

Chapter 301 - Banquet (1)

17th November.

To make the banquet as realistic as possible, the Jiang family had invited several aristocratic figures.

Lanni, who was waiting in one of the rooms in the hotel, was speechless when she peeked and saw regal figures litter the hall. She looked up at Madam Jiang with worry written all over her face. "Aunty, aren't you concerned that you will offend too many people? After all, if they find out that I am fake and that they have been used as a pawn to make my identity more believable, they will not be happy in the slightest bit!"

Madam Jiang passed a gown to her. "Don't worry. Since I dared to do something of this sort, I naturally put everything into consideration and ensured that there will be no repercussions."

Lanni felt reassured. She then took the gown carefully and her eyes widened when she saw it. "Is this..."

Madam Jiang knew why she was so shocked. She sat on the bed with a smile. "This is the gown I wore during my coming of age banquet." Although that was almost almost three decades ago, the gown was still beautiful, elegant and could not be considered as out of style. She had kept it carefully so it was still perfectly new as well.

It had been designed by the most famous designer from all those years ago, an elderly man at the time. Since it was his most treasured piece of work as well as the last before his passing, it had garnered

tremendous fame and was considered as a treasure. Alas, after Madam Jiang wore it those many years ago, no one had seen it ever again. In fact, Lanni had only seen it in pictures.

"I had always wanted to give it to my daughter and let her wear it to her coming of age banquet. But... you know what."

She didn't end up having any. Lanni finally understood why Madam Jiang was especially nice to every young woman she found to be obedient and likeable. It appeared that her desire for a daughter was stronger than it was rumored. Luckily, she had a son so she could have a daughter-in-law and granddaughters.

She touched the fabric of the dress and still felt uncomfortable. "Aunty, I think it would be more suitable if Luna wore this gown. After all, she..."

She didn't complete her statement but Madam Jiang understood it. She was the girl that Jiang Xingyu liked and highly likely to be her daughter-in-law. On the other hand, Lanni had a boyfriend already, so it was not appropriate and might make things awkward.

"What nonsense are you saying? You are my daughter right now so you should wear the gown I kept for my daughter. As for Luna, I have another gown which I specially kept for my daughter-in-law."

Since this was the case, Lanni did not press anymore. She changed into the gown and waited for the banquet to start.

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Most of the guests arrived and the banquet soon started.

Madam Jiang went to the stage with her husband and picked the microphone. Instantly, a hush befell the hall. This was partially because the hosts were about to speak and partially because Madam Jiang was too stunning!

Even though she was no longer a young woman and even had a son who was old enough to marry and have kids, she still possessed the beauty and elegance that she did when she was still just a newlywed. The maturity she had garnered over the years only served to make her more imposing and ultimately authoritative.

The man beside her was no different: he was still handsome and in perfect shape. No wonder their son was so gorgeous that the girls drooling over him could circle the entire city! It was all inherited from his parents.

Madam Jiang swept a glance across the hall before speaking. "Thank you all for attending this special banquet..." after giving a speech of thanks, she smiled. "I would like to introduce someone to you—my darling daughter, Xiaomu!"

It was then that all the guests remembered the agenda for this banquet. It was to welcome the Jiangs' precious daughter.

Everyone turned to follow Madam Jiang's line of sight.

Then they saw a young woman descend the stairs gracefully. Her wavy hair had been pinned to her back, exposing her delicate and beautiful face. She had on a dash of light makeup that made her look stunning without being over the top.

She was wearing a dark red one shoulder evening gown whose design was quite simple yet elegant. Paired with Lanni's beauty, it was breathtaking.

"How beautiful! Here I was saying that Jiang Xingyu must have inherited all the genes of beauty from his parents, but isn't this too heaven-defying? Xiaomu is so beautiful!" One of the female guests exclaimed.

Everyone finally snapped back to their senses.

So stunning! They didn't expect the Jiangs' daughter to be so mesmerising as well!

"A beautiful mother, handsome father, handsome son and now the daughter is this beautiful too? How is this still fair?!" A guest lamented, envious of the Jiang family but not harboring resentment.

Lanni smiled gently as she heard all those exclamations. There was no woman who hated to be complimented. Even she didn't know that she would look this beautiful.

Since she was going to be in public, she had chosen to stray away from her usual style so no one would recognize her. Hence she had purposely styled her hair and made herself to look more mature—she could easily pass off as a twenty-five-year-old woman. Madam Jiang's gown accentuated her body perfectly and was coincidentally befitting with this kind of style.

Hence she relaxed, knowing that no one would recognize her. She walked to the Jiang couple. "Mother, father."

"Good girl. Xiaomu, do you want to say hello to the guests?" Jiang Xingren got into character and asked with the tone of a doting father.

Hence, Lanni smiled and oicked the microphone.

But, before she could speak, a crash resounded.

Everyone turned to the source only to see◆◆ Li Yuming had shattered her glass in her hands....

Everyone saw Li Yuming bend down to pick the shards but got pierced in the next second. She gripped her finger and hissed in pain.

"Mom!" Lanni reflexively shouted before she could stop herself.

Just as she was about to rush forward, Madam Jiang pulled her back with a smile and whispered, "you will reveal your identity."

Lanni instantly remembered that she was not Li Yuming's daughter tonight so she forced herself not to rush to her mother and check on her.

Madam Jiang sighed in relief. Everyone could have heard Lanni's shout just now. Luckily, Luna had also called out "mum" at the same time, hence drowning Lanni's voice.

The girl hurried to Li Yuming's side. "Mom, are you alright? How could you be so careless?" She grabbed her hand to check on it as she asked one of the staff to bring a first aid kit.

Li Yuming recoiled when the vile girl's fingers touched her. "I'm fine."

She then walked out of the hall.

Luna raised her eyebrow slightly and harrumphed. Then, she picked a glass of champagne from a bartender and strolled away.

Jiang Xingren and his wife started introducing Lanni to the guests and making small talk with some of their friends.

On the other hand, Luna found her way to the back exit. As expected, Li Yuming was out there by herself.

Hearing the sound of footsteps behind her, she turned and frowned when she saw the incomer. "What do you want?"

Luna half-crossed her arms with the almost empty champagne glass still in her hand. "What an excellent talent you are! I really have to give it to you... not only are you one of the world's most famous artists, you are also so talented in acting as well—it's not too late to join the film industry, you know. You could win an oscar."

"What rubbish are you talking?" Li Yuming was incensed.

Luna took the final sip of her champagne. "Really, you don't need to put up an act with me. I saw what you did back there."

"Get straight to the point." She hissed. How could anyone tolerate being berated by their own daughter?

"Oh, I will." Luna scanned her up and down. "You did that on purpose, didn't you? You dropped that glass deliberately."

Before she could speak, Luna beat her to it. "You also picked it up and purposely had your finger scraped. You knew that Lanni would never keep her calm if you experienced the slightest form of injury. Even if it is just a mere sting, she will disregard everything else and her emotions would show.

You chose the perfect timing when Lanni was under the spotlight and everyone was focused on her so they would all hear her calling you her mother. Then they would all start questioning why a daughter of the Jiangs would call you her mother and eventually investigate the matter, then discover that she is in fact Lanni."

When Li Yuming heard her, she was speechless. "I think there's something wrong with your brain."

"Is it?" Luna laughed. "Then I inherited it from you." Her expression suddenly darkened as she thought of the worst outcome possible. She fired off words, not caring who she was speaking to. "If word got out, Xing Han would know he is being played and do you know how much danger that would cause for Lanni? I know you don't like what she is doing, but how can you selfishly disregard your own daughter's safety?"

Li Yuming raised a hand. Just when Luna expected it to land on her cheek, the former stopped, huffing in anger. "I don't know what drugs you're on but listen to me very carefully because I'm saying it for the last time. I. Would. Never. Hurt. My. Daughter!" She enunciated every word clearly.

Luna's eyebrows frowned as her lips curled slightly at the corners. "Sure you wouldn't."

Casting a final glance at Li Yuming, she turned on her heel and stopped when she saw Jiang Xingyu from the corner of her eye. "Why are you here?"

The man smiled with charm exuding from every inch of his being. "Aren't you pleased to see me?"

He signaled a bartender then took away her empty champagne glass, replacing it with another one and picking one himself. "Do you want to have a talk?"

Luna nodded slightly. "Sure."

She clinched their glasses and downed the content in one go before returning the glass.

She then followed his lead to the balcony where there was no one else, and nothing but a small table and a pair of chairs.

"You look dashing." He finally said. She had worn a dress that wouldn't stand out too much so she wouldn't steal the thunder. Even so, she looked amazing. The champagne colored dress had a front slit and a low v-neck but it wasn't over the top.

"Thank you. You look handsome yourself." She scanned him from head to toe and swallowed a gulp.

"I do? Thank you." He was happy even though he knew that she probably only said it out of courtesy.

As though reading his mind, she inched closer. "You look handsome—I'm not just saying it."

Even happier, he tilted his head and pecked on her lips. "Do you mind that I overheard your conversation with your mum just now?"

"I don't mind." It wasn't like she cared anyone overhearing what kind of person Li Yuming was. If anything, she would very much love for the whole world to know about her true character.

"I still think what is happening is that you are misunderstanding each other. You both think the other person is wrong when in real sense, you just haven't taken any time to understand each other."

"I don't wish to waste any of my time understanding a woman who doesn't have any qualms about hurting her daughter—as if that's not enough, she would even put on an act to deny it." She scoffed.

"That's my point. Just because she dropped the glass at that very moment, it's equal to her doing it on purpose? It could not have been a coincidence?" Jiang Xingyu challenged.

As expected, Luna merely rolled her eyes. "There has to be a certain level of trust before I can have the mind to investigate what really happened."

Since their relationship seemed to deteriorate more than it could ever improve, Jiang Xingyu decided to drop the matter for now.

He peeked down at her high heels and stifled a chuckle. "You don't ever learn, do you?"

Luna followed his line of sight and laughed when she recalled what had happened the last time she wore high heeled shoes for a long time. She laughed along. "I'm trying to get used to them."

"Good luck with that." He teased.

Luna shrugged and stepped in closer, shrinking the distance between them so much that all that was left was wrapping their arms around each other. "Besides, if I don't wear high heels and my feet don't get sore, how will I manage to gain a heavenly massage later?"

The man was amused by her words. "You know, your feet don't need to be sore for them to gain a massage. I can do it even when they're perfectly fine. You just have to say the word."

"You can?" She tried not to blush.

"I sure can." He took a sip from his glass and then placed the glass on the small table at the side, mischief creeping into his eyes as he added, "however, there may be a difficulty to it."

"What difficulty?" She asked curiously.

He lowered his voice into a seductive whisper. "If I lay my fingers on your beautiful feet again, I may not be able to stop my hand from 'accidentally' crawling upwards."

He wanted to slap his mouth once the words were out. However, the anticipated scolding did not arrive. In its place was her meaningful glance. "Since it will be an accident, I will not be able to stop it from happening."

His slight shock translated into a laugh. "No matter how far it goes?" When she nodded with a flushed face, he checked that there was no one else then pushed her against the railing of the balcony. His hand crawled its way to the slit of her dress, sliding in as he tilted his head to whisper in her ear. "How about this far?"

Luna jolted from the sudden contact of his hand on her bare thigh. She had never allowed herself to be close to a man, much less let him touch her like this. She wanted to tell him to stop but she knew that her skin was liking the touch.

Not getting a response from her, he pressed onto her further as his hand slid even higher. "What about this?"

Her breathing quickened as she bit her lip to stifle a moan. She gritted her teeth when she felt him go even higher. "Jiang Xingyu!"

Although her voice sounded stern and a little angry, she parted her legs slightly to give him access to the place she knew he was yearning to touch.

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Jiang Xingyu gladly accepted the access and his hand trailed upwards. His fingertip came into contact with her thong and surprisingly, it was wet. She stifled a moan and gripped his arm as he rubbed it.

Raising his head, his lips crashed onto hers as he fumbled to push her thong aside. He waited for her reaction and when she didn't do or say anything for him to stop, he gently slid a finger into her. She bit his lower lip, unable to stop a moan from escaping her mouth. He picked up his pace, thrusting his finger in and out of her while kissing her demandingly. His other hand found its way into her dress through her cleavage and pulled out her left breast from the cup of her bra.

Her hands grabbed him, pulling him to herself as he rubbed her nipple.

Luna had never experienced such pleasure before but she knew that the waves building up inside her body must be her climax.

At that moment, the man stopped what he was doing and pulled her panty back into place.

"Don't stop." she gripped his hand pleadingly.

"I can't go on." He tried to adjust his breathing back to normal.

"Why?" She asked, shocked that he would stop at such a time.

The man pressed a soft kiss onto her lips and pulled away immediately. "If I go on for a second more, I will not be able to stop myself from taking you right here."

Luna didn't know what to say. Should she be happy or sad?

Footsteps resounded from a few meters away and from the sound of it, they were heading towards the balcony.

Jiang Xingyu snapped from his trance and hurriedly straightened up her clothes before combing his fingers through his hair to organize it.

"There you are. I was looking for you." Lanni said when she arrived, just as the two finished making themselves presentable.

"You were looking for me?" Luna asked.

"Lanni sent a signal with her eyes and hoped that Luna would understand it. Then she looked at Jiang Xingyu. "Dad wants to have a word with you."

Jiang Xingyu was about to say that they were alone and she didn't need to keep up the uncomfortable act when he caught sight of a faint shadow. He finally understood Lanni's look and decided to play along. It seemed like someone doubted Lanni's identity.

Hence, he pulled Luna to his side. "Xiaomu, I have yet to introduce you to Luna. She's..."

"My sister-in-law, I know." She giggled like a spoilt little sister and extended a hand to Luna. "Sister-in-law, I have heard so much about you from my brother. It's nice to finally meet you."

Luna shook Lanni's hand and was tempted to break it. The girl was doing it on purpose! She knew that Jiang Xingyu had intended to introduce her as his friend. Even so, she could only smile and play along.

"So you are Xiaomu, the little sister he keeps prattling about. You are much lovelier than he makes it sound."

After flattering each other for a while, Lanni clung to Luna's arm like she was really her sister-in-law. "Sister-in-law, would you like to go shopping together sometime?"

"Your sister-in-law is a busy person." Jiang Xingyu admonished like he was trying to get rid of an annoying little sister. When Lanni saw the shadow of whoever was peeking disappear, she gave Jiang Xingyu and Luna a thumbs up. These two were excellent actors. They had successfully convinced Feng Ci that Jiang Xiaomu really existed.

That was right. The person who was peeking was Feng Ci. She had started suspecting Lanni's identity when she realized that when wearing gowns, Jiang Xiaomu's figure was too similar to Luna's.

But after witnessing them get to know each other in private when they were alone and didn't need to act, she pretty much dispelled the thought. It was possible for different people to have similar figures. If not, there would not be such a thing as body doubles in this world.

Even so, she didn't completely give up. She followed the three back into the hall.

As soon as Luna was on her own and there were a few people in the vicinity, she sauntered over. "Hello, Miss Xia."

Luna raised her eyebrow, wondering what this snake was up to this time. She flashed a smile. "Hello."

Feng Ci offered her a glass of wine, and Luna shrugged and picked it, then pretended to take a sip when she, in fact, drank none of it. She would be a fool if she drank anything served by her enemy. The latter could very well use the opportunity to poison her.

When Feng Ci saw her drink it, a smile graced her lips. Lanni's sister was just as stupid as her sister. She had added a 'special' drug into the drink. Her stomach would ache so excruciatingly that she wouldn't be able to sit up.

It was a special drug and would not be cured by any other medicine except the antidote she had. Once Luna was under her control, she would find her and offer the antidote on condition that she tell her the truth. If Jiang Xiaomu was really Lanni, she would not need to work too hard to expose her.

Then, she would owe the Jiangs a favor after exposing the impostor who was impersonating their precious daughter.

"Miss Xia, I wonder where your sister is tonight. Doesn't she attend every banquet that your mother goes to?"

Luna snickered. "Why does Miss Feng care about my sister so much?"

Feng Ci felt anxious from that stare and hurriedly explained, "Lanni and I are friends. Of course I would care about her."

"Oh. She never told me she had a friend like you." Luna scoffed then added, "Whatever it is, she is feeling unwell so she could not make it."

Initially, they had wanted to have Luna pose as Lanni since the former was less known to everyone and no one would notice that she was missing.

However, she and Li Yuming might just end up fighting in public.

"Oh, that's so sad. Where is she? I will pay her a visit."

Luna was intrigued. Was this woman a fool? She actually expected to expose them using such a rooie method? Nonetheless, she was waiting for this question! "Don't worry. My brother-in-law is taking care of her." She deliberately enunciated brother-in-law, knowing how obsessed Feng Ci was with Xiehan.

Feng Ci's face paled, as expected.

She gritted her teeth and cursed Lanni in her mind. What had that woman done to enchant Xiehan so much?! He would even miss a banquet held by his best friend's family just to take care of her?!

'Just what part of me is inferior to that little girl?' Her breathing quickened. To prevent herself from exploding, she smiled modestly and left.

'Just you wait. I will take back what's mine!' She clenched her fists at her side but pretended to be calm on the outside, strolling to the bathroom.

Lanni felt a chill crawl up her spine. Just who had she offended this time?

Just when she was trying to sneak away for a breather, a middle-aged woman appeared before her. "Miss Jiang!"

Lanni couldn't ignore her, so she greeted her modestly. "Hello."

"You have grown up into such a beautiful young woman! The last time I saw you was when you were an adorable little baby. You couldn't even pronounce your own name back then but I knew you would be beautiful when you grow up. I just didn't expect you to be this beautiful!" She gushed in admiration.

Wait, what?

Lanni was stumped.

Adorable baby... wasn't this woman too good in brown-nosing? Since when was Jiang Xiaomu a baby?

"Right. My son is here too. Do you remember him? You used to play together and went to the same kindergarten."

Lanni's eyebrows scrunched up. Went to kindergarten... together?

When the woman's words hit her, she finally understood what was going on. So it was just a way to strike conversation and introduce Xiaomu to her son!

There were several young men who had tried to strike conversations with her, and parents who wanted to match her up with their sons, but none of them had been so blunt. Lanni suddenly didn't know what to say.

Before she could think of a way to get out of it, Madam Jiang walked over and hooked her arm with Lanni's. "Xiaomu just came back. I would like to spend as much time with her as possible, so I don't intend to marry her off so soon."

"Oh... so that's the case." The middle aged woman retreated reluctantly, letting Lanni heave a sigh of relief.

She playfully sent a text message to Xiehan. [Why did you miss the banquet? You don't know it but there have been so many match-making attempts already! If you are too late, I will be a mother of two by the time you find me.]

She laughed as she waited for his response, which arrived just a few seconds later. [Xiehan: Don't you dare!]

Chapter 304 - Dare To Take The Challenge

Lanni's phone chimed again. She thought it would be another text message from Xiehan but instead, it was a call from a certain annoying boss.

"Little Mumu, how is it going?" The man was as enthusiastic and infuriating as ever.

"I'm alright. CEO, today is Saturday." She meant to remind him that it was not a working day and he should not be making any calls related to work, especially since she had already stated on the first day that she would not be able to work overtime on any day.

"I know, I know... I just wanted to apologize for not being able to make it to your banquet." The man apologized vehemently.

"It's alright." She didn't want him to go anyway; she had only extended an invitation because it would have been weird if she hadn't. Who knew what kind of trouble he would have caused if he had attended?

"Little Mumu, don't be upset. I will get you a present to make up for my absence. If you wish, we can also have a few drinks together."

"No, thanks. It's really alright." Lanni expressed her understanding. Why was this man so hard to deal with?

The only positive side to it was that after this banquet, he would no longer doubt her identity. She knew that he had his people in the banquet, disguised as guests. However, thanks to the guests who would suck up to the Jiang family so much as to claim to have cradled her as a baby, the act became even more realistic.

Soon, the banquet ended. The guests started leaving for their homes and Lanni went to change into a more comfortable pair of shoes.

Meanwhile, Jiang Xingyu rushed to look for Luna before she could leave. He found her outside, drinking yet another glass of wine.

He walked over and tried to pry the stem glass out of her hand. "Don't drink too much."

She let out a small laugh, diverting her attention from Feng Ci in the distance, who was on the verge of exploding from seeing her perfectly fine.

"It's just wine. Besides, I can hold my liquor well."

He stood beside her. "Really? Better than I can?"

She raised an eyebrow amusedly. "Why don't we find out?"

"Are you challenging me for a drink?" It was his turn to be intrigued.

"What do you think? Will you accept the challenge, or are you going to cower away like a kid?" She challenged.

The man scratched his chin. "I'm not scared. I'm just.. not used to taking part in drinking contests with women."

"There's a first time to everything. So, what's it gonna be?" she twirled her wineglass provokingly.

"I have a collection of nice bottles at my place. I bet that you will drop after two sips." He responded.

"You better bet that the first one to drop will be you." She emptied the rest of the wine into her mouth and stuffed the empty wineglass into his hand then headed for his car.

He gave the wineglass to one of the staff who just happened to pass by, then pressed on his key and went to the car. He opened the passenger door for her, waited until she had fastened her seatbelt and closed the door, then circled the car to the driver's seat.

Remembering something, he stretched his body to retrieve something from the back seat. Under her curious gaze, he opened the package to reveal a pair of diamond sandals. "I didn't have the chance to give you these earlier."

A smile flashed across her lips. "Thank you." He had actually remembered to get her sandals in case she got tired from wearing heels. She herself had nearly forgotten about it and only remembered when it was too late to go back to the house, then she had decided to buy a pair later if she felt sore.

She picked the sandals and wore them, getting rid of the heels immediately.

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Soon, they arrived at his villa.

It had been ages since she last set foot in this villa, so she found it familiar yet unfamiliar.

"Are you hungry? Shall we get something to eat first?" He suggested as he took off the coat of his suit.

"I'm a little hungry." She had not eaten anything at the banquet and had only drunk wine and champagne.

"What would you like to eat?" He rolled up his sleeves, preparing to go to the kitchen.

"Any light meal will do."

The man nodded and went to the kitchen. He had previously sent a notification to all the servants, telling them to take the day off. Hence, it was just the two of them in the villa.

Luna picked a magazine from the rack nearby and made herself comfortable.

Soon, Jiang Xingyu finished cooking and set the table. The two of them dug in and ate in silence. When they were done, he led her to the cellar.

"How about we play a drinking game? We can play truth or dare." He suggested as he picked a bottle with high alcohol content.

Luna sat down comfortably and shook her head at him. "If you want to get to know me, you can just ask. We don't need a drinking game for that."

Having been exposed, he ran a hand through his hair. But since she was willing to let him get to know her better, it made things much easier. Heaven knew she could have simply just drunk to each of his questions.

Hence, the two started drinking while sitting opposite each other.

"Do you have a boyfriend?" He asked his first question after a while.

She coughed and looked at him like he was an alien. "Don't you know whether I have one or not?"

He laughed at his own silly question. "Well, you have not been particularly close to any other man but then there's... that guy... Flynn. He seemed to... act a little too familiar with you." He stated nervously, knowing that if her answer was that she and Flynn were anything other than friends, he would be shattered.

She gulped a shot. "You don't have to know about our relationship."

His hands balled into fists. As expected.

Just as he plunged into despair, he heard her voice again.. "However, if I was in a romantic relationship with another man, I would never let you touch me."

Her words pulled him back from the edge of a cliff. Not only had she let him touch her, they had even shared a bed twice. Although nothing happened between them those two times, it should mean that he had a chance, right?

Hence, he joyously went ahead to ask her a few questions, while she asked him a few of her own.

Since they were trying to find out who could hold their liquor better, they mostly drank and rarely spoke.

Luna asked after a while, "Did you have any other girlfriend or fling after me?"

He was waiting for that question so he would clarify that he had never been in a relationship with another woman and was waiting for her, so he quickly answered, "Why would I look for other women? I already found a wife."

He immediately added his next question. "What kind of man would you want to marry?"

She was a little lightheaded so she answered without thinking. "A man like you."

He was taken aback and stared at her.

In her defense, she shrugged and downed another shot. "If any woman met a man who loves her just a tenth of how much you love me, she would be devoted to him all her life. Since I'm ten times more fortunate than that, wouldn't I be a fool if I didn't cling onto you?"

A charming smile escaped his lips, pleased by her words. "Why don't you cling onto me, then?"

It was as though she was waiting for that, because as soon as his words were out, she shot up and circled the table, immediately crushing into his arms.

Her actions were unexpected and he almost couldn't catch her on time. Once he had steadied her, he looked at her in surprise. "What was that for?"

"You asked me to cling onto you, didn't you?" She said in self-justification.

He laughed and was about to ask another question when she wrapped her arms around his neck like a clingy child. "Listen, I'm not competing with you anymore. You can hold your liquor better than me. You win."

His lips twitched. So her antics were related to her drunkenness. He didn't expect her to be drunk so fast when she was the one who had been yapping endlessly about her supposed high tolerance.

Since he was also feeling a little drowsy, he decided to call it a night.

"Do you want to sleep in my room or in the guest room beside the master bedroom?" He asked jokingly as he helped her to her feet, keeping in mind that they would sleep in separate rooms.

However, the girl in his arms had other plans. "Who the hell wants to sleep in a guest room? You can sleep there if you want but I'm sleeping in your bed tonight."

He chuckled at her antics.

"What? Don't you want to share your bed with me? You meanie... I shared mine with you and twice at that." She complained.

He raised an eyebrow at her. Was she really that drunk? She could still walk straight and she knew exactly what she was saying. Why then was she speaking so much nonsense?

Even so, he took her to his room and took off her sandals. She didn't wait for him to help her onto the bed before she leapt onto it on her own. She then grabbed a pillow and hugged it.

Seeing that she was comfortable, he made to leave. However, she grabbed his hand. "Where are you going?"

He turned back to look into her eyes dangerously. "Luna, we are drunk. No one can say what will happen if I really stay here."

"Are you scared?" She challenged. Before he could answer her, she pulled him onto the bed. "Do I look drunk to you? I'm just a little drowsy." Crawling onto him, she ran a hand along his chest. "I would want to sleep in this bed, with you beside me even if I hadn't touched a drop of wine."

Her words tore off all of his restraint. "Then, I will take a shower first." He gently pushed her off him and went into the bathroom.

"What about me?" She called after him. When he didn't answer, she thought about it and decided to wait.

Alas, the man was taking longer than her patience could last. In the end, she decided to take off her dress and enter the bathroom.

The man was just done rinsing his hair when he heard footsteps and turned to see Luna walk into the shower compartment, wearing nothing but a bra and a thong.

"Luna, what are you doing? Get out." He warned, his heart racing.

However, she drew closer to him, and making his self-control wear thinner by the second.

She unclasped her bra and stood under the shower, their skins almost touching. "We can share a bed, so why can't we share a shower?" Scanning him up and down, she added, "Besides, you touched my sex earlier. Why can't I touch yours?"

As soon as her words were out, she reached down and grabbed his manhood, which was already hard from their close proximity.

"Luna..." he groaned. In the next second, he grabbed her and pressed her against the glass wall of the shower compartment. She chuckled in amusement as the steam droplets rolled onto her skin, making him lose the last strand of self control.

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The next morning.

Luna jolted awake to find that she was embracing her favorite pillow, Jiang Xingyu's bare chest.

She felt as though an explosion had gone off in her mind.

Last night, she had sex with Jiang Xingyu!

"What have I done..." she mumbled inaudibly.

"You're awake." The man woke up too, and he had never been happier.

Luna closed her eyes, unwilling to face this. What happened the night before was not an accident. She was not too drunk to know what was happening. She had not been forced or emotionally blackmailed into doing it. In fact, she had wanted to do it with him since they made out at the balcony of the banquet hall.. It was just... when she woke up and was more clear headed, she realized that she was not ready to face the aftermath of it.

Chapter 306 - Aftermath(2)

"Luna, is everything alright?" Jiang Xingyu sat up and held her shoulders.

She snapped out of her thoughts. "Yeah. I'm alright. I'm just... tired."

The man did not probe any further but she didn't look alright in the slightest. The thought of it made him anxious. He had once heard Lin Jian, that womanizer, say that some women would feel regret and repulsion after having sex for the first time.

It was Luna's first time last night... could she be regretting it?

Thinking about their relationship that was yet to be stable, it was indeed likely. Perhaps she felt horrible for having done it with a man who was neither her boyfriend nor her husband.

All night, he had been unable to sleep, afraid that he would wake up and find that he was dreaming. When he finally became too sleepy, he had mentally come up with a way to express his feelings to her in the morning, then propose that they get into a relationship.

But seeing what kind of mood she was in, he didn't dare. He didn't want to ruin the memory of that perfect moment, so he chose to act like what happened was something natural.

"You must be hungry. I'll make us breakfast." He fled from the bed as fast as he could.

Alas, Luna could pretty much guess what he was trying to evade. "Let's talk about last night."

"Do we have to?" He dreaded.

She pulled his hand so he could only obediently sit on the bed and listen to what she had to say.

She played with her fingertips for a moment until she could not drag the matter anymore. "Jiang Xingyu, what happened last night shouldn't have happened."

That was what he was expecting but he still felt his heart crush into smithereens. "You... want to treat it like an accident?"

Luna immediately felt guilty about what she had said. "I didn't say to treat it like an accident—it wasn't one. Let's be honest, we both wanted it."

The second part made a smile surface on his lips. Whatever she was going to say, he would still be glad. As long as she didn't feel like she had done something she didn't want to do, it was alright.

She watched his expression turn calmer before she continued, "It's just... It shouldn't have happened at the time it did. Our relationship is too rushed. One day we're strangers to each other, the next day we're kissing and crossing the final boundary... don't you think it's too fast? I think we should slow down."

She looked like an enormous weight had been lifted off her shoulder when she finally spoke her mind. He scanned her expression for a moment and let out a sigh. "Luna, I agree with you."

She raised an eyebrow and he continued, "We did rush it too fast. But don't you think it's too late to talk about slowing it down? What's there to slow at this point?"

Luna was dazed. Indeed, how could they slow it down after that irreversible deed they did? But then again, "I don't want to get into a relationship with you just because of that. I don't want to become your girlfriend today, and then use it as a justification for what we did. Who knows how long such a relationship can last?"

This was why she felt it was a mistake. After what happened, there were only two choices she could make: either be his girlfriend to protect their dignity, or forget about what happened and treat it like a one night stand. Both solutions would be too unfair to him.

When he understood her point, he felt like he had just been pardoned after being sentenced to death. He held her hand comfortingly. "Luna, it's alright. I want nothing more than to take responsibility but if you are not ready, we can sweep it under the rug until you are ready."

"Xingyu, thank you." She leaned onto his chest in relief.

He smiled as he hugged her shoulders, loving the sound of his name from her lips.

When he felt a certain shameless part of his body start to react to their close hug, he pulled away. "I will get breakfast ready."

"Sure."

It was only when he left that she looked down at her body. At least the man had the mind to care. He had not left any marks where they shouldn't be left.

She then got ready to take a bath. Last night, she had learnt that ever since that time she ended up spending the night in this villa, Jiang Xingyu had been randomly buying and keeping clothes of her size—in case she spent another night.

There was everything she needed, including the shampoo she used, a new toothbrush, body cream and every clothing item including underwear.

She checked out the bras and panties and frowned. As for how men always seemed to know the sizes of their girlfriends' bras and panties, heaven only knew.

Wait, did she just think of herself as his girlfriend?

Shaking the thought off, she took a bath and changed into a sky blue dress.

She then went to the kitchen, where the bare-chested Jiang Xingyu was holding a spatula and preparing breakfast with a serious expression.

She smiled and almost drooled as she watched his upper back muscles bulge and relax with each of his actions. No matter how this breakfast tasted, she would enjoy it after watching such a seductive man cook it.

He felt some movement behind him and turned. Luna quickly stopped staring and sat on a stool behind the kitchen island.

He smiled charmingly and resumed cooking. When he was done, he went upstairs and grabbed a shirt. His lips twitched when he caught her disappointment after seeing him all covered up. But that did not stop her from secretly admiring his collar bones through the unbuttoned top section of the shirt.

He served their breakfast and sat down beside her.. Since they were both famished, they dug in.

Chapter 307 - Get Rid Of Her

Monday—19th November.

Lanni knocked off work early since there was nothing much for her to do in the afternoon.

After passing Xing Han's test of her loyalty, she realized that the man was no longer too guarded against her. Hence, she had an inkling of what was going on beneath the surface. On that very day, she had overheard him discuss with someone else and promise them to deliver the goods on Wednesday night. A few hours after that, the company's bank account received an astronomical amount of money.

As she left her office, she let out a smile of half victory. The latter half was more difficult to attain but at least there was something for her to hope for.

Sge had just arrived at the underground parking and was about to enter her car when someone stopped her. "Xiaomu!"

Her mood dropped when she saw the enthusiastic woman but she kept up a smile and pretended to be pleasantly surprised. "Sis Ci, what are you doing here?"

Feng Ci closed in as though the two of them were best friends. "I was just discussing a deal with Xing Han and did not expect to run into you. It must be fate."

Lanni pushed a lock of hair behind her ear. "It must be fate indeed."

"Since we are fated, why don't we go shopping together?"

Lanni had already made plans to go pay her mother a visit later but this was a heavenly chance. She had wanted to find a way to befriend Feng Ci—as Jiang Xiaomu—without being suspicious, but now the best chance had presented itself.

She knew that Feng Ci was a proud woman and if she kept rejecting her, the latter would simply stop trying to get close to her.

Hence, she sent a text message to Li Yuming and let her know that she would be late for dinner and stay the night.

—

Li Yuming glared at the text message on her phone so hard that it seemed like fireballs would shoot out of her eyes and burn the phone to ashes.

"Master, are you alright?" The housekeeper, who had been taking instructions a moment ago, was worried when she suddenly saw Li Yuming's expression.

The latter remained silent, but the housekeeper knew that there was only one thing that could rile her master up. "Did you have a fight with miss?"

Li Yuming glared at her and she shut her mouth.

She gripped the phone tightly in her hand. It was all because of that side. Because of them, her daughter had to pretend to be someone else's daughter and couldn't even go back home freely in fear of being followed. In fact, ever since this act started, the only time she had seen Lanni was at the banquet and even then, the latter had to act like a stranger and call her "Aunt Yuming".

Because of them, her relationship with her daughter was deteriorating. How the hell was she supposed to appreciate that?!

—

Unaware of her mother's tirade of emotions, Lanni followed Ji Feifei's lead to the shopping center. Since she didn't want to go back to the company after shopping, they each drove their own car and arrived one after another. They chose to go to a street full of nothing but rows of clothes and jewelry stores.

Lanni got off the car first and was about to lead Ji Feifei to one of the stores she frequented when she remembered who she was right now. Xiaomu had been abroad for years and should not be familiar with many things here. Hence she smiled and pointed at a random store. "Let's start here! The dresses look pretty nice."

Feng Ci agreed and went along.

While Lanni randomly checked a few dresses, checked their sizes and decided to buy those she liked, Feng Ci rarely found interest in any of them.

Lanni knew that she must be bored to death. After all, she didn't want to shop! She wanted something else and Lanni so badly wanted to know what it was. If she was not hurrying up to go and keep her mother company, she would have loved to try out hundreds of dresses and waste Feng Ci's time. Alas, it would waste her own time too so she dropped the idea.

Instead, she sought out Feng Ci. "You don't look well."

Feng Ci looked troubled. "I'm just worried about Xiehan. Is he alright?"

Lanni's lips twitched. As expected. Feng Ci had only sought her because she, as Jiang Xiaomu, seemed close to Xiehan and even treated him like a godbrother.

She flashed a delicate smile. "Xiehan is alright. Last I checked, he was taking care of his fiancée." She deliberately added.

As expected, Feng Ci almost blew her top. "That scheming b*tch? How does she qualify to have him take care of her?"

Realizing that she may have given herself away, she calmed down. "I'm sorry. It's just... hard to watch him being taken advantage of by that girl. She is so cunning!"

Lanni laughed. The feeling of listening to a complaint about herself was indescribable. "I totally understand. The feeling of seeing something(or someone) you care about being treated unfairly is hard to bear."

Her words held a double meaning, and Feng Ci was overjoyed when she heard it. She was right! Xiaomu did like Xiehan. Otherwise, why would a grown woman cling onto a grown man and call him godbrother? It would have been believable if she kept a safe distance but she had sent someone to spy and just this morning, Xiaomu insisted on dropping Xiehan off at his workplace and kissed his cheek.

She grabbed the opportunity. "Xiaomu, do you like Xiehan?"

Lanni was overjoyed by the question but kept her cool. "Xiehan is such an outstanding man. There's probably no woman who won't like him, right?"

Feng Ci grinned at the troubled look on the girl's face. "You know what I learnt in this unfair world? You should aim to grab what you want no matter what. Don't let it slip."

Lanni mocked the woman in her heart. She wanted to use Xiaomu to get rid of Lanni?

Hehe.

Chapter 308 - Collaboration

Lanni looked like she was in a difficult position. "I always go for whatever I want, but if it belongs to someone else..."

"Are you kidding me? How does that fake woman compare to you in any way? She isn't even worthy of being compared to a strand of your hair!" Feng Ci urged with all the sincerity she could manage to fake.

Lanni snorted. "You're right. I was thinking too much. There is no woman who can qualify to be my opponent if I go after a man."

Feng Ci was offended by Lanni's deliberately provoking tone. However, she wanted to use her to get rid of Lanni, so she should not know about her own feelings for Xiehan. She could only go along and flatter her endlessly.

When she could no longer stand shopping with her love rival, Feng Ci pointed at a restaurant across the road. "Why don't we have a meal over there? I'm famished. We can go home afterwards."

Lanni had been waiting for that. "I would love to, but I promised my friend to dine together. Maybe some other time?"

"Okay." Feng Ci had not intended to eat with her anyway. It was just as bad as eating with Lanni. Both of them were after Xiehan so how could she like them? She could only tolerate Jiang Xiaomu a little because she was using her to get rid of Lanni.

When they left the store with shopping bags in their hands, Feng Ci tried to probe a little. "About Xiehan, are you going to..."

"I know what to do." Lanni interrupted haughtily.

Hearing that, Feng Ci was pleased. At least the girl was not useless.

Just as they parted ways, Lanni's phone rang. Her heart skipped a beat, and Feng Ci clearly saw the name 'Luna' sprawled across the screen. Her eyes glinted with a murderous intent.

Lanni acted calm and picked the call. Luckily, Luna would always refer to her as Xiaomu if they were not on their own. Hence even if it was a phone call, she would only call her using her real name if she was certain that it was safe to do so.

They chatted for just a few seconds since they were supposedly not very close, and Luna casually invited her to have a cup of tea together.

"You are close to Xia Luna?" Feng Ci curiously asked when the call ended.

In response, Lanni raised an eyebrow. "I didn't know I had to answer to you and tell you who are or are not my friends?"

Whether with her real identity or her alias, she was not going to let anyone think that she was their sidekick.

Feng Ci gritted her teeth but smiled. "Of course not. It's just... she is Lanni's twin."

Seeing Lanni's amused look, she tried to sow discord. "I heard that twins are too similar. In fact, they often fall in love with the same man. She may also fall for Xieahn and you..."

"You don't need to worry about that." Lanni dismissed and entered her car.

Although she had been pissed off almost to death, she had achieved something-Feng Ci was more or less on her side. She only needed to do a few more things now and she would accomplish her goal.

—

Luna hung up the call and set her phone aside.

"How is it going?" Cheng Yu asked curiously.

"She didn't tell me yet. I guess she was with someone who should not overhear the conversation." Luna concluded, and decided that she would wait for Lanni's call later.

"Why don't we get back to work first?" Luna suggested as she pulled her laptop over.

"Aren't we already done?" Cheng Yu was confused.

"We need to test it. It would be better if there are no errors. Of course, there are a few things we have not decided on. If we make every tiny detail as perfect as possible, the other party will have nothing to nitpick. This way, we can gain as much profit from it." Luna explained, and Cheng Yu thought she made sense.

The two of them were coming up with a mobile application for comics. This has been Luna's idea. However, there were many comic applications on the market so they had to make theirs stand out if they were to be successful with it.

Right now, the application was ready for testing, which was what they were doing.

"Ready?" Cheng Yu probed.

"Go ahead." Luna agreed, and Cheng Yu went ahead to publish the first chapter of her comic using the tablet.

Luna then logged into the app using her phone and checked it out. "The interface is great, and it will not crush..." She was satisfied as she checked out every aspect of the application.

"We will have this comic for the front page advertisement." She decided as she skimmed through what Cheng Yu had published.

Cheng Yu knew that Luna was doing this to give her publicity and felt warmth flood into her heart. "It's already good enough that you are letting me take part in this." In fact, that was an understatement. Luna was letting her take half the credit for the application when all she deserved was nothing more than a few mentions for the ideas she gave along the way.

Luna seemed to read her mind and held her hand. "Are you an idiot? Outlook is very important for an application. It is this that will draw in potential users. Since you made most of the major decisions on this, you are a co-founder."

Hearing this, she could not reject it anymore. "But what if the company we collaborate with has a different opinion? They could like the app but that doesn't mean they will like the comic."

Luna crossed her arms like a boss. "We are not dropping freebies here. If no one wants to adhere to the terms we suggest, we can simply start our own studio. At most, we will just have ten times the workload."

Cheng Yu laughed at Luna's decisiveness. However, it was still better to collaborate with another company for now.

"Okay, back to work." Luna grabbed a pen and started checking a list. "The search engine is perfect, recommendation system, perfect, currency..." She looked up at Cheng Yu. "We had not decided on this."

"Right." Cheng Yu sunk into thought. "What do you think of coins?"

"Isn't every app using that?" Luna disapproved and shook her head when she thought of diamonds. That couldn't do either.

"What about rubies? The app's theme would be fitting with red." Cheng Yu suggested.

Luna scratched her chin in thought then flipped to a blank piece of paper to draw a small sample.

"That's excellent!" Cheng Yu gushed. Instead of rubies, they went for ruby keys in the end, then decided on the currency.

50 keys would cost 50 Hong Kong Dollars in real cash, and it would require 10 keys to unlock one chapter.

Luna quickly fixed the codes to add the changes then sighed in relief.

"Now we need people we trust to help us test it." Luna still wanted to be sure that there would not be a single complaint. If the company they collaborated with found any glitch, their efforts would go to waste.

She had already to have Lanni, Xiehan and Jiang Xingyu test it. Even so, the more people tried to use it, the more sure they would be about it.

"How about we get Cedric to try it as well? He can try as an author as well as a reader." Cheng Yu suggested.

"Cedric?" Luna quirked up a brow.

"Well, he is trustworthy." Cheng Yu's cheeks burned slightly as she explained.

"You guys have gotten quite close, huh?" Luna teased.

"Uhm... no no... it's not what you think!" She quickly defended herself.

Luna crossed her arms like a mother interrogating her daughter. "And many I know what I am thinking? Is there something I don't know?"

Cheng Yu's face couldn't be any redder. "Actually, Cedric and I are just friends."

The latter raised her eyebrow. "Your friends make you blush so hard?"

"Stop teasing me!" Cheng Yu complained. Luna was doing it on purpose!

"We really are just friends. Though we.... We may have kissed once." Cheng Yu stuttered.

"Whoa! You—what? No wonder your face is so red!" Luna inched closer for gossip.

"It was just a tiny peck... on my cheek." Cheng Yu explained urgently.

Luna burst into laughter. "If a kiss on the cheek is making you blush so hard, then you have feelings for him!"

Before the latter could admonish her, Luna teased her even more. "The guy you like simply has to glance in your direction for you to start smiling like a fool and blushing like a love-stricken teenager."

Cheng Yu so badly wanted to hide. "Anyway, I'm not ready to be with him.. I'm not sure about his feelings, him being the kind of guy he is. What if he is just fooling around?"

"Well, you're right." Luna did not defend Cedric. That guy's character was questionable. From what she had heard about him from Cheng Yu so far, he seemed to have a fling with Ruby, then started sticking onto Lanni and not too long after, started flirting with Cheng Yu. Who the hell would trust such a guy?

Even so, she was not going to completely discourage her, just in case the young man had stopped flirting around and seriously wanted to be with Cheng Yu. "You need to give it time and see his true character. If he truly loves you, you will find out soon enough."

Cheng Yu gripped her phone tightly. "You don't understand. It's not about true love and whatnot. I'm just... not willing to be in a relationship."

Luna recalled why she and Cheng Yu understood each other so well. They had a lot in common, especially in relation to their families. They both had disagreements with their mothers but Cheng Yu's was much worse.

When she was a little girl and her brother was a baby, their father passed away in an accident. Just a few months after, their mother remarried and brought them with her to her new marital home.

Cheng Yu's stepfather had no qualms about Xiao Ying, who was just a few months old at the time, since it was easier to deceive a baby. He just had to pose as the real father and Xiao Ying would be like a true son to him.

However, Cheng Yu was different. She was already old enough to know that her father had died and was never coming back, and the man her mother had married was her stepfather. Hence, he disliked her from the moment they first met. He would pretend to love her and treat her like a real daughter when Cheng Yu's mother was around but when it was just the two of them, he would scold her and call her all sorts of names. Cheng Yu grew up to be terrified of him and would keep as much distance from him as possible.

At first, she thought that all would be alright as long as she kept away from the man and did not piss him off. However, she couldn't have been more wrong. The man had more motive than that.

When she was a young teenager undergoing the first awakening of puberty and becoming sensitive of her body as a girl, the man went too far. In order to scare her away from home, he touched her inappropriately when her mother was not home.

Cheng Yu's first reaction was, of course, to run away and hide. She waited for her mother to return before she went back home and told her about it. No matter what his reason was, his perverted actions could never be excused and he should have been sued for sexually assaulting a minor.

However, Cheng Yu's mother was the worst kind of person on earth. Not only did she not trust her own daughter, but she also blamed her for what happened. She accused Cheng Yu of dressing up inappropriately and went as far as to say that she was trying to seduce her husband. The worst blow was her saying that her biological father's death was her own fault—that she was an unlucky girl who had jinxed her own dad to his death.

After that incident, Cheng Yu became an introvert who was not willing to trust anyone and rarely made friends. She could no longer play with her schoolmates and spent as much time in the library as possible. She would only go back home when she really had to, and even then, she would keep to her room and have her brother send her meals.

She was especially afraid of the opposite sex and had sworn to never get into a relationship with a man. What was worse, her mother always strived to do things that would hurt her feelings; like taking away everything she liked. If Cheng Yu took a liking to any animal and took it in as a pet, her mother would either kill it or send it away.

She even tried her best to drive a wedge between Cheng Yu and the only person she cared for—her brother. When she couldn't do it, she resorted to doing worse things; like not allowing her to go the university she initially wanted and trying to force her away from her dreams. She had even once tried to force Cheng Yu into an early marriage for the sake of vexing her daughter and only gave up when there was no family that was willing to accept the girl as a daughter-in-law.

Now, although she still went back home sometimes for the sake of her brother, she was still at loggerheads with both her mother and her stepfather.

For a girl with such a tragic past and a cruel shadow cast over her life, she could only be with a man if he was trustworthy, of unquestionable character and he gave her a sense of security.

Cedric was definitely not the kind of man that could be considered as good enough.

However, Luna still thought that it would be best if Cheng Yu found a loving man and settled down. She had already experienced enough loneliness while growing up. How could she spend the rest of her life on her own?

She took her friend's hand and patted it comfortingly. "Xiao Yu, not everyone is the same. There has to be someone out there who will treasure you and not hurt your feelings."

"Luna, I want to think that way too, but life is not a novel. It doesn't always have to turn out the way we want it. Just because my past wasn't happy doesn't mean my future will be great." she frowned.

"Look at me, aren't I the best example?" Luna pointed at herself. "I don't have a nice past with mothers but what about now? There is someone who treats me better than she would treat her own daughter—and we are not even related in any way."

"That just means you are lucky." Cheng Yu shrugged.

"No, Xiao Yu.. It just means, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. If you shut your eyes completely, how will you see that light when it appears?"

Chapter 310 - Collaboration (3)

Cheng Yu wanted to say something but her lips moved, nothing leaving her mouth in the end.

At last, she flashed a brilliant smile. "Madam Jiang is awesome! If only every mother was like her... oh, part of the reason why she dotes on you so much is because of Jiang Xingyu. Though I'm certain that she would still like you if you didn't marry him."

She seemed to recall something. "Speaking of Jiang Xingyu, what's going on with you and him? Last I checked, you were suspecting your feelings for him."

Luna knew she was trying to change the topic but she did not push it—Cheng Yu would embrace her own feelings when the time is right.

"Xingyu and I... well, things happened faster than they should have." Luna sighed.

"And that's supposed to mean...?" She may have asked the first question to change the topic, but now she was truly curious.

"Well, we progressed too fast so we talked about it and agreed to let nature take its course." She paused when she noticed Cheng Yu giving her an odd look. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Did you do it with him?" she questioned.

"Yeah..." Luna did not deny it. "Why are you looking at me like I'm a jerk?"

Cheng Yu leaned against the back of her hand. "Aren't you one though? You just did a hit-and-run."

Luna rolled her eyes. "Just whose friend are you?"

—

The next day.

After thinking through all the companies they could collaborate with, Luna and Cheng Yu made a decision. Of course, everyone would want to aim for the best, hence they decided to start with Star Art International.

They both woke up earlier than usual and Luna made the final touches while Cheng Yu prepared breakfast.

When they were both done and finished eating, they got ready to leave for Star Art International.

"Whoa, Luna! I didn't know you would look this dashing in suits!" Cheng Yu gushed. The girl was wearing a red skirt-suit that ended a little above her knee. Her hair was styled in soft waves and she had a little makeup on her face, making her look youthful and elegant. "You look like one of those overbearing female CEOs!"

"You're exaggerating." Luna laughed.

"Not at all! I swear, you look like a goddess." Cheng Yu was not exaggerating. In fact, she felt that whatever word she used to compliment her friend would be an understatement.

Luna scanned her friend. "You look beautiful yourself." She was not just saying it to make the latter happier. Although Cheng Yu was wearing an aged, black pants suit, she had kept it in good condition and still looked beautiful and professional in it.

"Let's get going or we will be late." Luna raised her fair wrist to check the time, even her demeanor was like that of a boss.

—

Star Art international.

Luna and Cheng Yu had managed to book an appointment with Si Yulin—who was now the CEO of Star Art International—so they were not worried about having trouble getting in.

As they entered the elevator, they just happened to come face to face with Cedric.

"Xiao Yu?!" The man was evidently perplexed when he saw her. She looked beautiful!

"Why are you so early? Isn't the class supposed to start later?" Cheng Yu looked at him quizzically.

"I wanted to meet that Jiang bastard. I heard he would be here for inspection." As soon his words were out, he felt a chill down his spine. only then did he notice Luna who was glaring at him murderously.

Cheng Yu saw the situation and quickly intervened. "Right. Have you met Luna yet?"

"I couldn't tell. If I met her outside, I would think she is Lanni." He laughed, wondering why the girl seemed to have a grudge against him.

He extended a hand to greet her, which Luna ignored with a smirk.

He leaned to ask Cheng Yu with a whisper, "Why does she seem to hate me?"

Cheng Yu laughed awkwardly. Of course she would hate you. You just called her man a bastard!

Luckily, they soon heard the ping of the elevator as it arrived on the thirteenth floor.

Cedric got off and it was just the two girls left.

"Jiang Xingyu is coming for inspection?" Luna asked.

"Yes. I forgot to tell you about it but he comes for inspection every month. He just happens to be coming today."

"I see." Luna didn't know whether or not she hoped to meet him. Should she be happy that they may bump into each other?

However, it was nearly impossible. He would be too busy going through all the departments to have any chance to bump into her.

Hence, they quietly made their way to the CEO's office.

"Hello, you must be Miss Xia and Miss Cheng." The secretary greeted them sweetly. "CEO Si said to go in immediately."

"Thank you." Luna was pleased about not having to wait. After all, she needed to go back home and do her work while Cheng Yu had to go to class. It would be better if the negotiation went as fast as possible.

The secretary opened the door for them and they walked in, then Luna froze in the next second. Sitting on a leather chair not far from Si Yulin's was none other than the man she was wondering whether she would bump into, Jiang Xingyu.

He looked pleasantly surprised to see her, and she sharply caught him staring at the sliver of her thighs, left out by the suit she was wearing.

She glared at him then flashed a smile at Si Yulin. "Good Morning, CEO Si."

"Hello. The two of you look beautiful." The beautiful woman behind the desk switched to a casual tone. She was already familiar with Cheng Yu since the latter was one of the top students. On the other hand, Luna was Lanni's sister, and rumor had it that Jiang Xingyu was into her, so she didn't think she had to be formal with the two of them.

After offering them seats, she deliberately snuck a glance at the man beside her and said, "President Jiang is here too."