Chosen Wife 31

Chapter 31 - Their Names Were Cleared

That was scary- who would suddenly hack into her phone?

She would deal with that later.

At the moment, she had something more important to do.

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Just in like with Li Lanni's prediction, Ji Feifei sobbed her way to Professor Marcus' home. She had known that man long enough to know when his wife was home and when she was not.

As soon as she arrived, she threw herself into his arms. Although she was just a young student attending university, she looked nothing like one. She had altered her university uniform to be so short that one didn't need to spend a lot of effort to see her nudity. Paired with the thick make up and vibrant red lipstick, she would doubtlessly pass off as an escort.

Her mannerisms were even more seductive. She threw herself into Professor Marcus' arms- though she knew that she was doing this to a married man. "Professor, that Li Lanni bullied me today. You must make her suffer." her pouty expression was nothing in sync with her dressing.

Professor Marcus patted her backside with his chubby hand. "As you wish. I will make her unable to ever score a good grade as long as she is in B City University."

Ji Feifei wiped away her crocodile tears, trying hard to bear with the man's lecherous moves. 'Damn old fart. I will destroy you next once you help me get rid of Li Lanni'. But that was not what came out of her mouth. "Thank you professor, I knew you dote on me the most."

Professor Marcus was not all that pleased, though.

Because of this girl, he had been exposed.

He had been very willing to frame Li Lanni because she was such a beauty. Faced with such an innocent looking cutie, who wouldn't want to have a taste of her?Not to mention, he actually had feelings for her.

Heaven knew he would give an arm and a leg if it would make her say yes to his advances.

. However, Ji Feifei had promised him that he would have her but he didn't see a wasp of her hair. All he recieved instead was a bad reputation. He was still working out a way to clear his name. He had been having a hide time ensuring by all means that his wife didn't get wind of the matter. If she did, all he had done would be in vain.

But, he could only keep calm for now. Ji Feifei was after all from the Ji family. She could make his life hell if she wanted to.

On the bright side, he was earning money from it! Getting involved in a deal that benefitted him no matter how one looked at it, and earning money on top of it all. The best part was the thrill of it - who would say no?

Besides, she was not too bad either. She was pretty and slutty - just the way he liked his girls.

"Professor, for this end year exam, I want Li Lanni to score the lowest grades in every subject."

The professor glanced at her breasts lustfully. "Sure. I will do that for my beauty. But why do you hate her so much?"

"I just hate her. Can't I?"

Professor Marcus laughed evilly. "Since That's what you want and she dared to cause trouble for me, I shall do it your way."

Ji Feifei was overjoyed.

The next day, the events that unfolded were completely contrary to Li Lanni's expectations.

She did not recieve news about Professor Marcus' dismissal. Instead, it was a clarification that the whole matter was a misunderstanding.

The good news was that her name had been cleared of the stain.

While the bad news on the other hand, was that Professor Marcus's name had been cleared as well. The claim was that someone had framed Professor Marcus and even faked an ip adress to make it more realistic.

Li Lanni furrowed her eyebrows. "Who the hell judged this matter? Are they blind or are they outright stupid?" How was this being framed? That man had been reportedly involved with many girls.

She in fact didn't care that much aboout her own case because it was just a little soil to her name. But what about those other girls?

What about the innocent girls who he had reportedly forced himself on?

"This won't do. I will find justice no matter what." She declared.

Cheng Yu held her shoulders, looking terrified. "Lanni, as long as you are not being scolded anymore and no one is pursuing you, you should let it go. This matter is complicated. He might have bribed the higher-ups. You should consider yourself lucky that your name has been cleared to begin with."

Li Lanni was even more irked. Her name had been cleared? That was such an exaggerated statement. She knew that Ji Feifei must have tried to make it seem like she was the seductress by all means. She had only been found innocent because there was no sufficient evidence to prove her guilt. "And that's exactly why I must bring the truth to light. Someone is supporting this beast behind the scenes and I know who they are. I can't believe such a person exists in this world. Tsk, some families need to take better care of their children.

Cheng Yu understood the implication of her words. She was saying that Ji Feifei was the one behind this turn of events.

This was even more dangerous. "Lanni, you should stop when you can. Your name has already been more or less cleared out of this matter."

Li Lanni glared at her. "You said this a moment ago and now you are saying it again. What are you, a repeater?"

"It is a serious matter. That's why I will not let you do it."

Li Lanni scoffed with her arms crossed against her chest. "You should know, the more you don't want me to do it, the more I want to. I will not leave any stone unturned until I bring the truth to light."

Her expression exuded of determination.

At the same time, Qiao Luna trembled as she entered Ji Xiehan's office. She had been instructed to report eberything about Li Lanni to her boss.

"Boss, Miss Li Lanni seems to be facing problems in school."

"Speak."

"There was a scandal about her and a professor. The scandal has been cleared today."

Ji Feifei furrowed his eyebrows. "If the scandal has been cleared, why are you telling me?"

"Well..." Qiao Luna was terrified.

"The next time anything happens to Lanni, you must tell me as soon as it happens."

"Yes boss."

Chapter 32 - Her Personality Was Still Intact

Meanwhile, Li Lanni held her chin in thought for a while before sitting right back down, opposite Cheng Yu. She pushed her bag aside and placed both of her hands on the table, looking at Cheng Yu right in the eye.

For some reason, Cheng Yu felt chills run down her spine. This kind of look... why did it feel like it bode disaster?

"Cheng Yu, I don't have any recollection of you." The girl finally spoke after agonizing her friend with the eerie silent gaze.

Cheng Yu was stunned and her heart suddenly thumped against her chest, making her almost unable to breath. "What do you mean?" Was she starting to suspect her motive of getting close to her?

While she was starting to look for a reasonable excuse, Li Lanni spoke again. "But I have decided to trust you."

"Huh?"

What a turn of events. It was about trust now? And Li Lanni even said that she trusted her?

Purely out of curiosity, Cheng Yu ran a hand at the back of her neck, her lips curving into a tiny smile. "How... how could you trust me? You don't know me that well considering you don't remember most of your past; and I was not part of that past to begin with."

"Heh. What do I need the past for? I trust you and that's it. What, do you want to sell me off? In that case, how about I help you count the spoils?"

Although her words sounded very indifferent, that wasn't the feeling reciprocated in her heart.

She was scared. She was afraid anyone would hurt her, so she didn't truly trust anyone.

She only said this to Cheng Yu for a reason.

This girl had started clinging onto her when she returned to school.

Li Lanni didn't know her true intention but she wasn't too guarded against her.

Since she didn't know who this girl was before she lost her memory, she could only rely on her instinct.

And her instinct told her that Cheng Yu wasn't too harmful. Even if she happened to habor ill intentions, Li Lanni would find out soon.

"Do you trust me?" she suddenly asked.

"I do." The startled Cheng Yu responded.

"Good. I don't know who else can help me with this, so I came to find you instead." After the mini roller coaster, Li Lanni finally revealed her intent.

"I will help you with anything that's within legal boundaries."

"Coincidentally, I'm not one to want to do illegal things."

Cheng Yu heaved a sigh of relief. She was starting to think Li Lanni was up to causing trouble.

"Unless they are meant for the good of everyone."

"Eh?"

"I need to get the details of all the students who have reportedly been involved with Professor Marcus. Can you help me with that?"

"You've got to stop kidding me."

"Which part of me looks like I'm kidding?"

Cheng Yu massaged her aching temples. This girl was a piece of work.

She knew full well that if she didn't deliver the student details, Li Lanni would go all out to find them on her own, and the amount of trouble she would cause along the way would depend solely on luck.

Haiz... the accident only made her lose her memory, but her personality was intact.

"Let's have lunch together tomorrow."

"Okay. Thank you."

Li Lanni stood up, took her bag, slung it on her shoulder and strutted away.

Since Cheng Yu liked sticking to her so much, she may as well use her help. She would also use this chance to test her loyalty, killing two birds with one stone.

The next day at lunch hour, Li Lanni couldn't wait to go to the school cafeteria.

"Lanni, let's eat lunch together?" Ji Feifei appeared before her with one of those fake smiles plastered across her dolled up face.

Li Lanni felt nauseated. Why was this scheming devil everywhere?

Although that was what she felt, the words that left her mouth were as polite as ever. "Sorry, I'll be studying with Cheng Yu over lunch. She will teach me a thing or two."

Ji Feifei managed a smile despite her annoyance. "I can teach you too."

Li Lanni played with a lock of her long hair, looking at a loss. "I don't know... can you really teach me?"

She deliberately emphasized on 'really', making the meaning of her words obvious.

Ji Feifei was enraged. "Are you saying that my grades are bad?"

"How would I know? I lost my memory, remember?" She shrugged and walked off, leaving Ji Feifei so furious she could detonate.

How could she not know? There were few reasons for someone like Ji Feifei to be jealous of her to the point of hatred.

It was probably because of her school grades because an aristocratic family like the Ji family would obviously pay much attention to their children's academic prowess.

If she was half good, she wouldn't be so jealous and hateful.

With a sigh, Li Lanni went to the school cafeteria.

"Lanni, over here." Cheng Yu let out a restrained shout and waved her hand when she saw Li Lanni walk through the door. She was sitting at a window, where the view was nicest.

Li Lanni walked over eagerly and took a seat opposite her. "Did you bring it?"

Cheng Yu was disheartened.. "When you saw me, you didn't even say hi to me. Are these files more important than our friendship?"

Chapter 33 - Playing Miss Perfect

Li Lanni realized just how impatient she had sounded. "Sorry. I was too rushed."

Cheng Yu was stunned. She was just making fun. She would never be offended by Li Lanni.

The girls ordered their food and started eating. However, the atmosphere was still slightly awkward, the only sound produced between them being that of metal clicking against porcelain as they ate.

To ease the atmosphere, she opened the zipper of her black leather bag and took out the file she had managed to get. "I could only get basic information because I was afraid someone would find me suspicious."

Li Lanni reached a hand over the table and took the file. "It should suffice."

She opened it and flipped the paper quickly, taking glances at the names. When she was done, she reopened the file and started reading the information seriously.

Cheng Yu glanced at her curiously the whole time. Why was it that no matter how much time passes, she would never understand a single action of Li Lanni's?

"Only two of these students seem to have a questionable personality. The others don't seem capable of being involved with married men."

Cheng Yu chocked on the water she was drinking. Could she be a little less blunt?

"How do you even analyze that?"

Li Lanni lifted her head from the file, playing with the golden pen she had been using to write down her analysis. "Purely instinct. Would you believe me if I said that?"

Cheng Yu probably thought she was crazy. "You already said it. Do I have a choice?"

"You sure don't." Li Lanni's tone was full of satisfaction compared to when she walked in.

She had just accomplished one step of her plan. It would be weird if she didn't feel happy about it.

"Are you done? Let's go to the library." She suggested when Cheng Yu was no longer eating.

"Can I call a rain check? I already made plans with my friend." Cheng Yu looked at a loss.

After studying her face for a while, Li Lanni beamed. "No problem."

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In the library, Li Lanni simply couldn't read.

That was obviously because she was not here to read.

She was trying out her luck in 'bumping into' a girl called Nina. According to the check, this Nina was a bookworm of sorts. It wouldn't be long before she appeared in the library.

Cheng Yu had done such a great job in her research. She had even included the girls' photos. It would make it easier to recognize them.

Sure enough, the girl came in after a few minutes.

Li Lanni took a large book and buried her face in it. She was more or less a stalker. It wouldn't end well if she got discovered when her plan was in such a premature phase.

The girl named Nina settled down quickly and took a book to read.

It took Li Lanni just a few minutes to determine her personality.

It was not strange. After her accident, she had to be wary of everyone. Since she couldn't simply lock herself up at home and rid herself of all human interactions, she could only be more observant that other people and rely on her senses.

And in the few minutes that she had studied Nina, she concluded that the latter was an introvert.

It might be harder to convince her, but she would be easier to work with.

Li Lanni left the library after coming up with a feasible plan.

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After school, she waited for Nina at the exit of her class building.

As soon as the girl appeared, she grabbed her and pulled her to a path with less traffic - all in five seconds.

"Who are you?" Nina was prepared to launch a ferocious blow but discovered on time that the opponent was a girl. Not only that, she had reverted to a cute and harmless form.

"I'm Lanni. I'l sorry I had to drag you here but I need your help. My future depends on it."

"What do you want?" As expected, the girl was heavily guarded against her.

"I'm being framed." Li Lanni blurted.

"What's that got to do with me? You should go to the students affairs office or call 911." She turned to leave.

"You've been in my shoes before. Won't you help me?"

Nina stopped in her tracks. Those words seemed to jab her being. "What do you mean?"

Knowing that she had successfully gained her attention, Li Lanni convinced her to go to the empty park on their left together.

They sat on the cold bench, Nina obviously emitting an aura of impatience.

"To be exact, my name has been cleared. But the beast still lurks. I'm afraid I will forever live in regrets if I let this happen." Li Lanni explained apologetically.

Nina guffawed. "You have been given an inch, and now you audaciously want to take a mile? You should be glad that you did not earn a suspension or worse."

"Nina, do you think that man has only hurt two girls? I think It's more than that. I think... most of these girls simply fell victims to his schemes. It might be because they rejected him or because someone else was using him to ruin their futures. And he has been so careful that he left no evidence behind.

Why do you think no one is questioning him despite all the rumors? Why do you think no parent has complained about him?"

"Li Lanni, I think you freshmen have too much time in your hands. But I'm not like you; I have a lot going on right now and can't spare time to play with you. Don't involve me in your fantasy of playing the Miss Perfect that wants to bring imaginary justice to the world." She stood up and sauntered away.

"That stung." Li Lanni mumbled as she watched her vanishing silhouette.

Well, she should have expected such a reaction. Hadn't she deduced that Nina was an introvert? How then, did she expect her to involve herself in such matters?

Chapter 34 - Nip It In The Bud

However, how could such a tiny setback possibly make Li Lanni give up?

This was the only way to expose Ji Feifei. Every other thing she thought Ji Feifei had done was only her intuition. There was no way she could possibly verify it to be true.

The only thing she could find evidence to was this.

That was right. She was declaring war against Ji Feifei.

Instead of waiting for her to step up and come up with more sophisticated schemes, it would be better to nip it in the bud.

She took out the diary she had started keeping a week ago and started checking the entries.

When she found that there was nothing important to look at, she closed it and took out a novel instead. It would calm her nerves a little.

"Miss, there you are. Master is worried about you." Needless to say, that was her bodyguard.

Li Lanni turned to see the four of them looking so nervous they could pee their pants.

Her eyebrows turned up at a slight angle in amusement. Had her mother made things difficult for them?

Since she didn't have anything important to do here, she took her bag and followed them to the car.

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The Li mansion.

"Mom, I'm back." Li Lanni announced as she walked through the door.

The figure she saw on the sofa opposite her mother as soon as her eyes darted around, however, made her clutch her bag in annoyance.

She clenched her lips so tightly they formed a thin line. Her cold glare was directed towards the man on the sofa. "White haired pervert, what are you doing here?"

"Lanni, don't be so rude. Xiehan's my guest." Li Yuming admonished, then turned to smile at Ji Xiehan awkwardly. "Lanni is a bit unfriendly lately. Please don't mind her."

"Mmh." Ji Xiehan responded with a hum. He didn't mind. In fact, he found this wild kitten personality quite intriguing.

Li Lanni was even more annoyed. "What exactly is he doing here?"

"Xiehan only passed by to check on you. The last time he saw you, you were unwell and he had saved you. You should be more polite towards him." Li Yuming couldn't figure out why on earth her daughter would be Ji Feifei's friend but hate Ji Feifei's brother. Was this the legendary hatred out of love? Li Lanni knew that her mother was probably thinking up that kind of topic again.

She took a deep breath. "I'll walk him around in the garden."

Li Yuming was stunned before her eyes filled with joy. "Of course. You can take up as much time as you want. I'll go and prepare something for you both to eat."

Li Lanni grabbed the man's hand and led him away, leaving behind a flabbergasted Li Yuming.

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The man who had been dragged out with no chance to defend himself was the young master of the Ji family. That very young master who was rumored to hate women to the core and despise them as disgusting creatures.

He was currently pressed against the wall as the detonating Li Lanni interrogated him.

"What do you want?"

"What do you think I want?" Instead of answering her question, Ji Xiehan asked his own teasingly.

Li Lanni pressed an elbow against his chest, her gaze rather intimidating for a young woman of her age. "What did she ask you to do?"

"Who is 'she'?"

Ji Xiehan revealed a content expression when he saw how furious she looked.

"I'm only here to say hello to Aunty Li and have a cup of coffee with her. Actually, Aunty Li and I have known each other for long time and I only tried to befriend you because you are her daughter. Why are you so fierce?" His expression was full of innocence, as though accusing her of thinking too much.

Her hand that was pressing him against the wall loosened. "You... you are telling the truth?"

"Uh huh. What else could there be?"

Li Lanni's eyes squinted. Right. He was Ji Xiehan. Why would he have time to play around with her? Perhaps she was just over thinking things... or was she?

"Hmm... if you ever dare to hurt my mother or me, you will not know how you died."

Ji Xiehan remained harmless, raising his hands as though in surrender. "I'm just an innocent negotiation expert. What harm could I possibly cause?"

Li Lanni let go of him and wordlessly sauntered back to the house.

The 'harmless negotiation expert' leaned against the wall for a while, laughing.

It was much better to clear any suspicion from her mind.

That was why he had purposefully come here.

And from the looks of things, he could count it as a success.

On a side note, she had asked, "What did she tell you to do?"

Was she guarded against him because she thought he was working for someone, or with someone to plot against her?

He had done his homework about Li Lanni and knew that the only three people close to her at the moment were Li Yuming, Cheng Yu and Ji Feifei.

Her mother was out of question and Cheng Yu was nothing interesting. Could it be Ji Feifei?

Logically, it made sense. He was Ji Feifei's brother and not long ago, he had realized that his sister in fact had something against Li Lanni.

So she thought he could possibly become his younger sister's puppet and follow her commands? She thought too lowly of him.

She even pushed him against the wall and threatened him.

"Tch, interesting."

•••

Li Lanni went to the bathroom after leaving Ji Xiehan outside to care about himself.

When she left the bathroom, she saw that she had received a new text message. She unlocked her phone and took a look.

[Having fun?]

The sender information was blank.

She frowned. Was this a prank?

Even if it was a prank, it should at least have the sender information. What absurdity was this?

Chapter 35 - Dole Out Revenge On The Right People

Li Lanni scrutinized the text message for a tortuously long time.

She didn't comprehend why but as soon as her gaze landed on those two words, her mind thought back to the letters she had been receiving from that stalker.

Was it the same person?

What did they mean by this?

Her temples started throbbing. Li Lanni raised her hands to massage them in circles.

A short while later, she shoved the thought out of her mind. She had more important things to deal with at the moment. She didn't have time to deal with a stalker who wouldn't reveal their motive.

Li Lanni changed into a more comfortable outfit and went downstairs.

Ji Xiehan was still there. She was displeased, but he couldn't possibly leave without saying a word to her mother so she could only suck it up.

"You guys are back so fast." Li Yuming exclaimed when she left the kitchen. She signaled the servants to help her set the dining table.

"We didn't have much to do." Li Lanni said, ignoring Ji Xiehan who was stealing glances at her. How was this even stealing glances? He was blatantly staring at her and acting like nothing happened.

"Dinner is ready." She announced, inviting the pair to the dining table.

This was the most agonizing meal for Li Lanni. She barely took a few bites.

...

The next day, Li Lanni rushed to school. She had blinked the night away, thinking about how to handle the issue about Professor Marcus. Nina had refused to be part of it in a rather rude way. She had no words to describe that kind of temperament.

She checked through the file Cheng Yu had given to her and found a more suitable girl.

...

At lunch time, Li Lanni did not go to eat in the school cafeteria. Instead, she went to a restaurant opposite the school.

That was where the girl she was meeting today, Jin Shanshan, worked.

The girl had been expelled from school a year ago due to claims about being in a relationship with that lecherous Professor Marcus.

From Li Lanni's analysis, however, it didn't seem to be the case.

The girl had to learn as well as take care of her ailing younger sister. However, that didn't prove that she needed to be in a relationship with a married man.

in fact, Li Lanni believed that these facts were used in the wrong way.

When she arrived at the restaurant, the first thing she did was register for a VIP membership card, which arrived within five minutes.

In this restaurant, VIP customers could make special requests including asking for particular staff to serve them.

Li Lanni greeted the manager with a smile

"Hello, can you get Jin Shanshan to serve me? I heard from my friends who frequent this restaurant that she is very fast and efficient too."

The manager didn't think it was strange, so he summoned Jin Shanshan right away.

Li Lanni sat in her private room, looking out of the window and admiring the scenery until the girl arrived. "Miss, what would you like to eat?"

Li Lanni ordered without thinking it through and continued looking at the scenery outside.

She had only said that Jin Shanshan was fast and efficient but she didn't expect it to be true. Her meals arrived within a few minutes. "Miss, please enjoy."

Li Lanni was astonished by the lavish spread. She probably wouldn't finish a quarter of this even if she were a glutton.

"My friend stood me up. Could you keep me company? I can't finish all this food myself."

Jin Shanshan looked conflicted. It was rare to hear such a kind of request from a girl, especially one as cute and adorable as Lanni. She didn't look half as arrogant as most VIP customers were. Most importantly, she was wearing the uniform of B City University. "Miss... I'm still working. My boss would be angry."

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Li Lanni blinked her eyes pitifully. "That's such a pity. Then could you sit down for just a few minutes?"

"I..." the girl sighed. "Okay. But just a few minutes. I should get back to work soon."

Li Lanni took a tiny lock of her hair and rolled it in her index finger, a sly smile appearing on her lips. Of course, she wouldn't let Jin Shanshan see it.

Well, well. This Jin Shanshan was quite easy to persuade.

She looked into her eyes with all seriousness. "I can help you go back to school."

Jin Shanshan was taken aback. "Huh?"

Li Lanni maintained her gaze, her lips turning up at a slight angle. "I came here for a reason. And that reason is to find you and get you back to school."

"Wait wait. Miss, are you muddled or something? we don't know each other, right?"

"You were in B City university, weren't you?"

"Hold on..."

"You want to go back to school. You don't want any other school, just B City University.... and it's because you were expelled unjustifiably and want to go back and dole out revenge on the right people, right?"

Jin Shanshan couldn't make head or tail of this situation so she might as well just go with the flow. Of course, she would cling to any ray of hope to get her back to B City University. She still had business to do there."What if I did, what if I did not?"

"Then I'm speaking to the right person." Li Lanni didn't expect that the things she had analyzed in a few minutes would be right.

She only knew the bit about this girl being kicked out unjustly. However just now as she was speaking to Jin Shanshan, she didn't fail to notice the bitterness in her gaze as she stared at her uniform. She was right. Jin Shanshan wanted revenge and so did she.

"Then Let's team up. My plan is this..."

Meanwhile, Ji Xiehan sat in his office, a thick file in his hand.

Chapter 36 - Lanni Cares About Me The Most

He initially didn't intend to do this, but Li Lanni was just too interesting.

There were too many things to be curious about regarding that girl. He knew that it was wrong to secretly investigate someone, but if that person was your future wife, it was slightly justified, wasn't it?

"Boss, I think miss Lanni will be displeased if she finds out that you have investigated her." Qiao Luna's palms sweat as she tried to talk him out of it. She was a woman, of course she would understand women's emotions the most.

However, her boss was adamant. "Out of sight, out of mind."

Qiao Luna was helpless. Fine, go ahead. Offend the woman you love in a snap. Don't come back crying and asking for ways to pacify her.

Ji Xiehan opened the first page of his thick file. It was a medical record.

"Brain injury.... vegetative state... temporary amnesia..."

He loosened his tie, smirking. "Heh... interesting."

Qiao Luna widened her eyes. He found a woman's accident interesting?

"So she has amnesia. No wonder she doesn't remember that we have met before. She even calls me a pervert."

But wait... something didn't feel right.

Was her condition recurring?

The date on the report of her amnesia was dated almost three months ago. How could it be that she forgot something that happened between then and now?

Also, some of the content didn't add up.

She had gone to the same hospital again. He knew it because he had seen her in her mother's company.

Why was this not recorded here?

Unless on that day, they were going to visit someone?

That wouldn't make sense. Li Yuming had always lived her life like a living island. She had very few friends and none of them lived nearby.

In fact, she almost didn't interact with anyone. From what he knew, the Ji family should be one of the few families she was close to.

Speaking of which, why was it that he had never met Li Lanni in the past?

She was Ji Feifei's friend as well as Li Yuming's daughter.

There should have been very many opportunities for them to meet.

Was it because he was too busy to pay attention to the people around him in the past?

If only he had met his little beauty before....

Wait! No distractions. He had something more important to think about.

The missing medical record may seem unimportant, but it may also hold very important information. He should find it.

He stood up, grabbing his coat from the back of his seat. "Qiao Luna, I'm leaving. Cancel all my appointments for the next three hours. If there is anything that needs my urgent attention, give me a call."

•••

Li Lanni went to school right after she had spoken to Jin Shanshan. Luckily, she didn't have any class to attend in the afternoon or she would be late.

Neither did Cheng Yu, who was waiting for her anxiously.

She smiled as soon as she saw Li Lanni and rushed towards her. "Lanni, you're back."

"Yeah, and I have good news."

"Really, really? Please tell me you gave up on these absurd missions?"

Li Lanni rolled her eyes. "How is that good news? Forget about it. I brought you lunch."

She took out a food flask from the bag she had brought with her from the restaurant opposite B City University.

In these few days, she had realized that Cheng Yu didn't really like eating lunch. She would skip it unless someone invited her to eat together. Of course, it was not because she wanted to freeload on other people. She simply hated eating on her own.

She was pleasantly stunned when she saw the food box. "This is for me?"

"Uh huh. You should eat it before it gets cold. It will not be as tasty."

Cheng Yu's eyes were literally filled with stars. I knew it! Lanni cares about me the most.

She gobbled up the food like a glutton, making Li Lanni hold her tummy and laugh. "Eat slowly. Don't choke; no one's snatching it away from you."

Cheng Yu slowed down. No one is snatching it away, you say? Then why do I feel as though someone is watching me and glaring at me with burning eyes of jealousy because you brought me lunch?

Of course, she didn't voice this opinion because her mouth was busy.

"Ah. That was the best lunch I've eaten all year. So what's the good news?"

"Pfft. How cute." Li Lanni tittered.

"I spoke to Jin Shanshan, and she agreed to help."

Because they were in the school park, she didn't explain the situation in complete sentences. Walls had ears and so did hedges.

Cheng Yu understood the situation without needing a vivid explanation. It seemed like Jin Shanshan had agreed to testify against Professor Marcus.

Although she didn't truly think what Li Lanni was doing was rational, she supported it. If that lecher was fired or even arrested, it would be for the good of everyone.

If they had witnesses, it would be much easier to deal with him since this was a school.

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Everything was going on well until the evening of the following day.

Chapter 37 - Would Cheng Yu Betray Her?

To be exact, nothing really went out of hand. It just got slightly more exciting for Li Lanni.

A new post made its way to the top searches of the school forum.

[Freshman Li Lanni claims to want to show everyone evidence of Professor Marcus' crimes. She promises to reveal it to the students' board on Monday]

As one would expect, this post exploded in popularity. Everyone was curious about what she was trying to do and how she was planning to deal with this matter.

Who, among the students, didn't suspect that man? They were just too scared to voice it out because they did not have evidence.

However, seeing that someone was readily taking that risk, they gladly cheered for her.

They couldn't wait to see that man behind bars if it was possible to have him locked up.

However, some of them, like Nina, regarded the post scornfully. "Tsk... she'll only have herself killed."

In this world, there were people you couldn't offend... and once you offended them, you might not be able to keep your head. This Li Lanni didn't seem to be able to realize this.

And what was she doing, announcing her plan to the whole world? Wasn't she scared it might bounce back and explode in her face?

While Ji Feifei let out a bout of evil laughter.

"Oh Lanni... my dear stupid friend. Just when I was running out of ideas to eliminate you. Watch me use this case to finish you off.

The Li mansion

Li Lanni's room.

"How?"

The girl was so shocked her eyes were about to roll right out.

"How could this be? I didn't tell anyone."

Li Lanni sat on her bed, deep in thought.

She suddenly stood up. "That's right. I told someone. Wait, I told two people.

Cheng Yu and Nina."

Of course, Jin Shanshan held a lot of hatred and bitterness. She wouldn't ruin the plan that would be the first step of her revenge. Besides, she could no longer access the school forum since she had been expelled.

Aside from her... Nina.

Wait, that wasn't half possible. Nina was too much against minding other people's business. She definitely didn't have the time.

She was only left with one possibility... Cheng Yu?

That was right. The only person who knew what she was doing from the start was Cheng Yu. She also knew every step of her plan.

Would she really betray her?

She clenched her fists, wheeling her breathing back to normal with a lot of difficulty.

Right. She didn't trust her from the start.

From the beginning, she had only included Cheng Yu in her plan so she could test her loyalty.

This only proved that she didn't trust her to start with. Why then, was she so disappointed?

The next day was Saturday, so Li Lanni would not need to go to school.

Actually, this whole matter blowing up like it did wasn't exactly a bad thing.

The only downside to it was that it gave the lurking villains, Ji Feifei and Professor Marcus, time to retaliate. It would have been better if they were simply caught unaware.

But, never mind. As long as she had witnesses and evidence, it wouldn't mater what that duo did.

While she thought about this, a phone call came through.

"Lanni, are you free? Let's go shopping together."

Li Lanni felt a wave of disgust rush into her heart. What was Cheng Yu doing, acting as though nothing had happened?

In this way, what was the difference between her and that scheming Ji Feifei?

"I'm busy."

Cheng Yu felt disheartened. As expected Li Lanni suspected her to be the one behind that post on the school forum and was angry because of that.

"Lanni, I didn't reveal your plan. Do you believe me?"

"Do I have reason to?" Li Lanni was sarcastic in her remark.

Cheng Yu bit her lip, feeling extremely wronged. "When we were talking about it, I thought I saw someone following us suspiciously."

Li Lanni gripped the phone tightly. That's right... she had felt it too. She only thought it to be one of her paranoia spells and ignored it.

But now that Cheng Yu mentioned it, it did seem possible.

Although there was nothing to prove that whoever was following them was definitely behind that post, there was nothing to prove that Cheng Yu was responsible either.

"I'm truly going to be busy tomorrow. I have to take extra lessons on the weekends to make up for what I have missed all these months as well as what I have forgotten."

Cheng Yu bit her lip, understanding this. Lanni had mentioned this in passing before. She still had an exam to pass, if she wanted to prove her ability.

Thinking about it, this friend of hers did attract a lot of trouble.

Was that promise really necessary?

"Lanni, I can help you with your studies sometimes." She offered, earning a grunt of consent from Li Lanni.

"Let's go shopping on Sunday."

In the end, she had thought it best to give Cheng Yu a chance. Perhaps she was just strange, but wasn't a bad person overall.

After all, she would also want to be given a chance if she got caught up in a misunderstanding of this sort.

Chapter 38 - Counterfeit

On Sunday, Li Lanni was less busy so she went shopping with Cheng Yu.

"What do you want to buy? I'll help you find it." She offered. She didn't need anything at the moment so she had only come to accompany Cheng Yu.

"It will be my mother's birthday soon. i want to get her a present."

"I see. Perhaps ... "

Li Lanni suddenly felt uneasy. She turned sharply to look behind her, her heart racing out of its normal rhythm.

She clutched onto her purse tightly. 'Strange... why did I feel like I'm being followed again?' her mind was fuzzy because she didn't see anyone suspicious. Was she simply being paranoid again?

"What do you think of this jade bracelet? It's one of a kind; I haven't ever seen a similar one. Cheng Yu turned when Li Lanni didn't respond after a long time. She had blanked out. "Lanni?"

"Lanni!"

Li Lanni finally snapped back after being shaken violently.

"Yes... eh, what was it you were saying?"

Cheng Yu showed her the bracelet she had selected. "Does it look pretty?"

Li Lanni took a brief look at it. "It does look beautiful and unique too. It's befitting of a noble woman."

Cheng Yu smiled elatedly. If Lanni said it was beautiful, then it was really beautiful. After all, what kind of expensive, delicate and mesmerizing things had the girl from the Li family not seen before?

"Then I'll buy this one. Let's look around for a while first."

Li Lanni had blanked out again. This time, she was really sure that she was being followed. It was an intuition, but it was stronger than all the other times.

"Lanni, is anything wrong?" Cheng Yu touched her head, checking for a fever.

"Cheng Yu, I think I'm being followed. But I don't see anyone suspicious."

Cheng Yu looked around then she slapped her forehead when she saw a certain figure on the first floor. Seriously, V? That is such an old school move. You will scare girls away if you follow them in such a blatant manner. Those who didn't know would mistake you for an assassin of sorts.

"Actually, I think that person has been stalking me since I woke up from coma? Could it be that I'm just scaring myself?" Li Lanni was beside herself with anxiety.

Cheng Yu secretly glared at the figure on the first floor, tying to warn him into leaving.

She quickly turned back to look at the scared Li Lanni. "Probably. Lanni, the accident must have traumatized you. Don't think about it too much."

Li Lanni shook her head like a rattle. "Impossible. That person has been sending me letters. They even sent me a text recently.

Don't look at me like I'm insane... I'll show you right away."

At this moment, the figure on the first floor took out a phone from the jacket's pocket and started tapping on it rapidly. Those fingers were literally flying on the phone's screen.

Li Lanni searched for her phone in her purse and unlocked it.

"You don't believe me, right? Here it... eh?"

Where's the text message gone?

"I swear, there was really a text message."

Speechlessly, Cheng Yu took her hand and pulled her phone from it, putting it back in her purse. "Lanni, you are too anxious. You should be more relaxed, alright?"

Li Lanni took a deep breath. "Perhaps I'm starting to hallucinate."

Cheng Yu took her hand and pulled her along, admiring the beautiful necklaces, rings and bracelets in this store.

When they had pleased their eyes enough, Cheng Yu took the bracelet she had chosen and went to the counter. "I'm taking this one. Help me wrap it up as a present."

The lady at the counter took her card to swipe.

"Miss, there's not enough balance here." the lady looked displeased, returning the card.

Cheng Yu suddenly remembered that she had bought new clothes for her younger brother. She checked in her wallet for cash and when she didn't find enough, she took out another card. "Use this one."

Giving her a glance of displeasure, the lady took the second card. Her eyes seemed to accuse Cheng Yu of wasting her time.

"It's not enough here either." The lady was even more infuruated. "If you don't have enough money, don't go buying expensive things."

Cheng Yu slapped her forehead, realizing that she had taken out her brother's card in her haste.

The lady was no longer willing to take anything from Cheng Yu. "Why don't you ask your friend to buy it for you? She looks rich considering all the clothes she is wearing are from big-name brands. Her purse alone must cost hundreds of thousands. Why can't she pay it up for you?

You can write her an IOU. You must have made her come along since you have that intention anyway."

"Excuse me?" Li Lanni was thinking of a way to suggest helping Cheng Yu out without making it sound humiliating, but when the sales lady put it this way, it was definitely offensive. How could she make Cheng Yu pass off as a freeloader?

"That will not be necessary." Cheng Yu took out the right card. "It's only five hundred thousand. The money in here is definitely more than enough." She was only tolerating this kind of humiliation because she really liked this bracelet.

"Wait. How much did you say it costs?" Li Lanni suddenly grabbed her hand.

"Five hundred thousand?" Cheng Yu didn't understand why her friend was so shocked.

Li Lanni took the bracelet to examine it carefully. Cheng Yu and the sales lady watched nervously as she regarded the bracelet like a scuentific experiment of sorts.

"It's a counterfeit." She said after an agonizing ampunt of time.

"What?" Both Cheng Yu and the sales lady were shocked.

Li Lanni took out her phone and made a search. Then she showed Cheng Yu a picture.

"It's this bracelet.. It was auctioned in Country G for 1.2 million? Then how come it costs five hundred thousand now?"

Chapter 39 - The Drama Unfolds

"Isn't it obvious? Some people made a counterfeit and dared to pass it off as the original. They are even so rude while at it. Isn't it so we can buy it quickly and leave before we find out It's counterfeit?"

"Miss, you cannot make such a blatant accusation. There were more bracelets like this made after the auction. Since we could get our hands on one, it's a fake?"

Li Lanni's lips twitched ever so slightly. "I don't know. But all I know is that this bracelet should be a century old. I wonder if the creator popped out of their grave to make more of it?"

"It's alright to sell counterfeit products since some people don't mind it. But by pretending they are genuine goods, aren't you committing a crime? I'm quite sure every piece of jewelry in here is fake."

"Miss, you cannot accuse our store like that. Do you have any evidence?"

Li Lanni swept a glance through the store. "I was distracted just now when we were looking around." She couldn't believe her friend almost got swindled under her watch. "Do you want me to scrutinize your goods? Let's bet on it. We can call an expert in this field as well as the police. If I'm accusing you falsely, I will let them arrest me and if you are selling fake goods, you will agree to be arrested. What do you think?"

Cheng Yu grabbed Li Lanni's hand, putting the jade bracelet on the counter and dragging her friend away. "That's enough. We found out it's counterfeit on time so I won't buy it."

"Have you bought anything from this store before?"

"Yes. I didn't know they were fake before but since I know it now, I will not buy anything here anymore."

Li Lanni shrugged her arm away. "Are you going to let her off for deceiving you?"

"What else am I supposed to do?" Cheng Yu slapped her forehead.

Li Lanni turned back and glared at the sales lady and sighed. "Never mind. It will simply waste our time."

Cheng Yu remained silent. For the first time, Li Lanni let go of something of this sort. Normally, she would have been sure to make them pay for it.

"It's just that I have better things to worry about at the moment." Li Lanni said, making Cheng Yu take back her thought.

...

On Monday.

Li Lanni had gathered all she could about Professor Marcus but she felt nervous.

This matter had just blown up in the school forum after all. It was likely to backfire on her if she didn't handle it with adequate care.

As expected, she was summoned by the dean before she had time to make her move.

"Li Lanni, you have been back to school for just a fortnight but you are quite famous already. What do you think the school is, your personal playground?"

The dean was a middle aged man with a slightly chubby face. The strands of red hair on his head were so thin and far apart that Li Lanni could clearly see his olive-colored scalp. This man possessed a scary aura that made people want to keep their distance.

Rumor had it that this man had worked his tail off for decades to be able to hold this position. It was no surprise that he particularly hated students he thought did not need to do anything and would get what they wanted anyway because they had powerful families backing them.

in his eyes, this Li Lanni was just one of them. If not, just how exactly did the chancellor agree to let a student who had supposedly lost her memory go back to school?

Although she was a top student before, surely that wouldn't be the case now since her brain was as good as an empty vessel.

When he put his spectacles aside to scan Li Lanni, she was inevitably intimidated.

"Stop this nonsense right away. Don't blame me for what happens otherwise."

"I'm sorry sir. But what I'm doing is not nonsense. I believe it's the school's duty to provide a suitable learning environment to the students. With a predator like this in disguise of a professor, how is this a suitable learning environment?"

"Tsk." The man sneered. I gave her a chance to back out while still maintaining her dignity, but she doesn't want it?

"Do you have evidence to support your words?"

"Yes." Li Lanni was confident.

"I see. Present your so called evidence in Conference room 101 this afternoon at 4pm. I believe you know the consequences of stirring up unnecessary trouble."

Li Lanni was sent off with this.

By this time, it was already too late to back out. It's not like she wanted to anyway.

Hence that afternoon, a meeting was held and Li Lanni was present. It was treated as a disciplinary case and handled by the disciplinary committee.

Several students wanted to know how the events would unfold and were peeking into the conference room, trying to watch the drama and stream it in the school forum at the same time.. No one bothered to send them off since this was a matter that affected many students anyway.

Chapter 40 - I Can't Do This

At the same time, in Feng Ji International.

Behind the huge, white, curved office desk, the man typed away on his laptop, his long, slender fingers elegantly flying over the keyboard.

He frowned and, reclining in his chair, he ripped the tie off his neck and fondled open the first button of his white shirt.

At this moment, Qiao Luna walked in.

"Boss, the ... "

When her eyes met the scene of her boss ripping open a button of his shirt, she paused.

She was not drawn to the sliver of his collarbone revealed by the shirt or the slender fingers hovering above the second button but to the frown on the man's face.

Jeez! Was that really her boss? He looked so scary today! Did he get dumped?

"Do you have something to say?" Ji Xiehan's tone could not conceal his annoyance.

Qiao Luna brought the documents in her hands, trembling. She placed the whole stack of them beside his computer. "Old Master Ji wants you to check through these projects and clinch the one you find most suitable."

"Hm." Ji Xiehan grunted, obviously disapproving of his father. Qiao Luna was just an assistant that had not been working in Feng Ji International for too long. Even he didn't dare to entrust her with anything slightly confidential. What was his father thinking, letting her handle such classified information?

"Do you have anything else to say?" He raised his head quizically because Qiao Luna was still standing there as though waiting for something.

"Y-yes." She gulped, knowing that she couldn't escape this. If she had a choice, she would rather not report this kind of news.

"It's about miss Li Lanni. Apparently, she's got some dirt on one of the professors in B City University and wants to expose it to the school management. The meeting should have started already."

Ji Xiehan who was already annoyed pinched his nose bridge. "Quite the troublemaker, huh. She didn't pass off to me as one to ruffle feathers when she can choose not to."

"Apparently, this professor wronged her before and it almost ended in Miss Li Lanni earning an expulsion."

"Why didn't you say this before?"

"The school forum of B City University is quite sealed off from the outside world. I couldn't get a hint of anything until I planted someone to tell me if anything happened to Miss Li Lanni." Qiao Luna explained, then brought out the main point when her boss didn't show any reaction to her words whatsoever.

"You previously asked me to follow Miss Ji and report every suspicious move, right? I... I found something."

"What is it?"

"Miss Ji... um..."

In the end, Qiao Luna couldn't find the right words. She wiped off the beads of cold sweat on her forehead using a handkerchief.

One had to admit that it was less awkward to walk into people having sex than to tell one's boss that his sister was having an illicit affair with a married professor; almost old enough to be her father.

Not only that, the kind of things she did using the Ji family as a shield were quite appaling.

She couldn't bring herself to say a word and instead pulled out the file at the bottom of those she had just given to Ji Xiehan, the one that did not contain any business matters, then opened it for him to see.

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At this time, Li Lanni was anxious but she tried to keep calm.

She was a little scared; everyone would be if they were trying to uncover such a thing. After all, it could very well backfire and push her to the flames if she didn't handle it well enough.

But on the bright side, if she really handled it well, she would kill three birds with one stone.

In the conference room, no one wanted to waste their time. They went straight to the point.

"Li Lanni, you claim to have evidence of Professor Marcus assaulting his students. Can you present it right away?" The Chancellor spoke up, glancing at the nervous little girl.

Li Lanni expected them to be this straightforward. They didn't have time to mince on words. She didn't spare a look at the lecherous man sitted next to the dean and acting like all this had nothing to do with him. "Yes. One of the students he molested is here to bear witness." Once she spoke, she glanced in the direction of the door, making everyone follow her gaze as though instructed to do so.

A tall girl walked in. She was wearing simple clothes and her hair was combed back neatly.

Although she still looked young and delicate, it felt wrong to assume her as one of the students.

As soon as she walked in, her blazing eyes glared at a certain man sitting beside the dean. Her gaze lingered on him for a slight second before she introduced herself. "I'm Jin Shanshan, a former student of this university and in this matter, a victim."

There was nothing wrong with what she said, but Li Lanni suddenly felt her head throbbing. Why did she have a bad feeling...

Everyone was waiting to hear what Jin Shanshan had to say though they could pretty much guess what they were going to hear.

The girl finally spoke after making them wait almost to the limit of their patience.

"When I was a student here, I wasn't good with my scores. Everyone knew that.

Then a professor showed his concern and asked to speak to me in his office.

Who knew that he was too 'concerned', huh?"

Li Lanni wasn't pleased with her choice of words. However, it was already good enough that she was willing to talk so Li Lanni kept calm.

Never would she have expected...

Just as Jin Shanshan kept them wondering what she was driving at, she suddenly burst into tears, biting her lips.

She looked in Li Lanni's direction with an aggrieved expression, chocking. "Lanni, sorry.. I can't do this."