage nonchalantly shot a look at Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai and said, "Did I say that I'm going to continue chasing her?"

Ah... This plot doesn't seem too right?

Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou were stunned.

Three seconds later, Lu Benlai spoke up, "N-no, you're right! Why flatter her by chasing after her? Since she doesn't agree to date you, so be it!"

Xia Shangzhou: "That's right! Little Junior sure doesn't know what's good for her!"

"Three..." Lin Jiage began counting down, his voice far more intimidating than before. "... Two..."

"Boss, stop counting! I'll scam, I'll scam!" Lu Benlai immediately turned tail and fled.

"Boss, I was wrong. I said what that shouldn't have been said. I'll punish myself by scrubbing the toilet bowl!" Xia Shangzhou also quickly followed suit.

Lin Jiage watched the duo fleeing frantically away as he stood on the spot for a while. Then, he put down his hairdryer and lay down on his bed.

...

Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou could accept the reticent Lin Jiage, the poisonous-tongued Lin Jiage, and even the enraged Lin Jiage. However, they really couldn't stand the heartbroken Lin Jiage.

He wouldn't speak, play games, do his projects, or even eat. He simply lay on his bed with a long face all day long.

If that was just all, Xia Shangzhou and Lu Benlai might still have been able to tolerate it.

However, there was once Xia Shangzhou saw an adorable panda video on his laptop and remarked, "Pandas are such mystical creatures. They could have relied on their own abilities to make a living, but they chose to depend on their face instead. Do you know how gluttonous pandas actually are? It turns out that they can eat for nineteen hours a day, 365 days a year! Is there anyone who can possibly beat them when it comes to eating?"

Xia Shangzhou felt that there was nothing wrong with what he said, but somehow, it seemed like there was a word or two in his remark that had jabbed at Lin Jiage's nerves. The latter picked up a pillow and threw it into his face, causing him to be scared silent for the rest of the night.

There was also this once where Lu Benlai was browsing through comedic videos, and he happened to stumble upon a cooking show. The background music was truly adorable 'You said that I'm a little fleshy, and I need to slim it down. But I just can't have enough each day, so I don't care anymore. I want to eat meat meat, I must eat meat meat...'

It was a very melodious and uplifting song, and the food in the video was also particularly appetizing. Lu Benlai couldn't help but play the video once more from the start. But for some inexplicable reason, Lin Jiage, who had been lying on his bed all this while, suddenly sat up and started counting down, "Three, two..."

Needless to say, before Lin Jiage could count down to one, Lu Benlai had already dashed out of the room with his phone.

That was not the weirdest of all. There was one day when Xia Shangzhou came back from work with a bowl of dumplings. He was just about to dig in when Lin Jiage suddenly walked over.

He thought that Lin Jiage wanted to have some too, so he warm-heartedly passed his dumplings over to Lin Jiage, saying, "Boss, have a bite."

But shockingly, Lin Jiage actually threw the dumping he bought back into the dustbin by the stairway and enforced a new rule for Room 501: Dumplings are not allowed.

As such bizarre incidents began to stack up, the mood inside Room 501 grew lower and lower. Lu Benlai and Xia Shangzhou simply couldn't take it anymore. They felt like Lin Jiage was really going to make them die of stress very soon.

But just as the room had finally gotten so cold to the point that it felt like a winter night in Siberia, Lin Jiage suddenly packed up his things and headed home.

He left school at three in the afternoon. Just as he was about to reach his home, he received a call.

### **Chapter 430: I Can't Do This Anymore (2)**

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