

Chapter 111 - Sweet Scent Linger

Li Lanni felt confused. Was she mad? That man had disrespected her. It was inexcusable no matter what he had to say.

He had apologized before kissing her, and that proved that he did it even while knowing that it would upset her.

She should be angry with everything related to him. She certainly wasn't... this was bad. She was even sniffing at her clothes repeatedly, she was hugging them close to her chest even though she knew she shouldn't be doing it.

Ahh...she didn't know what she even wanted anymore! What did that pervert do to her?

To save her brain from going completely crazy, she quickly changed into comfortable clothes before going to do the laundry. When she was done, she went to her mother's art studio to pass the time admiring the paintings.

It did help to calm her mind a little.

But it did not prepare her for what was awaiting her.

The next day, she thought everything was going on as usual until she realized the kind of looks everyone was giving her.

Although she was curious, she decided to ignore it. If it was anything important, she would find out very soon.

Later, when the class was over, she clearly heard whispers from a group of students in front of her.

"The girl who usually sticks around Cheng Yu? Really, I couldn't tell!"

"What's there not to tell? She is very beautiful. Not many men can resist such beauty, okay? I say Ji Xiehan has good taste."

"I thought Ji Xiehan hated women. At least that is what everyone says. Who would have known..."

Li Lanni finally understood a tiny bit of what was happening. Was it related to Ji Xiehan? To be exact, what was that about Ji Xiehan not being able to resist her?

She saw that the few students were looking at their phones and nudged each other to stop speaking once they realized her presence.

She frowned and took out her own phone to casually search Ji Xiehan's name.

Shocking headlines popped up.

[Ji Xiehan is engaged? What?]

When she read the first headline, she was stunned for a second. That pervert was engaged?!

And the most important thing was that despite being engaged, he flirted with her! He even kissed her yesterday, how shameless!

She wondered just which woman was so unlucky as to have him for a fiancé. She was too pitiful.

As she scrolled through the chats, she was greeted with even more headlines.

[Ji Xiehan's secret fiancée will totally wreck your love life. She's too beautiful.]

[Ji Xiehan and his secret fiancée are a match made in heaven. How adorable!]

These and many more similar headlines had made their way to the top of the search rankings.

She randomly clicked on one of the headlines. The gist of the article was expressions of shock about how no one expected Ji Xiehan to have kept his love life hidden away so perfectly and so on.

But what shocked her was the attached picture of Ji Xiehan kissing her!

What under the sun was going on?!

So she was the one mystery girl who was engaged with Ji Xiehan?

Li Lanni slapped her forehead helplessly. It was that pervert's fault. He just had to kiss her in public...

Wait. It was only a kiss. How did these news outlets conclude that they were engaged? Can they not be so scary?

She kept scrolling through the comments from people who knew Ji Xiehan or were his followers on social media.

[I have always wanted to marry Ji Xiehan, but I cannot compete with such beauty! I give up.]

[If I had such a beautiful fiancée, I wouldn't want the world to know about her either.]

[Who said he hates women? He just cannot look at other women, alright! No one would if they had such beauty by their side.] This particular comment had gained a few thousand likes in just a few minutes.

Li Lanni ignored the comments and browsed through the pictures of her and Ji Xiehan talking, getting into a car, there was even a blurry one of them eating together.

Then she finally saw what she was looking for. It was a video! It was a little blurry, but one could make out the content clearly. It was from when she had linked her hand with Ji Xiehan's and announced, "We are not breaking up any time soon. Xiehan's my fiancé."

What?!

She remembered when this happened. It was that day of Star Art International's banquet. She had wanted to get Lin Jian to stop spewing so much nonsense, so she had grabbed Ji Xiehan's hand and said that.

But how did it make its way into the headlines? What in the world?!

She felt uncomfortable with all the gazes, so she quickly got into the car to go home. But thinking that her mother might probably also see that video, she felt anxious. How was she going to explain it to her?

As expected, as soon as she was home, her mother drowned with the questions.

"You are engaged to Ji Xiehan? How come I am not aware of this matter! He is a good man and all that, but how long have you two known each other? How old are you? It's okay to be in a relationship, but I don't think rushing into engagement and marriage is a good idea."

Li Lanni really wanted to pull off her hair. "I don't know how this happened either. It's a misunderstanding!"

"How is it a misunderstanding? You clearly said the two of you are engaged." Li Yuming didn't know whether she was more upset about her daughter blindly rushing into marriage or because she had kept it from her.

Li Lanni was at a loss. What kind of trouble had she gotten herself into? Her mind was in a mess. She coughed up some excuse and rushed to her room, saying she would explain this later. Li Yuming could only stare blankly. The kids' lives were getting more adventurous.

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In her room, she started doing her assignment to calm her mind.

As she sketched her homework a few minutes later, something flashed in her mind.

She had said that statement about being Ji Xiehan's Xiehan's fiancée three weeks ago at the banquet. If anyone heard it, the news would have blown up already. How come it only happened today? Where had the video been for all these days? Don't tell her someone was keeping it and waiting for the perfect opportunity to use it?

Besides, the pervert suddenly kissed her the day before; then, within a few hours, the news had blown up.

"Pfft. Men are getting more and more childish these days." Li Lanni cursed under her breath and shoved her stationery aside, rushing out of the house. That pervert wouldn't hear the end of it from her!

It was still working hours; she hoped to reach Feng Ji International before the pervert left work.

She would never have anticipated that she was being waited for.

As soon as she left the car and headed towards the building, reporters suddenly swarmed around her.

Before she even had a chance to realize what was happening, she was bombarded with many questions as cameras flashed around her and microphones were shoved close to her face.

"Miss Li Lanni, please answer a few questions."

"Miss Li Lanni, are you really engaged to Master Ji?"

"Will the two of you get married soon?"

"Sorry, I'm not up for interviews." Li Lanni tried to get away. How could she forget about reporters? Sure enough, she was muddled because of that bastard. With a piece of juicy news about Ji Xiehan's love life, how could the media sit silently?

"How long have you been together?" The questions kept coming.

"Are you here to wait for your fiancé to finish up his work and pick him up?"

"Miss Li, why are you not saying anything? Is it because you have something to hide?"

"Miss Li, many people get engaged after many years of dating, but you are only twenty. Did your relationship start when you were still underage?"

Li Lanni had a headache. What was all this about?

"Back off!" She said annoyance, her voice more overbearing than she had ever imagined. The reporters subconsciously shut up and moved out of her way. The authority in her voice just now was terrifying.

"I said I am not up for interviews. Which part of this do you guys not understand? I am not ready to talk about my private life. Now, if you'll excuse me."

She knew the reporters were displeased, but she didn't care. If she didn't shut them up, they were going to start asking about unspeakable things.

What was that about whether she had started her relationship when she was underage? Sheesh!

She proceeded into the building.. She couldn't directly get into the elevator like she owned the place, so she approached the receptionist.

Chapter 112 - A Familiar Situation

This time, the receptionist was a different person, but she wasn't a rude as the previous one.

Actually at that time, Ji Xiehan had fired the previous receptionist on the same day and had asked the HR department to hire a receptionist who was pleasing to the eye and knew how to behave.

If he hadn't, it was not sure how many guests would be angered by her. No one could blame Feng Ji International, however. They had indeed carefully hired their staff after ensuring that they were well behaved and qualified for their jobs. However, some of them just thought they were too important and became arrogant over time. It couldn't be helped.

"Miss, do you have an appointment?" The new receptionist asked politely when Li Lanni said that she wanted to see Ji Xiehan.

"No." Li Lanni cursed inwardly. On her way here, she had tried to call him, but the damned man had ignored her calls for several rings, and in the end, he simply hung up on her. Now that she was here, she

wondered whether she would be thrown out. That would be so embarrassing... was it too late to turn back?

It might be because the receptionist recognized her as Ji Xiehan's rumored fiancée; she didn't ask her to book an appointment. "Master Ji is currently in a meeting. It started just a few minutes ago and might take very long. Would you like to wait for him?"

Li Lanni was even more upset. At this moment, she very much wanted to barge into that meeting room and tear that damned man into pieces. Alas, she couldn't be unreasonable and behave like a shrew.

She took a deep breath to calm down her temper and replied, "I'll wait."

As soon as she said these words, she saw Qiao Luna strutting towards them and say, "Miss Li, please come with me."

Li Lanni wordlessly followed Qiao Luna into Ji Xiehan's office, wondering why she was here when her boss was supposedly in a meeting. Shouldn't secretaries accompany their bosses to meetings and take note of important matters?

"Master Ji said to wait for him here." Qiao Luna said once they reached Ji Xiehan's office.

Li Lanni silently took a seat. So that man knew she would go looking for him if she couldn't get through to him on the phone? It was even possible that he had purposefully ignored her calls. By this time, she had already stabbed him a million times in her heart.

Qiao Luna offered to bring her a drink, but she turned it down politely.

Actually, she just didn't trust him. He could deliberately kiss her and make headlines with her. Who knew what else he could do if given the chance?

"Miss Li, if I may be audacious to ask, are you truly engaged to Master Ji?" Qiao Luna suddenly asked.

Li Lanni frowned. This was the question she hated the most. "No."

"Oh." Qiao Luna paused before slowly adding, "Master Ji is a really nice man. And he loves you very much. Ever since I was employed in this company, I have heard him mention you at least once every day, and he is always so happy when he talks about you that one's heart could melt. The two of you look so beautiful together as well."

"Why are you telling me this?" Li Lanni asked uncomfortably. Did her job scope include finding a match for her boss?

"Every assistant would want their boss to be happy, right? I just thought I should let you know."

Li Lanni nodded expressionlessly. She didn't need to know. Especially because her anger towards Ji Xiehan had lessened significantly, she had even started considering the possibility that it was a misunderstanding all because of a few words from his assistant.

Goodness! One shouldn't trust negotiation experts. They were dangerous! Even their assistants were so glib tongued that they could make one lose their mind!

Most importantly, there was something about Qiao Luna that made her take a scrutinizing look at her. There had always been something strange about her, but Li Lanni couldn't grasp it, so she let it be.

Qiao Luna didn't want to bother Li Lanni any longer -- that, and the fact that she felt uncomfortable under Li Lanni's piercing gaze -- so she said her goodbyes and left her in the office. Once she was outside, she let out a sigh of relief.

Inside, Li Lanni didn't know how long the meeting would last, so she started playing with her phone to pass time. She didn't want to take another glance at the ongoing gossip. Heaven knew what else those reporters must have added to the blogs after being ignored by her.

She kept checking the time, but it seemed to be moving especially slow today.

After playing all the games on her phone and getting bored of them, she checked the time to realize only half an hour had passed. She proceeded to read the latest updates of the web novels she was following, but that only took a few more minutes.

With a sigh, she decided to close her eyes a little. The meeting might take two more hours. If she slept for one hour, she would have used up half the time.

Just like that, she unknowingly fell into a deep sleep, unaware that in the meeting room Ji Xiehan was currently trying to make the meeting as short as possible.

Ji Xiehan quickly ended the three-hour-long meeting within one and a half hour and rushed back to his office.

He hoped Li Lanni didn't get tired of waiting for him and leave. He had only wanted to make her wait for a little, but he didn't expect that the discussion would be more than an hour long.

He pushed the door open with trembling hands. As soon as he walked in, he was greeted with Li Lanni's sleeping face.

Li Lanni had her eyes tightly shut; she had curled up on the large sofa with her phone beside her. Some of her hair stuck onto her face making her look irresistibly cute.

He was bewildered by such an adorable scene and stood there in a daze for a while.

After he snapped from his daze, he slowly made his way towards her. She was even cuter up close, making one want to forget about everything else and just watch her sleep. Gentleness washed over his face as he held back the urge to pull her hair away from her face.

With his mind lost into the peaceful scene, he was suddenly hit by nostalgia! This seemed to have happened before...

What was with this familiar situation?

He would never forget the first time they met.

It had been a similar situation. That night, he had spent the night at The Emerald Grand Hotel after a late evening meeting, and just after taking a bath, he had found a girl sleeping in his suite.

That night, she had taken strong sleeping pills. At first, he had even assumed that she was one of the girls that his mother was fond of sending to him. Up to date, he had never understood what she was really doing in his room that night. Was it because of the sleeping pills that she had become so muddled that she got her room wrong?

But whatever the situation was, he didn't care. It didn't matter anymore because he loved her. She could sleep in his room as much as she wanted. She seemed to like sleeping in his office as well. She could sleep as often as she liked.

Speaking of which, he should give her access to his office so she wouldn't have to wait for Qiao Luna to bring her up the next time she came looking for him.

Not intending to disturb her rest, he made as little noise as possible as he walked to his chair and sat. He made a call and keeping his voice as low as possible, instructed Qiao Luna not to let anyone into his office.

For the next two hours, he simply stared at the little beauty sleeping peacefully.

When Li Lanni woke up, she saw Ji Xiehan sitting in his chair and was shocked. Wait! How long had she slept?!

She quickly rubbed her eyes and combed through her hair using her fingers to tidy it before looking at Ji Xiehan awkwardly. "I..."

As soon as he saw her eyelids flutter, Ji Xiehan had quickly brushed the smile off his face and replaced it with a look that spoke of annoyance and a hint of anger. "Have you had enough rest? Now can we talk about the matter at hand?"

"Huh? What matter?" Li Lanni inquired, shocked by his tone. He should be apologetic, shouldn't he? What was up with the upset tone? Moreover, that was her line!

Before Li Lanni could come out of her shock, he further demanded, "Why is there news of me being your fiancé? Could you explain why this is happening?"

Chapter 113 - Who Exactly Is The Victim Here?

Li Lanni blinked her eyes rapidly. "Are you seriously blaming me? You should be ashamed of yourself. You were the one who kissed me!"

"And you are the one who called me your fiancé. It was just a kiss. The media would have assumed I was only fooling around or that you are my girlfriend at most. Thanks to what you said, I have many people to answer to now." Ji Xiehan retorted.

Li Lanni couldn't make head or tail of what was going on. She was the one who had been taken advantage of. She was the victim, okay? Why was he making it sound like she was the one who had taken advantage of him? "Is this why you hung up my call?" She gritted her teeth and asked.

Ji Xiehan massaged his temples then looked right at her. "I was upset, Lanni. Everyone is on my neck, questioning me. I didn't know how to hold a conversation with you."

As though to prove his words, the telephone on his desk rung. As soon as he received it, "Hello, this is Mars Media..."

He hung up with a sigh and looked at her. "This is just one of them. This is a severe issue Lanni; my parents expect me to get married. I cannot afford to be in a scandal with a girl."

'I didn't create the scandal, now did I?' Li Lanni thought.

"Lanni, how did that video leak out?" Ji Xiehan asked in all seriousness.

"Why are you asking me?" She retorted. Just because she grabbed his hand and claimed to be engaged to him didn't mean she recorded that and gave it to the media, okay! "But, I should ask you how those photos of us leaked out."

Ji Xiehan thought for a bit and shrugged. "Is it not obvious? All those photos were taken after the banquet. Someone must have been following us after obtaining the video."

Li Lanni blinked. Why did it seem like he was blaming her for being the root of all this?

This conversation was not going anywhere. She sighed after thinking about it for a long time; she looked into his eyes and said, "It's already done. So, what now? The Ji family holds a lot of power. You can just have them delete the news and pass it off as a misunderstanding, right? It was, after all, indeed, a misunderstanding."

"No can do Lanni. Very many people have already caught wind of it. And that includes my parents and...

Look, whatever it is, I definitely cannot pass it off as a misunderstanding. As the next CEO of Feng Ji International, the most basic thing I am supposed to do is keep my record clean. Even if I deleted the news now, not many people would believe it is a misunderstanding. It would look like I often have scandals with women.

Besides, that would be pushing all the blame to a girl I have been seen with before.

There is no way this will be part of a clean record."

"What's that even supposed to mean? Once you say you have been misunderstood and we were just acquaintances, wouldn't your name be cleared? We only went to a banquet together. Acquaintances do that often."

"Yeah, but acquaintances do not kiss, Lanni."

"You are the one who kissed me." Li Lanni insisted furiously, again. This can't be done, that can't be done; what was she supposed to do now?! "You should have known that it wouldn't sit well with your clean record if you grabbed a girl and kissed her."

"It happened in the heat of the moment. How would I have known that I was being followed?"

It was back to her yet again.

Li Lanni groaned. Great! Just great!

"Lanni, I don't mean to put you at a disadvantage, but I really have no choice."

"What do you mean?" She had a bad premonition.

Ji Xiehan contemplated for a while before saying, "As I just mentioned, my parents expect me to get married soon. They are putting me under real pressure even though I am not ready for it.

My father gave me an ultimatum to bring a woman back home within a month, or I would have to marry whoever he chose for me.

No one would want that, right?"

He carefully studied her expression. It was blank, so he continued. "The time he gave me is almost over so I had found a woman... I was planning to have her pretend to be my fiancée for a while then feign a break up later. But with all this news going on, there is no way she would agree to it."

The warning bells went off in Li Lanni's mind. "So, what am I supposed to do?"

"Replace her."

"What?"

"Be my fiancée." He repeated word by word.

Li Lanni blanked out for a whole minute before she finally reacted. "You're crazy!"

She had heard enough! She just stood up and made a beeline for the door, but Ji Xiehan was faster. He sprung to his feet and pushed the door closed just as she touched it.

"What are you doing?" She asked with a tremble.

"Listen to me once, okay?" He persuaded.

Li Lanni heard the despair in his voice and couldn't bring herself to be too rude. "What do you want? I am certainly not getting engaged to anyone. Especially not to you."

Ji Xiehan felt his heart break from the blatant way she was rejecting him, but she couldn't be blamed. It was his fault. But if he had a choice...

Scratch that. He didn't have a choice.

Scratch that too. He had made himself "have no choice". But it was all the same, right?

"It's a fake engagement. I only want to buy time and distract my parents for a while. When it's over, we can just feign a break-up and go separate ways. I will make sure your life remains private, and no one bothers you."

"How long?" She almost killed herself for the asking. Perhaps it was the desperation in his voice or her guilt due to the fact that the statement she casually said had indeed ruined his plans.

"Three..." Ji Xiehan swallowed. "Three months. Just three months." He had almost said three weeks, but that might not be enough time to make her truly fall in love with him.

"Three months?" Three months, thirteen weeks, a hundred days, it was not too long, but it wasn't short either; many things can happen within three months.

"Do you have any idea of how many opportunities I might miss in three months? Is my life supposed to stop?"

What if I fall in love? Am I supposed to pause my love life for three months too, just because I will be 'engaged' to you? And, how would I explain this to my future husband? Should I say 'that year I accidentally messed up with someone's life by claiming to be his fiancée so I had to pretend to be truly engaged to him for a while'?"

"Li Lanni!" Ji Xiehan roared. This woman was really going to drive him insane. How dare she say such things to him? 'You will not have to explain anything to your future husband because that will be me! Do you hear me?' He almost said.

Li Lanni was taken aback by his sudden outburst and stopped rambling. "Anyway, it's a ridiculously long time. I cannot do it."

Ji Xiehan's expression was a mixture of sadness and anger. "What about me? I'm stuck to you, do you know that? How should I explain this to my parents to the company's higher ups?"

When she saw that pitiful expression on his charming face, her heart wavered. She sighed, "I'll think about it. Give me some time, will you? You can't expect me to decide such a serious issue in a moment of a spur, right? After all, this is an engagement. It is not as huge a deal as marriage but it is still very important to a woman." She would have a headache if she kept this discussion going. She was desperate to finish it.

Ji Xiehan regarded her for a while then withdrew his hand. He knew he had made her heart unsettled. There was a high chance that she would agree to his request.

With a charming smile he said, "I will drop you off at home."

"You don't need to." Li Lanni blankly rejected.

"The reporters will make it hard for you to leave. Then I will walk you to the car."

Until Li Lanni left, he maintained his pitiful and wronged, distressed expression. It was only after she left that he let out a smile.

Damn! That wasn't so easy for him to act out. He had totally played the victim card when he orchestrated the whole thing with Lin Jian's help.. He would respect actors and actresses much more from now on. Acting was not his cup of tea!

Chapter 114 - Idle Minds

When Li Lanni went back home, her mind was more restless and unsettled than it was before she left for Ji Xiehan's office earlier.

As soon as she entered the villa, she was greeted by an anxious Li Yuming, who again bombarded her with many questions about where she had run off to. Li Lanni quickly came up with some excuse and ran to her room. She knew that she was very rude to her mom, but right now, she was not in the mood to talk with anyone. She would explain later.

In her room, she sat on her bed after freshening up and contemplated all the events that occurred.

She still had a strong gut feeling that the pervert had a role to play in this matter. There was no way that such coincidences existed.

Not to mention, Ji Xiehan was one of the men that many women admired and loved, even if they knew they didn't have a chance to be with him.

Why was it that they all sounded supportive of her rumored relationship with him?

Shouldn't there be at least a few of them bashing her? Shouldn't the overly possessive women scold her for not being good enough and tainting the man of their dreams?

There was such a thing as jealousy. Even if they knew that she was beautiful and all that, there was no way they would feel the same way about it. What happened to the 'Ji Feifei's'?

Also, the comments from the ladies were a little strange... it was as though they had been told what to say.

Either that, or those were all new accounts that had been created and were being controlled by the same person.

Seriously, was there such an idle person? The pervert sure was a pervert.

She reclined against her pillows in bed as she thought and laughed about it.

She was woken up from her myriad of thoughts by a phone call. When she saw that it was Xia Luna calling, she quickly accepted the call.

"Luna?"

On the other side, Xia Luna sounded defeated, a word that couldn't usually be used to describe her. "Lanni, I couldn't get what you asked for."

"How is that possible?" Li Lanni was shocked. She had personally witnessed the sister's prowess in programming a few times in the past few weeks. She knew how excellent Xia Luna was. How could it be possible that she was unable to find something she had been looking for for almost a month?

"I think someone is protecting Ji Feifei." Xia Luna stated. "It turns out she has not been working on her own. No wonder she has always been so audacious."

"Anyway, Lanni, I found out something more interesting. Do you want to hear it?"

"Go on." Li Lanni was in a worse mood. This was her only chance to put Ji Feifei in her place - behind bars. And it had just been shattered.

"Ji Xiehan has been investigating her too."

"What?!" Li Lanni was flabbergasted.

"I was even more shocked than you are. He is her brother, right?"

"Maybe he is the one protecting her, so you will not find any incriminating evidence against her?" Li Lanni guessed.

"That's not possible. From what I found out, he has been trying to take a tiny step at a time stealthily, unlike how he has been trying to recover my deleted information. Perhaps it is because he doesn't want anyone to know that he is investigating his own sister. Either that or he is afraid he might find out something that would shock him, and he is not ready to face it. Either way, he is suspicious of her."

Xia Luna had been too deep into her hypothesis and didn't realise that she had just said that Ji Xiehan was investigating her, while Li Lanni was too immersed in her own thoughts to realize it immediately.

Li Lanni had an idea that made her want to explode in happiness. "That means that Ji Xiehan wouldn't be too much against us if we made a move towards Ji Feifei, right? He might even help us out if the Ji family attacked us for it."

"You dummy. With your low IQ, how are you even my sister?" Xia Luna admonished. "Ji Xiehan loves you very much. I reckon he would stand by you even if you went against his mother, much less the sister he obviously doesn't like."

"That's not the first time I am hearing this today." Li Lanni cringed. "Ji Xiehan's assistant went on and on about this too."

"Then, that only proves me right." Xia Luna chuckled. "Lanni, I wish to talk to you a little more, but I have things to get back to. I'll call you again tomorrow, okay?"

"You are now starting to sound like a boyfriend." Li Lanni rolled her eyes, even though she knew Xia Luna wouldn't see it.

"Hahahaha! Blame me for being such a handsome girl."

Li Lanni chuckled. What in the world was a handsome girl?

After she ended the call, she realized that her phone battery was low. While she was putting her phone for charging, a sudden idea sparked in her mind.

She could collaborate with Ji Xiehan, right?

There were things Xia Luna couldn't do, but Ji Xiehan could. He had more advantages because he and Ji Feifei were siblings. He could easily get close to her, and no one would suspect a thing.

'Besides...' Li Lanni thought with an evil grin. 'Ji Feifei had her family fooled. If one made that trust crumble, what would happen then? '

It was even more exciting just thinking of what would happen once Ji Feifei realized that her 'Oh so loving brother' had been the one to finish her off.

'Lanni, don't get ahead of yourself.' When she realized that she had gone too far with her thoughts, she scolded herself before going to sleep. Now that she had planned out everything, she had a dreamless sleep, unaware of certain someone's restless sleep all over the night in his mansion.

Although Ji Xiehan was sure that Li Lanni would accept his proposal for sure, he couldn't stop himself from worrying. What if she rejected the proposal? Then wouldn't he have to marry a woman he didn't like? He tossed and turned to stop himself from thinking about it.

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The next morning, Li Lanni woke up to the bright rays of the sun seeping into her room and freshened up before going to meet up with Ji Xiehan.

Unlike Li Lanni, who was calm, Ji Xiehan was on pins and needles.

He looked like he was waiting for a judge to pass a verdict that involved his life or death.

"I have thought about it." Li Lanni began.

"And?"

"I agree to be your 'fake' fiancée." She said, deliberately emphasizing the word fake.

Ji Xiehan didn't mind it. He was overjoyed but hid it well beneath his indifferent expression, knowing that there was more coming his way.

"I will act as a true fiancée to you, but I have two conditions."

"I will comply with whatever you ask.." He promised in all seriousness, not knowing that he was going to regret it just a minute later.

Chapter 115 - Conditions

"First, I'm not doing this for you. I am doing it in exchange for your cooperation." She didn't intend to hide this fact.

"Why do you need my cooperation?" He probed, wondering why the discussion had taken a sudden unexpected turn.

"I know that you are investigating your sister." She said blankly, taking him by surprise.

"And I know that you are investigating my sister too."

Ji Xiehan was even more shocked. Ji Xiehan soon recovered from his shock and thought that her sister might have told her about it. But... really, no way. With that girl's personality, it was unlikely for her to tell Li Lanni about it. How did she know, then?

"My first condition is that you will stop investigating my sister. Her life is none of your business." Li Lanni spat out. Even she didn't know when she started sounding like a mother when protecting her little chick.

"What's your second condition?" He asked, ignoring the fact that he was shocked.

"Help me investigate Ji Feifei."

"Okay."

Li Lanni raised an eyebrow. Were brothers usually this ready to sell their sisters out? His reaction should have been to give her a piece of his mind and storm off, right?

But if she had a sister like Ji Feifei, she would sell her out in a flash as well.

"My third condition..."

"There are more?" Ji Xiehan was starting to get tensed up. The next one might crush his fantasy.

"Yes. And you better listen because this is very important." She emphasized, looking right into his blue eyes.

"I have drawn up our love story. You are to follow the script strictly. Don't you ever say something else to the media, okay? I will let you arrange when to appear together in different places for the show.

Everything we do is just a show. Do not interfere with my life; do not appear before me if it's not arranged for the media, and most importantly, do not fall in love with me."

"Those are at least five conditions. You said there were two." Ji Xiehan complained when he saw her demand those conditions cold-heartedly.

"That shouldn't be your main point." She tossed the script at him.

Ji Xiehan was stunned when he read it. He read it out aloud. "We first met at the movies a few months ago and fell in love at first sight, one thing led to another and then we got engaged..."

Then later, you will realize that you prioritize your career over your love life, but and that is not alright with me so you will break up with me? What the heck?" Just looking at that annoying script made him cringe.

"You should be lucky that I didn't make it so you would cheat on me. I should have made it, so your family confronted me with a hefty sum of money and asked me to stay away from you." She mocked.

"Such a tragic love story, huh? Why don't you become a scriptwriter for a melodramatic soap opera? I am sure it would gain ten views." He chided, crumbling the so-called script into a ball.

"Less sarcasm." She took a look at the crumbled script and glared at him. "Of course, if you don't like these terms, we can part ways. It's not my reputation that's on the line anyway."

Ji Xiehan gritted his teeth. Just when he had started thinking that he had gained the upper hand, this girl made one amazing feat and knocked him down into a puddle. How did she manage to do it?

Could she have realized that he needed this engagement more than she did?

Li Lanni was currently playing with another copy of the script, a smug look on her face.

Her eyes seemed to be saying, 'I know you orchestrated the whole scandal because you need this engagement desperately. I am taking advantage of that. What can you do about it?'

He couldn't blame her. Who was it that taught her how to be a business-minded profiteer?

He scratched his chin and agreed. He didn't have much choice.

Hence, their fake engagement began.

Ji Xiehan defeatedly pulled the script in her hand. But the gloom on his face turned into joy when he thought about how he could meet up with Li Lanni frequently. Li Lanni, who was carefully watching his expressions, was caught off guard by his sudden change of mood.

Was he a kid? His mood changed faster than the speed of light!

They both left the restaurant after discussing the conditions. Even though he was unhappy about the conditions, Ji Xiehan grinned happily. She had unknowingly left a lee way for him. He would utilize it fully.

Having spotted a paparazzo slip behind the hedge around the restaurant, she slid her arm around his and snuggled intimately into his arms as they left the restaurant and muttered under her breath, "Biggups to all actresses. How do they manage to act intimate with men they are not even close to?"

The difference was that with her, she wasn't repulsed by Ji Xiehan. There was even a tiny hint of attraction at a corner of her heart that could no longer be denied. Well, for that, she had to thank Ji Xiehan. It was all because of his habit of clinging to her persistently in the past. But for actresses, it was purely professional, and they even had to act so love-stricken as if they were indeed in love. From this moment, she would genuinely respect them.

Ji Xiehan was too occupied with his own thoughts to realize that she had thought about the same thing he had the previous day.

Once they reached his car, Ji Xiehan couldn't keep his mouth shut anymore. "Lanni, who exactly are you?"

"What do you mean?" Li Lanni looked up after fastening her seat belt and inquired.

"Every time I meet you, I find out something new about you, and it always makes me feel you are not just a simple student. You are an artist, but it feels like you are far from that."

Li Lanni almost chuckled at his way of putting it. "What are you getting at?"

Ji Xiehan didn't care to hide his awe. "Your observation is way off the charts. The speed at which you discover many things is frightening as well.. Aside from Ji Feifei -- but I know that it is because Ji Feifei might be under someone's protection -- every other thing you have found out so casually has been shocking."

Chapter 116 - Did The Pervert Eat Something Wrong?

"For instance, you remember what you told me a few weeks ago in the cafe?" He was referring to the incident about the moles. After investigating thoroughly, they had found out that indeed, that girl from her class and the CEO's assistant were the moles. It had left them shocked speechless.

"That, and the speed at which you found out that I am investigating your sister. And..."

Li Lanni grinned. "And how I found out that this whole engagement charade is your handiwork?"

Ji Xiehan looked back at her, his shock real yet fake. He meant to feign it, but he was indeed shocked. Did she know this too? "What? No. I wanted..." He tried to evade it but was interrupted by Li Lanni.

"Oh, please don't give me that. Most of the huge news outlets reported it, but Lin Media Group didn't. I know who the CEO of Lin Media Group is. You asked him for help, didn't you?"

Ji Xiehan cocked his head. How did she come to that conclusion when Lin Media Group didn't report the news?

What she said next stunned him. "Your friend knew that I would get suspicious, so he didn't let his subordinates report the rumor.

But logically, your best friend should be the first to know whether or not the engagement is real. As the CEO of the leading media group, he should have caught wind of the rumor before it blew up, and as a good friend, even try to stop it. That, and the fact that you kissed me and left behind such glaring evidence."

Ji Xiehan narrowed his gaze. Basically, he and Lin Jian had lost even before the game begun. This girl's way of thinking...

It wasn't that he didn't know that his plan might have some faults, he had just underestimated her. He had thought that she would be too shocked to think about anything, and if she ever found out, it would be too late. Never did he expect...

"Since I already know and I have agreed to this fake engagement, are you planning on telling me what your intention is?"

"Can I not?"

Li Lanni shrugged. It was none of her business anyway. She was getting what she wanted, after all.

That evening, Li Lanni was enjoying her leisure time by reading a famous detective novel. The way the lead characters investigated cases that were hard to handle intrigued her. Although it was just fiction, she couldn't contain her admiration for them. Li Laani was utterly immersed in the book when she was pulled back by a phone call. When she saw that it was Ji Xiehan, she accepted the phone call with a slight frown.

"We only made an agreement today, and you are calling me already?" Li Lanni complained with a tinge of annoyance in her voice.

The other side was quiet for a long while before she finally heard the man's deep breaths. He sounded a little anxious. "Does that mean I can call you later?"

"What? No!" Li Lanni was almost angered to death by this pervert's way of twisting logic. "I don't want you to call me. I'm going to hang up." Li Laani spat with her eyes still on the book, curious to know what would happen next in the plot.

"What's wrong with calling my fiancée?" The man sounded pitiful and wronged.

"You... damned man! Have you gotten too deep into character? Since when was I your fiancée?"

There were soft chuckles on the other side.

"What are you laughing at!"

Ji Xiehan sighed before answering, "It's funny how right I was. I knew you would scold me if I called, but I did anyway."

Li Lanni scratched her head in frustration. This was a special case. He must have escaped from a mental hospital. Was he itching for a scolding? "Why would you itch for a scolding so much?" She couldn't help but mockingly ask.

The other side was silent for a while, but somehow she knew that he must be smiling. That heavenly smile on his handsome face could drive one crazy...

"Because..." she heard his voice and snapped back from her stupor. "Your voice is so beautiful, Lanni. No matter what you say to me, it makes me happy. It doesn't matter if you scold me or curse or yell at me. As long as it's your voice, my ears will love it, and so will my heart."

Li Lanni's heart raced, and she knew that her face would be red as a tomato. She had never thought the pervert could say such cheesy words... and in such a gentle and soothing tone...

But she couldn't lose out to him.

She adjusted her voice and spat out, "You're insane!"

"That's common knowledge, Lanni. Don't you know that? You drove me insane with love. If there's anyone to blame here, that would be you."

What in the world was going on? Did the pervert eat something wrong for dinner?

As she was wondering what was wrong with him, she heard him continuing,

"Lanni, are you free tomorrow? I would like to take you somewhere."

"No. I'm not going anywhere with you. If you continue spewing nonsense, I will hang up on you!" She threatened.

She heard a light chuckle. "You will not. If you wanted to hang up on me, you would have done so the first time you threatened to.

But you didn't.... say, you like my voice too, right?"

Without a word, she hung up.

In his bedroom, Ji Xiehan scratched his chin as he chuckled. She hung up. How cute.

While Li Lanni was in a turmoil. Why did she hang up? What was she trying to prove?

His last words echoed in her ears. 'You like my voice, too, right?'

"Aaaah!" Li Lanni flopped onto her bed, face down as her legs kicked the bedding beneath her body.

It was only when she calmed down a little that she rolled onto her back and slapped her forehead. 'Li Lanni, you are crazy!

You are absolutely crazy. Why would the pervert's words faze you so much!'

Chapter 117 - Focus On Your Happiness

She calmed herself and rolled her eyes. Who knew how many women he had said those words to? She must be just one of the many. Yeah, that must be it!

He must think that she was naive enough to fall for such a meaningless talk.

But although that was what she said, she couldn't deny that those words she found meaningless had made her heart race.

As though her hands had brains of their own, she unlocked her phone and checked through her phone call data, completely forgetting about the novel she was supposed to read.

Her phone was set to record every phone call automatically. The one that ended just now was no different.

She replayed it on loop, almost shrieking every time she heard his voice once again. It sounded so seductive!

Eventually, she fell asleep, cradling the phone like a baby and slipping into a sweet slumber.

The next day, thanks to that pervert's persistence, they were going to make a public appearance for the media's sake. She would go after her Art class, but first, she had matters to settle at home.

No matter how much she wanted to evade her mother's questions, she still had to answer them.

So that morning, when they were having breakfast, she carefully brought up the subject. "Mom, Ji Xiehan, and I..."

"You finally decided to explain it? My hair grew whiter just from waiting." She half-joked.

"Well..." Li Lanni stuck her fingertips together, wondering how she was supposed to explain to her mother that she was in a fake engagement with a man because he needed to distract his parents, and she needed a favor in return.

Last night, instead of reading a detective novel, she should have read a romance one about contract marriage or engagement. That way, she would have known what the female leads of those novels do when their mothers confront them about the sudden engagements.

Was it too late to cough up an excuse and hide away to read an episode or two?

Looking at her mother's 'you-better-start-speaking-up-young-lady' expression, she knew that it was too late.

"Well, mom... the thing is..."

Li Lanni's mind was in a mess. Why did she come without preparing?! When she saw her mom watching her every expression with eagle eyes, she gulped.

What could she say now! Could she tell her mom 'I am in love with Ji Xiehan very much and want to marry him?' No, her mother would definitely drag her to the hospital to have her head checked.

'Actually, this is all fake, and we will be done once his parents are fooled'?

No, that was even worse. She would end up in some mental institution for sure.

Ahuh. If anyone was going to a mental institution, it should be both of them, right? Why would she carry the burden alone?

She was still rambling mentally when Li Yuming finally spoke. "Lanni, I'm not against you getting engaged or even getting married. I'm just afraid you are rushing into it too fast.

Ji Xiehan is a nice young man. I know that by heart. But will you be happy? Are you sure that this is what you really want?"

Li Lanni fluttered her eyelashes. "Yes, mom. This is what I really want."

She did not dare to look her mother in the eye.

Never would she have thought that she would have to tell her mother a lie about such an important matter.

Thinking about how they would break up in three months, her heart broke.

'Mother would be very upset. Lanni, you silly girl. What have you gotten yourself into?' Just to get back at Ji Feifei, how could she stoop so low as to deceive her mother?

She should have told her the truth.

Oh well....

"Is anything bothering you?" Li Yuming saw that her daughter was still unsettled and asked worriedly.

"No. Nothing that's important." She lied. Yet again. "I'm just scared that his family might not like me. Actually... I know they don't like me and..."

Li Yuming unknowingly gripped her fork too tightly. She swallowed a bitter gulp of saliva.

Was history really set on repeating itself?

If this were before, she would have straight away asked Li Lanni to break up with Ji Xiehan.

But after witnessing how much Ji Xiehan loved her daughter and how much her daughter was attracted to him too, she couldn't bring herself to make them unhappy.

She reached for Li Lanni's hand and gently stroked it. "Since you have chosen to be with Xiehan, you must understand one thing.

Your husband's name will be Ji Xiehan. Not Ji Huifen, not Wen Lin and not Ji Feifei.

You should never care whether they like you or not.

I'm not saying that you should be rude to them, but if they do not appreciate you, it's their loss then. Just focus on your happiness."

When she heard her mom console her, Li Lanni's eyes stung. Her heart was filled with guilt. Her mother was saying all this because she thought she was really in love with Ji Xiehan, yet in actual truth was...

She couldn't keep this up anymore. "Mom, actually..."

"Look at the time! Go; you will be late for your art class." Li Yuming reminded her when she suddenly saw the time.

Li Lanni sighed and left the dining room. Never mind! She could explain to her mother later.

But as soon as she reached the institution, she was again interrogated. Among the people bombarding her with questions, Cheng Yu was definitely among them. As soon as the class was over, she dragged Li Lanni to a spot near the parking lot and cornered her. "Did you two do anything interesting yet? Did you make it real? Come on, tell me."

Er..." Li Lanni was speechless.

Shouldn't she be asking when this relationship started, when they even got engaged and why she had not told her?

Besides, "Haven't you always hated Ji Xiehan?" Of course Li Lanni had realized how displeased Cheng Yu always was when Ji Xiehan was around.

Cheng Yu dramatically did a hair flip and said, "Luna said he is a good person, so he has to be. Now that you both are together, you should treasure your relationship."

Li Lanni felt her heart break. "You believe Luna more than you believe me? Just who is your best friend?!"

Chapter 118 - They're Kissing!

Cheng Yu burst into laughter. "You both are my best friends. I mean, you are identical. Can anyone possibly like one more than the other?"

Besides, haven't you always found Ji Xiehan annoying? You even call him a pervert. Don't tell me you are starting to think he's nice and even like him?"

"Nonsense!" Li Lanni snapped. "Who would like a man like him? I don't have such bad taste, urgh..."

"Is that so?" A sudden deep voice made her freeze.

She stiffly turned around to look at the man who had suddenly appeared out of thin air and gasped. Then she glared at Cheng Yu. Ji Xiehan had appeared from behind Li Lanni. Which went to say, Cheng Yu must have seen him. How could she not tell her? She was damn sure that Cheng Yu had asked her intentionally. This unreliable friend!

"Ji Xiehan, what are you doing here?" She controlled her expression and asked, unfazed.

"If I didn't come here, how would I know what my darling fiancée truly thinks of me?" He said pitifully, feigning heartbreak.

As though it was the most natural thing to do, he slipped his hands around her from behind and closed his eyes to savor the moment before he got pushed away. "Honey, did you miss me?"

When she didn't say anything, he turned her around - totally ignoring Cheng Yu - and lifted her chin to look into her grey eyes.

Li Lanni wanted nothing more than to stomp on his foot with her high heeled shoes. But before she did, she heard gasps from around them.

"They are kissing! How cute..."

"Oh oh oh, I want to fall in love too! There has to be another Xiehan out there somewhere, right?"

Who the heck was kissing?!

She didn't have to look to know that they were taking photos and videos of them.

Ji Xiehan leaned into her ear to whisper. "Darling, it's for the media's sake. We have to make it look real, right? I saw some paparazzi on my way here."

"How the hell is that my business?" Li Lanni really wanted to strangle him.

"Of course, it's your business. If we don't do this, people might assume there is trouble in paradise.

You can guess what tomorrow's headlines would be. [trouble in paradise already? Weren't they acting all lovey-dovey yesterday?]

Li Lanni bit her lips to stop herself from slapping him. Who the heck was acting lovey-dovey with him?

Cheng Yu had slipped away to avoid being the third wheel, making Li Lanni even more unhappy.

What was worse, that the pervert was deliberately breathing onto her ear lobe. She could have sworn that he even licked it a little. He was seriously driving her nuts.

"There's no trouble in paradise. Now could you let go of me?" She said almost pleadingly, trying to push him away.

But the man was sturdy. "Honey, if I let go of you, the onlookers will think we are fighting. Why don't we just go to the mall like this? I can carry you to the car."

Li Lanni had really had enough. "Can you stop spewing nonsense!"

"I can't." He said and looked at her teasingly. "But if you keep my lips busy, I will not be able to spew any more nonsense."

Li Lanni saved her words. She would die of anger if she kept talking to this pervert.

But the pervert was clearly not intending to let her off for a second. "Honey, are you mad at me? Did I do something wrong?"

Li Lanni shot him a glare and wriggled out of his embrace to go to his car. For this date, she had let the chauffeur go back home after dropping her off this morning so that Ji Xiehan would pick her up, and then both of them can go to the mall together.

But now that this was happening, she was regretting this decision. They should have gone separately.

Now, she was stuck with him.

...

Because the news of their 'engagement' had gone viral, they didn't need to arrange for any reporters or paparazzi.

They appeared at the mall on their own.

Ji Xiehan pulled up in the parking lot and stepped out, gentlemanly helping Li Lanni out.

Although she didn't want to, she hooked her arm with his and pretended to be madly in love with him.

Urgh... she should befriend an actress and ask for tips. This was tiring. She didn't even know whether she was doing it right.

But Ji Xiehan was fully in character. He looked love-stricken like a teenager, protectively bringing her into his embrace when the reporters approached them.

How could he not do it, right? He was truly in love with her. He was only acting out the reality.

The reporters felt like they had been dealt a ton of dog food. Just when they thought that Ji Xiehan was already as friendly as a man could ever be, he broke records when he interacted with his fiancée. How loving!

They coughed awkwardly and started a cluster of questions.

"Master Ji, please tell us more about your relationship."

Ji Xiehan was waiting for this. 'I will gladly do so.'

"I'll keep it brief. I don't want to disrupt business in the mall." He said although that was not what the mall's manager was thinking.

Because of Ji Xiehan's presence, more customers were flocking into the mall. Many of them wanted to have a glimpse of Li Lanni in person.

One would think the two of them were celebrities!

In fact, this was going to increase the mall's popularity. Who would mind such a huge pie dropping right from heaven?

After obtaining permission, Ji Xiehan went ahead to tell their 'love story' "The first time I saw my darling Lanni it was at the Emerald Grand Hotel. She was having a welcoming party."

Li Lanni pinched his arm discreetly. What! Nonsense! Was this pervert spewing! That wasn't part of the script!

She pinched so hard that Ji Xiehan felt her nails dig into his flesh. Almost hissing from the pain, he continued. "I fell in love with her at first sight. But I didn't know that we would ever meet again.

Then it just happened out of coincidence that I saw her at the movies one day. I approached her and had a chat with her.

After that, we kept meeting up. Sometimes it was coincidental, but most of the time, I sought her out. She must have been moved by my pursuit because she fell in love with me, too, so we took things to the next level."

Li Lanni wanted to roll her eyes. Why don't you write a romance novel? It will break the record of the planet's most cliché novels.

"Then why did you keep it secret?" A reporter questioned what was on everyone's mind.

"That's because my darling doesn't like being too public... ah, that should be all. My darling and I need to go for shopping. Please excuse us."

This bastard! What this darling, that darling! Can't he call her more properly? Li Lanni was about to burst from embarrassment.

Chapter 119 - Darling This Darling That

After saying a few more words to the reporters and angering Li Lanni almost to death, Ji Xiehan finally thought he had had enough fun and led Li Lanni inside for shopping.

At that time, Li Lanni, who had been silent the whole time, suddenly dragged him to a corner, between the cloth lines and pinched him hard.

"Darling, don't pinch too hard. People might think you are trying to murder your man." Ji Xiehan squeezed out the words. He was trying his best to maintain his calm while Li Lanni's stinging pinch pierced through the skin of his arm.

Li Lanni twisted the tiny skin she was pinching. "What did you call me?"

Ji Xiehan hissed slightly. "Darling, why are you so vicious?... ouch... okay, I'll call you Lanni."

Li Lanni still didn't let go of him. She admonished in a whisper. "What was that weird love story you were telling?"

Ji Xiehan felt wronged. What was wrong with what he had said? Hadn't they met at The Emerald Grand Hotel for the first time?

He only added some truth to her script to make it more believable. "Wouldn't it be more believable if we added some realistic truth to the script?"

"Realistic script? Are you saying the script I gave you wasn't realistic, huh?"

"Lanni, my hand's going to start bleeding. Could you let me off this time? I promise I will follow the script henceforth."

Li Lanni studied his expression. Only after believing that he meant it did she let him off. He had to rub his arm when she finally let him off. What a vicious girl! That stung... he could swear that part of his skin was red and swollen. Luckily it was covered up by his sleeves.

Li Lanni shot him a final, warning look. She thought she saw a salesgirl approach them but disappear when she saw the situation. In embarrassment, she dragged Ji Xiehan to the women's clothing section.

Although she had come here because of Ji Xiehan's insistence, she did need new clothes for fall.

Just in case she needed help, the sales girls were close by. But they kept a reasonable distance so they wouldn't make their customers uncomfortable.

Li Lanni preferred to select her own clothes, so she didn't ask for their help.

She was just looking at a leather mini skirt when the pervert beside her spoke. "That is so beautiful. It would look amazing on you! Darling, go try it out."

Li Lanni rolled her eyes at him. "I didn't ask for your opinion."

Even then, she was happy that she was not making the wrong choice. If someone else thought it would look on her, it had to be true. She went to try on the skirt together with the top that came with it.

She was out a few minutes later, and Ji Xiehan, who was dazed by her experience, had to cough, or he would have embarrassed himself. Even the sales girls couldn't contain their awe when they saw her.

"She's so beautiful!" One of the sales girls whispered to another.

"That skirt accentuates her curves perfectly! I couldn't tell before but she really is perfectly proportioned in all the right places." The other said, too excited to whisper.

"Her fiancé is the luckiest man on earth."

Seeing their reaction and hearing their whispers, Li Lanni knew she looked good in the skirt. She smiled in satisfaction, and changed back to her clothes then proceeded to continue looking for more clothes.

"Darling, why don't you try out this dress? Black looks beautiful on you." Ji Xiehan held out a little cotton black dress.

Li Lanni frowned and ignored him.

"Darling," he held out yet another black dress. But this time, it was less plain. It had a red rose embroidered to its chest. "This one is beautiful too. Try it out for me?"

Once again, he was ignored.

Why didn't she like them? He wondered. The first time they met, she was wearing a black dress that hugged her body perfectly. He was awed by her beauty.

But after that, he never saw her wearing any black clothes; so he wanted to see her in a black dress again

Thinking again, he grabbed a different type of dress. This time, it was a vibrant cream A-line dress with peacock feathers printed onto it. They were too life-like.

Li Lanni took a look and raised an eyebrow. This was definitely one of the most colorful dresses around here. While it looked pretty, she didn't like its brightness. But... she knew someone who would totally love it.

So she grabbed it from him and entered the changing room.

Once she was done changing, she looked at herself in the mirror and felt a little uncomfortable. She looked beautiful, but she didn't like this style.

She liked plain clothes. No matter what color it was, she would prefer it if it was as plain as possible. She preferred using jewelry to break the colors.

Speaking of jewelry, she needed to buy some too.

She changed back to her own clothes before leaving the changing room.

But, she was infuriated to see Ji Xiehan almost drowned in a pile of dresses and accessories.

"May I ask what in the world is going on here?" She crossed her arms.

The man smiled at her. "I picked these dresses and accessories. Darling, please try them out."

She was about to scold him when she saw that people were watching. Obviously, a woman would try on clothes for her man when shopping. It wouldn't make sense if she rejected him. She could only grit her teeth and try them out. Though, she had to admit that Ji Xiehan's taste was impeccable.

Aside from that colorful dress, everything else he picked matched her taste.

She decided to buy all those that she had tried out.

When he saw that she had accepted all his choices of clothes, he got even more out of control. He knew she wouldn't do anything because they were being watched, so he took full advantage of that.

"Darling, this skirt is pretty."

"Darling, this top is gorgeous. One look and I know you would look fabulous in it. Want to prove me right?"

"Darling, you would look sexy wearing these shorts. Maybe you can wear them for me someday, mmh?"

"Darling, try out this dress. Come on."

"Darling..."

Not only did he drown her with clothes, but he also teased her and kissed her cheek a few times too. Then he would apologize like an idiot. "Sorry, darling, you were looking too beautiful. I couldn't help but kiss you."

Even though he apologized, Li Lanni knew that he was only saying it; he was not in the least bit sorry!

Li Lanni was holding in all her anger. 'Wait till we get out of here. I'll skin you alive, pervert.'

Even though that was what she thought, she kept a smiling front and tagged along with him.

They went to the jewelry section. Li Lanni picked a few necklaces and bracelets for herself and one for that colorful dress she had picked earlier.

While she looked, she spotted a men's watch.

Her heart suddenly raced as she stole a peek at a certain someone.

This would certainly look gorgeous on his wrist. It was pretty costly, but it was worth it. Well...

Just as she was thinking of what to do, Ji Xiehan slid next to her and said, "Darling, I saw a beautiful ring. Well, although you wanted our relationship to be private, everyone knows about it now. I should buy you an engagement ring, don't you think?"

"Ji Xiehan!" She hissed. "Are you out of your mind?! Are you addicted to role-playing? Do you know how annoying you are? I can give up, you know."

Ji Xiehan was terrified, not expecting her to suddenly lose her cool. Luckily, no one was close enough to overhear their conversation.

"You know what? Never mind. I'm giving up on this. You can..."

"Please don't." He grabbed her arm and pitifully pleaded. "Please. I'm sorry... I will behave myself from now on."

Li Lanni was furious. This man really was ace in acting pitiful. Even she was moved by his pitiful demeanor. She couldn't stand seeing him look like an abandoned pet.

"Fine. This is the last warning." She said and proceeded to pick the jewelry she had chosen. She then picked out bags and shoes to go with the clothes she had chosen.

True to his word, Ji Xiehan stuck to his place and followed after her silently. He stopped teasing and kissing like he had been doing before

He also stopped pointing out what he thought was pretty and asking her to try them on.

Though she could see that he really wanted to. He had almost slipped up a few times and stopped himself from speaking just in time.

Li Lanni giggled slightly. Why did it feel like the pervert was too cute when acting like a bullied husband?

Wait, husband?!

Chapter 120 - A Future With Ji Xiehan

Eer... there was nothing wrong with that, right?

Maybe in the future, if they ever married... should she bully him a little? Li Lanni giggled when she imagined that.

But in the next second, she realized how absurd her thoughts were and scolded herself for having such terrifying thoughts.

What was she thinking? A future with Ji Xiehan?! How insane! Insanity must be contagious. This pervert must have infected her with some of his stupidity.

She didn't want to spend more time with him, lest she would also become crazy. She was more or less done shopping, so she forcefully dragged him into paying for the purchase. Ji Xiehan still wanted to shop; from the moment his eyes fell on that ring, he couldn't tear his gaze off it. The ring was made of platinum and had a small diamond on it and, on the whole, gave an elegant feeling. Somehow he felt that kind of elegant ring could only befit someone like Li Lanni. But, alas, she wouldn't let him buy the ring for her.

Li Lanni, on the other hand, didn't know what to think of an adult man behaving like a sulking kid.

She wondered just how many screws were loose in his brain.

She just brushed it away as him making up excuses to spend more time with her.

She had bought many things, so the money she had carried in her purse wouldn't be enough.

So, looking through her purse, she fished out the black Mastercard that her mother had given to her.

"Please pack the peacock feathered dress separately. Wrap it up as a present." She instructed, holding out the card for the cashier to swipe.

"Uhm..."

Li Lanni realized the cashier had an odd expression and looked at her. She was holding a similar card between her fingers and looking at the two of them inquisitively. The card must be Ji Xiehan's.

Li Lanni took a deep breath and glanced at him. "I can pay for my own purchase."

Ji Xiehan didn't intend to take it back. "Darling, I'm your man. It is only right that I pay for you."

Li Lanni had the urge to berate him, but there was someone else so she couldn't. She could only act modestly. "There's no such rule. Xiehan, I appreciate your gesture, but you really don't have to."

Ji Xiehan felt his heart flutter. The way she had called his name...

She had even drawn out the syllables so cutely that if they were alone, he would have directly kissed her.

Nevertheless, he didn't back down. "Honey, you never let me take you out for fun, you don't let me spend much time with you either. Are you really going to deny me the right to do this one little thing for you?"

Li Lanni knew she would never win, so she sighed and kept her card away, making a mental note to calculate the cost and return his money later.

Ji Xiehan smiled happily. Finally, he got to do something for his little beauty. He had never been this happy to spend money.

Meanwhile, the cashier was the most stunned.

It was already rare enough for customers to buy as many items as Li Lanni had all at once.

But not only did Li Lanni buy all of these, but they were also of the highest quality and very expensive!

As though that wasn't enough, they were arguing over wanting to pay for the items, both of them were even holding black Mastercards! This unfair world!

Was this the so-called 'couple from matching family backgrounds'? They indeed matched each other in every aspect.

Just as the cashier was about to give the receipt to them, the manager rushed towards them and said, "Miss, because of your visit, we had more customers visiting our outlet today. To express our gratitude, I would like to give you a 20% discount."

Li Lanni was taken by surprise. "Why would you?"

"Please take it as a thank you gift." The manager said. He would have let Li Lanni have all the clothes for free, but he knew that she would think he was trying to suck up to her. That was why he was giving a discount.

Because it was a sincere gift, Li Lanni didn't turn it down in the end.

Happy that she had agreed to the discount, the manager specially arranged for her goods to be delivered to her home.

They had just finished and left the building and were heading to the parking lot when Li Lanni remembered something.

"What's wrong?" Ji Xiehan asked when she suddenly stopped.

"Wait for me a moment." She said and dashed back into the store.

Ji Xiehan shrugged and waited for her.

Li Lanni rushed all the way to the jewelry section.

Without a second thought, she grabbed the watch she had seen earlier and rushed to the cashier.

The lady beamed when she saw Li Lanni back. When she saw what Li Lanni had bought, she couldn't help being a little gossipy. "Is this for your fiancé? Should I wrap it up as a gift?"

Li Lanni's ears went red. "Yes."

The cashier wrapped it up fast and held it out to her with a smile. "You guys love each other very much. Not only that, you are also very beautiful together. Your fiancé is so handsome and you are so pretty; an ultimate couple. You will definitely be together for more than a hundred years."

Li Lanni knew the cashier was just being polite, but it still made her blush. It was even more awkward because she knew that the whole relationship was, in fact fake. How could she and Ji Xiehan look good together? They were not even in love!

Well, the pervert may be a little interested in her but she definitely didn't feel anything for him.

In her own turmoil, she didn't know that the cashier was sincere right from her heart.

It wasn't every day that she saw a couple who loved each other this much.

Although the girl still seemed unsure of her own feelings, it must be because she was still young and trying to figure things out. But it was obvious just how deeply she loved the man.

...

Li Lanni hurried back outside, not willing to be teased anymore. She didn't love Ji Xiehan, okay? She just liked the watch and thought it would look good on him. She just couldn't resist the urge to buy it. That had nothing to do with feelings.

Ji Xiehan eyed the gift in her hand then saw her flushed face.

She looked happy and absolutely cute, but something in his heart dimmed.

She had rushed over to buy a gift and returned blushing. Who was it for? It had to be for a man, right?

He had to clench his fists hard to restrain his jealousy from surfacing. No matter how unhappy he was, he didn't want to lose control and do something Li Lanni wouldn't like.

Hence he thought of something he had seen in the jewelry section. "Wait for me for a minute."

Before she could respond, he had rushed to the mall.

...

The cashier was in for tons of dog food today. Just a moment ago, Li Lanni had rushed back to buy a gift for Ji Xiehan.

And just when she left, Ji Xiehan had rushed back to buy her a present too?

What was this odd way of buying gifts one after another?

Ji Xiehan had chosen a watch and a bracelet. They were from one set that was meant for a couple. This was the latest masterpiece of the most famous couple's brand.

The set Ji Xiehan had chosen, in fact, the most valuable.

Obviously, Ji Xiehan didn't choose it for its price. It was the detail that mattered to him.

Looking at them separately, one wouldn't even think they could be a couple's set. After all, they were different items.

But looking at them together, they complemented each other perfectly.

After buying them, he had the cashier wrap the bracelet as a gift then he kept the watch away.

Li Lanni waited for a few minutes and was starting to wonder what was taking him so long when she finally saw him exit the building.

He had kept the small gift box in his pockets, so she didn't see it.

She wondered why he had gone back. Had he gone back to get a gift too?

She was still staring at him; then she noticed his expression suddenly change.

"Lanni!"

Before she could react, he reached her in a flash. She was suddenly hugged and pulled away. Then a truck raced past.

Li Lanni felt her body suddenly tremble. Her eyes went wide.

If he didn't pull her away, she would be dead already....

"But... but this is a parking lot." She stammered.

"There always has to be one or two crazy drivers out there. Are you alright?"

"Lanni?!"