

Chapter 321 - Magic Potion

Meanwhile, Lanni spent most of her day catching up with her mother, then painted for a while. Now that she was no longer under so much pressure, she found that she could actually paint as well as she did in the past.

It turned out that she didn't hate painting. She could do it and do a good job, just not under the constant pressure of deadlines and requirements to make each work better than the last. She was different from Cheng Yu, to whom greater pressure only served to push her determination further.

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In the evening, she decided to pick Xiehan up from work. The latter had already sent her a text message to explain that he was busier than usual these past few days, so he would leave work at 6:30 pm.

Hence, she changed into clothes she found more presentable—a short, pink, flowered chiffon dress and a pair of matching high heels—and let her ashen hair down, only holding the loose strands with a tiny hair clip. Applying a tiny bit of lip gloss to her lips, she grabbed a nude purse and left the house. She took her low-profile car but since she wanted to pick her boyfriend up, she did not let the chauffeur drive her to her destination, choosing to drive on her own instead.

She took a longer route and didn't rush over so by the time she arrived near Feng Ji International, there were a few minutes left until 6pm. She glanced at the time and decided to park the car and wait. No one bothered her when she pulled into an empty slot in the employees' parking lot outside the building, probably because no one was planning to park their car when it was already past knock-off time. A

security guard on duty waved at her with a genuine smile, and she waved back before taking out her phone.

She had barely spent a minute parking her car. Wondering what to do to pass the time, she absent mindedly tapped on a cooking app to check what she should learn to cook next—which reminded her. Xiehan was working overtime, which meant that he would be famished once he left the office.

There was a restaurant just a few meters away, so she decided to make a reservation so she would take him to dine as soon as he left work. Since it was close by, she locked her car and walked to the restaurant.

Although it was around the busiest hours, it was still convenient as she was able to make a reservation fast. She chose a room on the fourth floor, facing the west, after finding out that its ambiance suited them most and it had an excellent view of the city. A waitress showed her to the room to be sure that it suited her tastes. Once they were done, she nodded in satisfaction, thanked the waitress and turned to leave—just in time to see a familiar ponytail. He had bleached his hair to the lightest shade of blonde she had ever seen, but she would recognize that back even in hell.

She stopped in her tracks. What the hell was Flynn doing here, and why was he acting sneakily? Not that it was too obvious, she was just too wary of everyone—especially him. She would find him sneaky no matter what he did.

She battled mentally between leaving and following him. In the end, curiosity got the better of her. Trying not to make any noise in her high heels and not appear suspicious, she waited for him to disappear at the end of the hallway before she followed him.

She stalked to the end of the hallway, where she had seen the man disappear to. Just when she wondered where she would find him in the vast corridor with rooms lined on both sides of them, she heard a familiar voice.

"I'm here."

It was Flynn.

He was in the first room along the corridor, and he had not even bothered to close the door.

A shuffling sound was heard and she couldn't comprehend what was going on, neither did she have the guts to move forward. She ran the risk of being discovered, and she so badly wanted to know who Flynn was meeting.

She had a feeling he was up to no good, not that he had ever been up to any good to begin with.

"Why are you here?" A deeper male voice responded.

Lanni swallowed the gasp that was on the verge of escaping her throat. 'Dad?'

She could not see anything from her angle, but she would never fail to recognize her father's voice. What was he doing here? Why was Flynn meeting him?

"I'm here to say hello." She heard Flynn respond. A few seconds later, he added, this time more seriously. "My boss sends his apologies." Before she could hear anything else, the door shut and all the sound was cut off.

Since she couldn't hear anything and standing in the corridor trying to eavesdrop would only attract suspicion, she could only leave.

Disappointment crept into her heart. She had heard the content of their conversation. Whatever they would discuss after the apology wasn't likely to be anything that mattered. Even so, why did she feel as though that conversation was... fake?

Her purse vibrated against her palm. She opened it and took out her ringing phone, sliding a thumb across the screen to answer it with a gentle smile. "Have you left the office, my love?"

"Mmh." The man hummed in agreement. "I saw your car..." He sounded confused about it, probably because she was not in the car.

"Right. I came to pick you up." She quickly headed towards the elevator and pressed the "down" button. She mumbled for him to wait for her and entered the elevator as soon as the doors slid open.

She hurried to the spot where her car was parked and saw him leaning against it. She threw her arms around him in a hug, all her confusion from a moment ago fading into thin air. "I missed you!"

He held her tightly against his body and kissed her forehead, all the exhaustion from a day full of meetings evaporating in a puff. His little girlfriend was like a magic potion. No matter how tired he was, he would be rejuvenated as soon as her seductive little body melted into his. "I'm the luckiest man on earth." He muttered.

Chapter 322 - He Is Back

"You must be hungry. I booked a reservation for dinner." Said Lanni as she kissed his face.

Now that she mentioned it, he had been so busy that he took nothing but a cup of espresso in the morning and skipped lunch, and he was so hungry at the moment that his stomach hurt from the piercing pangs.

Lanni had thoughtfully made preparations to eat nearby before going home. To have such a caring girlfriend, he must have saved a planet in his previous life.

She held his hand and joyously led him to the restaurant. He chuckled when he realized that that was where she was earlier when he called her. "Why did you have to take the trouble to go back to the company when I called? You could have just asked me to come over."

"I wanted to hug you first." She sat down when he naturally pulled a chair for her.

He smiled and sat down opposite her. "Thank you, my love."

"What was that? Are you seriously only going to thank me verbally?" She teasingly reminded him of his reaction every time she thanked him in the past.

At the time, he would find every excuse to be close to her but she would push him away at every turn; so whenever he did her the slightest favor, he would use it as a chance to create more opportunities for them to spend time together. Thinking of it now, he never would have thought that they would be this deeply in love.

Seeing as she was still waiting for a more special "thanks" from him, he stood up and closed in on her, then kissed her lips.

She blushed when he pulled away, pulling on a cute pout. "That's not enough."

He leaned in and half-whispered, "How about I thank you in my bed, tonight? I'll 'thank' you all night long."

"You...! You're still such a pervert!" Her cheeks reddened even though it was not something she had never done with him before. How could he say such things in such a public place as a restaurant? She was shy about it even though it was a private room and no one could overhear their conversation. She had meant to ask for another kiss, okay!"

The pervert laughed and sat down, enjoying the effect of his tease. She was so adorable when her cheeks were pink. In fact, she was so adorable every time that he couldn't resist the urge to tease her.

"I need to use the restroom." She said and stood up almost immediately, disappearing out of the room as though she was scared he would do something to her right there.

He laughed at her reaction and waited for her. She returned less than a minute later, her face drained of the earlier blush and her steps urgent as though she was running away from something.

"Did something happen?" He stood up worriedly.

"It's nothing." She sat down and massaged her temples.

He looked at her curiously. How could it be nothing when she looked like this?

He was yet to ask when a waiter brought in the food she had ordered while booking the room. Seeing that she didn't bring it up, he decided to wait until she was comfortable enough to talk about it.

After taking the first bite of her roast pork, she finally spoke up. "I saw him again."

"Who?" He asked, even though the answer that his brain had automatically come up with was not one he desired.

"Flynn." She uttered the name he dreaded to hear. What did that man want this time? "Earlier he went into my dad's private room. They were here—in this restaurant—talking about heaven knows what. Just now when I went out, I saw them leaving together and it does not sit well with me. I have a feeling that Flynn is up to something. Do you think my dad's in danger?"

Xiehan paused his movements and thought about what she was saying. He then looked at her seriously. "How did your dad look when you saw them? Did he look calm... or solemn?"

"They were chatting like friends of some sort." This was what she found weird, and what stopped her from confronting them. She was afraid to probe into their private meeting but then again, how could they be friends? "Do you think he is under a threat and does not dare to call for help?"

Xiehan frowned when he thought about it. No matter how he thought about it, it was impossible.

"Honey, you must be overthinking it. Uncle Xia is not a child; perhaps he is just having a great time with his friend."

"Friend?" She was spooked just thinking of them as friends.

"Can't they be friends? The last time I saw them together, they looked close." He pointed out.

She knew this too, but, "that was before Flynn betrayed him by kidnapping him and using his life to threaten his daughters. How could he still trust him enough to walk around with him?"

Her worries were not unfounded. Hence, he took her hand and held it soothingly. "Why don't you talk to him about it later? Just so you stop worrying, I will have my men follow him from a distance and protect him in case Flynn is up to something fishy."

"Thank you." She was more reassured now. The Xia family's bodyguards had all followed Li Xiyan, and she could not entirely trust the new ones to protect him. Now that Xiehan would send his men, nothing could go wrong.

He smiled charmingly. "Is that really what you want to say?"

"I love you." She corrected herself with a smile. They continued enjoying their food, casually chatting about random things.

They forgot about Flynn, but that was until they finished eating and left the restaurant. The man appeared from nowhere and pulled on Lanni's wrist. It was too late for Xiehan's bodyguards to stop him from getting close to them.

"Can I borrow her for a moment?" He raised an eyebrow at Xiehan, blocking an attack from one of his bodyguards.

"It's alright." He said to his bodyguards and they stopped attacking, then he turned to Flynn. "What do you want from my girlfriend?"

"I merely want to have a word with her. Can you not overreact?" The man looked impatient.

"She doesn't want to talk to you." He glared at the other man, glancing at Lanni's hand that was in Flynn's death grip. Seeing that Lanni was obviously trying to get away, he grabbed Flynn's hand and pried his fingers off her wrist. "Let go of her."

He let go helplessly. "She used to be physically weak but intelligent and witty in the past. Ever since she met you, she is just weak." Huffing in annoyance, he asked the girl who was now holding onto Xiehan's arm like he was her pillar of strength. "Do you really not miss your job?"

Chapter 323 - The Unlucky Goddess

"What the hell do you mean?" Lanni did not let go of Xiehan's arm. No matter what Flynn had to say, it couldn't possibly be anything good.

The man looked at their linked arms in disdain, his eyes calling her out for acting like a weakling. He ignored her hostile gaze and focused on things that actually mattered. "I'm talking about you being an undercover journalist. Don't you miss it?"

Before she could say that she didn't, he added, "Did you really not enjoy working for Galaxis in taking down Xing Han?"

She shook her head without a thought. She had been forced, okay? How could he ask if she enjoyed doing something she had been blackmailed into doing? Did he think she was a masochist?

"Not even in the slightest?" He pressed.

Xiehan was displeased by Flynn's insistent questioning but he didn't want to force his own will on her so he let her answer on his own.

She thought about it and didn't seem to get an answer.

Flynn clapped once. "As expected, I know you best. Princess, as long as you have questions about anything, you will make sure you get to the bottom of it. This includes anything questionable about the people around you. It's in you. Besides, haven't you always liked the idea of getting into different personas? You would have made an excellent actress if you liked the entertainment industry, but you don't. Instead, you prefer taking the real world as your stage and acting roles that actually save lives and get rid of villains. Isn't this why you came to Galaxis in the first place?"

"Are you still talking about me?" Lanni was surprised. Who was that strange person that Flynn was talking about? That was definitely not her... even though his words sounded familiar.

The man looked surprised by her reaction. "I see you have not recovered all of your memory yet. I'll do the honors of reminding you. When you first became my trainee, I really didn't like you in the slightest. I thought you were nothing but a spoiled little girl doing things for the mere excitement of it." He reminisced.

"I once asked you why you so badly wanted to be an undercover journalist, and you said that you liked uncovering the truth, and the thrill of acting as someone else while at it was exciting. When I told you to debut as an actress if you loved acting so much, this is what you told me; "Why would I want to be seen acting in fictional worlds? That's not thrilling enough for me. I like to take the real world as my stage—to get rid of actual, real life villains. Of course, if I save a few lives while at it, it would be much better. Not that I'm trying to be a superhero, though."

Lanni didn't think that was something she would say. She had always wondered why she went to Galaxis even when the people around her were against it, and now Flynn was saying that she was only looking for a thrill? That didn't make any sense. "Look, I will not believe you simply because you claim to know what I wanted, okay? If you will excuse us."

Flynn laughed. "I know you might have said that to put me off since you didn't like me either. Anyway, my aim was to let you know that if you ever want to come back, the doors of Galaxis will be open for you. I will give you two weeks to think about it."

"I don't need it, thanks." She pulled on Xiehan's hand and they left together.

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"Do you think you could ever go back?" Xiehan asked when they were in her car. She was driving since she was picking him up.

She shook her head in disgust. "I'm never going back to a group of people who only want to use me. They probably sent Flynn to convince me to go back. Xing Han's case must have been a test to evaluate whether I am still useful."

Xiehan thought so too, so he nodded. He didn't want her to go back to that place either. But if she really wanted to go, he would not have forced her to stay, so he was happy that she had declined on her own.

"Let's forget about them. I wanted to tell you..." he was still speaking when his phone rang. He chuckled out a "speaking of the devil" and answered the call. "Aunt?"

"Hmph. I'm surprised you even remember who I am." Lanni heard a gentle female voice harrumph.

"I was going to call you." Xiehan stated, earning a round of scolding from the woman.

"You little brat! It's already bad enough that you forgot about me and now you want to pretend that you were about to call me as well? Do I look that gullible to you?" She complained.

Xiehan let out a deep laugh. "How can that be? Why would I forget one of the most beautiful goddesses in the world?"

The woman harrumphed, although she sounded more gentle this time. "What a sweet tongue you have. I wonder how many women have fallen under your charm already. Right. What happened to my niece-in-law? You promised to introduce her to me!" She complained like a kid who had been denied her promised candy.

Xiehan was speechless. Could she act her age for just a second? He peeked to find that Lanni's cheeks were flushed scarlet. Laughing, he said to his aunt, "I was going to tell her about you just now."

"Really? Is she there with you?" She sounded excited, then switched to video call. Xiehan sought permission with his eyes and tilted the phone when Lanni let him.

As soon as her eyes met Lanni, she gasped in awe. "She is so beautiful! Xiehan, where did you get such a beauty?"

"Hello aunt." Lanni smiled, feeling weird that she was calling the other woman "aunt". She looked so young!

"Good girl. No wonder Xiehan keeps rambling about you on every phone call. You are so sweet! Allow me to introduce myself." The woman smiled. "I'm Ji Meiling, the woman who was so unlucky as to have the punk beside you as my nephew. Oh, what mistake did I commit in my previous life?"

"Aunt..." Xiehan grumbled a complaint, making both women laugh at him.

Lanni exchanged some small talk with the other woman, getting along with her in a flash. She looked young despite her age, making it easier for Lanni to communicate with her without too much age gap restraint.

Aside from finding that the woman looked extraordinarily beautiful, there was also something about her that Lanni found suspiciously familiar. It was her eyes. Where had she seen those eyes before?

She turned reflexively and studied Xiehan's eyes. After looking for a while, all she could see was that the shapes of their eyes were a tiny bit similar but aside from that, Xiehan's eyes were blue while the woman's were hazel.

Even so, she was sure she had seen them before, and not just once. Was she thinking too much?

After a while, Lanni decided to shove the thought off her brain.. How many people were there in the world anyway? Perhaps she had met someone with similar-looking eyes in the past and she just happened to remember them.

Chapter 324 - Rotten Luck

When the call ended, Xiehan glanced at Lanni who still seemed to be thinking deeply about something. "A penny for your thought?"

Lanni retracted her gaze that was staring into space and smiled. "Nothing. I just thought her eyes were familiar but thinking about it, we shouldn't have met before." She looked at him and asked, "Is she your aunt from Australia, the one who brought you up?" She guessed, since they seemed to be as close as a son and his mother.

"Yeah." She noticed that there was a fond gentleness in his eyes when he talked about her. She must have taken such good care of him, or else he would not be this close to her. "I wanted to tell you about her but then she called. Since the two of you already got to speak to each other, it saves me the trouble of having to tell you everything about her."

She laughed when he sighed in relief. Was it so difficult to introduce someone?

"Speaking of which, love💎💎" He held her hand as he started. "Are you going to be too busy in the next few weeks?"

She thought about it before responding, "I shouldn't be too busy. There are a few things that I should handle but not too many of them. Why do you ask?"

"The last time we tried to have a vacation, Feng Ci happened."

"Urgh... don't even remind me." She groaned, once again celebrating the fact that the latter had finally done herself in. She thought about his incomplete statement and raised an eyebrow. "Unless you..."

"Want to go on another vacation? Of course I do!" He completed her statement cheerfully, and she giggled in response. No wonder he was so busy lately. He must have been working overtime so he would create time for the two of them to go on a vacation soon.

"Were you thinking of going to Australia this time?" She asked, wondering whether this was where his aunt came in.

He nodded. "If that would be alright with you."

"Anywhere's perfect." She smiled. She still wanted to explore Europe, but she had never been to Australia either, at least not since she recovered her memory. It would be exciting and... "Wait, were you planning to use this chance to visit your aunt and introduce me to her?"

He searched her face for any hint of displeasure at the thought of visiting his aunt. After all, she had not been fully willing to visit his parents in the past. He sighed in relief when he found that the idea seemed to excite her instead. "Again, it depends on what you want, my love."

She crossed her arms with a harrumph. "That's what you always say. When are you ever going to do what you want?"

He chuckled at her pouty expression. "Your happiness is my happiness, my love. What else would I want to do except what you want?"

She glared at him and started the car, ignoring him. "Why are you so irritatingly charming?"

He couldn't help laughing at her twisted train of thought. "If I wasn't so charming, how else would I manage to snag myself the best girlfriend in the world?"

"Your aunt is right. You really are honey-tongued." She pulled out of the parking without sparing him a glance.

"Hehe..." He laughed and offered his lips to her. "Do you want to taste it and confirm whether her words are true?"

"It's not like I don't know..." She ignored him for the rest of the drive.

Since he was tired, he fell asleep in a few minutes. She let him take a nap and slowed down so he would rest more peacefully, sneaking a few peeks at his sleeping face. He looked so charming that her lips curled into a smile.

Even when they arrived at his mansion, she was reluctant to wake him up and continued observing the "sleeping beauty".

The man woke up on his own a few minutes later. "We're home already?"

Realizing that they were, he pulled her into his arms and launched a complaint. "But I want to continue sleeping with you beside me."

"You can sleep as much as you want in the house."

She had barely completed her statement when a series of taps resounded against the windscreen. She checked in annoyance to see an extremely infuriated Jiang Xingyu knocking incessantly. "Come out, right this instant!"

Xiehan was annoyed about being interrupted but he could only let go of Lanni and leave the car. "Where's the fire?"

"In my chest!" The man was enraged. "I've been waiting for you for the last three hours and the first thing you do upon your arrival is commence your x-rated activities in the car without caring about your poor friend?!"

Lanni wanted nothing more than to sew his mouth shut. Who the heck was doing x-rated activities? Also, "Who the hell waits for another for so long without giving a call at least? What if he didn't come back home?" She was not merely berating him for the sake of it. She had thought of taking Xiehan to her apartment so they would spend the night together. However, he was asleep and she didn't want to wake him up.

In response to her lecture, he shrugged and looked like he had suffered a huge deal of injustice. "I tried calling his phone for two days and he was unreachable every time. I could only wait for him here. Sigh, I must have committed an unforgivable sin in my past life to end up with a friend like him in my current life."

"Your luck was just rotten." Lanni laughed at his expense.

"What do you want?" Xiehan was not interested in his idiotic rant.

"Geez... would you die if you were a little more polite?" Jiang Xingyu complained. But knowing that his heartless friend might really kick him out, he stopped complaining and got to the point.. "I want to talk business with you."

Chapter 325 - Disinterested

Xiehan was even more annoyed when the latter didn't seem to have any urgent reason to seek him so incessantly. "Whatever it is can wait." He dismissed and held Lanni by the waist.

Jiang Xingyu saw the situation and since he still loved his life, he decided to leave first. "I'll give you a call tomorrow. Just don't ignore me, okay?" Xiehan ignored him, then he remembered something else.

"Right, about your sister-in-law..."

"She is your responsibility now." Xiehan responded sternly, reminding him that since he had decided to be with a woman, he should take full responsibility for her.

"What happened to my sister?" Lanni asked worriedly.

"Uh..." Jiang Xingyu stuttered. He had forgotten all about Lanni's presence and blurted out matters that were probably better off not reaching her ears. But now that he had he had already mentioned it and since Xiehan was glaring at him furiously, he could only continue the statement he had started.

"I accidentally found out that she has been in constant communication with that Flynn guy. They are even meeting up this evening." He scratched his chin in thought. "You asked me to report to you if I found out any of his weird moves, didn't you?"

Xiehan frowned slightly while Lanni wondered, why the hell would that man start looking for her sister soon after he looked for her?

"If I find out that he is making any weird moves towards my sister, I will skin him alive." She gritted her teeth threateningly.

"He is more likely to skin you." He mocked, then continued speaking to Xiehan. "Do you think I should follow them to find out what they are going to talk about?"

Xiehan frowned. "Do you really need me to tell you what to do? Are you a kindergarten kid?" Even so, he added, "If you think Luna might be in danger, you should be close by just in case."

"Got it!" Jiang Xingyu hopped towards his car, cheering like he had received a huge award.

"Uh... why does it seem like he was looking for an excuse to spy on Luna?" Lanni laughed.

"Just ignore him." Xiehan held her by her waist and pulled her into the house.

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That evening.

Luna met Flynn at a small restaurant near Goldewing Apartments. When she arrived, the latter had ordered several dishes, none of which she was interested in.

"Come on, try out this chicken and mushroom pasta. The last time I was here, I ate it and it was the tastiest pasta I had ever eaten." He offered some of the food for her to have a taste.

She shook her head without an ounce of interest. "I will just have a glass of water, thanks."

"Are you so disinterested in eating? What about this wine? I heard..."

"Flynn, just go straight to the point. Stop beating around the bush." Luna interrupted his meaningless chatter. Aside from generally not being interested in his nonsense, it would also not be a good thing if she spent too much time with another man. She was interested in Jiang Xingyu after all, and the latter didn't know that yet. What if he assumed that she was into some other man? They were not in any specified relationship, after all.

Seeing her lack of interest, Flynn shook his head. "I say you have changed so much. I'm not talking about how you stopped wearing male clothes; that was a disguise and you are not a man after all, so this is how you should dress up."

"What's your point exactly?" Luna was getting impatient.

"You have this new shade to you... it's as though a lot has changed around you lately. Are you in love?"

"That's none of your business. Why did you call me here anyway?" She tried to keep her temper in check before she could be tempted to beat this idiot up.

The man finally got more serious. "Listen, I brought this. It should be helpful to you." He held out a lipstick to her.

Luna took the lipstick then uncapped it curiously. When she had a good look, she asked with a frown, "What is this?"

"Something you were looking for." He answered.

When she understood him, she smiled. "I can't believe I'm saying this to you again, but thank you."

He laughed and peeked in a certain direction then looked back at Luna. "I would have asked you to thank me by coming over to Galaxis since you are intelligent and all, but there really is a deep 'twin effect' between you and your sister."

"What nonsense are you even saying?" Luna asked, keeping the lipstick in her purse.

"Your sister rejected her chance because she fell in love." Flynn felt defeated before adding, "With a man who doesn't even deserve her."

Luna cringed. "First of all, there is no one more deserving of my sister than Xiehan, who loves her more than she loves herself. Secondly, it is up to my sister to decide which man is good for her."

He surrendered, faced with her stern face. "Hey, I was just giving my opinion, okay? Don't kill me. Anyway, my point is, I thought you would be of help but you cannot be... for the same reason as her. You are in love, aren't you?"

Luna frowned. What did her being or not being in love have to do with anything?

He shrugged when he looked at her questioningly. "I have to say, you have same tastes." He looked in a certain direction.

She followed his gaze to see Jiang Xingyu sitting not too far away from them. She sent him a questioning look and he pretended not to have seen her.

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Jiang Xingyu had not thought of disguising himself in order to follow Luna, neither had he thought of sending someone else. He was not trying to spy on her, after all. All he wanted was to be there in case Flynn was up to any mischief and Luna needed help.

Chapter 326 - A Bashful Little Girl

He did not understand why the hell Flynn would give her a lipstick. Did he seek her, bug her into agreeing to meet him up for dinner merely to give her such a little thing? Couldn't he have sent it to her house instead?

The most important thing was that when Luna received it, she seemed overjoyed and even thanked him like he had just saved her life. It didn't make much sense.

The two of them talked for a little while more, but by this moment, he was sure that Luna was not being coerced into anything. He was still battling whether he should leave or continue staying just in case things took a dramatic turn when he felt a familiar gaze on him, and his eyes met Luna's.

Her grey eyes seemed confused, looking at him questioningly as though wondering what he was doing at that place.

He felt his blood run cold. Would she be mad at him for following her? He was dead!

Just when he muttered 'dead' for the hundredth time, he saw Luna say something to Flynn then rush towards him and raise her hand. He closed his eyes for the incoming slap and prepared himself for an earful of scolding about how he was a jerk who did not respect other people's privacy.

He couldn't say that she would be wrong to say that. He really was a jerk. It was her choice who she met up with. But simply because he was jealous about her meeting with another man, he had found reasons to follow her.

He squeezed his eyes and wondered why the slap wasn't landing yet. Just as he wondered whether to peek, a soft sensation landed on his cheek. It was a kiss. He opened his eyes wide. It was a kiss... not a slap?

"What are you thinking about?" She laughed through her question.

"You... aren't you mad at me?" He asked nervously.

In response, she shook her head curiously. "Why would I be mad? Did you do something wrong?"

He looked at her in shock, then understood the situation a second later. She must have misunderstood his appearance here as a coincidence. Since she did not know what he had been up to, he was not about to give himself a death sentence. He pulled her into his arms quietly, his heart racing.

"What are you doing here? I missed you." She wrapped her arms around his neck.

His body froze, not expecting that she would say such a thing to him.

What was up with her being overly friendly lately?

Could it be that he was so impatient to make her fall for him that he was starting to read too much into everything? Perhaps she just missed him like she would miss a friend. Right, what if that was what he was to her, a friend?

"I have a feeling your imagination is running wild right now." She observed, from how dramatically his expression was changing.

"Of course not." He denied. "Anyway, what are you doing here?" He contemplated before adding, "with him?"

"Flynn wanted to have a word with me." She responded with no intention to hide anything from him, but didn't explain anything else after that. She changed the topic instead. "I'm hungry. Let's go somewhere else and eat."

"Uhm... okay..." He scratched his chin. Shouldn't she ask to order something to eat since they were already in a restaurant? Even so, he didn't ask any question and decided to go by what she wanted. "Where do you want to go?"

"Your house." She said without thinking.

"What?" A flush crept onto his neck.

"Ahem... I just want you to cook for me. Is that alright? I simply want a meal... don't misunderstand it as something else."

It would have been better if she had not explained it, but trying to make him understand that she wanted nothing more than to have a meal made his throat tighten. He coughed and nodded. "What do you want to eat? We can buy fresh groceries on our way there."

"I don't know. I'll eat whatever you feel like cooking." She was too nervous to think at the moment.

Jiang Xingyu led her out of the restaurant, completely ignoring Flynn who was still looking in Luna's direction. They entered his car one after another, and he started it.

"I'll cook my specialty." The man announced, starting the car excitedly.

"I'll be looking forward to having a taste of it." She grinned, then subconsciously stuck out her tongue to lick her lower lip. He cleared his throat and averted his gaze from her. Was she trying to lure him into doing one of those things that she had claimed to not want?

Also, she was saying that she was looking forward to the food cooked by him. Why, then, did her gaze suggest that she was looking forward to having a taste of him instead?"

"We are here." He pulled up at a grocery store.

"What a bummer. I wanted to stay in the car a little longer." She groaned.

He laughed, not quite understanding her antics. "You can stay in the car as long as you want, while I will go and buy the ingredients, mmh?"

He thought that he had made a genius suggestion, but that was until she pulled up a disheartened expression. "What's the point? It will no longer be fun to keep staying in the car if you are no longer here." She looked into his eyes seriously as he spoke, making his heart race.

Was she implying that what she wanted was to spend more time with him? Was Luna seriously hitting on him?

Not only did it seem that way with those seductive glances she kept sending his way, it had been happening more often lately.

He smiled and got out of the car, then opened the passenger door for her. "Let's go. We can buy everything then drive home with the speed of a slug. That way, you will get to stay with me longer."

"You are teasing me." She harrumphed but still placed her hand in his gently. Even she didn't know why it was happening, but she couldn't keep up with her own feelings lately.. Every time she appeared, she would randomly start acting like a bashful little teenage girl seeking his attention. This was scary!

Chapter 327 - Jiang Xingyu, The Lucky Punk

The duo held hands as they went to the grocery store. She snuck glances and smiled occasionally, making him curious about what she was thinking. At one point, she even tangled their fingers together and smiled.

"What's making you smile so sweetly?" He couldn't help asking, his mood being lifted along with hers.

She glanced at their hands and raised her head to look into his eyes. "No one has ever made me feel this happy."

He raised an eyebrow curiously. What did he do to make her so happy? He knew that he had not done anything particularly, but the fact that he was making her happy was enough to make him even happier.

She bashfully stood on her tiptoes to give him a kiss on his cheek. He looked down at her with a gentle smile before returning the kiss on her forehead. Her cheeks flushed scarlet. "Xingyu..."

He looked at her curiously. There was something about her tone that sounded strange. Just when he was about to ask if anything was wrong, her hands flew around his neck. Pulling down on his neck, she pressed her lips against his.

There were a few people at the store but neither of them cared about that. He wrapped his arms around his neck and pulled her up against him, deepening the kiss. His hand ran along her back but before he could do too much, she pulled away, blushing furiously. "We are in public."

"Right..." He coughed and wondered whether that meant they would be able to continue later.

She took up his hand again. "Xingyu, we need to talk later."

He felt as though his heart had skipped a beat from his tone. "Okay." He looked forward to hearing what she wanted to talk about. Contrary to the anxiety he felt the last time, he was excited this time. Was it because he had a feeling that it would be a piece of good news?

"Luna?" A female voice suddenly interrupted them. They looked over to the right at the same time, and saw Madam Jiang walking towards them and dragging her husband along.

"My dear, I missed you!" She pulled Luna into her arms cheerfully.

"I missed you too, aunty." Luna was already in a good mood and when she saw Madam Jiang, her mood brightened all the more. "How have you been? It's been ages since we last saw each other."

"What do you mean it's been long? You were home for dinner three days ago!" Jiang Xingyu whined.

"That's an awfully long time!" The women exclaimed in unison, as though he had mentioned years instead of days.

He looked at them and turned to his father in defeat. "She didn't even notice me. Am I still her son?"

"Are you asking me?" Jiang Xingren shrugged, having been ignored as soon as his wife saw her favorite future daughter-in-law.

"Sigh, what are you doing here anyway? Did you get dragged over to shop together because Luna was too busy?" He asked mockingly, gloating in his father's misfortune.

"What nonsense are you spewing? Of course, I wanted to accompany my wife!" Jiang Xingren berated.

Jiang Xingyu looked his father up and down. "Sure..." As if he would believe that kind of crap. He must have been pulled out of the door by the ear or threatened with divorce.

...

Meanwhile, the ladies decided to shop around together.

"What was Xingyu planning to buy exactly?" Luna wondered aloud, sweeping her eyes through the vegetable section. She had merely wanted to accompany Jiang Xingyu after all, and she had no idea what exactly he wanted to buy.

She saw him having a talk with his father and wondered whether to ask him. Before she could make a decision, she spotted fresh apples in another row. "They look tasty..." she almost drooled at the sight.

"Luna, what are you staring at?" Madam Jiang questioned, realizing that she had been speaking to thin air for a while.

The latter silently rushed to grab an apple and started munching on it before paying for it, leaving Madam Jiang with a slacked jaw. She paid up and studied the young woman from head to toe. "You are acting strange."

"Am I?" Luna continued wolfing down her apple like her life depended on it.

"You hate apples."

She paused, shocked with her own behavior. "Perhaps I'm just hungry?"

Madam Jiang scrutinized her and thought of something but remained silent about it. "That useless punk! How could he drag you to go shopping with you without getting you something to eat? I'll give him a good scolding later." She harrumphed, sending a glare in the direction of her son who was also frozen stiff from shock after seeing Luna eat something she disliked so much. She pulled her future daughter-in-law to a restaurant within the store. "Forget that useless idiot. Let's have something to eat together."

"Aunty, I'm fine." She giggled at her dramatic reaction.

That didn't stop Madam Jiang from dragging her into the restaurant. A waitress soon came over, making Luna realize just how hungry she was. She quickly made her order. "I'll have fried chicken and..."

"No no..." Madam Jiang interrupted in a flash, quickly composing herself when she realized that she had startled Luna. "Why don't you eat grilled chicken instead? It's tastier."

"Alright." She nodded obediently and changed her order.

Madam Jiang secretly sighed in relief. She didn't know what she was thinking about, and she didn't know whether she was dreading or looking forward to it. Amid her mixed feelings, she randomly asked, "Do you like Xingyu?"

"Wait, what?" Luna was so startled that she dropped her phone onto the table. A flush crept onto her cheeks when she processed what she had been asked. Seeing that the other was waiting for her answer, she battled her thoughts with an embarrassed smile on her face then decided to come clean. "I was going to tell him... tonight perhaps."

Taking that as a yes, Madam Jiang let out the breath she had been holding and cheered on behalf of her son. "That lucky punk. He is lucky that I am not a man myself.. Otherwise, I would have won you over."

Chapter 328 - Why Does The Past Matter?

"You don't look particularly excited about it." Madam Jiang observed.

Luna sighed. "Relationships don't always last long. I mean, liking (or loving) each other doesn't always mean much, right?" After all, her own parents had divorced and in such a heartbreaking way even

though they were rumored to have been deeply in love with each other. They were still enemies presently, despite the obvious love in each other's eyes.

What about she and Jiang Xingyu who had not known each other for that long?

Madam Jiang understood her concern. However, "You cannot judge your relationship based on someone else's. They are not you and you are not them; your relationship would never be like theirs—not even if that person is your identical twin. Just because your parents broke up doesn't mean you and your husband will break up."

"H-husband?" Luna stuttered in a whisper. She was still talking about "like". How did it morph into marriage in a flash?

"Look, you can be worried about other men but you will never have to worry about Xingyu." She reached over the table and planted her elbows on the surface, looking into the younger woman's eyes seriously. "I'm not just saying this because I'm his mother. I was not kidding when I said he couldn't live without you."

When you left, it was as though his life had come crumbling down on him. He would hole up in his room all day, all night. Sometimes he would starve himself and drink himself almost to death, childishly hoping that your heart would ache for him, and that's not even the most stupid thing he did. Although I reprimanded him for being an idiot at the time, one thing is for sure: he will never bring himself to do anything that could make you leave him again."

Luna held a hand over her mouth. She had left thinking that they didn't truly love each other. Never would she have thought that he was so deeply in love with her. Madam Jiang made a lot of sense, which made her wonder, "Why... why do you like me? I hurt your son so much. After everything he did to himself, aren't you supposed to hate me?"

The latter squinted her eyes slightly. "I hated you before I met you. You know, I thought my son was heartbroken over some spineless gold digger who had left after accomplishing her mission. But when I met you and realized just what a sweet young woman you were, I realized one thing; why should the past matter? It does nothing but makes us bitter over things that will never change."

Why not enjoy the present and the future instead? So, I detached myself from the past and it made me realize something more important."

"What?" Luna was curious.

"That if we met under different circumstances and if Xingyu wasn't in love with you, I would still have loved you as much as I would love my daughter."

"Aunty..." Luna felt her eyes sting. She circled the table and hugged Madam Jiang warmly.

...

Later when they were done eating, they went back to the men who had just finished purchasing the groceries and whatever else they had been doing the whole time.

Madam Jiang went back to her husband's side, winked and mouthed 'good luck' to Luna. "I'll give you a call later, okay? Make sure to tell me if he bullies you."

"She's the one always bullying me." Jiang Xingyu complained, while his father muttered something inaudibly. If Luna was a man, he would never let her get so close to his wife. He was almost getting replaced!

Luna glared at Jiang Xingyu, making him shut his mouth, then mouthed a 'thanks' to Madam Jiang. The two pairs then split ways, each going their own way.

The man was relieved when they were finally on their own. "I got everything we need. But do we even still need them?" He looked down at his huge bag of ingredients.

"I'll help you cook something for you to eat. You can keep the rest in the refrigerator, of course." She led the way out, not reaching for his hand this time.

"Is there something bothering you?" He observed. She was walking faster than usual, her lips occasionally moving as though she was chanting something, but she said nothing in the end.

"No." She said curtly. Of course, something was bugging her! How the heck was she supposed to confess to a man? It wasn't that easy, okay? besides, that wasn't the only thing that was bugging her nerves.

She closed her eyes for a second and let out a breath. "Give me a second." Without letting him respond, she disappeared back into the building. She went to the restrooms. Outside the doors to the restrooms, there was a trashcan. She observed it for a while and thought back to what Madam Jiang had said earlier.

"Why should the past matter? It does nothing but makes us bitter over things that will never change. Why not enjoy the present and the future instead?"

"Right. Why should the past matter? It's been twenty years." She muttered to no one in particular. Then, she opened her purse and took out a lipstick. It was the same lipstick that Flynn had given to her earlier. Making a firm decision, she dropped it into the trash can before entering the washroom.

...

Five minutes ago.

Jiang Xingyu was already concerned that Luna was acting strange, then she ran off just like that. Worried that something was wrong, he followed her back into the building.

She used the staircase so it was easier to follow her. She stopped on the third floor and headed straight for the washrooms. He was about to call her out when she stopped for a moment and dropped something into the trashcan, muttering words he couldn't catch.

What caught his attention was the fact that whatever she had thrown away was the lipstick that Flynn had given her. It seemed to be so important earlier. Why did it seem to bother her just a short while later?

He had a feeling that it was no ordinary lipstick. Out of curiosity, he went over to the trashcan. Seeing that the rubbish had been emptied earlier and there was nothing but the lipstick inside, he took out a handkerchief and used it to pick it up.

After wiping it for assurance, he twisted the cap open and cursed when he took a good look. "I knew it!"

It was not lipstick.. It was a USB flash drive.

Chapter 329 - Taken

No wonder. It was weird for her to be so grateful for something as useless to her as a lipstick, but if it was a USB flash drive in disguise, it made perfect sense. Flynn must have meant to give her important information. Considering where he worked, he must have investigated something for her and the flash drive must contain whatever had been found out from his research.

What didn't make sense was, why had she dumped it? He was sure that she had not had the chance to watch it yet. Besides, even if it happened that she had secretly watched it or copied the content elsewhere, why did she drop it so carelessly? What if someone else found it?

He thought through all the consequences and decided that it would be best if the flash drive was disposed of in a better way, aside from being dumped in a trash can where someone else could see it and be curious of the content.

Of course, curiosity was killing him and he so badly wanted to check what was in it. However, he knew that she might be mad at him if that happened, so he decided that he would destroy it unless she allowed him to check the content.

He secured it in his pocket but just as he wondered whether to leave, he heard the sound of running water. The door opened soon after and Luna stepped out, frowning when she saw him outside.

"Did you follow me?" She asked the question he was dreading to hear.

He nodded nervously like a child who had been caught red-handed and who had no choice but to admit his mistake. "I was worried about you."

She scrutinized his expression and wondered why he wasn't asking anything. If he followed her, then shouldn't he have seen a scene that wasn't meant for his eyes? Her eyes darted to the trash can and when she saw that it was empty, she raised an eyebrow at him.

Muttering "dead" under his breath, he explained, "I was worried that someone else would find it so... I was going to destroy it."

She laughed at his sorry excuse. Even if he was going to make an excuse, couldn't he at least say something that was a little believable?

"Let's go." She led the way, no longer caring what he did with it. She had decided to throw it away anyway.

Seeing that he had been let off, he sighed in relief and followed her out.

—

Later, at Jiang Xingyu's villa.

Since Luna had already eaten with Madam Jiang, she only had a cup of fruit juice. The man kept away most of the ingredients he had just bought, he would cook her something delicious the following day.

He had a conference call to attend to, so he gave her a laptop to play with as she waited for him. He shut his laptop and dashed to her side as soon as he was done. She was sitting cross-legged on the sofa with the laptop between her legs, typing at a speed almost invisible to the human eye.

"What are you typing?" He asked gently as he sat down beside her.

She stretched her arms in exhaustion. "That took you so long. I almost grew white hair from waiting."

He smiled at her complaint, starting to get used to this side of her. "Are you sleepy?"

She nodded through a yawn. Although it was still fairly early compared to the time she usually slept, she must have been working so hard lately that she was getting lazier by the day.

Hearing her response, he stood up and held her hand. "Let's go to sleep, then. I'm tired too."

She shook her head. "Can't. I'm too tired."

Taking that as a cue, he bent over and pulled the laptop off her lap, then carried her off the couch. She yelped in surprise but wrapped her arms around his neck a second later. He walked to his room at the slowest speed and gently lay her on his bed like a fragile treasure.

"Still tired?" He asked gently. When she nodded, he asked, "Do you need a massage?"

Her cheeks flushed as she glared at him. If he was really suggesting a massage, why was he giving him that expression that made everything sound wrong? "I don't really need one. But if you want me to give you a massage, I can consider it." She threw back a teasing glance at him.

He flopped onto the bed with a jubilant smile. "I would be a fool if I said no to that, wouldn't I?"

She scoffed and slid off the bed, then went to the vanity where she had seen a bottle of almond oil the last time she was here. She stood in front of the vanity and took in a deep breath. Should she use this chance to confess? Was it the right time?

After thinking back and forth, she decided to go with the flow. She wasn't in any sort of hurry, after all.

Once she found what she was looking for, she walked back to the bed.

"Should I undress now?" He asked teasingly.

She was yet to say a word when his phone, which was on the bed, vibrated. The screen lit up, displaying "Chloe".

Her eyebrows scrunched up. Who was Chloe?

What made her jaw drop was his genuine smile when he saw the caller identity. He answered the call with a gentle "Hey princess."

She shut her eyes and swallowed a gulp. Princess?

She didn't want her mind to run wild but the man neither had a sister nor a daughter, and none of his friends had daughters. Who was he speaking to?

A thought crossed her brain, making her blood run cold. Could it be... that he was taken?

Chapter 330 - Are You Jealous?

She tried to smile it off and not eavesdrop on their conversation but Jiang Xingyu's tone didn't do anything to make that easy. He sounded so gentle that it was almost unbelievable. Although he had always spoken to her in a tone that made her feel—think—she was special to him, this time it was on a whole other level.

"Who said so?... No, of course not! How could that be... Okay, okay... I love you more than my whole life. Happy now? Sure, I'll buy it for you and send it to your home."

Each of his statements sliced through her heart like a dagger. What bothered her the most was, why the hell would he say such words to another woman in her presence? Was it so she would know that he had a girlfriend?

With a sigh, she returned the massage oil onto the vanity and turned to leave.

Just as she reached the front door, Jiang Xingyu was behind her. "Luna, where are you going?"

His confused expression irritated her. "I'll be on my way now. Goodnight."

He grabbed her hand before she could move a step. "What happened?"

She cringed at his question. Was he seriously trying to feign oblivion? "You are asking me what happened when you had the audacity to flirt with two women at the same time?"

Look, I don't care how your brain functions, but I'm leaving so you will have more time to chat with your Chloe. You're welcome."

The man was stumped. In the next second, he understood what was going on and slapped his forehead. "Oh my god! Hahahahaha... Is she the reason why you're leaving?"

She raised an eyebrow.

"Are you jealous?" He asked through a laugh.

Of course! Who wouldn't be jealous if the man they were about to confess to suddenly started flirting with someone else? But how could she admit that? She crossed her arms with a scoff. "Jealous? What makes you think I would get jealous because of someone like you?"

"The look in your eyes." He broke into another bout of laughter. Although he was enjoying her jealous antics, he didn't dare let it go on for too long, knowing that she would never speak to him if she left in her angry state. Hence, he held her hand and dragged her to the couch, sitting beside her.

"Listen, uhm... Chloe is..."

"I don't want to hear it." She made to block her ears.

Taking her hands off the sides of her head, he laughed at how cute she was when being jealous. He couldn't help thinking too much about it. Why was she jealous in the first place? Had she started liking him?

Feeling like he was on top of a cloud, he resumed explaining, "She isn't someone you should be jealous of, really. She's just a baby."

"How is that my business?" She harrumphed, then widened her eyes. "Wait. A baby?!"

"Don't give me that expression!" He waved his hands in the air. "No, she's not my daughter."

"Oh." She sighed in relief. It wasn't that she had any problem with dating a man who was already a father. However, as a woman who had grown under the toxic care of a stepmother, she was scared of being one herself. What if she had learnt all the bad things from Li Xiyan? She wouldn't want someone else's child to go through that kind of torture.

But the point right now was, "If she is not your daughter, who is she?"

"My cousin's daughter." He explained. "You see, my cousin and his wife are always very busy and rarely have time for their baby. Hence, when she first met me and I gave her the attention she needed, she

started sticking onto me. They don't live in B City so I can't go to see her every day, which is why she will often give me a call and we will talk for hours sometimes."

Luna felt silly for having been jealous over a little girl. "How old is she anyway?"

His answer made her feel even more stupid. The girl was only five!

Now that she recalled it, the whole time, Jiang Xingyu had sounded like he was coaxing a little girl. So he really was coaxing a little girl.

"She is so adorable. If you like kids, I can introduce you." He suggested.

"I'm not too sure about that." She dismissed.

He laughed and pulled her onto his lap. "Now, let's talk about why you were jealous."

"I wasn't!" She protested and pulled off him, heading to the master bedroom in embarrassment.

He ran after her, laughing at her blushing face. "Just admit it. You thought I was seeing another woman, didn't you? But the question is, why did it rile you up so much?"

"Shut up." She didn't need a mirror to know that her cheeks were pink at the moment. She dashed into the bedroom and wanted to dive into bed to hide.

But just as she neared the bed, she shut her eyes with a hand against her temples.

"Luna?" He dashed over to support her before she could fall. He helped her onto the bed and looked at her worriedly. "What happened? Are you dizzy? Does your head hurt?"

She nodded and then shook her head almost immediately. "I felt dizzy for a second. I'm alright now."

He scanned her worriedly and dashed to pour her a glass of water from the small dispenser in the room. "Have some water."

She took the glass from his hand and merely took a sip before she felt it was enough. She turned to scan his worried face. "Relax, okay? I'm really alright. I must be tired, that's all."

"I'll take you to hospital." He suggested.

"Come on, don't make a fuss for such a tiny matter." She laughed, though she was touched by how much he cared about her. "I will take a warm shower and rest. I promise, I will be alright after a shower."

Since she sounded so sure, he nodded. She stood up but as soon as she did, she fell back onto the bed, blacking out.

"Luna!"

—

An hour later, at the hospital.

Jiang Xingyu dashed to the doctor as soon as the door to the emergency ward opened.

The doctor pulled off his mask. "Are you the patient's immediate family?"

Before he answered, hurried footsteps filled the hallway before Lanni and Xiehan rushed over, panting from having rushed all the way here. He had given Lanni a call as soon as he brought Luna to hospital.

"What happened to my sister?" Lanni asked anxiously, turning to the doctor. "Doctor, how is she? Is she alright?"

"Miss, calm down." The doctor swept a glance at the three of them. "It's actually good news."

Lanni glared at him. "Good news?! My sister fainted and you call it good news?"

Jiang Xingyu's heart suddenly skipped a beat. Wait, what?

"The patient, Xia Luna, is one month pregnant. Congratulations! Both the mother and child are in perfect condition."

Lanni's eyes went wide. P-pregnant?

Xiehan cast a glance at his friend. "Congratulations...?"

Jiang Xingyu was speechless.