

Chapter 161 - What Was Their Relationship?

Li Lanni pressed her lips to his, unwilling to hear him declare his love for another woman. She loved him. Although she kept backing out every time she was going to tell him this – or other factors kept coming in her way, her feelings were undeniable.

Ji Xiehan held her waist and stopped the kiss. If he didn't tell her this right now, they might get interrupted again.

His action snapped her back, making her realize just how childish she was being. So what if she kissed him? If his heart belonged to another woman, there was nothing she could do to make him hers. If she forcefully clung to another woman's man, how different would she be from Li Xiyan, her stepmother who collaborated with her grandmother to forcefully break her parents apart?

"I'm sorry for being selfish..." she started. "I just... the thought of you being with another woman..." She realized she was not making any sense and stopped midway. She had been clouded by jealousy just now and there was no way to explain it.

"Lanni, what nonsense are you thinking about? Who said I was going to be with another woman?" Ji Xiehan finally had the chance to squeeze in a few words.

"Huh? You were not? But you and her..."

"Don't be silly." Ji Xiehan flicked her forehead and hugged her. The thought of her being so jealous and riled up because of him made him happy.

When she was calm enough from the hug, he finally explained what she had seen. "Lanni, I know this sounds overboard but Feng Ci came to talk. That was why we were in the study; I thought she had serious business to discuss. What you saw back there was the result of her suddenly throwing herself into my arms. I swear, I didn't do anything."

Li Lanni chuckled. He looked like a little kid admitting his mistakes.

"Why are you laughing? Is it because you do not trust me?"

"Of course I trust you."

"Lanni,"

"Ji Xiehan..."

They called each other at the same time, and then both pointed at the other to say "you go first".

"They say 'ladies first!'" Ji Xiehan laughed when it looked like they would be stuck for a day.

"Okay..." Li Lanni's cheeks flushed crimson when she thought about what she was going to say. She was not prepared at all!

"I..." She almost tore her gaze away from his eyes. After a while, she finally blurted it out. "Ji Xiehan, I love you!"

Ji Xiehan's eyes went wide. Although he already knew it, he was still surprised. A smile swept across his face.

"Ji Xiehan, we were not exactly friends when we first met and you were definitely not the kind of guy I would want to date. I thought you were one of those sweet talkers who use their tongues to lure women into their charm and end up playing with their hearts like their feelings do not matter. That, and my insecurity towards everyone in general and men in particular made me want to stay away from you. But when I got to know you, I realized that you are a straightforward man who only does things when you are ready to handle the consequences. Not to mention what a gentleman you are. Your handsome looks are a perk to all these."

She searched her head for the right words to compliment him but all of them felt like understatements. "Ji Xiehan, I don't know when it happened either but I fell in love with you."

Ji Xiehan held her hand, taking in everything she had just said. All along, he had been wondering why she had always tried to keep her distance from him in the past. It turned out it was because she was insecure. Now that she trusted him enough to even fall in love with him, his heart was filled with happiness.

"Lanni, I was not trying to play with your feelings the first time I said that I love you. Even now, I'm not kidding either."

Before he could say anything else, she threw her arms around his neck and pressed her lips onto his. Ji Xiehan hugged her and pressed her body against the car, deepening the kiss.

Unlike the other times, the kiss was passionate, making Li Lanni feel a sense of fulfillment after a long time. Finally kissing him when they were both sure of what they felt for each other, it was a different kind of feeling and they both liked it.

Li Lanni lost herself in the waves of passion, moaning slightly when his hand trailed along her back.

\*Crash!\*

A series of crashes in the distance interrupted them from their passionate moment.

Ji Xiehan turned to the source, panting slightly as his heart raced from the kiss. He frowned when he saw the culprit who had dared to ruin the moment.

In an instant, he glanced at the maid who was nervously cleaning up the remains of the beautiful antique flower pot.

"What is that woman still doing here?" He almost yelled. He had almost forgotten about her.

"Sir, I will..." the maid spoke up nervously.

"Kick her out!" He ordered.

"Ji Xiehan! How could you?!" Feng Ci ordered. It was already enough that he was kissing that slût. Now he was even ordering for her be kicked out?"

Before she could throw another tantrum, two bodyguards came and dragged her out, making her limp because her shoes were broken.

Everyone ignored her yells as she got literally thrown out.

"I had momentarily forgotten about her." Ji Xiehan explained to Li Lanni, holding her waist.

"Let's go to the house." It was weird to keep kissing out in the open.

Still holding her waist, Ji Xiehan led her into the house.

The few servants who saw them enter held in their gossip but they still exchanged glances and blushed. Was their young master and his fiancée going to do it?

When he passed by the broken shards that were formerly his vases and decorations, Ji Xiehan frowned and turned to the butler. "Calculate the cost of everything she has broken and send the bill to the Feng family."

"Understood, young master." The butler acted on it immediately.

It was not that Ji Xiehan was so materialistic and cared so much about vases, but Feng Ci was truly mannerless. How could he tolerate random people entering his mansion and breaking things as they please?

If the Feng family did not teach their daughter properly, they better restrain her so she wouldn't go causing trouble in people's houses.

That said, he should thank her. Her arrival had made Li Lanni so jealous that she finally confessed her feelings.

Li Lanni shrugged as she saw the servants take note of everything Feng Ci had broken. That was such a mild punishment for her but whatever. As long as she didn't bother Ji Xiehan anymore.

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In the bedroom, the kiss didn't continue as Li Lanni had expected. The two of them sat on Ji Xiehan's bed, starting to talk about random things.

Now that they had confessed to each other, Li Lanni had a new question. What was their relationship now?

Ji Xiehan remembered that they had not talked about why she was here. "Were you looking for me?"

Li Lanni was more comfortable to talk about such things with him now. "Yeah... I needed to get my mind off everything. My life right now is just so jumbled up that I don't know what to do."

Ji Xiehan understood her. It was normal to feel that way sometimes. "You are probably mentally exhausted. I was going to suggest going on a vacation and it's a coincidence that you seem to need it. What do you think?"

"I think it's a good idea. I definitely need it. Where did you want us to go?"

Ji Xiehan had yet to settle on a location but now that she was here, it was better. Two heads were better than one. "I was thinking of going to Europe. We can go to France, Germany, and... have you been to Ciel?"

"Ciel?" Li Lanni frowned. Where was that?

"It's a small district in Paradise City, Olphire.[1] It is almost detached from the rest of the country and is known for its calm and peaceful environment. The air there is so fresh that some people go over to recuperate."

Li Lanni's eyes lit up as she listened. That did sound like a nice place to go on a vacation. Although it didn't sound exactly romantic, it seemed to be peaceful and relaxing together was definitely going to be romantic in a way.

## Chapter 162 - It's An Aunty Now?

After Li Lanni left, Cheng Yu looked at Xia Luna curiously. "Why did you lie to her?"

"I didn't. I only omitted some facts." Xia Luna answered defensively.

"Omission is a lie too, Luna." Cheng Yu insisted. "Lanni will be mad at you once she learns that what you told her is not the whole truth."

Xia Luna knew this too, but there was nothing she could do about it. "Some things are not my secret to tell. Lanni will find them out on her own. Besides..." she stood up, lost in thought as she paced slowly. "Besides, Xiao Yu, I think Lanni is better off without the memory of her past. If she really wanted to recover it, it wouldn't take this long. I'm not a doctor, nor am I a psychologist, but I think her brain is fighting it off. Don't you think so too?"

Cheng Yu was yet to answer this absurd question when Xia Luna's phone rang.

Cheng Yu sighed in relief, thanking whoever the caller was for saving her from having to answer that.

Xia Luna picked her phone from the marble coffee table and frowned slightly when she saw the caller identity. Why was Jiang Xingyu's mother calling her?

She answered the call with a gentle "hello."

"My dear, I miss you. You didn't even remember to give this old hag a call."

A smile escaped Xia Luna's lips. Madam Jiang was too cute. If only her son was half as cute... "Aunty, I'm sorry I forgot. I will not forget next time."

Cheng Yu at the side was shocked. What aunty was Xia Luna talking to, and so happily?

Madam Jiang was pleased by Xia Luna's words. "Good girl. You are so nice... if only my useless punk of a son was half as thoughtful as you."

Xia Luna chuckled. Were they thinking of the same thing?

"Luna, are you free this evening? I would like to invite you for dinner. Don't worry, it is just you and I. My husband is out of the city on a business trip and I have already given all the servants a day off."

Hearing that Madam Jiang had already made such preparation, even sending the servants away because of her, Xia Luna couldn't find it in her to reject the invitation. Not to mention, she actually liked Madam Jiang. She could only agree to go.

It was only when she hung up that she saw Cheng Yu's look of hunger. The girl was obviously hungry for gossip. "Luna, who are you speaking to? It's an aunty now?"

Xia Luna laughed and sat back on the couch. "Will you believe it if I said that it is Madam Jiang?"

Cheng Yu's eyes widened in shock and confusion. "Which Madam Jiang? Surely you don't mean Jiang Xingyu's mother, right?"

"Yup. Jiang Xingyu's mother." Xia Luna was enjoying her friend's shocked expressions.

"What? How? I mean... why on earth would you be speaking to Jiang Xingyu's mother so coyly? Did you hit your head somewhere? Did you eat something wrong this morning?"

Xia Luna held her tummy and laughed. "Don't be dramatic. Do I need to hit my head or eat something wrong to speak to Madam Jiang?"

"Come on, don't leave me too anxious. Tell me already." Cheng Yu urged for gossip.

"Do you remember when Jiang Xingyu forcefully made me go to his villa?"

"Yes." Of course she remembered that. The bastard had swindled her brother into playing along with him to fake a kidnap act. What did that time have to do with anything anyway?

"We talked." Xia Luna explained briefly. "Well, I don't think we are arch enemies anymore."

"Okay..." Although Cheng Yu was mad at Jiang Xingyu, she was happy for Xia Luna so she didn't know how to react to the news. "So what's all this got to do with Madam Jiang calling you and making you smile so happily?"



Xia Luna explained the rest of it; how Madam Jiang had suddenly arrived in the morning and found her at Jiang Xingyu's villa, to how they had talked a little and hit it off.

"At least something good came out of it. His mother is very kind."

"People change, Xiao Yu." Xia Luna's eyes looked pained when she said so.

"Yes, people change. But not everyone changes into a bad person. Besides, those who change for the bad are usually pretenders. They hide their true self and when it finally shows up, it appears as negative change." Cheng Yu was quite familiar with this too. "But with Madam Jiang, you don't have to worry. If there is any completely genuine woman on earth, it would have to be her."

Xia Luna had to agree to this too. It was not easy to find someone who will openly let you know that they are shocked, surprised, disappointed or happy and also show it from the bottom of their heart that they like you with no ounce of pretence. She was akin to a baby, pure and innocent, untainted by the world and its innumerable lies.

"Right. She invited me for a meal. I'll dress up and go." Xia Luna remembered and stood up.

...

Xia Luna arrived at the old Jiang mansion in an hour and a half. Madam Jiang had sent her the address and would have sent a chauffeur to pick her up if she didn't firmly reject the offer.

As soon as she alighted from the cab, Madam Jiang rushed out like an excited child and pulled Xia Luna into a warm hug. "You are here at last! Please come in."

Xia Luna cheered up from her bright mood. "Aunty, have you been well since the last time?"

"Yes. And you are more beautiful since we last saw." Madam Jiang gushed, briefly scanning Xia Luna.

Xia Luna had specifically dressed up. She was wearing a pale blue A-line dress and, for the first time in a long time, she was wearing high heeled shoes. Her long black hair was straightened and she even had a light layer of youthful makeup. She looked radiant and beautiful.

As soon as they walked into the house, however, Xia Luna's smile froze. What the hell was Jiang Xingyu doing here?

### Chapter 163 - Is It Too Late To Back Out?

Seeing Xia Luna's shocked expression, Madam Jiang was afraid that she would turn and leave so she nervously explained. "This punk finally decided to come home -- at the wrong time, of course. When I tried to send him off, telling him that I'm expecting an important guest, he planted himself on the seat and refused to move."

Jiang Xingyu frowned but remained silent. How could let her throw him out? He knew his mother well enough to guess who the guest must be. After all, she even gave the servants a day off so they wouldn't see her. The girl had been ignoring him again. How could he miss the huge opportunity to see her?

Xia Luna shot a glare at Jiang Xingyu. "How dare you trouble aunty?" Her eyes scolded.

"We can just ignore him." She said to Madam Jiang, who was relieved and led her to the dining area.

Because she was happy about Xia Luna coming over, she had prepared most of the dishes herself. She happily brought them to the dining table. "Let's eat dinner first then talk later. I didn't know what you like eating so I cooked a little of everything. Luna, do you like shrimp? Here, give it a try."

"Aunty, you are such a good cook!" Xia Luna exclaimed after trying out the dishes.

"Really? I'm so happy that you like them. You should eat more. I understand you young ladies all want to watch your weight but you shouldn't starve yourself."

Xia Luna almost forgot her manners as she enjoyed the food. As long as her brain could remember, she had never enjoyed a meal prepared by any mother figure. Her paternal aunt wasn't mean, but she didn't know how to cook so she never cooked for her. Now that Madam Jiang had cooked so well and put her heart into it, how could she not love it?

"Aunty, you should eat too." She was embarrassed that Madam Jiang was only paying attention to her and not eating herself.

"Oh, alright." Madam Jiang served a few dishes for herself before bringing her attention back to Xia Luna.

"Hey!" Jiang Xingyu finally complained. Were they really going to ignore him?

No one had cared to invite him to the dining area and when he followed them on his own, they were now only fawning over each other, treating him like he did not exist. How could they?

Madam Jiang frowned following her son's complaint and glared at him ferociously. "Do you not have hands to pick your own dishes? Fill up your mouth and stop making so much noise! Sheesh... what a hornbill."

"..."

Noise? He had only uttered one word! T\_T

Jiang Xingyu sulkily served his own dishes and tried to make his presence scarce. These heartless women! Were they going to treat him this way if he and Luna got married?

No way! He couldn't survive this cold treatment for a lifetime! Was it too late to back out?

For the rest of the meal, he was indeed ignored. His mother was slightly better: she would turn to glare at him if she thought he was about to make noise and distract them. Xia Luna, on the other hand, completely treated him like thin air.

She didn't even look at him when he deliberately dropped a spoon, reached under the table to pick it and naughtily ran a hand over her fair legs in the process. She merely bent slightly to slap his hand away like she was swatting a fly, and continued eating like nothing happened.

After that torturous meal, Jiang Xingyu fled to his bedroom.

"Phew. The annoying third wheel is gone." Madam Jiang sighed in relief.

Xia Luna burst into laughter. The mother-son interaction was just too cute. Even though they looked like a cat and a rat on the chase, she could tell that they loved each other.

She couldn't help wondering whether that was how Li Yuming and Li Lanni interacted too.

She brushed the thought aside. Why would she think about such a sad thing at a happy moment like this?

After a few random topics, Madam Jiang finally went to the point. "I have a friend who is a private detective. He is very good at what he does and there is nothing he cannot uncover.

If you don't mind, I will let him look into your case. He will surely find evidence to prove your innocence."

Xia Luna was stunned and touched at the same time. Madam Jiang didn't even know what exactly had happened in the past but she was willing to help her. Just how kind could she get?

"Aunty, thank you for the offer, but..."

"Luna," Madam Jiang cut her off. "You don't have to worry about anything. He is very secretive and would never go against his work policy by revealing anything to anyone else. Besides, he is loyal. He will surely complete the task as fast as possible."

The corners of Xia Luna's eyes became slightly itchy. She could only be honest. "Thank you aunty, but I'm used to doing everything on my own. I'm not used to having anyone help me... Besides, there are things I wouldn't like anyone else to know. Not even a detective."

Since it was that way, Madam Jiang did not force her. "I understand, Luna. If you change your mind, just say the word and I will get him here in a flash."

Xia Luna uncontrollably threw herself into Madam Jiang's arms. "Thank you aunty."

Madam Jiang hugged her back, soothingly patting her back gently. This child seemed so sad... Poor thing, she must have suffered a lot. She made a mental note to dote on her more from now on.

"Are you guys done ignoring me yet?" Jiang Xingyu hollered from the staircase, descending with what looked like a frame but had been covered with a white cloth.

Madam Jiang was displeased that the third wheel was back but when she saw what he was holding, she didn't mind anymore.

Xia Luna looked at the white cloth then looked at him curiously.

Jiang Xingyu saw her questioning look and smiled. For the first time tonight, she looked at him.

He walked over to the white sofa and slotted himself next to her, presenting whatever he was holding. "Here, this is for you. I didn't have the opportunity to give it to you before but I guess this is the right time."

Xia Luna accepted it and anxiously uncovered the white cloth. Then her eyes went wide with surprise, her lips curling upwards in an excited smile.

"This... you got this for me..." The corners of her eyes teared up slightly. She turned to the man next to her and before she knew what she was doing, threw her arms around him in a tight hug. "Thank you Jiang Xingyu."

Jiang Xingyu held her waist and was equally happy. If he could make her smile so blissfully, he didn't mind spending a few more billion on gifts.

The gift he had given her was the painting he had won at the bid in Li Yuming's charity banquet.. It was Li Yuming's earliest painting.

## Chapter 164 - Divorce

Madam Jiang saw them hugging and excitedly sprang to her feet. "Ah! My grandchildren will be on their way soon, let me check which room is the best for them to play in!"

Xia Luna pulled away from Jiang Xingyu like she had been struck by lightning. Grandchildren, she said?

Madam Jiang was not joking. After checking out all the rooms in the mansion, she downloaded an application with thousands of bedroom designs for babies and sent some to Father Jiang. Her bashful voice could be heard clearly. "Honey, we might have grandchildren soon. Quick, help me select the best bedroom design!"

A few moments later, Jiang Xingyu's phone rang.

It pulled him out of his shocked stare. "Fa..."

"You punk! What did you do to my wife this time?!"

Jiang Xingyu pulled the phone away from his ears until the roar calmed down, then he cautiously returned it to his ear after making sure his father was done. "What did I do?" He did nothing, okay!

"How do you explain why my wife is suddenly talking about grandchildren?" Father Jiang did not give his son any room to explain. "It must be you! I know you better than anyone. You must have tortured her brains out!"

Before Jiang Xingyu could respond, a cold voice interrupted. "Are you saying that I don't have brains, honey?"

Jiang Xingyu looked over to see his mother with her hands on hips and an expression like she wanted to kill someone. Shît! She must have heard that. These two are going to...

"Wifey, that's not what I meant."

"Jiang Xingren, you bastard! I'm going to divorce you. I really am!"

There we go...

"Wifey, can you not talk about divorce? We both know you can't..."

"Oh yeah?" Madam Jiang was glaring at Jiang Xingyu's phone as though her husband could see her through the speaker. "Watch me sue you for divorce. I will sweep away the last piece of your wealth with me and marry my teenage crush!"

Jiang Xingyu could not take it anymore. "Erm, before you guys sweep each other's wealth and date your teenage crushes, could you use your phone?"

"Shut up!" They both shouted at him.

"Gee... okay!" He placed his phone on the sofa. "Please continue!"

He fled from the living room, dragging Xia Luna away with him.

"Why did you drag me out?" Xia Luna had been laughing her ribs broken just now.

"Those two are always either showing off their love or yelling divorce. Don't mind them."

Xia Luna laughed just thinking of their conversation. "They are too cute."

It was obvious that they loved each other and loved their son.

Jiang Xingyu looked at her like she was an alien. She found that cute?

His ears were almost bleeding from hearing their meaningless banter! It was not that his parents were constantly fighting, don't get him wrong. In fact, they never argued about anything that mattered. It was always the petty little things and they would drag him into it. Then they would 'reward' him for being a good audience by showing off their love in front of him. Thank you very much but no thanks!

"Hey, do you think we can exchange families?"

Xia Luna frowned and looked him up and down. "Do you ever listen to the words you speak?"

"..."

Fine, that was lame.



He ran a hand through his chestnut, slightly messy hair. "Erm... I don't think they will be done any time soon. How about we..." He stopped when he realized that she was not even listening. She was typing something on her phone, probably a text to Cheng Yu.

Leaning forward, he pressed a kiss to her cheek. Heaven knew he had wanted to do this since he lay his eyes on her when she arrived.

Xia Luna turned to look at him when she felt the soft sensation on her cheek.

"I...There was a fly on your cheek." He explained.

"So you swallowed it... I see, thank you."

Jiang Xingyu's brows scrunched up. Ew!

"Luna, you are so mean!"

Why was everyone so mean to him? Xia Luna was the meanest of them all!

Most importantly, months ago he had even given Ji Xiehan lessons on how to court his wife. Why was he, the love guru, having such a hard time?

Wait, Ji Xiehan didn't actually use his advice. "Urgh... this inhumane world!"

"What's wrong with you?" Xia Luna found his sudden change of expressions hilarious.

"Are you worried about me?" He slotted himself right next to her to ask.

She rolled her eyes.

Well, that didn't work.

"Luna, did you get bored?" Madam Jiang broke their awkward silence.

Xia Luna rushed over to Madam Jiang's side like she had seen a life saver. "Aunty, I'm glad you came back. Jiang Xingyu is so boring!"

She glared at her son. "You useless son! I let you stay with my daughter-in-law so you could keep her company, not so you could bore her to death!"

Jiang Xingyu could not take it anymore. He was now being accused of being boring?

"You do realize that without a son, you cannot have a daughter-in-law, right?"

When he saw their hesitant looks, he knew he had won. "And You Luna, without a husband, you cannot have a mother-in-law."

He let out a wink and made demands like a newly crowned emperor. "Also, you cannot have a grandchild without a child. So, you guys better stop bullying me. I'm important."

Madam Jiang ignored him and looked at Xia Luna beside her. "Luna, are you interested in becoming a Jiang? If so, let's go to the Civil Affairs Bureau first thing tomorrow morning. I will adopt you and discard this punk. He is useless anyway.

Ah... or better yet, I will make you his sister so he cannot even court you anymore." She enthusiastically dragged Xia Luna away.

"Hey!" Jiang Xingyu felt like a sore loser, his imaginary crown losing its meaning before he could even flaunt his newly found power.

## Chapter 165 - The Best Of Them All

Ignoring her son for the gazillionth time, Madam Jiang pulled Xia Luna to his room to talk about whatever it was that mothers-in-law discussed with their future daughters-in-law.

He didn't mind that they were talking but why in his room? And judging from his mother's tone and Xia Luna's laughter that sounded like she would die from it, they were obviously talking at his expense.

He went over intending to complain... then he saw it. "Mother... how could you?" He groaned with his face flushed in embarrassment.

How could she show Xia Luna his most embarrassing moment?

Xia Luna was laughing too hard to even notice him. In her hands was a picture of nine-year-old Jiang Xingyu, whose tear-stained face was swollen from being 'kissed' by bees as a reward for poking their hive.

"I was showing Luna photos of you as a child. How could I not show her the best of them all?"

Jiang Xingyu was so done with them. "Nevermind that you showed this picture to my friends. Did you have to show it to Luna too?" Who could stand it that their future wife was seeing their most humiliating photo?

"Nonsense! Of course she should show me. Then I will have something to use to shut you up whenever we fight."

Jiang Xingyu stared at her in disbelief. She was in this too? "Shouldn't you focus on the main point here? Instead of helping her son, she was taking photos of me." He tried to gain Xia Luna's sympathy.

"You liar. I helped you!" Madam Jiang interrupted.

"Yeah... after taking photos."

"Why would she help you? Did she poke the beehive for you?" Xia Luna defended Madam Jiang, making Jiang Xingyu want to flee from this family.

Fine, never mind. As long as his Xia was happy.

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In contrast to the cheerful environment in the Jiang family, elsewhere, the roof was on the verge of collapse.

Feng family home.

"That bîtch! That son of a bîtch!"

Feng Ci swept all the glassware onto the floor.

Everything that could be broken or toppled met the same fate, including a European vase that Father Feng had bought in London just two days ago, and it had cost thousands of pounds.

This was his beloved daughter but he was still displeased by her behaviour. "Will you calm down! What is wrong with you?"

"Father, you have to help me!" When Feng Ci saw her father arrive, she rushed over like she had been treated unjustly.

Father Feng was still angry as he asked. "What?"

"Father, Xiehan and that little bîtch are really together!"

"What did you say?"

It was not just Father Feng. Even Mrs. Feng, who had been trying to ignore her daughter's tantrum, was shocked.

"How can you be so sure? It is not like their so-called engagement is even realistic."

"I saw them k-i-s-s-i-n-g. They were very passionate at that." She enunciated the word without a hint of embarrassment.

"What?" Her parents exchanged glances.

"This is not good." Father Feng mumbled, his expression like the world was ending.

"I agree." His wife seconded.

It was not that they cared so much about their daughter's feelings towards Ji Xiehan. Who cared about her feelings anyway? She was a beautiful woman, she could gain any man's attention if she wanted.

It was just that they were hoping for her to get together with Ji Xiehan so they could benefit from him. Everyone was aiming for profit, after all.

"Hmph. I know what to do." Mrs. Feng took out her phone and dialled a number.

"Hello Wen Lin," she greeted happily when Madam Ji answered the call.

"Hello, how have you been?"

The two engaged in some small talk before Mrs. Feng impatiently blurted why she had called. "Did you know that your son is getting closer to the little brat?"

Wen Lin was silent for a moment before she said something that Mrs. Feng would never have expected. "I've been meaning to talk to you about this but didn't get the chance. Why don't we catch up tomorrow?"

From her solemn tone, Mrs. Feng knew it was unpleasant. There was no way she was going to waste her time just so she would hear something she did not want to hear. She put the call on speaker. "Just speak it out."

"Okay." Wen Lin didn't mind. "The thing is, I met the girl a few times..." she could not just be blunt and say that she had misunderstood Li Lanni and after meeting a few times, realized that Li Lanni was actually a better choice for her son than Feng Ci.

So instead she said, "Xiehan loves her very much and they are so happy together. As a mother, how can I stand in the way of my own son's happiness?"

The Fengs were all irritated by her words. What pretentious nonsense was this?!

Even so, they signalled for Mrs. Feng to speak politely.

"Wen Lin, how can you say that? We both know how good Xiehan and my Cici look together. Besides, they were friends for years. They will definitely make the happiest couple. Right now, he is probably momentarily charmed by that little girl. Little girls these days are learning more and more tricks."

Madam Ji was displeased that her friend was saying such mean things about Li Lanni. She was obviously implying that Li Lanni was a seductress who lured men. Though she couldn't help but mock at herself. Just a few weeks ago, she also hated Li Lanni and thought that way of her.

However, she would only create an enemy for Li Lanni if she said this to Mrs. Feng. So she neither agreed with what Mrs. Feng was saying nor refuted. "That... why don't we leave it for Xiehan to decide? If he falls in love with Feng Ci, I will not do anything to stop them from being together. But if his choice is still Lanni in the end, I cannot do anything about it either."

Mrs. Feng hung up with a sneer.. "That little girl must be better at playing tricks than we thought."

## Chapter 166 - Pervert

[Warning: This chapter is a little mature. If you are not comfortable with such content, you may want to skip it]

10pm.

Ji Xiehan drove into the underground parking of Li Yuming's villa. After stopping the car, he got out and swiftly circled the car to help Li Lanni out.

"I have a weird feeling." Li Lanni said after exiting Ji Xiehan's car. He was dropping her off after spending the whole afternoon together, hugging like nothing else in the world mattered.

"About what?" Ji Xiehan asked, closing the car door after helping her out.

"I don't know... there's just this bad feeling."

Ji Xiehan brought her into his embrace and kissed her on the cheek. "If you are thinking about that crazy woman, you are being too anxious over trivial matters. Stop thinking about it, okay? Don't exhaust your pretty brain. Nothing can go wrong with me here."

She was surprised that he could read her like an open book. He was right. She was indeed thinking about Feng Ci. A woman's instinct told her that Feng Ci was not going to give up on Ji Xiehan any time soon. What if that woman caused trouble?

But hearing Ji Xiehan's reassurance, she nodded and rested her head against his chest, breathing in the seductive scent of his cologne. The turmoil in her head magically calmed down. So what if Feng Ci tried to cause trouble? Ji Xiehan wouldn't fall for her anyway. Li Lanni realized that she was worried over nothing.

She stayed in his embrace with her arms wrapped tightly around his waist, with no intention to let go.

If she didn't have to go back home, she would stay in his arms forever. It felt so nice to finally be close to him and not worry that he could be only playing around like many men do. Unfortunately, they still had to deal with their own work especially since they were going to take some time off for their vacation. She reluctantly let go.

"Honey, do I get to see you tomorrow?" Although it was a question, Ji Xiehan's tone was more like that of a statement. He was not asking to meet her tomorrow, he was informing her that they would meet. And she didn't mind it. On the contrary, she was looking forward to it.

"Yes. Give me a call when you're free"

Ji Xiehan nodded and let his index finger trace her face, then raised her chin so she would look into his eyes. She knew what was coming, and she tried hard to keep herself from averting his gaze.

His thumb caressed her lips, making her eye his own lips and swallow in anticipation.

"Lanni, I love you." He said and pressed his lips onto hers. Li Lanni's heart raced as he gently deepened the kiss.



Lanni wrapped her arms around his neck at the same time that he held her waist. The kiss started off gentle and sweet, then roughened up a little with him pressing her body against his own and his tongue prying open her mouth. She let out a small moan as his tongue curled around hers, his hands exploring her body. Even through the layers of fabric, she felt waves of excitement from the movement of his hands and the stiffening of his shaft which she could feel through their clothes.

He spun her and pinned her against the silver car, sandwiching her between himself and the car. His right hand reached down to caress her thigh, bringing it up his waist.

The move made her dress slide almost to her waist, giving him access to her bare skin. His lips moved from hers and trailed to her neck, his tongue caressing her skin at the same time that he caressed her thigh, gently squeezing her butt. She grabbed a fistful of his hair, uncontrollably moaning when she felt his fingers tracing her panties.

"Any more and I will not be able to stop myself from having you right here, right now." Ji Xiehan broke the kiss, panting lightly.

That was the second kiss they had shared since expressing their feelings and the most passionate ever. He could tell from her alluring gaze that she liked it too, and was anticipating for more.

He chuckled and pecked her slightly swollen lips lightly. "Go on."

Li Lanni straightened up her disheveled clothes and hair, gave him a quick hug then went into the house. Her brain was slightly disoriented. Deciding that she would talk to her mother the next day, she went to her room and headed straight for the bathroom.

The warm water cascaded down her skin, making her more frustrated than she already was. An image slowly formed into her mind -- him in the shower with her, kissing her lips as his hands traced every inch of her body.

Desire crept up her skin, she almost couldn't resist the urge to touch herself with the thought of him in her mind.

However, she decided against that. It would feel nicer if it was him touching her. She cursed herself once the thought surfaced. How come she didn't know that she was such a pervert?

—

Highbridge Mansion.

Li Lanni wasn't the only one who needed a cold shower. Ji Xiehan was literally having a cold shower. Scratch that. He had had several of them already. It didn't help that his mind was constantly filled with their kiss from earlier. If they had kissed that way earlier when they were together in his room, what would have happened?

After his umpteenth cold shower, Ji Xiehan finally settled in his bed - in the spot she was sitting earlier in the day. His heart raced faster as his brain chose that moment to think about what didn't happen that afternoon, and what might happen during their one-week vacation. That's right. They would go to Europe for a whole damn week.

They had decided not to choose what to do in Europe so it would be natural but one thing was for sure; that vacation was going to be as torturous as tonight.

Chapter 167 - Fate

By the time Xia Luna got back to Goldenwing Apartment, it was almost midnight.

It was all thanks to Jiang Xingyu, that bastard. Once Madam Jiang let them have some time alone, he had clung to her adamantly, refusing to let her leave. It was only when she threatened to complain about him to his mother that he relented.

Then, he insisted on dropping her off. Xia Luna knew it was only his excuse and what he really wanted was to know where she lived. Even then, she didn't care. He wouldn't gain a thing from that.

Once they arrived, he stubbornly clung to her again, talking about random things that were not even her business.

By the time she was finally able to break away from him and enter the elevator, she was already so annoyed that she would have beaten him up if he was not so well trained.

Letting out a sigh, she opened the door and entered the house, making as little noise as possible.

The light in Cheng Yu's room was still on; she must be painting, so Xia Luna didn't go to bother her.

Once in her room, she placed the painting on the bedside desk and went to the bathroom.

...

Cheng Yu had heard Xia Luna arrive even though the latter had crept in silently.

She knew that Xia Luna would not go to talk to her in fear of distracting her. However, she was not even painting. She was only reading a novel. She had something to talk to Xia Luna about so she went over to her room.

Once she opened the door, she could hear the sound of running water in the bathroom and guessed that Xia Luna was taking a shower. She sat on the bed to wait for her.

She had not brought her phone with her so she idly looked around. That was when her eyes landed on the painting on the table.

Her gaze narrowed. Wasn't that the painting that Jiang Xingyu had spent so much money and effort to buy? He was buying it as a gift to Xia Luna? But he did know that it would hurt her feelings, right?

Cheng Yu was right. The painting hurt Xia Luna's feelings. Rather, it was not the painting itself but the concept of it that broke her heart.

The subject of the painting was a woman holding two babies in her arms.

Their faces were all blank with no particular definition. Everyone who wanted to buy it just wanted it for its beauty and knew nothing about Li Yuming's true thoughts.

However, Jiang Xingyu knew just as well as Xia Luna and Cheng Yu did that the woman in the painting was Li Yuming. The babies in her arms were obviously Li Lanni and Xia Luna.

Considering their relationship right now, it should be a jab to Xia Luna's heart.

But then again, that painting was the only place where Li Yuming still held her so lovingly. Even after all those years, it was the only place where she was that close to her mother. How could she not treasure it?

Xia Luna left the bathroom thirty minutes later and was surprised to see Cheng Yu in her room.

"So, how was your dinner?" Cheng Yu tried to lighten up the mood that was on the verge of getting solemn.

Xia Luna shrugged and sat on the dressing table, turning on the hair dryer. "It was nice." She silently dried her hair, her silence stopping Cheng Yu from saying a word.

"You have something to talk about?" She probed.

Cheng Yu could tell that there was something weighing Xia Luna's mind. It was probably one of the two things that had been bothering her for the past year: her family and her case.

She knew that she shouldn't ask. Xia Luna wouldn't answer anyway.

So she went straight to the point and talked about why she was here. "I was keeping watch on Li Xiyan..." she started.

"That's so good of you. I forgot to do that." Xia Luna smiled. Cheng Yu was such a good friend.

Cheng Yu looked uneasy. "Eer... for some reason, she suddenly rushed back to Lakeside City. I got someone to check and... she even forgot to get her things and check out of the hotel. She must be in such a hurry."

Fear crept up Xia Luna's stomach. Apparently, she had the same thought as Cheng Yu.

Wordlessly, she grabbed her laptop and turned it on, slamming the keyboard because it was taking a little long.

She rapidly opened a software and tapped what looked like random keys on the keyboard.

When she was done, a location showed up.

She had gotten Li Xiyan's exact location but when it showed up, she felt her body go limp.

"It can't be..."

"Luna, maybe it's not what you think." Cheng Yu tried to calm her down.

"How could it not be? If... if father's condition didn't..." she couldn't complete the statement. Xia Hanchen's condition couldn't worsen. He was already at his worst. If it worsened even at the slightest, they would no longer be talking about a living human but a corpse.

"If that's not the case, why would Li Xiyan rush to the hospital so urgently?"

Why?"

Tears gathered at the corners of her eyes.

"All I wanted was for my family to reunite. Was that too selfish of me? Is that why fate did this?"

—

The next morning.

Li Lanni looked bright and happy as she made her way to the dining area for breakfast.

"I baked a cake last night." Li Yuming said, bringing it to the table.

Li Lanni frowned slightly as she studied her mother. "Are you okay, mum? You have dark circles."

"Oh it's nothing. I didn't sleep early last night. I will catch up on sleep later." She said dismissively.

Li Lanni could only nod. If her mother had something bothering her but didn't want to talk about it, there was nothing she could do about it.

In actual fact, Li Yuming had just been restless the whole night.

She was uneasy about something that she couldn't understand; except she knew that her mother's instinct was acting up.

She found it strange. Everything was obviously going on well for Lanni. She looked radiant lately and, judging by the frequency by which she had been disappearing with Ji Xiehan, their relationship must be blossoming.

What, then, was this uneasy feeling about her child being sad?

## Chapter 168 - Interesting Past

"Mom, Xiehan and I are going to Europe on Tuesday for one week." Li Lanni's voice pulled her out of her thoughts.

She smiled at the great news. "Lovely! You guys have fun. What's your relationship now?"

Li Lanni's cheeks flushed as she thought about what had transpired in the parking the previous night. "We're dating... I guess." That's what happens after a confession, right?

Li Yuming uncontrollably pulled her into a hug. "Oh, I'm so happy for you! You blockheads finally decided to take things to the next step. I was starting to think I would have to pretend to be cupid and step in between the two of you.

Li Lanni giggled at the thought of it. Her mother playing cupid? She might just invite Ji Xiehan for a meal and trick the two of them into Li Lanni's room, then lock them in and wait for them to do something interesting. "I'm glad it didn't get to that."

—

Old Ji Mansion.

Ji Xiehan went home for breakfast today.

It was worth noting that ever since Ji Feifei was jailed, Ji Xiehan was spending more time at home.

It dawned on Ji Huifen and his wife belatedly, that their son hated their daughter so much that he didn't want to go home, just so he would evade her.

No matter what, that was no longer important. The girl was probably learning her lesson now.

The hearing would be held in a few days. They were sure she was going to be given a heavy sentence because of her involvement with drugs. Fortunately, all the tests done on her for drugs came out negative. Hopefully, she would have changed for the better once her term was over.

It was not the right time to be thinking about her, Wen Lin brought up the matter that she and her husband had been mulling over. "Xiehan, when are you and Lanni going to start planning your wedding?"

"We are here if you need any help. We can recommend the agency that planned our own wedding. They are even better at it now that all these years have passed." Ji Huifen suggested.

"Yes. They will give you the best wedding of the century. What kind of wedding does Lanni like? With her character, I think she would like something not too grand. You know, a wedding is a woman's most important day. Make sure she loves it."

"Mother..."



"Right! I know a very good wedding gown designer from the time Jiang Xingyu's mother got married. I can recommend him to you."

"Mother..."

Ji Xiehan was interrupted once again. "Ah! I know just where to get the perfect outfit for your dad and I. Of course we should look great on our son's big..."

"Lin, our son looks like he has something to say." Ji Huifen nudged his wife.

Finally having a chance to speak, Ji Xiehan looked at his father gratefully. "Mother, "

He was momentarily speechless, not knowing what to say. He and Li Lanni had only started dating less than twenty four hours ago. Although he had been wooing her with marriage in mind, it was too early to even talk about it with her. How could his mother be going on and on about wedding planning?

But then again, his parents were still under the impression that he and Li Lanni were engaged. There was nothing wrong with them asking about when they were getting married. He could only say, "Lanni is still in school. Besides, she thinks she is too young to get married."

His second statement made Wen Lin realize it. "Right. How could I be so impatient? Lanni is only twenty. When you guys are ready, you can start to plan your wedding."

Ji Xiehan was relieved. Crisis averted.

...

Li Lanni suddenly clutched her chest.

"Are you okay? What's wrong?" Li Yuming asked worriedly.

Li Lanni frowned. What was that weird feeling? "I'm okay. I just felt uncomfortable for a moment."

"How is Luna anyway? I haven't heard from her since yesterday." It was supposed to be a mumble but Li Yuming heard it.

"You are still keeping in touch with that girl?"

"Yes." Li Lanni didn't deny it.

Li Yuming was displeased but she couldn't say anything after all. Li Lanni and Xia Luna were identical twins. Trying to separate them when they had already formed a bond of sorts was only going to give her a headache. She would later explain to Li Lanni just why she shouldn't get close to Xia Luna. For now, she could only let the bodyguards protect Li Lanni from a distance.

---

At the same time, Lakeside City Hospital.

It was late the previous night and Xia Luna couldn't hail any cab. Hence she blinked the night away and left as soon as she could hail one.

Once she arrived, she rapidly paid and ran all the way to the twelfth floor, to room 1204 where Xia Hanchen was staying.

Her hands trembled as she touched the door, scared that if she pushed it open, she might see something she wasn't ready to see.

Taking a deep breath, she slowly pushed the door open...

The ward was empty.

No way!

Her eyes widened as she swallowed hard. Her dad was not there.

Her legs weakened. How could this be? She had been too late after all...

She slumped onto the floor, tears streaming down her face as her shoulders shook violently.

A series of slow claps rang through the air.

Xia Luna had a bad premonition. She turned to look at the woman who had just walked in.

"Oh-lala! Look who we have here." Li Xiyan crossed her arms against her voluptuous chest. "Xia Luna in the flesh."

Xia Luna cursed inwardly but her expression remained indifferent. Had she been tricked by Li Xiyan? Did she just fall for it like an idiot?

"Aww something good came out of this after all..." she snickered.

Last night, the doctors had called her and told her the worst news ever; Xia Hanchen's condition had gotten better!

Can you imagine it? After all the efforts she had used to silence that old fart, he had gotten better?!

That was right. She had been trying to kill him. What was his use anyway? He was just a waste of space.

All these years, she had tried every means to make him fall in love with her; and that included directly imitating Li Yuming. However, the fool had refused to see what a beauty she was and had been hung up on that witch. Just what did that Li Yuming do to him to make him so enchanted?

However, fate

She knew that she could absolutely not kill him directly as that would be too obvious. So she could only mess up with his medication.

How could he still survive that? Just how strong was his desire to live?

She was still angry after being informed of that the previous night when she remembered something that made her smile.

She had been informed by her assistant that someone was spying on her. If whoever that was told Xia Luna that she had rushed back to Lakeside, that girl would obviously go running.

And now here she was, right in her grasp.

"Oh Xia Luna, I missed you! You are finally back. I guess the police miss you more?"

"Hahaha..." Xia Luna laughed sarcastically. "Miss Li Xiyan, I guess you need to have your eyes checked. Is your vision clouded because of old age?"

"You!"

"Am I wrong?" Xia Luna crossed her arms too. Take a good look at me. You don't think there's anything wrong with your eyes, Miss Li?"

Li Xiyan lost her confidence in a flash, staring at Xia Luna like she was seeing a ghost. "Li Lanni..."

"Hmph." Xia Luna closed in on her, glad that she was not wearing anything that could directly give her away as Xia Luna. She was wearing a pair of jeans and a simple top, something anyone could wear. She was also happy that she had been too rushed to think of disguising herself. She could easily pass off as her sister. This was the last resort she had thought of in a moment of urgency but still the best.

"Li Xiyan, how have you been?" She whispered into the middle aged woman's ear.

Li Xiyan was spooked, finding 'Li Lanni's taunting as scary as that of a ghost.

"Stop pretending Xia Luna... L.. Li Lanni doesn't know me."

"Oh really?" Xia Luna circled her tauntingly. "Is there... a reason why I shouldn't know you?"

She stopped behind Li Xiyan to half-whisper. "But, Miss Li, we have a very interesting past together. How could I forget you?"

Li Xiyan felt her back go cold. Interesting past... could it be?

Had Li Lanni found out what she did months ago?

But that was not right. Li Lanni had amnesia, didn't she?

"Oh, I would really love to catch up with you but I need to go now. Adios!"

Chapter 169 - Stop Right There!

"Stop right there!" Li Xiyan shouted when Xia Luna walked past her and was just about to touch the door.

Xia Luna froze. Did she see through her? Even so, she turned sweetly with a smile that one couldn't comprehend. "Do you need anything else?"

Li Xiyan closed in on her to check every inch of Xia Luna. Was this really not Xia Luna? She had already heard that Li Lanni and Xia Luna were an identical copy of each other. Having been born conjoined, they were even more identical than other identical twins.

However, was this really not Xia Luna?

After thinking through it severally, she scoffed. "Nice try Xia Luna, I almost got fooled."

Xia Luna remained indifferent even though her heart was almost popping out of her chest through her throat.

"So, a wanted criminal is right before me. Wouldn't I be a bad citizen if I didn't call the police?"

Xia Luna let out a low 'hmp'. "Are you sure you are not talking to yourself?"

She took out her phone and laughed. "Do you need help calling the police? It will save me the trouble of having to go to the police station."

Li Xiyan was hesitant. That sounded so much like Li Lanni. Xia Luna was not one to talk so much. She would rather get violent.

"What, are you scared already? Oh don't worry. The police don't bite."

Li Xiyan initially had her doubts but now she was sure that the girl before her was Li Lanni.

'But that doesn't make any sense.' She thought. 'Lanni wouldn't be so close to Hanchen.'

She had clearly seen how dejected the girl was when she saw that her father was no longer in the ward. She must have thought too much of it. But then again, Li Lanni was his daughter too. She would be sad as well.

...

Xia Luna used the opportunity when Li Xiyao was confused to slip away.

She went to have a quick word with Xia Hanchen's attending physician.

The middle aged man pulled Xia Luna aside, also under the impression that she was Li Lanni.

"Your father got better. He will be awake in a month to two."

Xia Luna was relieved. So it was the opposite of what she thought. She had thought that her father's condition had worsened but on the contrary, he had gotten better?

"However, I must warn you." The doctor continued. "Your stepmother has been trying to hurt him. She tried to hire me to do something to him."

He was nervous when he saw Xia Luna's shocked expression and quickly explained. "I swear, I didn't do it. Your sister is such a nice girl. For her sake, I would never hurt your father."

Xia Luna's heart softened. So that was what Doctor Zhao thought of her. She had always thought of him as a father figure.

"How is your sister? Is she alright? It's been long since she last dropped by."

"Yes. She's fine." She almost said that she was Xia Luna but on second thought, it was better if few people knew about her whereabouts. "Thank you for not hurting my father."

She said sincerely.

"It's nothing. If I did such a thing to my patients, that would be against my ethics as a doctor." Doctor Zhao said modestly.

"Even so, I still need to thank you."

Heaven knew what kind of human being Li Xiyan was. She liked to play with people's weaknesses and using them to lure them into working for her. It was rare that anyone would still stand their ground against her.

"Can I see him?"

"Of course. We transferred him to the recovery ward. This way." He led the way and Xia Luna followed.

Once she entered the ward, she emotionally hugged Xia Hanchen. "Dad..."

Her tears flowed freely.

After all that tension, she was finally seeing her father and he was even getting better.

She sat by his side, resting her head next to him, her heart finally calming down.

At that moment, her phone rang.

She was about to go out to receive the call but when she saw who the caller was, she smiled and received it right there.



"Lanni?"

She could have sworn that when she said her sister's name aloud, Xia Hanchen's eyelashes shook a little.

"Luna, where are you?" Li Lanni's worried voice came through the speaker.

"I'm in Lakeside City hospital."

"Hospital? Are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Xia Luna smiled when she saw that her father seemed to make slight movements. If she knew that her father would be so responsive just by hearing Li Lanni's name, she would have done this ages ago.

"Then why are you at the hospital?" Li Lanni remembered what Xia Luna had said about their father's medical condition when she asked about it. "Did you go to visit our father?"

"Yes." Xia Luna suddenly didn't know what to say. If Xia Hanchen was awake, she would have asked Li Lanni to say a few words to him...

"I just wanted to know if you're alright. I had a sudden bad feeling... "

Xia Luna was about to say something when she saw Li Xiyan approaching. "I'll talk to you later."

Li Xiyan sauntered in and like the loving wife she was pretending to be, threw her arms around Xia Hanchen to sob her fake tears out; making Xia Luna so disgusted that she almost tore off her fake mask right there. However, she had no evidence of her trying to bribe Doctor Zhao. She would have to get that first. For now, she could only scoff at the side and make a mental note to disinfect him once the witch left.

...

Xia Luna only left the hospital once she was sure that Li Xiyang had left. Knowing that the witch must be keeping an eye on her, she kept up her 'Li Lanni' front and didn't go back to the Xia home even though she really wanted to.

She went back to B City as soon as she left the hospital. Her expression darkened as she thought of how Li Xiyang had managed to trap her.. She had some matters to discuss with Cheng Yu.

## Chapter 170 - Deceived

"How did she even know she was being followed?" Xia Luna questioned, pulling her legs under her on the couch.

Cheng Yu put aside the freshly squeezed orange juice she was drinking, realization dawning on her.  
"That woman..."

"What woman?" Xia Luna asked.

"Li Xiyang's assistant. I didn't think she would back out."

Cheng Yu went ahead to explain how she had got Li Xiyang's assistant to collaborate with her. She had already heard rumors about Li Xiyang bullying her assistant. Using this and promising to help her pull away from Li Xiyang, she got the woman to agree to keep an eye on Li Xiyang.

"She even tearfully thanked me for promising to help her. I didn't think she would turn on her word."

Xia Luna rubbed her temples. "How naive can you get? Just because she thanked you, you think she was being sincere and would betray her master for you? Do you even know why she is still working for Li Xiyan despite being tortured?"

Cheng Yu shook her head. She didn't think about this.

"It's because Li Xiyan has dirt on her. That assistant might look innocent but in real sense, she is a dangerous person. She killed her own child."

"What?" Cheng Yu whispered in shock.

"Yeah. Apparently, she got pregnant for the wrong guy. Pretty much the same story as Li Xiyan's except, when the man rejected her even after the baby was born, she thought it better to kill the innocent little thing than have to take care of an abandoned child."

"How awful..." Cheng Yu had an expression like she had swallowed a fly. How could one be so heartless to her own child? Was she even human?

But then again, there were such mothers. Hers didn't murder her as a baby but she was not any different.

"She dumped the baby in a fountain and Li Xiyan saw her doing that. Of course, she recorded it as well. That's how she got the woman to work for her for all these years and forced her to be loyal despite torturing her endlessly."

Cheng Yu did not know what to say after hearing that. What could anyone say about such a thing?

No wonder despite the presence of such a weakness by Li Xiyan's side, the latter had not used her in the past.

In actual fact, Xia Luna had thought of doing so. But being the careful person that life had made her, she had to thoroughly investigate everything about a person before even thinking of making a deal with them. That was how she came to know of that woman's past.

Besides, someone that could be so heartless as to kill their own baby wouldn't flinch when she got tempted to betray her.

"Sorry Luna." Cheng Yu was so ashamed of herself. "You have helped me so many times that I wanted to do something for you too. I saw that you had forgotten all about this so I wanted to do it for you. Little did I know that it would land you right into the enemy's trap!"

"Xiao Yu, you shouldn't be sorry. You meant well and oh well... we all make mistakes sometimes."

Since that was settled, there only one more thing left for her to do: she should explain to Li Lanni what she had done at the hospital. Although she knew that Li Xiyuan wouldn't really see through what had happened, it was still safe to take precaution. That witch might try to look into it if she had even a sliver of suspicion.

---

When Li Lanni learnt about what had happened, she knew what to do. After all, no one would look into what she had done since the night before. She could just fake having gone to Lakeside City if anyone asked her.

After waiting for Ji Xiehan for what felt like several hours, he finally called her.

She picked her phone with her lips uncontrollably forming a smile. "Hello."

"I'm coming to pick you up."

He was brief and hung up before she could ask any questions.

Li Lanni looked at her phone with a raised eyebrow. What did he mean by an expressionless 'I'm going to pick you up'?

What was she supposed to do, pack up and wait at the door or something?

Checking through the closet, she found a purple sleeveless dress and changed into it. Perhaps Ji Xiehan was taking her somewhere for fun.

Ji Xiehan did not make her wait for too long; arriving only half an hour later.

"You look beautiful." He said as he hugged her. He meant it but then again, he would find her beautiful no matter what she wore.

Li Lanni hugged him back and entered the car when he opened the passenger door for her.

"Where are we going?" She asked as she fastened the seat belt.

"Haha."

"Why are you laughing?"

Ji Xiehan turned to her teasingly. "You entered the car and fastened your seatbelt before you thought to ask where I'm taking you. Aren't you scared I can kidnap you and sell you off?"

Li Lanni found herself a little silly too. But, "Xiehan, even if you wanted to sell me, I would gladly go."

Ji Xiehan held her chin between his thumb and index finger. "Did you eat honey?"

"Only one way to find out." She teased, to which he responded by pressing his lips against hers.

It was only a slight kiss, and he pulled away before she could have enough of it.

He laughed when he saw her silly dissatisfied pout. "That's enough for now. We are going over to my parents' for lunch."

Li Lanni tittered. Was he trying to say that he didn't want them to do the walk of shame to his parents' mansion? Her second reaction was to look down at herself. "You should have told me before. I would have worn something more decent for meeting the in-laws."

Ji Xiehan was pleased by how she had called his parents. He smiled and looked at her dress. "What's wrong with what you're wearing?"

"Isn't it a bit too revealing?"

He frowned slightly.. Not because he was afraid it was too showy for his parents' liking but because he was jealous at the thought of other people getting to see her skin. If only he could bundle her up so she wouldn't show any skin...

