

Chapter 291 - No Better Way To Wake Up

WARNING: You already know.

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Lanni pushed Xiehan to the bed and the man was complaint. She climbed onto the bed and hovered over his body as her hands trailed up his skin in slow, torturous strokes. She leaned over and pressed a kiss on his lips, then traced down his jawline all the way to his neck.

He held the back of her head and pulled her up but just before he kissed her, she gently tugged his hands away. "You can't touch me."

"Why not?" He asked in his hoarse voice. Heaven knew how much he was itching to touch her.

She pressed a tiny kiss onto his jawline and gently nibbled on it. "No hands."

Xiehan swallowed a gulp into his parched throat and stopped trying to touch her and let her do as she pleased. But when she trailed her wet tongue down his abdomen, he could not control himself anymore and his hands found their way to her head like they had a brain if their own.

Lanni looked up then slid off the bed. Before he could figure out what she was doing, she grabbed his tie from the chair and returned with it, then pinned his hands together above his head. He chuckled slightly as he let her tie his hands in a dead knot. "Good Xiehan, no hands."

Satisfied with her masterpiece, she leaned over to ask in his ear, "Mr. Ji, do you want to see me dance?"

Before he could respond, she pulled away and grabbed her phone on the couch. She tapped on it a few times then started playing a slow song and dimmed the light.

In an instant, the air was filled with the most provocative lyrics he had ever heard. Under the dim light, Lanni pushed all her hair behind her shoulders then started swaying her waist and hips gorgeously, trailing her hands over the places he so badly wanted to kiss and touch.

His whole body was aflame in anticipation as he watched her perform such erotic movements. With the lingerie she was wearing, it was more seductive than seeing her dance stark naked.

How was this thanking him? This was purely torture... not that he was complaining. This was the sweetest kind of torture he had ever undergone.

Lanni enjoyed his reaction, seeing how crazy he was getting over her... She loved the fact that he wanted her body so badly—and her desire for him was not any less.

When he couldn't take it anymore and was considering ripping the tie off his hands, the girl stopped dancing and sashayed to the side of the bed, swaying her body close to him. "How was my performance just now?"

"Perfect." He said honestly, wishing nothing more than to pin her beneath him.

"It could get even better." She whispered provocatively and climbed onto the bed, sitting on his hips. She looked into his eyes as she grinded against his hips tantalizingly. He could feel her wetness through the thin fabric of her panties and that made his urge wilder.

She pulled off him again and just when he was starting to miss her close proximity, she held the sides of her thong and slid it off her waist, swiftly pulling it off her body and throwing it onto the floor.

She then climbed back onto him, positioning herself close to his manhood. She held its base and slid it into her body, moaning from the wave of pleasure.

Xiehan clenched his hips and thrust into her as she pushed her palms against his chest and moved her butt to meet his rhythm.

Unable to take the restraint anymore, he ripped the tie off his hands and grabbed her by her waist. Lanni reached behind her back to unhook her bra while maintaining the rhythm. She flung the lacy material away amid the waves of passion as Xiehan's hands reached to cup the breasts he had so badly longed to touch.

He pulled her down and hugged her back with one hand while the other squeezed her boobs. The two figures were entangled with each other as they made love to the rhythm of the provocative songs playing in the background.

He slowed down and kissed her lips with urgent need, then grabbed her butt and pounded into her harder and faster.

"Xiehan..." His name escaped her lips in a moan as she felt her climax building up. With one final hard thrust, they had their release at the same time. Lanni collapsed onto his body, trying to catch her breath.

"You're beautiful, and you were amazing... you always are. I love you, Lanni." He kissed her lips and hugged her. Their bodies were covered in a thin layer of sweat and neither of them minded it.

She slid off his body and collapsed into his arms. "I love you too, Xiehan."

The couple lay in each other's arms for a while before he decided to get up. "Let's take a bath."

"Do I have to?" She groaned a complaint. She was too tired to move an inch.

With a gentle laugh, he went to the bathroom and ran a bath. Then he returned and carried her off the bed bridal-style. He gently put her in the bath tub then slid in next to her.

Lanni felt comfortable and drowsy with the warm water caressing her skin.

"Do you like it here? If you do, you can permanently move in." He asked her while pulling her into a hug.

"I was thinking of that too. It's quite convenient and you can come over whenever you want to." Obviously, the last part was the main point.

Xiehan leaned down to kiss her face. He had been busy for the past days and had not spent that much time with her. Now that they had more chances, he would definitely drop by often.

"Honey, don't forget to pay your 'parents' a visit, okay? I'm talking about auntie and uncle Jiang." He gently reminded. When he did not get a response, he peeked down at her and found that she had fallen asleep at some point, letting out even breaths.

He smiled and cleaned both of them up then carried her back onto the bed. He turned off the erotic playlist that was still playing on her phone and set it onto the nightstand. After changing both of them into pajamas, he climbed onto the bed and slept with her in his embrace.

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The following morning.

Lanni woke up to Xiehan's hand in the shirt of her pajamas, cupping her boobs while gently squeezing her nipples. She didn't mind that he was touching her body when she was asleep. On the contrary, there was no better way to wake up.

She closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep so she would get to enjoy the touch a little longer. However, her body betrayed her as she couldn't conceal a moan when he gently squeezed her nipple between his thumb and forefinger.

He turned on his side and kissed her cheek. "Good morning, my love."

Her response was another moan of desire as she pressed into his embrace while hugging his neck. She could feel his manhood through their clothes and was surprised by how hard he already was.

Satisfied with her reaction, Xiehan pulled her hand off his neck and held it over her head as he kissed the front of her neck.

She wanted to use her other hand to touch him but he grabbed it too, and held both of her hands together over her head.

"Good girl, no hands." He grinned and took one of her breasts into his mouth.

Lanni bit her lower lips and closed her eyes. Was he getting back at her? Then this must be what they call "sweet revenge".

The man already had his tie ready, which he used to tie her hands before resuming his kisses. He kissed and licked his way down her navel and paused to take off her pajama shorts. She subconsciously raised her butt to help him take it off.

When he was done, he held her thighs and spread them apart, his head between her legs. She jolted when she felt his tongue come into contact with her clit. She clenched her hips and arched her back as he flicked it gently with his tongue.

It was the best kind of pleasure she had experienced, and the fact that her hands were tied made her urge even crazier.

"Take me." She moaned.

The man said nothing in response to her words and he continued kissing her folds like he had not heard her.

Lanni couldn't take the desire anymore. "Have me, Xiehan. I want you inside me right now." She whimpered.

This time, he raised his head with a grin. "As you wish."

He pulled off his pajama pants swiftly.. Then, he positioned himself between her legs and held her thigh in the air as he thrust into her.

## Chapter 292 - Take Responsibility

After a night and morning of intense love-making, Lanni dragged her tired body into the bathroom to clean up.

She leisurely took a shower and sat at the vanity to dry her hair. She paused every few seconds to peek at Xiehan who was making the bed from the mirror with a sweet smile.

She was still entranced by his handsomeness when her phone rang. When she saw the digits on the screen, she jolted as she recalled what day it was. "Shoot! I'm late for work!"

She turned off the hair dryer and urgently picked the call.

"Little Mumu, you are late for work." Came Xing Han's nonchalant reminder. The man even laughed slightly after speaking. Luckily, he was in a good mood or else she might be fired on the second day of work!

"I'm so sorry... I will be there in the shortest time possible." She apologized quickly then menatly cursed. What the f\*ck was 'Little Mumu'?!

"Ah, you don't have to rush, Little Mumu. I merely called to tell you that you can take as long as you want. You are in charge of looking as beautiful as possible, after all." He laughed.

Lanni was so infuriated that she would have slammed her phone onto his face if he was any nearer. Was there anyone more nonsensical than him? She was pretending to be his secretary but those who didn't know any better would think she was in a fake relationship with him! How infuriating.

As soon as she hung up, she noticed that Xiehan was peeking at her curiously.

"You are not late." He said.

Lanni checked at the time and indeed, she still had an hour. She was incensed. "Why did that freak call me then? Is he itching for a beating so badly?" Lanni was inwardly swearing to give him a good beating once her mission was complete.

"I can deal with him if you want. He will not bother you anymore." He pulled her into his embrace, making it sound like it was easier than saying the words.

Of course, it was if he wanted to. But... "No need. That would be like using a sledgehammer to crush an ant, don't you think?" She laughed at the thought of it. "Once I have gathered enough information, I will make him cry for his mom and yell for his dad."

Xiehan chuckled as he tightened his arms around her, breathing onto her air. "I would love to watch that show."

"My love, are you a bomb detonator?" Lanni slid her hands over his arms.

"Am I?" He asked with a slight laugh.

"As soon as you touch me in the slightest, my body explodes with want." She responded without the slightest bit of restraint—not that she needed to restrain herself in front of her boyfriend anyway.

The man smiled at her words. "Then you must be a detonator too." His meaning couldn't be any clearer. "Should I take the day off work? I can help you ask for one too."

Lanni scoffed at his shameless suggestion. "Of course not! We need to go to work."

She pulled away from him, making him miss her immediately. Seeing his disappointed expression, she broke into a laugh.

She tiptoed to kiss his earlobe. "Good Xiehan, let's go to work, okay? We can roll around in bed all night tonight."

Hearing her promise, he suddenly looked forward to that night. He pressed a light kiss onto her temple. "I will take a shower now."

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The same morning, in Goldenwing Apartments.

The rays of the sun seeped in through the gap left by the curtains that were not completely drawn. Luna fluttered her eyelids but could not open her eyes, the sudden light was too blinding.

She tried to adjust to the light so she would go back to sleep. Grabbing the pillow under her head, she hugged it and only then did she notice what was odd about it.

"Eh? Are pillows so warm these days? It feels nice too... since when were pillow manufacturers this considerate?" Feeling the comfortable pillow, she hugged it while patting it all over.

Jiang Xingyu, whose chest had been mistaken for a pillow, was speechless.



The girl kept sleepily moving her hands all over. "This... doesn't feel right. Why is the pillow moving, is it breathing?"

It was only when she said "breathing" that she jolted, all the sleepiness vanishing in a flash as she recalled that she had not slept on her own last night. She had slept with Jiang Xingyu!

"Morning beauty, do you like what you're seeing?" Jiang Xingyu winked at her, lying completely on his back to give her a better view.

Luna really wanted to launch a kick at him. "You! Why are you so close to me, and why aren't you wearing your clothes properly? Where are your manners?"

Jiang Xingyu languidly crossed an ankle over another. "Who am I to thank for this state? It is clearly because of your bad sleeping habits that I ended up this way."

"What nonsense are you saying?" Luna was embarrassed. She wanted to admonish him more but she could not find any rebuttal, especially when her gaze landed on those perfectly shaped, hard abs and the chest she must have been lying on for the better part of the night.

"I'm spouting nonsense? Can you say that with a clear conscience? You are the one who rolled to my side.

Not only did you say my shirt was an eyesore and take it off, you also groped me endlessly—you harassed me all night!" Although Jiang Xingyu sounded like he was launching a complaint, his grin couldn't get any wider. It was the best night he had ever had.

Luna was truly indescribable when asleep...

As for the culprit, she cleared her throat and fled from the bed. She did not dare to look at Jiang Xingyu in the eye and dashed to the bathroom then turned on the shower. "It appears that I'm too dangerous when I'm asleep..."

But how was she to blame? Jiang Xingyu was seriously too handsome and his body was perfect. She almost lost control touching it when she was awake so how could she control her hands when she was asleep?

What was worse, she kept finding him more handsome lately.

Once she was done taking a bath, she wrapped a towel around her body and exited the bathroom.

It was only when she was out of the bathroom that she recalled just how short the towel was... she was used to leaving the bathroom this way when she was alone but with a man in her room, it didn't seem too appropriate.

But it was too late. The man had already seen her, astonished by the sudden beauty in his line of sight and his gaze as he stared at her exposed thighs didn't do anything to make the atmosphere less awkward.

She would highlight the situation if she ran back, so she feigned nonchalance and walked over to the vanity while trying her best to ignore the burning gaze on her body.

The man looked away after a while. "I should take a shower too."

"Yes. Go ahead." Luna was happy to get rid of him. However, she was confused when the man walked over to her and touched a lock of her wet hair. "What are you doing?"

"Touching you." He said like it was something common to utter.

"Excuse me?" Luna prepared herself to launch a punch.

"You touched me all night. Isn't it only fair that I get to touch you too?" He asked with an expression like he had been bullied.

"What nonsense. You spent the night in my room so consider what happened as you paying rent." She blurted out the nonsense she had just come up with. Although his body was awesome and nice to the touch, that didn't mean she was simply going to let a man grope her.

Jiang Xingyu chuckled at her answer. What an excellent way to pay rent...

Of course, he wouldn't give up without extorting her. "That was the second time. The first time was when you touched me on the couch. I seem to have paid too much rent. What should I do..." He pretended to ponder over it before suggesting, "How about I spend another night? That way, it would be settled."

Luna looked up at him through the mirror. "Jiang Xingyu, how can you be so shameless?"

The man leaned over and touched her exposed shoulder. "What? After sleeping with me, Miss Xia doesn't want to take responsibility for my body?"

Luna had no way to retort. Wasn't it supposed to be the man taking responsibility after sleeping together?

Gah! This man...!

They did sleep in the same but nothing happened between them, so why was he uttering such words that could lead to a misunderstanding?

Her image of a pure, innocent flower had crumbled to smithereens and there was no way to redeem it. Just what kind of demon had possessed her?

After using up a crazy amount of effort, Luna finally managed to shove Jiang Xingyu into the bathroom and make him take a shower. Because all her male clothes were casual attire and he needed to go to work later, she helped him order a set of official clothes then dressed up.

When she was done, she went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast.

She was in the middle of cooking when she felt a pair of hands wrap around her abdomen.

"I'm cooking." She waved the spatula in the air to threaten him.

The man pulled her tighter into his embrace as he inhaled her scent. "You were so pretty that I couldn't help it."

Luna pulled his hands off her. "Go to the dining area and wait for breakfast."

"Okay." The man left obediently. Even though he knew this was probably something that was only happening for the first and last time, a selfish part of him wanted to have the best of this moment.

Luna soon finished cooking and brought the meals then sat down. They had their breakfast in silence and finished it within half an hour.

Finally, it was the moment he had been dreading. He finally had to leave, and he would not have any reason to see her again.

"I should get going now, or I will be late for work." He said as he adjusted his tie.

"Okay." Her answer was curt and nonchalant, and he could not conceal the disappointment. He had thought that she would say something else... perhaps tell him that they would see each other some other day, or anything to express her reluctance to part.

Unfortunately, he was reluctant but she wasn't. There was no way she would say such a thing. By the time his hand connected with the door, she had already sat down and was working on her laptop. Jiang Xingyu stole a final glance and opened the door, disappearing into the hallway. In the end, last night was last night; it was not going to turn into forever just because he wanted it to.

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Lanni arrived at work with ten minutes to spare. As she made her way to her office, Xing Han just happened to leave his office so they almost bumped into each other. Luckily, she dodged on time but her lips twitched. Why did it seem like the man had intentionally tried to bump into her?

What did he think this was, a melodramatic romance movie with the leads bumping into each other like no one ever has eyes?

"Beauty, it's you!" The man looked pleasantly surprised. "You are even more beautiful than you were yesterday. Ay, my happy days have just began."

Lanni maintained her calm expression. Could he be any more fake? "Good morning, CEO?"

"Little Mumu, I already told you. You don't need to be too polite with me. You can address me using my name. If you think my name is too troublesome, you can give me a nickname. You can even call me 'honey'."

Lanni was irritated, but she concealed a murderous glint behind her rectangular glasses. At the same time, she just happened to see an opportunity to end his fantasy and she gladly grabbed it. "Sir, you are my employer, so I can only address you appropriately. Besides, the nickname 'honey' is already taken."

Of course, the second part was the main point. She was letting him know that she had a boyfriend. If that made him fire her, then so be it. There was no way she was going to tolerate another man continuously flirting with her even if it was for the sake of keeping her real job, much less this fake one.

As expected, the man's face froze at her words. "Is that so?"

Lanni knew she had passed the point across, so she was relieved. "Yes. If there is nothing else..."

She was about to excuse herself and enter the office when the man shamelessly interrupted her. "Little Mumu, why are your standards so low? For a beauty like you, you deserve a man at least as good-looking as me, a man who take good care of you and who can perform well."

Lanni was rendered speechless by a certain person's shamelessness.

Since he was choosing to attack this way, she did not mind launching a similar counter-attack. "My standard is quite high, sir. The man has to be at least as good-looking as my brother to say the least. Of course, there are not many men as handsome as my brother in this world."

Xing Han's expression crumbled. In terms of looks, he truly could not compare to Jiang Xingyu. Was this why the girl was not interested in him?

The more he thought about it, the more it felt it made sense. Indeed, with a brother as handsome as Jiang Xingyu, how could her standards for men not skyrocket? Besides, it was said that her brother doted on her to the heavens. She would probably only turn her head to a man who would pamper her more than her brother did.

"Does... does your boyfriend meet this criteria?" He couldn't help asking.

"Yes. He is also very loving and... we will get engaged soon." Lanni intentionally looked love-stricken but her feelings for her boyfriend were real.

Her words were like another atomic bomb exploding in Xing Han's face.

While he was still pondering about it, Lanni made her way to the office to prepare for their first meeting of the day.

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The meeting was being held in a high-end restaurant.

Xing Han walked into the private room with Lanni tailing behind him.

Seeing the beauty from above his shoulder, he forgot all about this morning's conversation. So what if she had a boyfriend? That man was probably miles away and the one close to her right now was him. What was there to fret about? The beauty would be his in the end.

When they entered the private room, the other party was already taking slow sips of his wine.

Lanni and Xing Han sat down after exchanging a few pleasantries. She looked at Lin Jian like he was an alien. Who drinks wine so early in the morning?

"Young Master Lin, you sought me here today because..?" Xing Han got straight to the point.

Lin Jian did not hear him. He was currently scanning the woman next to Xing Han.

The man got uncomfortable and coughed. "Young Master Lin, you have excellent taste in women. However, she is..."

Before he could blurt out nonsense that would have earned him a punch from Lanni, Lin Jian cut him off with an exclamation. "It's you!"

Lanni froze. Dead, dead, dead. She had been recognized.

What was up with this idiot?

They had already told him that she would be Xing Han's secretary under an alias, hadn't they?

Why was he scanning her like that?

Why did he exclaim?

"Mr.... Mr. Lin..." her voice trembled and she inwardly cursed.

"It's really you! No wonder I thought you looked and sounded familiar." Lin Jian seemed to realize something.

"You know my secretary?" Xing Han looked at the other man curiously.

Lanni felt her heart leave her body. Could this man shut up? Would his mouth hurt if he kept it shut?

'I'm scr\*wed. This mission is over!' She cursed in her heart as she discreetly peeked at Xing Han, trying to find an opportunity to pinch Lin Jian and stop him from speaking.

Unfortunately, it was difficult with their position and the idiot might just loudly ask why she was pinching him.

In the end, she could only cross her fingers and start racking her brains for an explanation for later.

"Isn't this Xiaomu?" The blabbermouth finally spoke.

Lanni sighed in so much relief that she was about to faint. She secretly shot him a glare. He did it on purpose, right?"

"Yes, you are right. My secretary's name is Xiaomu." Xing Han smiled proudly.

"No wonder I thought she looked familiar." Lin Jian nodded in understanding.



"You know each other?" Xing Han asked.

Lanni crossed her fingers again, hoping he would not say anything nonsensical. According to everyone, she was Jiang Xingyu's sister. She and Lin Jian must know each other but then again, they couldn't be too familiar with each other since she had supposedly been overseas for many years.

"Of course!" Lin Jian looked overjoyed to see her. "Xiehan, Xingyu and I grew up together, playing with mud together, skipping school together and sneaking into the theme park together. Xiaomu would video call Xingyu every day and say hello to us too."

His tone was so reminiscent that even Lanni almost believed he was telling the truth.

"Say, Xiaomu, why didn't you tell me you were back? Don't you love your devilishly handsome brother Jian anymore?"

Regarding Lin Jian's way of complimenting himself even while bullshitting, Lanni was speechless. Just how obsessed was this man with his looks?

Chapter 294 - He Would Not Know How He Died

"How did you manage to employ the Jiangs' precious daughter? Her parents are so protective of her and her brother dotes on her like a treasure. I cannot believe he actually let her work!" Lin Jian exclaimed as he looked at Xing Han.

Lanni, at the side, was grateful. Although his act earlier had almost made her heart pop out through the skin of her chest, at least the outcome of it was something good. If Xing Han had any lingering suspicions about her identity, they would be dispelled thanks to this man's rambling.

To play along, she laughed. "Can you not make it sound like my brother has me for a prisoner? Of course I have to work or else my bum will grow mould from sitting around and doing nothing all day."

"You will look pretty even if you are lazying around. Don't worry about growing mould, I will make sure that doesn't happen." Xing Han interjected.

Lin Jian glanced at Lanni and was speechless. Wasn't there something wrong with that statement? Why did it sound like Xing Han was hitting on Lanni?

Now that he thought about it, the man's gaze had not left Lanni for a second.

He could not entirely blame him though, Lanni was too beautiful. If she was not Xiehan's girl, he would have long tried to get her. She was even more beautiful in work outfits and those glasses that made her look like a serious businesswoman at work.

However, by blatantly hitting on Xiehan's woman, was Xing Han tired of living? He really wanted to warn him. If he continued having such thoughts about Lanni, he would not know how he became a ghost.

After the brief heart-racing moment, the three finally got into business mode.

Lanni took out a file under Xing Han's instruction and gave it to Lin Jian.

The man flipped through the pictures and information of houses impatiently with a frown.

Lanni smiled gently. "If you would like more information on the villas, I have it saved on a flash drive...everything to the finest detail."

Xing Han raised an eyebrow slightly, satisfied with her performance. If Lanni had all the details, they would not need to physically go to those houses to let Lin Jian have a look.

"No need to look through all of them. I don't have much time." Lin Jian looked at Lanni. "Why don't you just help me select one that is suitable for a woman?"

Lanni tried not to bite her lip. So he was buying a villa for a woman. She wondered who the unlucky girl was.

Getting back to serious business, she checked through the pictures and chose one. "This one would be preferred by most women. The exterior design is simple but beautiful, and the interior is exquisite. If she is a woman who likes everything simple, she will definitely love it. You will not need to change anything.

If she likes bold colors and more complex designs, she will like this one more." She tapped on another design and continued explaining the ins and outs of the villa depending on the woman's personality. She even included the location and view.

At the side, Xing Han kept nodding. He didn't have to do anything and this little assistant would be able to help the customer select a villa that would suit all his girlfriend's requirements.

Agreeing to Xiehan's request to employ her was proving to be a good idea each new day.

Within the next few minutes, they settled on villa and Lin Jian completed the payment immediately. Lanni promised to have the keys sent to his house within 2 hours.

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When they went back to the company, Xing Han received a personal phone call and had to rush somewhere.

Hence, he had no time to run back to his office. He glanced at the document in his hand helplessly. In the end, he smiled at Lanni. "Little Mumu, help me keep this in the safe inside my office. Make sure no one else sees it."

Lanni was surprised. Did he just say safe?

He was allowing her to access such a private thing?

Despite being flustered, she reached for the document calmly. "Understood, CEO."

He looked back and forth in the hallway before lowering his voice to say, "The passcode is 04087920. Make sure you are the only one who knows about it." Then, without waiting for a second more, he blazed out of the building.

Lanni frowned slightly. He had blurted the passcode once and expected her to have got it?

That f\*cker must have done it on purpose. He wanted to ensure she forgot the passcode so she would have to call him. Nice try!

Luckily, when she tried to recall it, she found that she remembered all the digits.

'04087920. 04087920'...

She made her way to the CEO's office, mentally chanting the digits like it was an incarnation.

She didn't realize when she bumped into someone.

"Don't you freaking have eyes?!" It just had to be Ling Yu, and the woman was incensed.

Lanni was about to apologize when she realized the main point. "What were you doing in the CEO's office?"

The woman crossed her arms in front of her chest. "What? Why can't I be in his office? Is the CEO yours?"

Lanni scoffed. "You are acting sneaky by being in people's offices in their absence. The CEO was in a meeting a while ago..." she thought of the only possibility and her eyes glinted. "If I find out that you are doing anything you shouldn't, don't blame me for not being kind."

"What right do you have to act all high and mighty? It's merely your second day here!" Ling Yu looked like she wanted to rip her apart.

Lanni smiled softly and brushed past her. It was because it was her second day that she had to latch onto every opportunity to gain Xing Han's trust, alright?

She entered the office and after making sure that Ling Yu was gone, she went to the safe and keyed in the passcode. Luckily, she had not forgotten it despite bumping into Ling Yu who interrupted her chanting.

She unlocked the safe and what met her was several files and USB flash drives.

## Chapter 295 - Snagged A Freebie

Lanni felt her heart race when she saw the items she had not expected to see. She had thought that since Xing Han had allowed her access to his safe, it would be empty and the document she was delivering would be the first item. Who would have thought that there were other files and flash drives?

The top file had a huge "CONFIDENTIAL" printed onto it.

Her lips twitched. Who labels a confidential file 'confidential'? Wasn't that helping whoever was looking for his secret files to find it more easily? He was merely giving free access to the file...

Her heart raced as she thought about how her search had probably come to an end. She would take pictures of the content of the files and send it to Galaxis then she would pretend nothing ever happened. Once that side decided to act, she would find a reason to resign, then Jiang Xiaomu would disappear from the earth's surface.

She excitedly reached to get the first file, the one with a confidential label, but just when the tips of her fingers touched it, she froze.

'Li Lanni, are you an idiot?' She scolded herself. How could it be so easy to get her claws on evidence on the second day? She was merely an assistant at this point! This seemed more like... a trap.

What if Xing Han was still guarded against her and deliberately sent her to access his safe? If that was the case, there would be several cameras in the office to capture every angle and every action of hers would be displayed on camera.

Her back went cold. If she panicked now, her actions would appear even more guilty. Hence she feigned nonchalance as she arranged the few files properly.

She then took the file she had been instructed to keep and secured it in the safe, on top of the others. Once she was done, she locked the safe and after ensuring that it was well locked, she did not linger any longer and left the office like it was on fire.

Perhaps it was a trap, perhaps it was not; but whether it was or not, it was better to be safe.

—

She went back to her office and took a seat on the high back chair. When she was about to resume her work, the door opened and a man walked in.

"CEO, you are back." She said curtly.

The man had a satisfied grin plastered across his face. Not a flirtatious one like those stupid winks he had been sending her way since he saw her.

Well, the stupid winks were on the verge of surfacing, but the grin was that of praising someone who had done something good.

"CEO?" She probed when he didn't say a word and kept staring at her for longer than she was comfortable with.

"Little Mumu, there are a few things I would like to discuss with you."

Lanni frowned slightly at that nickname he wouldn't drop but stood up. "Should we talk in your office?"

It was weird for her to be seated when her employer was standing.

"No need. Let's talk here." He sat on her desk like he owned the place.

Well, he did own the place, but who sits on a woman's desk with no restraint? What was worse, he asked her to sit. She had no choice but to sit on her chair and push it as far from him as the space behind the desk could allow.

"Little Mumu, have you ever heard any rumors about our company?" He asked seriously.

"What kind of rumors?" She feigned ignorance even though her heart couldn't beat any faster.

"Some... not so good things." He looked into her eyes through her glasses as though searching her expression.

Lanni pretended to be deep in thought, as though wondering what he was talking about. She knew fully well that he was testing her. Perhaps he might even suspect her.

Seeing that she was not speaking after a long time, he decided to drop the bomb. "As long as one has the resources, creating a company is a walk in the park." He started. "But... no matter what kind of resources one has, maintaining the company and making it prosperous is no easy feat.

You will have to work hard. You will need to be smart and... you will often have to make sacrifices. I mean, everyone does make a sacrifice or two to save what he loves."

He paused and looked into her eyes. "I made some too."

Lanni blinked. What was up with this monologue?

"Little Mumu, you are an employee of this company, so you understand the policies, don't you? You know what to do, right?"

Lanni nodded like a bobble headed doll. "I should work hard and not let you and the company down."

Xing Han laughed at her answer. "Not that, Little Mumu. What I mean to say is... what happens in Xing Real Estate remains in Xing Real Estate."

Lanni nodded in understanding, secretly wondering whether he was telling her this because he was doubting her. Just when she was preparing for the worst, she heard his voice again. "As my assistant, I will need you for many things so I came here to give you this."

Lanni took the document and as soon as she saw the title, she had to bite her lips to stop the smile that was threatening to surface. It was a contract of confidentiality.

This could only mean one thing. Xing Han would no longer hide anything regarding the company from her!



She almost couldn't conceal her joy as she scribbled her signature across the little rectangle meant for her to sign.

She then handed the sheets of paper to him.

"Good girl." He praised and left her office, leaving behind an overjoyed Lanni.

She was finally getting closer to completing her task!

...

That day, there was no out-of-ordinary meeting. They were all related to legal business. By the time they were done, Lanni was so tired that she wanted to drop onto the floor and take a nap.

However, she couldn't since she had an appointment with a hair stylist.

Chapter 296 - Too Much Into Character

Lanni drove the low-profile car she had bought for convenience to the stylist's.

When she arrived, the stylist's assistant was already waiting for her.

"You must be Miss Jiang. Miss Wu is waiting for you." The cheerful assistant greeted, then led the way.

Lanni followed the lead to a grand styling room where the beautiful middle-aged woman was already waiting.

Since everything was ready, she did not waste time and had Lanni sit before starting to do her work.

"You mentioned that you want your hair dyed. May I ask which color you want?" Miss Wu asked as she massaged Lanni's scalp.

"Can I have the same color as this?" She pointed at the wig she had just taken off. The reason why she wanted to dye it permanently was because wigs were troublesome. If anything went wrong and it was discovered that she was wearing one, it would raise more suspicion to her identity.

"Sure, that's doable." Miss Wu responded. "However, there is a downside. Your hair is the kind that grows very fast. It will not be long before natural strands start to show up. Black and ashen blond are such contrasting colors so if you want it to be completely blond, you may want to dye it more often—which will weaken your hair.

"No problem." Lanni shrugged. She would only dye it once. By the time it grew too long to be concealed, she would have completed her mission so she would dye it back to its original color.

Since it was decided, Miss Wu went ahead and dyed it. When she was done, she styled it in the soft waves that Lanni wanted. Her hair was naturally voluminous to begin with, so when it was styled in waves, it looked even more beautiful.

She smiled at the woman in the mirror. Xiehan would go crazy if he saw her like this.

She was about to stand when the stylist's assistant led someone in. Lanni's smile in the mirror froze. It was Feng Ci.

Luckily, the wig had been kept away.

"Miss Wu, I would like..." Feng Ci was still speaking when she noticed the girl sitting in front of the mirror. "You?"

"Hello, Miss Feng." Lanni quickly got into her role as Jiang Xiaomu. Luckily, although she had taken off her glasses, she was still wearing her makeup. So, although Feng Ci thought she looked really familiar, she only linked it to the fact that they might have known each other in the past.

She walked to Lanni with a smile. "You don't need to be too polite and call me Miss Feng. You can just call me Sis Ci."

Lanni nodded. Since Feng Ci was older than her, it made sense.

"Anyway, Xiaomu, I didn't expect to meet you here. Do you think we could grab a coffee sometime?"

Lanni knew that Feng Ci would not ask people out without a reason. She probably had something in mind but Lanni was willing to play along. She wanted to play with her too. "Sure. I'm not usually too busy after work."

"How about today? We can go after my hair is done." Feng Ci pressed.

"Uh... I promised my parents to drop by today. Maybe some other time?"

Feng Ci thought about then nodded. She could wait a little.

Lanni sighed in relief when she left. It was safer if she knew what Feng Ci's real motive was.

...

After discussing with Xiehan and the others, they had reminded her to make sure to go to the Jiangs once in a while to visit. After all, she was their 'daughter'.

Hence, Lanni drove to Jiang Mansion.

"Young miss!" The servants greeted in unison as soon as she arrived.

Lanni returned their greetings with a smile. The Jiangs were really so much in character. If she didn't know what was happening, even she would believe that she was actually Jiang Xiaomu.

"Aunty!" She smiled at Madam Jiang once she saw her in the living room, and hurried over to greet her.

Madam Jiang stood up to hug Lanni. "You little child. Aren't you going to call me mother?" She joked.

Lanni laughed along. "I can call you "mom" but do you know why that will not be correct?"

"Why?" Madam Jiang asked curiously.

"If I call you "mom", Luna will have to address you the same way, then she cannot be your future daughter-in-law anymore." She laughed.

Madam Jiang pretended to ponder over it. "Daughter or daughter-in-law... is there really a difference? Actually, I can be her mother too. That punk of mine is too useless anyway."

"Are you really my mum?" A complaint emanated from the staircase.

Lanni burst into laughter. These two were going to start bickering again.

"Stop blabbering. Come here and say hello to your sister." Madam Jiang closed in on her son and dragged him by the ear.

"Have you gotten too addicted to your role?" Jiang Xingyu was flabbergasted. Did she really think that Jiang Xiaomu existed?

Madam Jiang glared at him. "Punk, what did you say? Even if Jiang Xiaomu is not my daughter, she can be my granddaughter. Instead of spouting so much nonsense, you should spend that effort trying to make me a grandma."

Jiang Xingyu scratched his chin. "You haven't learnt to crawl yet but you want to run? You are not even a mother-in-law yet but you want to be a grandma from nowhere?"

"You! I'll beat you up." Madam Jiang dramatically grabbed a sandal. What followed was the mother and son chasing each other all over the living room, with a sandal raised in the air by Madam Jiang.

Lanni laughed so hard that her stomach hurt. Were these two always fighting like this?

When Madam Jiang finally caught her son, the latter wailed pitifully. "Waaaah mother! I will not spout nonsense anymore! I am going on a date with your daughter-in-law. If you beat me up, she will think I am ugly and will not fall in love with me!"

Madam Jiang's hand paused. "You are going on a date with Luna?"

"Uh huh. Don't you see how handsomely I am dressed?" Jiang Xingyu nodded immediately.

"What are you waiting for? Go go go! Don't keep a girl waiting." She shooed him away like a stray animal.

Lanni was curious when she overheard their conversation. Jiang Xingyu was going on a date with Luna? What great news!

Madam Jiang finally sat on the couch opposite Lanni. "I'm sorry you had to see that. My son is just so naughty."

Lanni laughed. "It's alright." It was very entertaining anyway.

"This punk... he better not give Luna a hard time." Although Madam Jiang was admonishing her son, it was apparent that she loved him very much. Lanni also knew that the words she had just said were not uttered deliberately for her to hear.

Madam Jiang truly loved Luna. What a lucky girl... the wheel of fortune was finally turning in her favor.

"Lanni, when will you be free for the banquet?" The woman asked after some time.

"Banquet?" Lanni was pensive.

"Your welcome banquet. You are a daughter of the Jiang family so after being away for so many years, everyone expects us to throw you a welcome banquet."

Lanni was incredibly touched by how detailed Madam Jiang was. "Aunty, thank you but it's not that necessary. Besides, what will happen once my mission is complete?"

"That shouldn't worry you, and of course it is necessary!" She held Lanni's hands in reassurance. "Then it's settled. Tell me a date when you will not be busy and I will organize everything. Also, tell me if there are specific you would like to invite or those you don't want to invite."

Seeing that she was adamant, Lanni nodded with a smile. "Thank you, Aunty."

"Why are you thanking me? We are a family after all."

Lanni chuckled at her double meaning. They were fake mother and daughter for now but in real sense, they would really be family if Luna and Jiang Xingyu got married.

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Pearl Hotel.

Jiang Xingyu arrived five minutes earlier than the agreed time for their date.

As the huge golden clock on the wall of the private room—as well as the Patek Philippe watch on his wrist—ticked away the seconds, he almost couldn't keep his butt on the chair.

Heaven knew how much effort he had spent to convince her to go on a date with him.

That morning when they were having breakfast, she had tricked her into having a bet with him. If she lost the bet, she would go on a date with him. Luckily, she had lost.

He couldn't conceal his joy.

Time elapsed. Soon, it was 7.30 pm, their agreed time. He sat on edge as he waited but saw no sign of her. He thought that she might have been caught in traffic.

Soon, it was 8pm. She glanced at the clock with a smile. Some women always wanted to be late for dates, to keep the man anticipating, so he didn't mind.

When it was 9pm, he thought she might have spent too much time dressing up. He simply asked a waitress to sprinkle fresh, cold water on the bouquet of roses he had brought with him and continued waiting.

However, it was soon 11:30 pm and there was still no sign of her.. Not even a chime of her text message.

Chapter 297 - Stood Up(?)

"Maybe she forgot about the date and remembered later, so she is late." He made yet another excuse for her with a sigh.

The waitress appeared for the umpteenth time. "Sir, may I get you anything to drink?"

"No." He gave the same answer he had given the past a hundred or so times that she had asked. Couldn't she tell that he was in a bad mood? If he wanted a drink, he would certainly ask for one! Would she need to bug him?!

It was not that he had not noticed the kind of look she had been giving him every time she made a trip to the private room. It was as though she was pitying him for being stood up and wanted to replace his woman.

She was lucky that he was not the kind of man to throw his temper at anything that appeared in his line of sight. Otherwise, he would have yelled at her before shouting for the manager and having her fired.

He glanced at the bouquet at the side. The petals had started drying up again. Some were even falling off. After having the waitress sprinkle cold water on them again, he glanced at the time with a sigh. It was almost midnight. Would she really come?

It was hard to believe that he might have been stood up. All this while, he had wanted to call her and ask why she had not arrived but every time he was about to dial her number, he was afraid that she would not answer. Even worse, she might just answer and scold him for being delusional and thinking that she would be willing to go on a date with him.

"But if she didn't want to come, why did she agree?" He asked the air, and the answer landed right into his brain.

He had given her no choice. He had pulled a prank on her. At the time, he had stupidly thought that it was excellent but now, it was the most stupid thing he had ever done.



He had made her agree to the terms of the bet: if she won, she could instruct him to do anything, and if he won, she would go on a date with him. Once she had agreed, he had said, "I bet that you cannot stab Lanni."

He could not forget the shock in her eyes, how madly she had scolded him, then the cringe on her face when she realized that she had been pranked.

He had jubilantly asked her to honor the terms of the bet, to which she rolled her eyes and said okay. That was how their date had been set for tonight.

But now that he was here, waiting for her when the clock was just a few minutes away from striking twelve, he regretted spouting such nonsense.

The more the clock ticked, the more convinced he was that he had pushed past the limit of her tolerance and that this was her way of making him give up.

He looked up again. In five minutes, it would be midnight. Was there such a thing as a midnight date? He had never heard of one. It went without saying that she would not come.

He grabbed the flowers from the table, leaving behind a few red petals and droplets of moisture.

At this moment, the annoying waitress made another appearance. If he did not have Luna in his heart, perhaps he might have realized that she was a stunning beauty. However, he had no time to see her as anything more than a human being.

"Sir, did your girlfriend stand you up?" She asked in the gentlest voice she could muster, then drew closer to him. "It happens sometimes. Some women just don't treasure a good man."

"Get out!" He snarled. Her words infuriated him so much that he wanted to grab her neck and strangle her.

The little waitress scurried out of the room. An angry man could be dangerous, geez!

Before he really left, he decided to resort to the last measure out of his reluctance to give up. He took his phone and dialled her number.

The call went through and he held his breath as he heard the first doot, the second, then the third. On the fourth and final one, he thought he could hear a familiar tone outside. Just as he tried to listen, the call connected.

"Hello." The solemn voice resounded from the phone half a second after it reverberated from the door.

In the next moment, the door was pushed open from the outside and at the doorway stood the woman he had been waiting for all night. She was wearing a red, floor-length evening gown that had a high slit up her thigh and had her hair styled in an elegant updo. It was rare to see her looking this feminine, but she looked tired.

The waitress who had been trying to get into Jiang Xingyu's good books was flabbergasted. His girlfriend was so beautiful! No wonder he couldn't bother to look at anyone else.

He was still stunned when she hung up the call and made her way to him. "I'm sorry."

Her soft voice jolted him. All the sadness, despair and even anger that he had felt all night dissipated in a flash. He worriedly scanned her face. "Did something happen?"

"Xiao Yu's brother got into an accident and we rushed him to hospital. She was so worried and I stayed to keep her company until the doctors said that he was out of danger. It was only then that I remembered that I had a date with you and decided to rush over. I didn't even realize the time until I reached here." She rumbled in one breath before sighing. "Oh god I'm so sorry. I really didn't mean to be late."

"How is Xiao Ying?" He asked with concern written all over his face.

"He is alright, he woke up. It was an allergic reaction kind of accident... luckily we got him to hospital on time."

The man pulled her into a hug. "I'm glad you are fine."

Earlier, amid his irritation, a part of him had been worried that she might have gotten into an accident or something. He had tried his best not to believe that such a thing could have happened to her. Luckily, she was alright.

She wrapped her arms around his back for a moment before she broke the hug. "It's too late, right? I will make it up to you... how about we choose another day for a date?"

A selfish part of him wanted to agree to the suggestion so she would have to fo pn another date with him. However, he didn't want to force her into something she would only do reluctantly. "It's alright. You honored your promise."

Luna looked relieved and he was not usre whether he was happy or sad about it. She darted her eyes towards the seat. "Let's sit down. My heels are killing me."

Jiang Xingyu promptly made his way to the table and pulled a chair for her.

He couldn't help smiling at her statement. She was not used to wearing high heeled shoes but she had worn them today just for this date. Not only that, she was also wearing a red dress. Paired with the atmosphere, they looked like an actual couple in love.

Before he could state any comment, the waitrress appeared, but this time to ask whether to bring the food. Jiang Xingyu had made a specific special order. When he nodded, the waitress left and arrived with a trolley of food in a few minutes.

She lay the table with several of her favorite foods, including spicy grilled chicken.

"How did you know what I like?" She chuckled.

"I still remember." He smiled.

Luna nodded. They had eaten out together several times in the past. Now that she thought about it, she didn't feel so guilty of the past anymore. It felt kinda sweet...

"You must be hungry. Why don't we dig in?" All his sorrow had faded, leaving behind an empty stomach.

Luna was famished too. She picked up her cutlery and stabbed a piece of her grilled chicken. In the next second after putting it in her mouth, she nodded in approval. It was the tastiest grilled chicken she had ever had.

"Do you like it?" He smiled.

"I love it! Do you want to have a taste?" Although it was a question, she did not wait for his answer before stabbing a piece and leading it to his mouth. Seeing her cheerful expression, he instinctively bit it off the fork.

"It's indeed yummy." He knew she would like it since he had given the restaurant a special secret ingredient that his mother used when grilling chicken.. He was familiar with this taste but the fact that she fed it to him made it yummier than it had ever been.

Chapter 298 - Date

Jiang Xingyu continued enjoying every mouthful of grilled chicken that she put in his mouth and felt his life couldn't possibly get any better.

A smile graced his lips as he dug into the noodles on his plate. "Do you want to have a taste?"

Luna glanced down at the appetising noodles but shook her head with a laugh. "I've eaten so much noodles in my life that I can probably manufacture some in my stomach. I don't like their taste anymore."

Jiang Xingyu chuckled. "Maybe you have not had a taste of this restaurant's specially made noodles with meticulous preparation and 12 special spices. It will leave you begging for more."

"12 spices?! Is it still edible?" Luna's eyes widened.

"Why don't you find out?" He twirled a small portion and led it to her lips.

Her heart raced as she took it into her mouth. She had never thought that she would do something so intimate with a man, yet not only had she fed him, she had also let him feed her.

She avoided his gaze and concentrated on the taste of the noodles then her lips curled up. "It's indeed yummy."

"I told you." He laughed. "Do you want the rest of them?"

She glanced at the tempting plate but then hesitated. "You haven't eaten much..."

"We can swap food." He suggested.

"Good idea." As she spoke, she pushed her plate in between them before she could think of asking for an extra one. Since she had already done it, she stabbed her fork into a piece.

The man's smile deepened as he also pushed his plate between them and dug in.

"Would you like some wine?" He asked after some time. He had ordered some but since she had arrived late, he had not suggested it.

He thought she would pass but the girl nodded her head. So, he picked a pair of stem glasses and the wine at the side, then he poured them a little each.

"It is already so late, so we should not drink too much." He explained as he passed her a glass.

Luna accepted it and clinked their glasses then took a sip. "Is it just me or is everything so tasty? Even the wine is excellent." She gushed.

"It is indeed tasty." He looked at her meaningfully. The meals and wine were indeed perfect, but even if they tasted horrible, he would still find it awesome if he was eating it with her.

Silence followed in the next few minutes, with both of them eating quietly after running out of things to talk about. In this moment, Luna unknowingly started thinking about their relationship.

She had previously decided to give him a chance and date him out of gratitude, but then she had changed her mind after mulling over it. A relationship started out of any other reason but love may not always be the right thing to do.

Even if she did fall in love with him later, they may not realize it and merely treat it as her being appreciative. It would not feel as real as a love relationship.

Hence she had decided to let nature take its course. If she couldn't love him and he fell for another woman, it would still be a perfect ending.

But now that she had been spending more time with him, she realized that although he was so annoying that she wanted to bite him to death, she did not hate it in the slightest.

On the contrary, her heart would beat faster every time he got closer to her, she would get nervous at times and at other times, she would want nothing more than to kiss the annoyance out of him.

She had spoken to Cheng Yu about it and the latter was certain that those were signs of her falling in love with him. However, she did not dare to jump into conclusions. It could be an infatuation or her

brain's response to all those thoughts she had been having about him being a nice guy. Perhaps it might fade...

And the last thing she wanted was to hurt him again. He really didn't deserve to be hurt the first time, let alone a second. That was why she remained silent and said nothing about her feelings.

"What are you thinking about?" He asked when he realized that she was no longer eating but staring at him, her expressions shifting from little frowns to smiles he could swear were full on infatuation, then another little frown.

She snapped back and retracted the fork she didn't know she was waving in the air. "Nothing. I'm just wondering... if I will be able to eat this kind of food again."

He laughed at her way of asking it. Of course she could! She was a wealthy young miss. Although her dad was currently hostage, there was no way she would lack money to buy a private plane if she wanted, let alone a meal at a restaurant. Yet she sounded like it was harder than ascending to the heavens.

Viewing this as a chance, he happily grabbed it. "I will bring you here whenever we have the time. You can have a taste of other specialties too."

"Sure." She smiled, and he couldn't be any happier.

When they were done eating, he offered to give her a ride back to her apartment. Luna was about to reject it and take a cab but thinking about it, she agreed and entered his car with him.

The entire ride was silent until they arrived. Before she opened the door, he placed a hand on top of hers. "Thank you for going out on a date with me. You could have stood me up especially after what happened but you didn't... it means a lot to me."

She took in his genuinely grateful expression and was glad she showed up in the end.. "I liked it too, so I'm also thankful to you for giving me such a great time."

Chapter 299 - Date (2)

"You really had a good time?" He thought she was only being courteous.

"I did." She replied honestly. If she was being fair, her night couldn't have been any better. When she thought she might not make it, she had imagined that Jiang Xingyu would be angry, call her a heartless woman and send hundreds of text messages to berate her for wounding his pride—all without trying to find out what happened.

She had also thought that he might not believe her reason for being late. Yet the man had surprised her once again. Not only was he not mad at her, he had also given her such a perfect night. What else could she possibly ask for?

She leaned in and smacked a small kiss onto his lips—a sweet, innocent kiss.

The man was surprised for a second then the tips of his ears turned red. He then snaked a hand behind her neck and kissed her deeply.

When it ended, he wanted to help her out of the car and she couldn't bear to reject him, seeing his enthusiasm.

Outside the car, she adjusted her feet on the ground a little awkwardly. "I'll go up now."

"Wait." He held her hand. She turned to look at him inquisitively and he said, "I overheard my parents say that they will throw a welcome banquet for your sister—as my sister. Will you be free to attend it?"

"When will that be?" She asked.



He ran a hand through his hair. "Uhm... I didn't ask. How about I let you know after finding out?"

"Sure. Is there anything else?" She forced a smile. She was never wearing high heeled shoes for such a long period of time!

"Are you alright?" He saw through her forced smile that was trying to conceal a wince.

"No. It's nothing! If there's nothing else, then you should head back soon."

He scanned her and noticed her fidgeting on her legs slightly. "Do your feet hurt?"

Since he had already found out, she couldn't conceal it anymore. "I'm not used to wearing such shoes! Which reminds me, why would you even like a woman like me? I can't walk gracefully, can't dance and I definitely don't look as great in gowns as other women do." She sounded like she was launching a complaint against him for liking her.

He broke into a chuckle.

"Why are you laughing?" She looked at him sternly.

"I don't care about how you act. All I know is that you are the one I love." He then placed a hand behind her back and another under her knees then lifted her up. "I'll take you to your unit."

"You don't need to..." Even though that was what she said, her hands found their way to his neck as she sighed in relief. The walk to the elevator would have surely killed her.

The man's heart was filled with bliss as he shifted his position and entered the elevator with her in his arms. Since there was enough space, he didn't let go until he was in her house and she asked to be let onto the couch.

Once he let her sit properly, he knelt before the couch and lifted the hem of her dress to expose her ankle.

A frown formed on his face when he saw that it was slightly swollen. He made a mental note that if she were to wear high heeled shoes again, he would prepare a pair of flat sandals for her to change into.

He gently touched the slightly swollen bump while looking at her. "Does it hurt?"

She wanted to say that it was alright. After living the kind of life she had lived, what kind of pain had she not experienced? What could be so bad about a slightly swollen ankle?

However, when she looked down and saw the crease on his forehead along with the worry in his eyes, she instinctively wanted to act a little spoiled. She was almost unfamiliar with the idea of being taken care of this lovingly and a part of her didn't want it to end. Just this once. She would be a weak girl just this once.

"It hurts..." her voice lowered out of her lack of confidence to utter such words.

When Jiang Xingyu heard her words that were close to a purr, his heart clenched and all he wanted was to give up everything in life and protect her.

"I will give you a massage." He offered.

Luna felt her heart start that silly racing stunt again but she could not say no to that. "I have a few massage oils in my room." She gave him directions on where to find it and reclined on the couch as he went to get it.

The man returned within a few minutes and knelt on the carpet once again, taking her ankle in his hands.

He poured a little oil in his hands then started massaging it gently at first, then exerting a little pressure when she could handle it.

She pulled a stray strand of hair behind her ear as she looked down at his gentle actions with a happy smile. He was treating her ankle like it was a very important piece of work, and his meticulous actions warmed her heart.

"Does it hurt if I do this?" He asked as he tried to move her foot.

"No." She said almost immediately.

"What about this?" He tapped on the swollen part that was now more relaxed.

"No."

"Good." You will need to apply an ice compress in the morning. He then took the other foot that was just as swollen.

By the time he was done, it was already 4:30 am.

She was so sleepy that she almost dozed off.

Seeing this, he stood up. "I will let you go to sleep now. Remember not to hop around too much."

"It's already so late and you will need to go to work in a few hours. Why don't you just sleep here?"

He thought about it and she was indeed right. If he insisted on going back, it would be time to wake up by the time his head hit the pillow.

Hence, the two of them spent yet another night on the same bed.

## Chapter 300 - Blockhead

Luna tossed with no intention to fall asleep. Although it was apparent that she was sleepy, she was trying hard to remain awake. In the end, Jiang Xingyu was also distracted by her.

He turned to check on her. "What's wrong? Do your feet hurt?"

Detecting the worry in his tone, she was filled with remorse and embarrassment. "No."

"You can't sleep... do you need a bedtime story before you can fall asleep?" He teased.

She shot a glare in his direction even though he couldn't see it in the darkness. "No. I'm just..."

"You're just what?" He probed curiously.

Although there was no light, she was sure her cheeks were redder than they had ever been. "I'm just scared... that what happened last night will recur."

It took a moment to process her words and when he did, he broke into a hearty laugh. What exactly was she scared of? That she would roll to his side and lie on his chest, or that she would strip him of his shirt and touch him?

His lips curled up. "Then I look forward to it."

Luna was speechless. It turned out that she was worried for nothing. Obviously, she would try to keep her hands to herself as much as possible, or it would not be appropriate.

Alas, the 'harassment' he was anticipating did not happen, and the two of them slept soundly and only woke up at 10am.

"You're late for work! I'm so sorry..." she apologized when she saw the time.

"It's not your fault." Alarm clocks were mere decorations to him. As long as he wanted to wake up at a specific time, he would be able to make it no matter how late he slept. This morning, he had woken up about 3 hours after they slept but when he saw the beauty beside him, he found the idea of waking up for work too troublesome. Hence, he sent a message to his assistant and asked him to postpone his morning appointments, then he went back to sleep.

Waking up later, he felt more refreshed.

Luna, who didn't know this, felt she was to blame. It was she who had been late for their date and after that, he had to massage her feet, which took up a lot of time as well.

Seeing her self-reprimanding expression, he couldn't resist pressing a kiss onto her cheek. "I didn't want to go to work early. Besides, I've been going to bed pretty late these past few days so the fatigue just kicked in."

Luna knew that he might be saying it just so she wouldn't blame herself but she nodded and freshened up, then went to make them breakfast.

Once they were done eating, he was ready to go to work.

Luna saw him out to the parking lot.

He gazed at her for a while and so badly wanted to give her a goodbye kiss. However, he was unsure how she would react to it so he restrained himself and reached to open the driver's door.

Just as he pulled it, a small hand landed on his and he looked up in confusion.

"Take care." She smiled sweetly.

Jiang Xingyu couldn't hold back anymore. He turned and pulled her into his arms, lightly kissing her forehead.

Her eyes brightened up as she added, "You don't need to make excuses to ask me out."

Jiang Xingyu chuckled in embarrassment. "I know. I'm sorry I did that yesterday... I will definitely respect your space from this moment."

Luna's eyes darkened but she could only nod and see him off. As soon as he drove off, she facepalmed. What a blockhead! What she meant was that if he wanted her to go out with him, he could just ask—he didn't need to resort to tricks. Alas, the man was probably too happy to process her words.

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In the next few days, everything went back to normal. After considering all the factors, the Jiangs decided to hold the banquet on Saturday, 17th of November.

During this period of time, Lanni focused on working hard as Xing Han's assistant. Rumor had it that no matter how hard an employee worked, if they did not meet his requirements, they would be fired. Hence she had to do her best to avoid getting fired before the time was right.

At the same time, she would use every chance she had to find more information on the underground drug deals. All of this, added to all her efforts of trying to get Xing Han to stay away from her, she was so exhausted every day that she wanted to give up. Alas, she had already come this far.

On the night of 15th November, she had dinner with Luna in her apartment.

"You have worked hard. Now you just have to gather substantial evidence that incriminates Xing Han and you will be free." Luna patted her back.

"I will be able to find something in no time. The man trusts me too much already." The reason why she had not blatantly given him a beating was because of this. She was so close to completing her mission that it was no longer troublesome to endure it a little. Hence, she only constantly rejected his pursuit but didn't cut him off in a way that would make them enemies.

Luna was relieved when she heard her words. She hugged her sister lovingly. "Lanni, thank you for working so hard. Thank you for trying your best." Despite Li Yuming's warnings and the revelation she had made when Xia Hanchen was kidnapped, Lanni still went ahead to expend so much effort to save him.

She hugged Luna back. "You don't need to thank me. He is my dad just as much as he is yours."

Luna was pleased that Lanni still cared about him. "Call me crazy, but I still hope for our family to reunite."

Lanni guffawed. "Quit dreaming. You and mum can't stand each other for a second. What makes you think you will not murder each other when the time comes?"

They both burst into laughter before Luna said longingly, "Seriously, I really wish we were like ordinary families."

That earned another scoff from Lanni. "Why would we be like ordinary families and what exactly do you mean by "ordinary"? Don't you know that every family has its own problems? While one may look peaceful on the surface, it may not necessarily be the case! Perhaps some of them have worse problems than ours... they were just strong enough to hold together and not fall apart like ours did."

"Not every single one has a weakness, though. Take for instance, the Jiang family."

When Lanni heard that comparison, she facepalmed. "So that's what you're getting at." She scanned Luna meaningfully. "Say, why are you getting jealous of your own family?"

"My own—don't speak nonsense!" Luna admonished.

"Ermahgerd... someone's embarrassed! Are you two already dating?" Lanni burst into a bout of teasing laughter.

Luna helplessly glared at her. "Be more serious. I have news regarding Li Xiyan."

"Tell me about it." Lanni's attention was successfully diverted.

"I couldn't trace her. It's as though she disappeared off the earth's surface. I investigated carefully and she couldn't have switched her identity either."

Lanni sighed. "No matter what, I hope she disappeared for good."

"I hope so too.." Luna sighed along.