

The playful one



Granted, the foodie in Lilah was eager to pay Itaewon a visit. She heard how all cultures clash in this district and boast about their rich cuisine. She hasn't had dinner yet, so she was really anticipating this meal for once. The only thing she was worried about was keeping her sleeveless navy blue jumpsuit stain free during her culinary venture.

"Lilah?" a broad-shouldered young man, wearing a light blue button down shirt, light beige pants, and white sneakers approached her.

"You must be Seokjin, nice to meet you!" she replied.

"Sorry I took a while to make it," he smiled, "Have you decided on what you want to have for dinner?"

"Oh, not really," she hesitated. "You see, I kind of forgot to mention a certain detail."

"Are you on a diet?" he blurted out, "Because you're really skinny."

"Ah haha, not really. Thanks for the compliment though!" she started acting silly.

"So, what is it?" he asked.

"Hmm, I'm kind of picky when it comes to food," she confessed.

"I see," he nodded, "Are you vegetarian?"

"Something like that," she responded, eyeing the floor.

"I was going to suggest this amazing place that serves Jajangmyeon," he went on.

"I actually love Jajangmyeon, but I only had it meat-free," she shared.

"Maybe we can ask them at the restaurant to pick out the meat?" he suggested.

"The meat would still have been cooked in the broth," she intercepted.

Jin scratched his head, "Okay, how about Kimbap then?"

"I kind of had it all week," she apologetically mentioned.

"Well, what do you want to eat then?" he tried to meet her halfway.

"How about we just start walking and I'll point at the first restaurant that meets my taste buds?" she suggested.

“That sounds like a plan,” he ushered her to move, “Let’s go.”

“You know,” he enunciated, “I expected you to be chubbier from your profile picture.”

“That picture is a bit old. I have an upset stomach, so I haven’t been eating much for a while now,” she explained before she made a stop near a yellow food chain sign. “I think I found tonight’s menu.”

“Really? McDonald’s?” he exhaled, “You came all the way to Korea to dine at McDonald’s?”

“Right now, it’s my safest choice,” she elaborated. “Come, since I’ve been a nuisance tonight, I’ll treat you to a meal. I won’t take no for an answer so there is no use for you to fight me on this.”

“Fair enough,” he smiled as he followed her to the restaurant.

Jin ordered a bulgogi burger menu, while Lilah settled for Mozzarella sticks, a milkshake, and an apple pie.

Jin eyed her tray with amusement, “You really don’t have an appetite, do you?”

“I had a cookie before I met you,” she jokingly countered his teasing.

While they were silently having their meal, Lilah’s phone was on the table. A text message from one of her friends, Kenny, lit up the screen. She picked up her phone to answer.



Seokjin couldn't help but sneak a peek at Lilah's screen. "Ah Kenny, hahaha!"

"What?" she suddenly looked concerned.

"Do you know a little bit of Korean?" he sensed her oblivion.

"I know how to read Hangeul, but my vocabulary is limited," she replied while watching Seokjin sip on his coke, "*Ra-myeon Meog-eullae** ... Is she asking me to eat Ramyun?"

"Yeah ... you know ... spicy noodles?" he stuttered.

"Ah, no I don't eat spicy food," she naively replied.

Seokjin tried to change the subject, "How are you liking your sticks?"

"They're not too bad, do you want a bite?" she offered.

Seokjin obliged. One thing was for sure, he was definitely a good eater.

**Ramyeon Meogeullae: lit. do you want to eat Ramyun? Equivalent of Netflix and chill.*

The pair shared small talk during the remainder of the night about their favorite meals amongst other things. However, Lilah had to put an end to the date after she gradually started feeling unwell.

"I think my stomach is still sensitive. I should probably head home," she announced.

"Oh, that's too bad. Let me walk with you," Jin offered.

The streets were deserted, and Lilah felt grateful that Jin was by her side. Out of nowhere, a drunk old man made an interesting appearance. The two of them just kept looking at him, worried that he might get himself in an accident since he could barely stand straight.

"조심하세요!" Seokjin suddenly yelled in Korean asking the drunk man who was about to land face first to be careful.

Lilah was alarmed at first, but she was fond of the way Seokjin was wary of a stranger he's never met before. "Your Korean is cute."

"Of course," Jin took the compliment like a champ, "I'm a cute Korean."

The flirting moment didn't last long as Lilah almost lost her balance and was about to fall back if it weren't for Seokjin's quick reflex.

“Are you sure you’re going to be alright on your own?” he implored her, hoping she’d change her mind.

“Yeah don’t worry about it,” she assured him, “I just need to take my meds and I’ll be brand new.”

“Take good care of yourself Lilah,” he patted her head, “Let’s catch up soon!”

a few hours earlier

