

Chapter 241 - The Perfect Candidate

"Are you out of your mind?" Xiehan scolded. "What are you even thinking, suggesting to go into such a dangerous place?"

"This is the only thing I can do, my love. I know it will be dangerous but I will take care of myself. It's the fastest way."

"That doesn't make it the right way, nor is it the only way to handle this." Xiehan chided. Why did she always only think of methods that put her life in danger?

"We can get an employee to go to your home. The employee doesn't necessarily have to gain Li Xiyan's trust and whatnot. He just has to carefully gather information. We will help him from the outside."

"What are you talking about?" Lanni didn't understand. Wasn't this similar to the initial suggestion?

"Let's go to my mansion and I'll show you." Xiehan said and headed for his mansion.

When they arrived, they went straight to his study.

"Have a seat." Xiehan signalled as he nodded towards a chair. Lanni sat silently, wondering what he was up to.

Wordlessly, he turned on his laptop and started typing some of those codes that she had only seen Luna type before. Out of curiosity, she stood to watch him, standing some distance away so she wouldn't distract him. His fingers were almost a blur as they flew over the keys and she could only stand aside and watch him.

He was done in less than three minutes. He grabbed a small USB flash drive and inserted it in the laptop. When he was done with whatever he was doing, he took out the USB flash drive and held it between his thumb and the side of his forefinger, waving it. "Who needs trust when they have this?"

Lanni gasped. If it wasn't for this incident, she would have forgotten that Xiehan knew a thing or two about programming. She inched closer and took the USB drive from his hand. It was smaller than half of a thumb. "What's in here?"

Xiehan looked up at her with a lopsided grin. "A virus."

Lanni was surprised. He could even create viruses? Was this the so-called knowing a thing or two? After the initial shock, she asked, "what does it do?"

"It copies everything." He responded.

Lanni frowned. "I don't understand. Why do you need a virus to copy information from a computer? That is something that can be done solely using a USB flash drive, right? You only need to hack the password if there's any."

"That's one reason why we need a virus." He swung in his chair so his elbows were on the desk and the back of his hands under his chin. "The other reason is, this will help us find more information than you can imagine. All her deleted information will be retrieved and copied here." He explained.

Lanni recalled something and thought that she was indeed impulsive. "If getting information from Li Xiyang's computer was as easy as copying it, someone would have done so already. There must be ways to secure it."

"Now you get it." Xiehan's lips twitched, his expression proud as though his little disciple was starting to learn.

"You created it just now?" She asked curiously.

"Not exactly. I had started making it for fun when I was still learning. However, I didn't complete it in the end because it's a virus that could invade people's privacy. I didn't want it to exist but now that we need it, I only recreated it as I remember."

No wonder he had taken such a short time to create it.

Lanni threw her arms around him and kissed his neck. "You are awesome!"

After listening as he explained what else the virus could do, Lanni sat opposite him as she contemplated. "We already have a way to get information and now we only need someone who will do it. Someone on our side that we can trust..."

She racked her brains as she thought about the people close to her. Cheng Yu?

Cheng Yu was her best friend so it was natural that she would think about her first. Besides, she was among the few people who knew what was going on. However, she dismissed the idea. Li Xiyan already knew Cheng Yu so that would never work. Aside from her, she didn't know anyone else she could trust.

A name suddenly crossed her mind. Ruby...

A frown formed on her forehead. Although Ruby hadn't sought trouble with her, she had not given her any reason to trust her either. It was still not clear, after all this time, whether she was an ally or an enemy. So that was a no. She couldn't possibly work with someone she didn't trust.

Served her right for keeping to herself too much and not trying to make friends...

"We can get random people and look into their background. When we find the perfect candidate, we will pay them a hefty sum to complete the task and when it's done, we will never see each other again." As soon as Lanni finished this statement, a thought struck her. But before she could shout it out, a better one surfaced in her mind. "An Zichen!"

Xiehan was also considering the best person from his side who they could send to Li Xiyan's residence. He had just thought of the best candidate when he heard her yell "An Zichen!"

He tilted his head and looked at her. "Who?"

"Oh, An Zichen is the man who helped us get the contract from Ji Feifei. Do you remember him?"

"Hm." Obviously, he would never forget. At the time, the Feng family had teamed up with the Gu family and they were trying to take over Feng Ji International. It had taken him a lot of effort to get the higher-ups on the side of the Ji family.. While he was busy dealing with the shareholders and the higher-ups, Lanni helped him trick Ji Feifei into giving her shares to him.

## Chapter 242 - The Perfect Candidate(2)

That was how An Zichen came about—he was Old Master Feng's chauffeur at the time and he had been the one to trick Feng Ci.

Xiehan thought about it. Lanni had mentioned that she had saved his sister and helped him clear his debt. That, and the fact that she had also helped him get a job, made him unwaveringly loyal to Lanni. He would do anything to pay her back for her kindness, which was why he was just the perfect candidate for the job.

Seeing as he did not object, Lanni smiled. It seemed like he also thought of An Zichen as the best candidate.

"Then, I'll contact him." Lanni stood up but just before she grabbed her phone to make the call, Ji Xiehan suddenly stood and closed in on her. It only took a few seconds for him to grab her hand and pry the phone away, leaving it on the table. "Do that later. For now, spend a little more time with me."

Lanni blushed when she understood that his statement had a double meaning to it. "Alright."

Xiehan reached under her knees and behind her back then lifted her off the chair, kissing her all the way to his room.

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The following day.

Lanni had arranged a meeting with An Zichen in a restaurant. She had booked the VIP section so it was just her and him in a room.

When she arrived, the man was already waiting. After making sure that no one was around, she carefully took off her wig and exaggerated huge spectacles.

She had disguised herself while coming here and so had An Zichen—because Li Xiyan might at one point suspect that he had been sent by Lanni. If that happened, she would look into everyone that Lanni had come into contact with recently.

"Miss Li, you asked me here today because?" An Zichen was nervous. Lanni rarely ever asked to meet him. Had he done something wrong?

"I need your help with something." Lanni was frank because he needed to go back to work."

"I will do anything you need me to do, Miss Li."

Lanni no longer minded his form of address so she went on to explain what she needed him to do. "I would like to send you to my home as an employee."

"You want to employ me?" An Zichen was confused.

"No, not exactly." Lanni sighed. "It's a bit complicated actually. I need you to become an employee for my stepmother so that you can help me plant something in her study."

It took a minute for An Zichen to take in what she had just said. And when he did, neither did he reject the job nor ask questions. He quickly accepted to do what she wanted him to do, willingly offering as much help as possible.

Lanni saw that he was agreeing too fast and knew that he must take it too lightly. She placed her hands on the table as she looked at him. "My stepmother is a dangerous woman. Very dangerous." She remembered the fragment of memory she had recovered about her investigating Li Xiyan and added, "In fact, so dangerous that investigation organizations and underworld factions have been trying to find her and probably end her."

"I understand." He knew the stepmother must be dangerous from the moment Lanni mentioned the task. If it was so easy, Lanni would have done it herself or hired a random person to do it. Summoning him meant it was confidential and probably dangerous. Even so, he was not going to back out.

Lanni was touched when she saw how determined he was despite knowing that it might probably put his life in danger. What a loyal man...

She reached into her bag and pulled out an envelope which she gave to him. "This is your identity, together with all the documents you will need."

He opened the envelope and pulled out the sheets of paper and certificates. He was surprised that there were real certificates and a portfolio. According to the documents, he had graduated from the medical school with a high grade.

An Zichen trembled slightly as he stared at the documents then at Lanni. "Miss Lanni, am I going to work in a hospital? But I know nothing about medicine."

"Don't worry about that." Lanni smiled. "You will not show her this. You are going to be a bodyguard. If there is any position in that home that would never be too crowded, it is that of a bodyguard. She needs many of them because she knows that someone might seek her life. However, she could as well hire some from training agencies. This is why we also created you documents for that."

An Zichen understood. "I will do my best so she employs me."

Lanni proceeded to explain the plan. "She may be paranoid but she likes using people to her advantage. She will investigate you as soon as possible. When she discovers your identity as a medical school graduate, she will want to use you. She may make you try out some tasks to test your ability. If that happens, I want you to gather as much information as you can before she sends you away. You must be careful, okay?"

At this point, An Zichen was starting to feel like they were dealing with a criminal of sorts. Why else would Lanni insist so much on him being careful? Even so, he did not waver. He had done more difficult things before, especially while he worked for the Feng family.

Lanni and Xiehan had come up with two plans and the second one involved the flash drive.

"This will not require you to get her attention as a 'doctor'. You need to find an opportunity to sneak into her study and insert this in her computer." She held the flash drive out to him.

An Zichen looked at it for a few seconds then reached to take it. "When do you want me to do this?"

"How soon can you be ready?" Lanni asked in return.

"I could go tomorrow if you want me to."

## Chapter 243 - Couldn't You Come Up With A Better Idea?

Lanni breathed out a sigh of relief. An Zichen was as expected, reliable. "Then tomorrow, it is."

After going through everything else he needed to know, it was decided that he would go the following morning as though randomly seeking a job. Lanni thought of making him disguise with makeup, a fake scar or a skin mask.

However, things might go south if he ever forgot those things or something ever happened and exposed the fact that he was under a disguise.

So after having him dye his hair and change his dressing style, he went to Li Xiyan's house.

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Meanwhile, Lanni went to visit Xia Hanchen again. This time, Li Yuming didn't say a word despite knowing where she was going.

Xiehan had a meeting to attend in the morning so he did not accompany her.

Lanni chatted with him for a little longer than the first two times. His health was getting better and better and in a few weeks he would be discharged.

"You look so happy." He remarked when he saw that Lanni kept smiling at nothing in particular. "Can you share the joy with daddy?"



Lanni leaned over to hug him, her smile deepening further. "It's because you are getting better. Of course I would be happy." While she was happy because of that, the main cause of her joy was something else. She would get information about Li Xiyang soon. She was both excited and anxious, but only let the excitement show.

Xia Hanchen smiled, infected by her happiness. "Why don't you tell me about how you are doing yourself? How is school, Hmm?" He probed.

"Well, uhm.." Lanni had not thought about that part of her life in a long time. "I was in an art class but I left." When she saw him raise an eyebrow to question her decision, she explained, "I felt like that wasn't the place for me—and I was right. Because when I recovered some of my memory I realized that the art class was not where I belonged, but somewhere else instead."

A sigh filled with sadness escaped her lips. "Mom lied to me."

"Typical of Yuming." Xia Hanchen laughed.

"What?" Lanni's ears perked up.

When he realized what he had just said, Xia Hanchen cleared his throat. He didn't mean to discuss his ex-wife with their daughter. But since he and Lanni had never talked about her, it wasn't wrong to say a thing or two. "Your mother is a caring woman. However, her good intentions may sometimes be mistaken."

He seemed to remember something, which he didn't say in the end and continued, "She is the kind of woman who sometimes acts impulsively when she is in panic. She could mean to protect someone but what she actually does could make the person mistake it as being betrayed."

Lanni raised an eyebrow, clearly surprised that he did not speak ill of her mother, considering Li Yuming had been stopping him from meeting his daughter. Then again, he still loved Li Yuming. It was normal that he didn't hold resentment against her.

"If you don't mind me asking, why did the two of you break up? I mean, aside from my grandmother constantly coming in between the two of you, there must be another reason why she hates you and the

Xia family so much, right?" She asked after thinking about it. It was not just hatred. Li Yuming even seemed to be afraid of them and she would not say a word no matter how many times she was asked.

"Well..." Xia Hanchen sighed, suddenly looking sadder.

Lanni saw his expression and knew it was something more serious than it sounded. "If you don't want to talk about it..." her voice trailed off.

"It's not that I don't want to talk about it. It's just a little hard..."

The door opened, interrupting him. A nurse walked in and glanced at Lanni apologetically. "I'm sorry, It's time for Mr. Xia's rest."

Lanni nodded and said her goodbyes before leaving. They still had all the time in the world. They could talk about it some other time.

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Later, An Zichen called and updated her of his progress.

"She did not look into my background. She did not even ask me to introduce myself and merely hired me after testing my strength by asking me to spar with some of the bodyguards."

Lanni massaged her temples when An Zichen delivered the news. "It seems like Li Xiyao won't be bringing you to her lab any time soon. She might look into you later, but that may take long. We cannot wait any longer."

"So what should I do?" He asked.

"We will have to proceed with the second plan."

"I understand." An Zichen responded. "What do I need to do?"

"Sneak out later and meet me." Lanni suggested. She would need to give him the USB flash drive. She had not given it to him earlier because she had hoped that they would go with the first plan, because this was more dangerous. To be fair, they were both dangerous but the first posed less risks.

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That evening, An Zichen went to Xiehan's mansion.

They sat at the coffee table in the living room to discuss. Lanni and Xiehan sat beside each other while An Zichen sat opposite them.

"The best time to sneak into places is usually at night." Lanni spoke up first, and the men nodded in agreement.

"How is the security?" Xiehan asked.

"I didn't snoop around much to avoid arousing suspicion. But from the little I gathered, there are four guards guarding the study in shifts."

"Mhh." Lanni and Xiehan exchanged looks of relief. It had been right of them to think that the study would have something important.

"Distract the guards and we will distract Li Xiyan." Xiehan said.

"How will you do that?" An Zichen couldn't help being curious. Well, he would need to know what they were going to do so he would estimate how much time he had.

"She would go crazy if my sister was released from prison, or broke out for that matter." Lanni answered him.

"That's right." Xiehan gripped her hand.

"Tomorrow in the afternoon, Xia Luna will break out of prison. In the evening, the news will get to Li Xiyan." Ji Xiehan added.

Lanni turned to look at him. "Yeah, but how will that happen? A few hours is too little."

"Lin Jian." Xiehan said, and Lanni instantly understood. The blabbermouth will help them spread a rumor.

When everything was all set, An Zichen left. Lanni wrapped her arms around Xiehan and breathed into his chest. "I'm so nervous."

"It's okay." Xiehan rubbed her back in small circles. He was nervous too. However, they had to be strong or else they might slip up.

"Are we really going to break Luna out? This is the most difficult task." Lanni tilted her head and asked. Although they had a foolproof plan, it was still dangerous and could land all of them in trouble—including Luna.

"On second thought, no." Xiehan also thought about it. "Aren't you identical? It doesn't make much of a difference who appears on the news. As long as Li Xiyan is fooled."

Lanni blinked as he continued, "Tomorrow in the afternoon, you will take a photo with Jiang Xingyu."

Lanni nodded in understanding. Li Xiyan must already know that Luna was Jiang Xingyu's girlfriend. If Lanni and Jiang Xingyu appeared together, her first impression would be that was Luna."

The following day, Xiehan called Jiang Xingyu over and explained the matter to him.

Jiang Xingyu cringed when he heard the part about taking a photo with Lanni, pretending that it was Luna.

"Don't give me that face. Don't you want your girlfriend out of prison?" Xiehan glared at him when he saw the latter acting wronged.

"Couldn't you come up with a better plan?" Jiang Xingyu grumbled.

"Why don't you come up with one?" Xiehan chided.

Jiang Xingyu could only keep quiet. Fine. Luna was his woman anyway, and he had not been able to think of anything reasonable. He and his mother had been trying to use their connections to get Luna released but it was as though someone else—someone probably more powerful than them—was trying their best to make sure Luna stayed in. He was desperate so he could only agree with Lanni and Xiehan's idea.

After reaching an agreement, Lanni had her hair straightened and changed into the clothes she had prepared. The only noticeable difference between her and Luna was that Luna's skin was slightly more pale because she rarely left the house, and this was easily corrected using a dab of unnoticeable makeup.

To avoid attention from more people, Lin Jian came over to take the photo. He would personally send it to a paparazzo with a catchy caption. It would be unwise to publish it as official news because it would create too much attention so as soon as the news reached any of Li Xiyan's people, Lin Jian would have it deleted.

He looked at the main leads of the rumor and chuckled when he saw how awkward they looked. "Come on, pose for the photos." He urged.

Lanni and Xingyu stood expressionlessly and moved a little close to each other.

He attempted to take a photo and frowned when he saw the result.. "This won't do. How about you hold hands?"

## Chapter 244 - Something Went Wrong

Ji Xiehan shot a glare at Lin Jian. The latter shrugged. "What? Aren't you the one who came up with this idea? Are you regretting it now?"

Ji Xiehan frowned and said nothing more. It was already bad enough that he had to watch his friend and his woman pretending to be intimate. Why did this blabbermouth have to poke him where it hurt?

Lanni pursed her lips and moved closer to Jiang Xingyu. How difficult could an act be?

"What are you..." he was startled when she suddenly stood too close.

"The more we dilly dally, the longer we will have to stand together." Lanni wanted to get it done with and quickly move to the next step.

Xiehan couldn't watch anymore. He knew that he would ask them to stop if he continued standing there so he went to grab them something to drink.

"Come on, think of her as your Luna for a second." Lin Jian took advantage of Xiehan's absence to urge.

Jiang Xingyu glared at Lin Jian when he heard that.

"Why are you glaring at me?" Lin Jian really wanted to toss the camera away and run away. They were asking for a favor but kept giving him vicious looks when he said anything to get the job done. Seeing that Jiang Xingyu was slightly dazed, he said in a low voice, "oh my... take a close look at her. Isn't she every inch of your girlfriend? It's as though she is actually your Luna."

Jiang Xingyu was about to retort when he took a good look. Indeed, Lin Jian was right. Otherwise, he wouldn't have mistaken Lanni for Luna when he first saw her a few months ago. He leaned closer to take a clearer look and without knowing it, stuck out a hand to cup her face.

Lanni subconsciously pushed his hand away just before his palm could come into contact with the skin of her face. "You shouldn't get too close. I'm still your sister-in-law and I have a boyfriend."

Her voice jolted him. He balled the hand that was reaching to touch her face into a fist and ran the other through his hair.

"I took two photos and they're perfect!" Lin Jian celebrated. He rushed to show them. "This one looks like you are really touching! Look..."

Jiang Xingyu stared at Lanni and she stared back, wondering why he was acting strange. Neither of them heard what Lin Jian was saying. When he shook them out of their thoughts, Jiang Xingyu glared at him.

"W-what did I do wrong?" Lin Jian felt chills down his spine.

"Damn you Ji Xiehan!" Jiang Xingyu cursed and stormed out.

"What's wrong with him?" Lin Jian asked, to which Lanni shrugged. How could she understand that man's train of thought?

A short while later, Ji Xiehan returned with a tray of drinks. "I hope you are done. I brought..." he paused and looked at the two of them. "Where is Xingyu?"

"He left." Lanni was defeated.

From her tone, Xiehan knew that it was not just about simply leaving. Something must have happened. He let out a sigh. He knew this might happen. He knew this would make Jiang Xingyu miss Xia Luna too much. He knew Jiang Xingyu might actually mistake Lanni for Xia Luna, which was why he had the

sudden urge to stop the so called shoot. But he had not stopped it because he knew it was too late to think of a new plan.

He placed the tray on the table then gave Lanni her chocolate and Lin Jian his black coffee.

"When am I supposed to start the rumor?" Lin Jian asked.

"You should have already started it." Xiehan looked at him seriously.

Lin Jian hurriedly transferred the pictures to his phone, made a caption and sent it to someone. "Done." He celebrated when he had sent it.

"I hope Li Xiyuan receives it soon." Lanni crossed her fingers.

"She will. You can trust Lin Media Group on this."

And he was right. Within just a few hours, the news had reached Li Xiyuan.

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Xiyuan's residence.

"How could this be?" Li Xiyuan's phone dropped to the floor as her mouth gaped into an O. "How can she be out of prison? How did this happen?"

Li Xiyuan paced as she ground her teeth. If that girl was free, then it was just a matter of time before she would be done for. This was impossible!

She took the phone from the floor and checked. The screen was broken but the phone was still functioning.



The news stung her eyes. [Another prince charming taken?]

Below it was a picture of the young master of the Jiang family, Jiang Xingyu, looking fondly into the eyes of a woman. His left hand was touching her cheek and from their pose, they were definitely a couple in love. No matter what angle Li Xiyan looked at it, the girl must be Xia Luna.

Besides, logically, Lanni already had a fiancé who happened to be Jiang Xingyu's friend. Even if she were to fool around with Jiang Xingyu, they wouldn't let the news be broadcast. There was only one possibility—Xia Luna had been freed.

She sat down on the couch and narrowed her gaze. Seconds later, she summoned some of her top henchmen.

She pointed at one of them, who was proficient in IT. "Check when this picture was taken." She shoved the broken phone at him.

Then she looked at the rest of them. "I want you to search every part of this country and find Xia Luna. Bring her here before dawn. If she escapes, you will be held responsible."

"Yes ma'am." The group chorused and left.

Li Xiyan summoned yet another group. "Go and find Li Lanni. If you catch her..." Li Xiyan's eyes blazed with bloodlust. "...Bring her back. I will let her watch her sister's death before I kill her." She sneered. These two girls were too troublesome.

When the two groups had gone to complete their tasks, Li Xiyan suddenly called An Zichen.

He trembled slightly, wondering whether he had been found out. When Li Xiyan wasn't paying attention, he pressed the speed dial on his phone.

"I have a task for you too." Stated Li Xiyan.

An Zichen wanted to curse. He was supposed to plant the USB in Li Xiyan's study. How could he do so if he was given a task?

He was wondering what excuse to give when Li Xiyan lazily stated the task. "Go to B City and find out if Xia Luna is still in prison."

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Ji Xiehan's mansion.

Once they were sure that Li Xiyan had received the news, Lin Jian stopped the rumor from spreading any further.

"The first part is done. Let's wait for the second phase." Lanni's voice was slightly shaky with anxiety. The second part—An Zichen planting the USB flash drive was the most dangerous.

"My love, don't be nervous. It will be alright." Xiehan consoled again.

"Yes, it will be. If Li Xiyan is too angry to think of the possibility that she is being tricked." Lanni let out a sigh after a sigh.

"How smart do you think she is?" Xiehan asked.

"I'm not sure about that." Lanni took deep breaths. "But one thing is for sure. She is not Ji Feifei. She cannot be fooled easily and... she is a dangerous person."

Lin Jian heard what she had said and frowned at the duo. "Are you guys alright? If she is smart then why are you trying to play such a lowly trick on her?"

"This was the only way." Lanni frowned at Lin Jian, although she didn't truly mean it.

She also knew that if Li Xiyan knew about Xia Hanchen waking up, she would fly into panic and rage. She hated Xia Hanchen and hoped for him to die so she would inherit all his wealth. This was one main reason why she wanted Lanni and her sister dead.

It was because if she got rid of the twins, there would be no one to fight her for Xia Hanchen's wealth.

Lanni would have used Xia Hanchen to distract Li Xiyan but after thinking about it, it was far too risky. What would happen if Li Xiyan targeted Xia Hanchen?

Lanni balled her hands into fists. "If she suspects that she is being fooled, or just confirms for the sake of being careful, what will we do?"

Lanni had just finished her statement when her phone rang. She looked at Lin Jian and Xiehan. "An Zichen is calling at such a time. Did something go wrong?"

"Answer it." Xiehan urged.

Lanni swiped the screen then out the phone on speaker and placed it on the table.

A rustling was heard before a female voice came through. "I have a task for you too."

The trio held their breaths. That was Li Xiyan. From the looks of things, she was speaking to An Zichen.

"Go back to B City and find out whether Xia Luna is still in prison."

## Chapter 245 - No Time To Flirt

Lanni, Xiehan and Lin Jian exchanged looks. None of them expected that the sudden phone call would reveal such information.

An Zichen accepted the mission with a shaky voice. "Yes ma'am."

When their conversation finished, the trio let out the breath they had been holding during the call.

A few minutes later when An Zichen was alone, he called and told them about the instructions Li Xiyan had given—to bring Luna back and capture Lanni while at it.

"This isn't a good thing." Lin Jian was the first to speak.

Lanni massaged her temples. "It's a good thing that An Zichen is the one being sent over to confirm whether Luna is still in prison. Because he is our person, he will naturally tell her that Luna actually escaped. But then, there is the constraint of time."

Although Lakeside City was only about one hour away from B City, it could still be difficult if An Zichen couldn't make it back and forth within the planned time. Besides, what if Li Xiyan had him stay in B City for some other mission?

"It's not necessarily a bad thing." Xiehan said after contemplating for a while. "Once he reports that Xia Luna is not in prison, Li Xiyan will get more serious with her search."

"You're right." Lanni swallowed. "I hope he goes back to Li Xiyan's house before tonight. Or... does he really have to come?" she looked at Xiehan meaningfully.

"We can have him deceive her." Xiehan said, understanding her meaning."

"Why are you guys plotting such dangerous things and not even considering the danger it could incur?" Lin Jian grumbled. Forget these two not considering the dangers. They had shoved him out of their conversation and were speaking things he couldn't make head or tail of.

"Shush." Lanni shut him up with a glower before looking back at Xiehan. "Just in case he is forced to remain in B City and join the search parties, he should sneak into the study at the same time that he pretends to be on his way here. That way, he would not have to report his finding to Li Xiyang because he will run back here."

"Mh." Xiehan agreed with her. Knowing what else she would be worried about, he added, "When he comes back, I will protect him. I will get someone to guard his sister in the meantime."

"My love, you are so considerate." Lanni placed her hand on his.

"You're my woman. Of course I would do my duty as your man." Xiehan was happy that she was not rejecting his help this time.

"Aren't you focusing on the wrong point here?" Lin Jian couldn't help commenting as he glanced at Lanni like she was weird. "You are being sought. How are you so nonchalant about it?"

"So what if I'm being sought? It's not like she can get me anyway." Lanni was not at all scared.

Lin Jian had nothing more to say. Since he had nothing left to do, he watched from the sidelines and made himself invisible.

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In the end, An Zichen pretended to leave for B City but snuck back into the compound. When he was in, he gave Lanni a call for further instructions.

"What's the situation? Who is near the study?" Lanni asked.

"There are two guards. Many of the guards have been sent to B City but I cannot be sure that there are none in hiding."

"Where is that woman?" Lanni probed.

"She left the house a while ago, I don't know where she went."

"That's a good thing. Uhm..."

"I'll deal with them." Xiehan interrupted Lanni who was thinking of a way for An Zichen to distract the guards. Before she could ask how he would go about it, he grabbed his laptop and turned it on. Lanni smiled and let him do his thing. All was well as long as Xiehan could hack his way into anything.

Five minutes later, An Zichen's work phone vibrated with a notification. Aside from their personal phones, every bodyguard had a work phone that was exclusively for messages from Li Xiyan.

An Zichen looked at his and sounded bummed. "It's a notification from the boss. She shared a location and asked everyone to go there. There seems to be an emergency and she would realize that something is wrong if I don't go."

"Don't worry. That's me." Xiehan spoke into Lanni's phone.

Realization dawned on An Zichen. So that was his way of distracting the guards.

"Did you hack into Li Xiyan's phone? How did you even do that?" Lanni raised an eyebrow.

"Is your man awesome or what?" Xiehan looked like he was waiting for praise.

"Is this really the time to flirt?" Lanni shook her head but patted his shoulder like he was a child. "Go on, tell him what to do."

Xiehan cleared his throat, remembering that An Zichen was waiting. "Make sure all of them run off before you go to the study. Beware of possible booby traps and alarms. Once you insert the USB, wait for a minute then pull it out and leave."

"I think we should keep the call connected in case of anything." Lanni suggested and the two men agreed.

An Zichen dug into his pockets for the wireless mini earphones that Lanni had given him and connected them. He kept his phone in his pocket for convenience and waited.

Once he was sure that there was no one bodyguard around, he snuck to the second floor, narrowly escaping the butler. He heaved a sigh of relief when he reached the study room door. His relief was shortlived because when he saw the passcode lock, he felt drained.

"Everything okay?" Lanni asked worriedly when she heard his low curse through the speakers of her phone.

"There is a passcode lock."

"Send me a picture of it." Xiehan said.

An Zichen took a picture and send it to Xiehan's phone immediately.

"Okay. Give me a few seconds." Xiehan said.

"O-okay." An Zichen could only wait. Those few seconds felt like a whole day for him and just when he was about to break down from anxiety, he finally heard Xiehan's voice.

"598103." Xiehan said expressionlessly. When An Zichen did not react, he probed, "did you get it? Key in the code. 5-9-8-1-0-3."

An Zichen snapped back and quickly keyed it in.

"Are there any traps?" Xiehan reminded him to be cautious.

"I don't think so." An Zichen answered after looking around.

"With that kind of security, she doesn't need them." Lanni said, unsure of her own words. There was no such thing as too much caution, right? Especially for someone like Li Xiyan.

Fortunately, there were no traps in the end. An Zichen found the laptop on the desk and reported. Afraid he would do something wrong, he only turned it on after being told to do so.

"System destructing in 59." A female voice suddenly filled the air.

"Shit!" An Zichen cursed, jumping back in shock.

"What's that?" Lanni asked in shock too.

"A self-destructive system. It must have detected me as a stranger."

"49... 48... 47... 46..."

Lanni and Xiehan were just as freaked out as An Zichen when they heard the sudden countdown.

"Insert the USB now!" Xiehan was the first to react.

An Zichen grabbed the USB and pushed it into the port without a second thought.

"It stopped." He wiped a thin layer of sweat from his forehead.

Lanni hugged Xiehan in relief.



"The computer has been invaded with viruses now. Enter any random password to unlock it."

An Zichen entered a word and it really unlocked. As soon as it was unlocked, the screen displayed [copying files 1/12527]

"You must be kidding me. Why does she have so many files in her computer?" An Zichen was flabbergasted.

"That's including the deleted ones of all time." Xiehan explained.

That was still so many. An Zichen could only watch the digits change. This was torture.

He stood on pins and needles as he waited for completion. Luckily, it was fast and the thousands of files were being copied at a speed he wouldn't have imagined possible.

An Zichen sighed in relief when he saw that there were about a few hundred of them left. However, at this time, he heard footsteps going towards the study. "Someone is here." He mumbled into the speaker. When he heard the clanking of high heels against the floor outside, he cursed. "The boss is here too."

"Oh no..." Lanni widened her eyes. "Pull the USB out and hide."

"But we have come too far." An Zichen protested. Wouldn't everything that had been copied be deleted?

"Listen to me. Hide right now!" It didn't matter how far they had come. She would rather repeat the whole process than let An Zichen get caught.

An Zichen did as he was told. He grabbed the USB and slid behind the curtains—there was nowhere else to hide—and remained stiff and still.

On the other side, Lanni and Xiehan remained still too, knowing that speaking could endanger An Zichen's life.

Lanni covered the mouthpiece and turned to Xiehan worriedly. "Will he be alright?"

#### Chapter 246 - You Are Too Kind

Lanni hung up then exchanged looks with Xiehan and Lin Jian.

"I told you this was dangerous. No one ever listens to me." Lin Jian mumbled.

"Shut up." Lanni was annoyed. Who wouldn't do dangerous things to prove their sister's innocence? She was already guilty because she had dragged someone else into the danger. What she needed least right now was someone taunting her about it.

"What should we do now? If he has been caught, it's too late to run over there and rescue him." Lanni was running mad from worry.

Xiehan didn't know what to expect either. It was too far-fetched to hope that Li Xiyan would not see him. It was obvious why Li Xiyan went back. She must have realized that something was amiss with Xiehan hacking into her phone and sending a fake message to her bodyguards and henchmen. Even if that was not the case, it would still have alarmed her to come home and find no one guarding the door.

So, they could only hope for An Zichen to slip out of the study through the window if he was close to it.

Lanni was sitting on edge and anticipating a phone call—or anything to assure her that An Zichen had managed to escape. Her phone did ring, but the caller was not An Zichen. She picked it with a slight crease on her forehead. "Mum?"

They had not been talking a lot lately. Why was she calling?

"Lanni, where are you?" Li Yuming's voice held a hint of worry. She must have been trying to mask it but it was still obvious.

Lanni looked drained. There couldn't be another problem, right? "I'm at Xiehan's. Did something happen?"

"No, no." Li Yuming was relieved. "Since you are with Xiehan, it is all good. Stay where you are for now."

Lanni felt something was off. "Something happened, right?"

Li Yuming didn't want to disclose it to avoid making Lanni worried but it would be better if she knew. "I saw a suspicious person snooping around. He could be dangerous and I don't know what he's looking for so... just be careful, okay?"

Lanni knew instantly that the said man must be one of the people Li Xiyan had sent to find her. She stood up anxiously. "Where is that man right now?"

"He ran away as soon as he realized that he had been discovered. He was too fast." Li Yuming responded.

"I see." Lanni sighed. She was now completely sure that he was one of Li Xiyan's people. "Mum, be careful too, okay?"

"Sure. I will be once you tell me what you are up to." She sounded confrontational.

"What are you talking about?"

"Are you feigning ignorance? If that's the case, you're bad at it." Li Yuming huffed. "First, you took a photo with Jiang Xingyu, pretending to be your sister. Then you made it public and a few hours after that, we—you are being sought. What exactly are you doing?"

Lanni was flabbergasted. Just like Xia Hanchen, Li Yuming could also tell them apart even if they impersonated each other perfectly.

Because it had already reached this point and Li Yuming had found out, Lanni could only explain.

When she was done, Li Yuming was mad at her. "You only know to explain now? Were you seriously planning to hide such a thing from your mother?"

"Mom, it's not that I didn't want you to know..." Lanni felt bad for not telling her.

Li Yuming wanted to call her home but on second thought, Xiehan's mansion was safer. She hung up after reminding her to take care.

Lanni held her phone after Li Yuming hung up.

"What to do now? What to do?" She paced restlessly.

Xiehan stood up and hugged her in his arms. "You can only calm down and wait."

"Okay. I'm calm now." She sat down and checked her phone every five seconds.

After her tenth check, the doorbell rang.

"It could be him!" Lanni sprang to her feet, forgetting that An Zichen couldn't have arrived so fast. When she opened the door, a scowl filled her face.

"Eh? Did I do something wrong?" Jiang Xingyu felt awkward and didn't know whether to enter or turn back.

"Since when did you knock before entering Ji Xiehan's house?" Lin Jian asked when he saw the incomer.

"I'm not as ill-mannered as you."

"Why are you back anyway, and so late? Didn't you huff and storm out angrily?"

Lin Jian earned a glare from Jiang Xingyu who then said, "That has nothing to do with you." Who wouldn't be anxious in his place? Of course he would dash over as soon as he calmed down.

Jiang Xingyu entered and made himself comfortable before looking at Xiehan and Lanni. "From your expressions... it's not very good news, is it?"

"I don't know where to start." Lanni sighed and Jiang Xingyu instantly knew that something must have gone wrong. Once Xiehan explained what had happened, he cursed. Just how difficult did it have to be? "She is not going to kill her if he finds her, right?"

"I don't think so. She might interrogate him instead." Lanni hypothesized.

"Then that will buy us some time to rescue him." Jiang Xingyu.

"What are we doing here?" We should be on our way." Lanni stood up, suddenly jolting from her thoughts and considering herself silly for not thinking of that.

"Are you so kind that you want to offer yourself to the enemy and save her the trouble of looking for you?" Xiehan scolded.

"Right. I forgot I'm her current target." Lanni sat down in defeat. All of them were targets. In fact, Jiang Xingyu and Xiehan were only targets because of her and Luna.

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In the end, they had to wait. In the meantime, Xiehan and Jiang Xingyu sent some of their men to Lakeside city.

If An Zichen did not give them a call before the two teams arrived, the only option would be to barge in.

The minutes ticked by slowly. One hour was about to elapse when Xiehan received a call. The teams had arrived.

"I guess we have no choice..." he was yet to complete his statement when Lanni's phone rang too.

"It's An Zichen!" Lanni sprang to her feet subconsciously and quickly received the call.

"Miss, I managed to escape on time." An Zichen said, relief apparent in his voice.

Lanni sighed in relief. "Where are you now?"

"I'm on my way to B City."

"Great. We will make arrangements for someone to protect you and your sister. I'm sorry you had to go through so much for our sake." Lanni was apologetic.

"It's nothing, Miss. You saved my sister's life and I owe you for that. Right. I still have the USB. Should I bring it over now?"

"You do?" Lanni was once again relieved. It was not sure whether anything had been copied, and there was only one way to find out. "But it's already so late. How about you bring it tomorrow?"

"It's not bothersome." He said.

"That won't do. You need to rest after what happened." Lanni thought of another idea. "How about I send someone to pick it once you arrive?"

"Uhm.. sure."

Lanni hung up the call and told the others the good news. "Thank goodness he escaped. He slipped out through the window before Li Xiyuan could see him and since there was no one else in the vicinity, he escaped."

"That's a good thing." Xiehan was relieved too, and so were Jiang Xingyu and Lin Jian.

"Right? I would never forgive myself if anything happened to him." Lanni slotted herself next to Xiehan and hugged his arm.

"Doesn't this call for celebration?" Lin Jian suggested happily. He had always wanted to raid Xiehan's cellar and now that he had a reason to do so, he was not letting go of the opportunity.

"What celebration? What have we achieved?" Jiang Xingyu glared at him. "There's no celebration until Luna is out of prison."

"Fine." Lin Jian hugged a pillow and sulked, mumbling, "no one loves me, they all torture me and force-feed me dog food."

Lanni glanced at him and scolded. "I was wondering why this guy doesn't have a girlfriend. Now I know the reason."

"What nonsense are you saying? I have girlfriends, okay! I can't even count them." Lin Jian immediately protested.

Lanni rolled her eyes. "You think it is something to be proud of? None of those girls actually likes you."

"So what? As long as they are with me, who the heck cares about love and whatnot?"

"My love, you need to rest." Xiehan held her, saving her from listening to Lin Jian's endless nonsense.

"It's alright." Lanni said, although her eyes were dull and slightly swollen because she was not used to staying up too late.

Knowing that she was anxiously waiting for the USB and wouldn't give in to any persuasion, he changed his approach. "I want to sleep."

"Then go ahead." Lanni urged.

He wrapped his arms around her and breathed against her neck.. "But I need you to accompany me, or else I will not be able to close my eyes."

## Chapter 247 - The Content

Lin Jian looked at the pair before him and couldn't help laughing. "What do you mean you can't close your eyes if she is not there with you? What are you, a two-year-old boy?"

Xiehan glowered at him then continued acting cute. "Honey, let's go sleep, okay?"

Of course, Lanni knew that it was his way of making sure she rested. Since that was the case, she went to his room with him, leaving behind the lonely duo.



"I can't believe Xiehan has changed so much." Lin Jian stared in the direction the couple had left. In the past, Xiehan would keep away from women for such silly reasons as not being interested in dating. Ever since he met Lanni, not only had he used all sorts of tricks to make her his, he had also become quite clingy to her.

Besides, his life seemed boring in the past with only the commitment of duty in his mind but now, there seemed to be an added spark to his previously monotonous life.

When Jiang Xingyu heard what Lin Jian had said, he guffawed. "What do you know? People change when they fall in love, okay? Jerks like you wouldn't know."

"What are we doing here anyway? We should go to sleep too." The blabbermouth suggested. There were guest rooms in the mansion so they would not have to go home. Lin Jian was getting sleepy too.

"You go to sleep. I'll wait for the good news before I sleep." Jiang Xingyu said, referring to the man who was going to get the USB from An Zichen as soon as possible.

Hence, Lin Jian went to sleep while Jiang Xingyu stayed up all night.

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The following morning.

Lanni was the first to wake up. She looked up at Xiehan's face and pecked his cheek gently before quietly sliding off his arms. The man stirred and looked like he would wake up. Lanni stiffened as she didn't want to wake him up.

Once he was still, she pulled away. Xiehan felt around as though looking for something. Lanni tittered when she realized that he must be looking for her, so she took a pillow and pushed it into his arms to replace herself. Then she went downstairs to make breakfast.

She looked into the fridge and shook her head. "I will go to buy more ingredients later. For now, let's make some pancakes..."

Recently, she had been learning to cook so she would cook for Xiehan once in a while. Pancakes were easy to make, so she was almost done in thirty minutes.

She felt footsteps behind her and guessed that Xiehan was awake. "You're awake. Freshen up, breakfast will be ready soon."

She didn't feel any movement and probed. "Honey? If you're still sleepy..." she turned as she spoke and she was shocked when she saw the man who had just walked in. "Lin Jian, what are you doing here?"

Lin Jian rubbed his sleepy eyes when he realized that it was a woman in the kitchen and not a man. "Ah! It's you. I thought Xiehan was cooking breakfast for us but eh, you know how to cook too?"

"Why are you bothering my wife?" An angry Xiehan walked in and was displeased to see Lin Jian in the kitchen.

"Sheesh. I didn't bother her." Lin Jian sulked on his way out.

Xiehan wrapped his arms around Lanni. "How could you leave me all alone and even fool me with a pillow?"

Lanni chuckled. "Honey, I'm cooking."

"Alright. I will not distract you then." Xiehan stepped aside and watched from the sidelines.

"Even if the USB didn't get everything, it should get something useful at the very least. As long as she has ever left a trace of her dealings, some of it should be recovered." He said after some time.

"Yeah. I hope so too." Lanni was no longer as anxious as she was a day ago. It was as though she was now sure of how it would end.

When Lanni finished cooking the last pancake, she brought the breakfast to the table. They all ate in silence, each in their own thoughts. Lanni was hoping that the USB would be returned soon. Because An Zichen had arrived late the previous night, the USB would be brought this morning. Lanni hoped it contained something concrete against Li Xiyao.

Jiang Xingyu was wondering just what kind of person Li Xiyao was in private, and why she seemed to have some influential backing. She couldn't even be investigated no matter how he and Xiehan tried. Were they going to find out soon?

Xiehan was hoping that everything became clear as soon as possible, so Luna would be freed soon and his Lanni would stop worrying about her. Since Xia Hanchen was awake now, the only other thing that Lanni was worried about was Luna.

Meanwhile, Lin Jian was wondering which beauty he should invite to accompany him when they celebrated their victory.

Soon after they were done eating breakfast, Xiehan's bodyguard returned.

"Is it finally here?" Jiang Xingyu leaped over to take a look. When the bodyguard gave a tiny USB flash drive to him, he almost fainted from joy.

"It's too early to celebrate, don't you think? Let's check its content first." Lanni was unusually calm... and she was suddenly starting to have a bad feeling.

Xiehan turned on his laptop and took the USB from Jiang Xingyu. After running some program, he inserted the USB but just a second after he did, the screen turned black. Xiehan ran a hand through his hair and cursed.

"What happened?" Lanni quickly asked.

"It's a virus."

"Yeah..." Lanni raised her eyebrows in confusion. Wasn't the content supposed to be a virus?

Xiehan pulled out the USB and looked back at the waiting pairs of eyes. "This is not the USB we gave to An Zichen. The content is different. Now that I look at it properly, this USB is an identical copy but it is not the same one." He was in disbelief himself, but the truth was right before them so he could only break the news with a smirk. "An Zichen tricked us."

"What? But how is that possible?" Lanni was shocked.

"That must be what happened. He cannot coincidentally mistake it with a similar one."

"But why... why would he trick us? I still think it could be a mistake." Lanni couldn't bring herself to believe that the loyal An Zichen could have betrayed them.

She took out her phone and gave him a call. However, the call did not go through. When she decided to call his sister instead, the call didn't go through either.

Xiehan's bodyguard was still in the room and when he heard what was happening, he thought he should speak up. "When I went to get the USB, Mr. An insisted on seeing Miss Li in person and insisted that he would only personally hand it over to Miss Li. He only reluctantly gave it to me when I proved to him that you had sent me."

Lanni heard what the bodyguard had said and was even more confused. While that would have sounded like he was being cautious of someone trying to swindle the USB out of him, it sounded weird under these circumstances.

She couldn't bring herself to believe it but it seemed like she had to. She looked at Xiehan. "Could you check whether his sister is at the hospital? Perhaps, just like Luna, he has been threatened. And in his case, the only thing he cares about is his sister."

Xiehan hadn't received any alarming message from the bodyguards taking care of An Zichen's sister but he called to confirm anyway.

"What did they say?" Lanni asked as soon as the call ended. Lin Jian and Jiang Xingyu were waiting for an answer too.

"An Zichen went to the hospital a while ago and took his sister away claiming that they were going for a short walk and the doctors had authorized it. They have not yet returned."

Everyone's expression collapsed.

"They are not returning. He is changing hospitals because he is afraid that we would take it out on his sister. And he must have bought over the doctors so they agreed to let her go and did not tell me a thing." Lanni was still in disbelief. "So what was this all this time? Was this a game all along, were we only complementing their game all this while?"

"Do you want me to bring them back?" Xiehan asked seriously, with his phone ready to make the call as soon as she said the word.

"Forget it. We have more important things to deal with. I wonder just how powerful Li Xiyan is that she is able to make everyone do as she says."

"So much for staying up to wait for the good news." Jiang Xingyu flopped onto the sofa and immediately fell asleep. His hope had just been shattered. Now that they already tried this move, Li Xiyan was definitely going to be thrice as careful as she was before.. It seemed like they had just reached a dead end.

Lin Jian glanced at Jiang Xingyu who had seriously fallen asleep on the couch then back at Xiehan. "Are we going to let him sleep here?"

"Help him to the guestroom." Xiehan said expressionlessly.

Lin Jian looked at Jiang Xingyu and narrowed his gaze. He grudgingly helped him up and took him to the guestroom. When he came back, he let out a sigh. "That guy is as heavy as lead."

He looked at the silent couple and asked, "What are you going to do now?"

"What I was supposed to do from the start." Lanni bit her lip. "I'm going to face Li Xiyuan on my own."

Lin Jian raised his eyebrow. "Are you listening to yourself?" He then peeked at the calm Xiehan. "You're letting her endanger her life like this?"

"I will be by her side." Xiehan said naturally. Even he knew that after what happened, Lanni wouldn't trust anyone. She would only be at peace if she was the one going to Xia Hanchen's house.

"Since we have the duplicate, the real USB is probably with Li Xiyuan. I don't know how much An Zichen revealed though. We can no longer rely on the distraction about Luna having broken out of prison." She sighed. What a waste of time. They only ended up giving their trump card away.

"Since we can no longer be sneaky, we can only be high-profile. She is likely to increase her numbers and so should we." Xiehan's lips twitched.

"What are you saying?"

"Break in in broad daylight and in large numbers." He explained.

"Are you trying to get into a fight with that woman?" Lanni felt her head ache. "Fine, we can probably fight her if we're all together—with all your security details, my mum's and the Jiang family's."

"And mine too!" Lin Jian quickly chimed in to express that he wanted to be of help too.

"Yeah. And the Lin family's too. But we don't know who is backing her up and how capable they are. Are you really sure we won't all perish if whoever it is shows up?"

"Don't you think you're overestimating them?" Xiehan raised his eyebrow.

"No, I don't. Or else it would not require a secret organization like the one I was in to sneakily investigate her. Besides, I don't really believe she is doing these things—manipulating Cheng Yu, Luna and An Zichen—on her own. Whoever is backing her up must be some invincible figure—or figures."

"And that is exactly why we need speed and numbers."

Lanni was confused for a second before she suddenly understood. "You're a genius! We should go now, right? While she expects us most."

"Don't you think you have someone to seek an 'explanation' from?" Xiehan reminded meaningfully.

"Right." Lanni stood up. "I'll change my clothes then while you gather the teams."

"Why am I the only one who doesn't understand what you guys are doing?" Lin Jian grumbled at the side.

"You will understand on the way. Go and get changed too." Xiehan shoed him.

"M-me? I'm going too?" Lin Jian pointed at himself.

"We need a large number and you're part of that number. Lead your security details—many of your bodyguards. Make sure there are some protecting your family though."

Lin Jian did not understand but he followed the instructions anyway.

A few minutes later, Lanni came out of Xiehan's room wearing sports attire and shoes.

"In case I need to fight." She explained when she saw his gaze.

Xiehan narrowed his eyes. Did she think that was appropriate attire for fighting? He didn't say anything in the end, because he would not let her have to fight.

Lanni's first stop was An Zichen's new house—whose location had been obtained by Xiehan.

She rang the doorbell and waited. A few seconds later, the man opened the door. "You?"

Lanni crossed her arms, walking into the apartment leisurely. "Out of all things you could do, I didn't expect you to betray me."

"Miss, I'm..."

"No, you're not." Lanni interrupted him before he could say that he was sorry. He wasn't.

An Zichen stood there saying nothing, as though contemplating something. In the end, he said nothing.

Lanni took a glance at his sister who was eating fruit on the sofa then turned to leave. "I only came to check on you. Since that is done, I'll be on my way."

She walked out in slow steps, and just as she reached the door, she heard rushed footsteps. She stood, and just as she felt An Zichen reach to grab her arms, she turned and grabbed his instead. His hands were cuffed faster than he could imagine, and before he could use his legs to fight, those were chained too.

"Those who can't fight can only immobilize the opponent." Lanni gushed at her own speed. That was fast. She looked down at An Zichen who was now on the floor. "I wanted to know what else you were planning to do for Li Xiyang. Turns out you were trying to kidnap me."



"Miss, I had no choice." An Zichen said, a second before his mouth was sealed shut with duct tape.

Lanni looked down at him. "I don't need your explanation." As long as he was out of her way.

She looked at the flabbergasted An Ziyao. "Come with me."

The girl was shocked, but because she was afraid that Lanni might hurt her brother if she resisted, she obediently walked over amid An Zichen's futile struggles to free himself.

Lanni left the house with the girl beside him. The others had been waiting at the door to barge in if Lanni needed help, and they were surprised that Lanni had handled it on her own.

"Good job. But what's with the girl?" Lin Jian looked at An Zichen's sister curiously.

"Her brother will kill her at this rate. I can't believe he stopped her medication just because she got slightly better." Lanni facepalmed. Even though An Zichen betrayed her, she was not going to take it out on an innocent young girl. She whispered some instructions to Lin Jian, who took the girl and left immediately.

"He can join us when he is done. Let's get going." She said to Xiehan and they left the building. Before they entered the car, Lanni suddenly stopped.

"What's wrong?" Xiehan asked.

"What if someone frees An Zichen?"

"No one will. Don't worry." Xiehan reassured.

—

About two hours later.

Lanni and Xiehan arrived in Lakeside City, with a staggering team of one hundred and twenty security details.

"Don't you think this number is kind of insane?" Lin Jian, who had joined them, found it somewhat funny.

"Later, mind your tongue." Xiehan reminded for the umpteenth time.

"Don't worry. I know when and when not to blabber nonsense. Anyway, why is your little beauty in a different car?" Lin Jian asked when he noticed that Lanni was not with them.

"Because she has been kidnapped and we are here to rescue her."

"Ah... I finally get it." Lin Jian was suddenly excited.

"What's going on?" Jiang Xingyu asked groggily, having just woken up. "Where is this place?"

"You woke up. We are going to Li Xiyuan's house." Lin Jian joyously broke the news. It had been his idea to shove the sleeping Jiang Xingyu into the car with them.

Jiang Xingyu rubbed his eyes and glared at Lin Jian. When Ji Xiehan explained what was going on, he calmed down. Fine, since it involved this, it was alright to have 'kidnapped' him. When they arrived near Xia Hanchen's mansion, the three men got out of the car and led their bodyguards towards the entrance.

Just five minutes after their arrival, several bodyguards streaked out of the mansion with Li Xiyuan.

"So it's you. I was wondering who is seeking their death by disrupting my peace in such a high-profile way." Li Xiyuan snickered when she saw Xiehan and Jiang Xingyu.

"Give her to me." Xiehan said coldly.

"Give who to you?" Li Xiyan was confused for a second.

"Drop the act! If you don't release her right this instant, don't blame us for being impolite." Lin Jian said angrily.

Li Xiyan was even more confused. Did she capture anyone? At that moment, one of her bodyguards whispered something in her ear. Realization dawned on her and her eyes sparkled. It seemed like An Zichen had successfully kidnapped Lanni. 'Good job An Zichen.'

The sparkle in her eyes only lasted a second before she coldly stared at the three men and their bodyguards. "I don't know what you guys are looking for but if you are here to seek trouble, I will give you trouble."

"Ma'am, they are too many." The bodyguard said in a low voice, to which Li Xiyan expressionlessly responded, "they are powerless. Or else they wouldn't have come in such a large number."

"It seems like we have to get her ourselves." Jiang Xingyu's lips twitched.

"Break in." Xiehan ordered.

Li Xiyan was taken aback, not expecting them to actually dare. Naturally, all the bodyguards came out to stop them from breaking in.

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Meanwhile, Lanni took advantage of the increasing commotion to sneak in.

## Chapter 249 - Who Is This Idiot?

As soon as she entered the house, she felt a sense of familiarity. It was not strange, considering the fact that her relationship with her father was close in the past. Perhaps she had come over before.

No matter what the situation was, it was more useful than the information that Xiehan's men had forced out of An Zichen's mouth. That man couldn't be trusted anyway. It wouldn't make much difference if he was under torture.

Using her memory of the mansion, she slipped to the master bedroom.

She checked out through the window and saw that down below, the battle seemed to have reached a stalemate. No one was making the first move yet.

She started searching immediately. It would be best if they didn't actually fight in the end.

She looked around the room and there were too many places to search.

"She must be hiding it in a vault or at least something that can be locked." She thought aloud. She couldn't possibly have thrown it away because someone could look for it and find it.

She searched for a while and neither found the USB nor anything else that could incriminate Li Xiyan. She had already turned the master bedroom upside down when she had another thought. This was Xia Hanchen's room too, so Li Xiyan might not hide anything in here.

She opened the door and peeked outside. No one was in the vicinity, so she dashed to the study. Because she had increased the security and thanks to the restraint of time, Li Xiyan had not changed the

passcode of the study room door yet. This worked to her advantage, she entered the same code that Xiehan had sent An Zichen the day before and the door opened.

She started searching right away. She searched the drawers at a rapid speed and found nothing. Just when she was about to give up, she saw a vault.

Her lips curled into a grin as she quickly took out her phone and took a picture of the vault. Just a few seconds after she sent it to Xiehan, he replied with the passcode. She entered it and the vault clicked open.

"He will have to teach me how to do that." She muttered.

She looked into the vault and saw a blue folder. Her lips curled into a smile. Was this what they were looking for? Finally finding a straw to cling to after so long, she pulled it out. When she saw the unmistakable USB, she was even happier.

She grabbed the folder and the USB. Just to be sure, she opened the folder and checked the content. She flipped through the paper and her gaze narrowed. "This evil woman. How could she do this?"

She was just about to leave when she heard footsteps. She froze in her tracks. Who was it now? Li Xiyan was still out there. She positioned herself ready to attack the incomer just as the door opened.

Her kick hit air, and she was about to launch another attack when her hands were suddenly locked together. "Easy, princess. It's me."

Lanni sighed in relief. So it was just the idiot Flynn. "What are you doing here?"

"Saving your skin—like I've always had to."

Lanni was irritated by his high and mighty tone of making it seem like she had always relied on him. "Whatever, I have to get out now or they will really start fighting."

"Aren't you going to ask why I am here?" Flynn deliberately taunted.

Lanni scoffed in response. "What you do is none of my business. Now get out of my way."

However, instead of excusing her, he suddenly dragged her to the wall.

"What are you..."

"Shush!" Flynn interrupted her, even holding a hand over her mouth before he softly whispered, "someone's here."

"No way." Lanni whispered back. However, after listening carefully for a few seconds, she did hear footsteps on the floor outside. "We're done for."

Whoever it was paced up and down then stopped right outside the door, and Lanni guessed that it must be a guard who was back to guard the study.

"We're trapped in here." Flynn taunted in a whisper. He turned to look at the pale-faced Lanni. "You know princess, it would have been romantic to get trapped in a room with a woman. But since it is you, it is more of torture than romance."

"Shut up." Lanni glared at him. "It's because of you that I didn't manage to leave on time."

"Are you blaming me, princess? I was here to rescue you." Flynn raised his eyebrow.

Lanni huffed. "Yeah. And you did a great job at that."

"Trainees." Flynn smirked helplessly. "Instead of bickering, we should think of a way to get out of here."

"Aren't you Mister know-it-all? Find us a way out!" Lanni glowered at him. They couldn't count on the guard leaving, and it was only a matter of seconds before an actual fight begun. Lanni quietly but swiftly

opened the folder and under Flynn's curious gaze, took a series of pictures of every page of the content. She sent the pictures to Xiehan. This way, even if she was trapped and didn't find a way out in the end, Li Xiyan's deals would still be brought to light.

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At the entrance.

"What is Lanni doing that's taking so long? We cannot keep this up much longer." Lin Jian whispered after having hurled all sorts of threats to Li Xiyan. If they attacked and alerted the authorities, it would not be beneficial for either side.

"Stall for more time." Xiehan said solemnly. His phone chimed and he took it out to take a look. When he saw the pictures sent by Lanni along with the caption, he looked at Lin Jian. "Lanni is in trouble. I'll go and check."

"No way. What are you doing?" Lin Jian held him back. "If any of us leaves, Li Xiyan will know that she is being tricked and Lanni will be in more danger."

"Then we need to distract her even more."

"What are you up to?" Lin Jian had a bad feeling about it.

Xiehan glanced at the tens of security details then at Li Xiyan's team which was also ready to attack as soon as Li Xiyan gave her word. He looked back at his team seriously. "Attack."

"What?" Lin Jian and Jiang Xingyu exclaimed in unison.

"Stop!" A crisp voice filled the air.

Everyone stopped in their tracks while Jiang Xingyu and Lin Jian heaved a sigh of relief.

Lanni walked out from behind the bodyguards with a smile plastered across her face. No one knew when she got out but it was a relief. She walked to Xiehan's side then waved the blue folder in front of Li Xiyang's face. "Li Xiyang, I have something of yours."

Li Xiyang visibly froze. "How did she... this was... a trick." Realization dawned on her and she couldn't believe that she had been played like a fool by a bunch of useless idiots.

"Oh, it's too late. Save it." Lanni taunted. "If you want it back, you know where to find me." When she saw that Li Xiyang's men were about to make a move, she played with the folder in her hand. "You better ask them to behave. I made copies of this, you know."

"Li Lanni! What the hell do you want?!" Li Xiyang hollered.

"I'm not interested in chatting with you." Lanni entered the car haughtily after having her way.

"Retreat." Xiehan gave the order and their team retreated to their cars.

Xiehan, Lin Jian, Jiang Xingyu and Lanni entered one car. Just when Lanni was about to close the door, Flynn slotted himself into the car.

"What are you doing?" Lanni recoiled when she suddenly felt someone slot himself next to her.

"Hitching your ride. Is that a crime, princess?" Flynn was as annoying as ever, eyeing Xiehan who was next to Lanni. "Does your man mind so much? Though I must remark, your taste in men has deteriorated."

"Who is this punk?" Lin Jian, who was in the shotgun seat, turned and looked at the idiot who had just sat in the back seat like he owned the place. Jiang Xingyu peeked over from the driver's seat too.

Flynn looked at Lin Jian and gave him a slight wave. "You must be Lin Jian—the one who knocked up a girl and ditched her."



"Are you nuts?! Who the hell are you?" Lin Jian was ready to launch a punch.

"Forget him." Lanni calmed him down before glaring at Flynn. "If you are here to hitch a ride, behave yourself. Otherwise, get lost."

"Sure sure. Since you said so, I will get lost." He left right after, leaving the four of them in rage.

"Just who is he?" Lin Jian asked Lanni again.

"Let it slide. You can't fight him." Lanni was tired of him too. Why was he messing with her and all the people around her?

"It's not about whether I can fight him or not." Lin Jian rambled on as Jiang Xingyu started the car and drove off.. "It's about you and him. What's your relationship with him?"

## Chapter 250 - You Have No Choice

Lanni let out a breath as she looked back at Lin Jian who was seriously waiting for an answer. "None that should be your concern." She finally answered emotionlessly.

She knew that Lin Jian was only looking out for Xiehan and was afraid that his friend might be betrayed. Despite this, she didn't think she and Lin Jian were close enough to discuss such personal matters. How could she tell Lin Jian who Flynn was? If she did, she would also have to explain why she was in contact with such a person—then she would have to disclose her past altogether.

As expected, Lin Jian was dissatisfied with her dismissive answer. He frowned and gave her a warning glare. "I don't personally care who that guy is nor why he seems to be close to you but I'm warning you. If you do anything to break Xiehan's heart..."

Xiehan sent him a chilling glare and he shut up, mumbling to himself, 'I'm only looking out for you, Geez!' What an ungrateful friend!

When Xiehan finally got Lin Jian to stop interrogating Lanni, Jiang Xingyu spoke for the first time since Flynn barged into their car. "Was what he said true? Did you really knock up a girl and ditch her?"

Now that he asked, everyone was curious too. Was Lin Jian really such a jerk?

"What the—! Of course not!" Lin Jian quickly defended himself when he saw their curious gazes. "I don't know what that man has against me but I would never knock up a girl. And even if it somehow happened—the possibility is almost zero out of a hundred but if it actually happened, I would take responsibility for my child. I would never let my own child suffer a loss just because I'm not ready to settle down. Not to mention, kids are adorable. Why wouldn't I want him?"

Lanni saw the playboy swear that he couldn't shirk responsibility and found it comical. So the idiot actually had a brain. But from the looks of it, he didn't seem to know anything about kids aside from their cuteness.

"What's the next move?" Jiang Xingyu changed the topic, quickly moving on from Lin Jian.

"Obviously, use the information we have obtained to blackmail Li Xiyun." Lanni answered him then recalled that there was something she had not confirmed.

"Can I use your laptop?" She asked the man beside her. He turned it on and gave it to her. As though he already knew what she was going to do, he ran the codes for her. Lanni smiled and kissed him on the cheek. "Thanks my love."

On the driver's seat, Jiang Xingyu's eyes narrowed. These two just wouldn't stop flaunting their love, would they? "You can display your affections all you want. Soon, Luna will be by my side and we will blind you with our love."

Lin Jian had nothing to say. All he wanted was to complete this task and rest.

Lanni was not listening to Jiang Xingyu. When she had inserted the USB in Xiehan's computer, thousands of files showed up. They included emails, reminders and notes. "Whoa so many?"

She randomly opened one of the emails and frowned at the content. It was an exchange between her and someone surnamed Wu. Disgust and horror filled her face when she understood the content. "She is trading with Zeus."

"What?" Lin Jian was shocked.

Jiang Xingyu almost lost control of the steering wheel in shock. "You're kidding, right?"

"I'm not. The emails prove so. Even though it's not clear what they are trading since they refer to it as 'the goods', it is still clear that it has been going on for a long time."

Even Xiehan was shocked. Even though he had expected Li Xiyan to be one of the worst human beings ever, he had not expected her to trade with such a gang as Zeus. Even if she was only trading with an individual and not the whole gang, it would still be terrifying.

Zeus was a notorious underground organization known to produce terrifyingly skilled assassins. Not only that, but they also indulged in drug and weapon trafficking for fun and who knew what other crimes they committed that no one knew about.

They were top on the wanted list of the police but up to date, no one had been able to catch any of them. Their base was unknown and everything about them was mysterious.

Yet Li Xiyan was trading with such an organization?

"No wonder she is so capable." Lanni sighed in realization. "Do you think Zeus is backing her up?"

Xiehan looked over at the emails and read a few of them before drawing a conclusion. "It is most likely just a trade relationship between them."

Her worries dissipated a little. If it was just a trade relationship, Zeus wouldn't possibly bother with little fries like them if they messed Li Xiyan up.

Lin Jian took a look at the emails too and when he did, his expression darkened. That woman was really in close contact with that gang.

The remainder of the car ride was silent, and Jiang Xingyu naturally drove to Xiehan's mansion where they all sat around the dining table to resume their prematurely ended discussion.

"Do you need me to publicize this news? I can make sure the whole country knows about it within thirty minutes. I could even have it pop up as an ad in mobile applications." Lin Jian offered.

"No. While that is one of the right things to do, we need Li Xiyan's 'help' at the moment." Lanni answered.

"She should try to retrieve the evidence. Since she will be unable to, she will contact us." Jiang Xingyu hypothesized.

"And we will keep her waiting. Her hands are tied anyway. Let her feel how agonizing it is to wait." Xiehan said seriously.

"Honey, you are so charmingly evil."

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In the end, they let Li Xiyan wait for three days before they agreed to meet her. They would have made her wait for longer, but the longer they waited, the longer Luna stayed in prison.

Hence, they organized a meeting with Li Xiyan. Lanni went to meet her at the restaurant, with several bodyguards ready in case of any emergency.

She walked into the VIP room that Li Xiyan was waiting and sat down like she owned the place. Her gaze was mocking as she looked at the woman across the table. "Li Xiyan, I never thought we would ever meet under such circumstances."

"Go straight to the point." Li Xiyan didn't want to admit defeat although it had come to this point. There was no way she could be completely defeated by a useless little girl like Lanni.

Lanni played with a lock of her hair as she looked at the invincible woman—who had just been conquered by her. "Isn't it obvious?" She planted her elbows onto the table. "I want you to prove Luna's innocence. Obviously."

"As long as you prove Luna's innocence, I will give you back your folder and the USB. This matter will end between us."

Li Xiyan scoffed when she heard that condition. "I may as well just kill you."

"Go ahead." Lanni challenged. "Then my friends will make sure the whole world knows who you are. When it comes to that, not even Zeus will save you. Instead, they will abandon you and use you as a scapegoat for all your deals with them."

Even though Li Xiyan did not want to admit it, Lanni had a point. She was not so full of herself as to think that she would be protected by that side. From the start, she had been warned to be careful of everything she did. If anything were to happen to her, she would be on her own.

That was why she had always deleted everything. It was a surprise that these idiots had managed to get their hands on everything but as soon as this matter ended, she would make them pay.

She gritted her teeth hatefully. "Is that all?"

Lanni thought about it. She had wanted to know how Li Xiyan had forced Luna to confess to a crime that she had not committed. But did it matter anymore? Thinking about it, she still asked in the end. "What leverage were you holding against my sister?"

"Don't you get ahead of yourself." Li Xiyan gritted her teeth.

"Sure. Instead, I will just go back and release the news. What do you think?"

Li Xiyan forced herself to calm down. She would still find chances in future to make these two brats suffer to their deaths. "Fine. I will prove her innocence. After that, she will tell you the answer herself, now won't she?"

Lanni smiled slightly. Right. Luna would be more truthful anyway. "Well, as soon as you do, I will personally hand over the items."

"Why should I trust you?" Li Xiyan narrowed her gaze.

"Because you have no other choice." Lanni gloatingly yawned and stood to leave.

Li Xiyan indeed had no choice. But so what? Lanni seemed to be too confident.. She was going to use her overconfidence to destroy her.