

Chapter 351 - The Unlucky Man

That evening.

Xiaoshi wanted to go over to the Old Ji Mansion to say hello to her aunt and uncle. Hence, Xiehan returned from the office earlier to drop her off.

"Lanni isn't back yet?" He was surprised when he didn't find her at the apartment. The interview shouldn't take this long, right?

Xiaoshi shook her head. "She sent me a text message a while ago and said that it might take longer than she thought."

"I see. We can wait for her." Xiehan sat on the couch. Since he was going to the Ji Mansion, he should bring Lanni with him. It had been ages since they last went over and if he didn't bring her along, his parents would chew him out.

"Speaking of which, is aunty getting along with Lanni? I heard someone say that she is very mean and hates her." Xiaoshi asked, curious and annoyed. How could anyone hate Lanni?

Xiehan flicked her forehead. "Is your brain filled with nothing but gossip?"

"Ow! I'm only concerned about you! Don't you think it will be troublesome for everyone if you and Lanni get married but your family doesn't like her?" She rubbed her forehead as she complained.

Xiehan let out a smile. "Don't worry. She won her over."

"Oh." Xiaoshi was no longer worried. "I'm happy for you, cousin. You finally fell in love and it's true love too."

Xiehan raised an eyebrow in amusement. "What about you?"

"What about me?" She feigned ignorance.

"I know you have a guy you like. Who is the unlucky guy?" He teased.

"He is very lucky, okay! And I won't tell you who he is."

Xiehan knew that she was not joking about not wanting to tell him who the man was. He thought about it and decided to let it slide. "As long as he is a morally upright man and he will not bully you. If I find out that he is playing with your feelings, I will beat him up—I won't care that you love him." He looked at her strictly.

She smiled, her heart melting. "You sound just like a protective brother—not that I'm complaining."

"I'm being serious here." He frowned.

She stopped playing around. "I know, I know. My taste isn't so bad as to fall for a jerk. I will definitely not let you have to beat anyone up."

Just as they spoke, Lanni finally returned.

She looked tired and flopped onto the couch as soon as she entered the house.

Xiaoshi naturally brought her water. "You are back. You look so exhausted... what did they do to you?"

"They made me the the Chief Editor." Lanni was still in disbelief.

"Wait, what? Congratulations!" Xiaoshi didn't know what position Lanni applied for; but since the latter sounded like it was too unexpected, even she was reflexively shocked.

Lanni didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "I mean, it was totally unexpected. The current—no, former—Chief Editor is going overseas so he was helping the CEO find the best person to take up his post. I spent the entire afternoon taking down notes of everything I need to know."

"This calls for a celebration." Xiehan smiled. He then went to the cellar she didn't know existed in her apartment since it was a hidden room, and returned with a bottle of wine and three stem glasses. He poured wine into the glasses and clinched them. "Congratulations, my love."

"Wait, you're not surprised?" Lanni glanced at him quizzically after taking a sip of her wine. She raised an eyebrow when she thought of a possibility. "This is not your doing, is it?"

Xiehan thought about how he had made her work for Xing Han. Her suspicion hadn't arisen from thin air.

"Honey, I would really appreciate it but then, I prefer working hard on my own to achieve what I want." She took his silence for a yes.

He patted her head with a chuckle. "Babe, you think too much. Do you really think I'm one of those men who use their status to secretly make their women have their way? Of course not! I have faith in my woman." He grinned. "Of course, if you need my help getting anything, I will gladly do whatever you want me to do; with your permission, that is."

"Uh... my love life is wrecked! Now I won't be able to accept a man unless he is at least as good as my cousin." Xiaoshi commented. He understood women so well and knew what to do or not to do to keep them happy. It was almost shocking that he was not a playboy—yet he was loyal and only had eyes for one woman.

Lanni stared at Xiehan in awe. "My man is so charming that I'm almost jealous of myself!"

"That's enough." Xiaoshi dragged Lanni into her room. "Get changed, we are going to the old mansion for dinner."

What was up with these sisters? Were they planning to kill her with their displays of affection?

Lanni laughed and got changed.

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The Old Ji Mansion, later in the evening.

Lin Wei was overjoyed to see her son, niece and future daughter-in-law.

"You finally know your way back home." She scolded Xiehan as she hugged him.

"I've been busy at the company." He said, then handed over a bag. "Lanni and Xiaoshi prepared this for you."

"It's already enough that you girls came to visit. You didn't have to prepare gifts as well." She hugged Lanni and Xiaoshi happily, then led them into the house.

"Hello, Uncle." Lanni and Xiaoshi greeted Ji Huifen.

"How have you been?" Ji Huifen was elated as he shook hands with the girls. He couldn't help scanning Xiaoshi in disbelief. "The little girl who used to cling onto me, calling me uncle and lifting her tiny arms to ask for hugs is suddenly a young woman too! How time flies."

"You can say that again. My handsome uncle is suddenly so old." Xiaoshi joked, and everyone laughed.

"Say that again? Which part of me looks old?" Ji Huifen looked like he was about to grab a mirror and check himself out.

"Of course you are old. My son is more handsome than you—because he takes after his mum in some aspects." Wen Lin harrumphed, making everyone joke and laugh at Ji Huifen's expense.

They all made their way to the dining room.

"Now that we talk about it, time really is flying." Wen Lin raised an eyebrow as she served food for the girls. "My friends' kids are even getting married and having children. In fact, one of my high-school classmates already has a grandchild old enough to call her grandma."

"Is that so?" Xiehan coughed, while Xiaoshi laughed and teased the perplexed Lanni. They all knew where this was headed.

Just as they dreaded, Wen Lin glanced at her son. "It wasn't long ago that Xinghe was complaining about her son not being in a relationship despite being so old. But now, not only is Xingyu engaged, his fiancée is even pregnant too."

"I'm full." Xiehan was preparing to flee, but his mother grabbed his hand.

"Your best friend is already planning his wedding and welcoming a little one. When are you and Lanni planning to get married and have kids?"

Since he couldn't avoid it, Xiehan could only deal with it. "Mother, we already talked about this, didn't we? Lanni is still young."

"You always give me this excuse." She harrumphed. "What do you mean Lanni is young? She is already twenty years old; the legal age for marriage is eighteen and besides, Xingyu's fiancée is her twin."

Lanni chuckled helplessly. "But aunty, just because my twin is ready for marriage doesn't mean I have to be ready as well, right?"

"Right, I get it. I'm just worried that you guys don't have it in mind. After all, it's much better to have kids when you are younger, or you will be too busy to have them later." Said Wen Lin.

"Lin Lin, don't bug our son now. Those who don't know might think you are trying to rush Lanni." Ji Huifen came to Lanni's and Xiehan's rescue.

While they spoke, a maid announced the arrival of Xingyu. He soon entered the house, hand-in-hand with Luna.

"What a grand occasion! Even Xingyu finally decided to pay a visit." Wen Lin was overjoyed.

"We are staying over at the old mansion so we thought we should say hi." Xingyu said, and went ahead to introduce Luna to everyone.

"Xiaoshi?" Lanni checked on the girl beside her. "Are you alright? You are trembling." She observed.

"I'm okay." The girl looked away after flashing a smile.

Lanni raised an eyebrow. The girl's mood had taken a drastic turn at some point. However, since she didn't want to talk about it, Lanni let it be for now.

However, as Xingyu and Luna joined the table, Xiaoshi couldn't stop her eyes from watering. Eventually, she dashed out of the dining room.

Lanni followed her worriedly. "Xiaoshi, what happened?"

In disbelief, the girl wiped her tears using her fist. "Luna's fiancé... is Xingyu?"

## Chapter 352 - First Day At Work

Lanni was about to answer her when she remembered something with a start. Xiaoshi had gone pale with shock when Wen Lin talked about how Xingyu's mother had been complaining that her son was single despite being so old, and how she was more peaceful now that he had finally gotten engaged.

Her jaw dropped in disbelief. "You..."

"Xingyu is engaged?" Xiaoshi looked up at her tearfully.

When Lanni didn't say a word, the girl let out a sigh. "I understand."

"Xiaoshi..."

"Lanni, you don't need to say anything." She interrupted and entered the washroom. Washing her face, she exited the room with a smile. "Everyone must be waiting for us. Let's not keep them waiting for too long."

Lanni followed her back into the dining room. She was still in disbelief. Who would have thought that the man Xiaoshi had loved for years was Xingyu?

She knew that Xiaoshi was a good girl but she didn't want to imagine what would happen. Would they still be friends despite the fact that she turned out to be her romantic rival's sister? Most importantly, would she give up on Xingyu since he belonged to someone else, or would she try to compete with Luna?

Lanni didn't need to think about it for too long. When they went back to her apartment, Xiaoshi looked for her.

"Lanni, could you do me a favor?" She asked through a smile that Lanni knew she was trying hard to manage.

"Sure." She hoped it wouldn't be anything crazy or one that might sabotage Luna.

"Could you... could you not tell Luna about this?" She pleaded. "It's not easy for me to make friends and... if Luna knew how I feel about Xingyu, she might dislike me."

"Okay, this stays between us." Lanni promised after scanning the latter and being convinced that she was being sincere.

"Thank you. I will go to bed now." She turned to leave.

Lanni grabbed her hand. "Will you be okay?"

Xiaoshi looked away to mask the sadness in her eyes. "Yeah. I mean why not?"

"I cannot keep pining for an engaged man, can I?" Her eyes watered slightly and she blinked the tears away. "I mean, sure, I thought he would like me. I thought he would realize that I truly love him since it's been so many years and I'm no longer the little girl he claimed was too young to know what love is. I thought he didn't have a girlfriend but it turns out that he has a fiancée..."

She let out a sigh. "It was I who was too late. He doesn't even seem to remember me. But... he and Luna look so happy. It would not be fair to ruin their happiness just because I didn't get what I wanted."

Lanni hugged the girl. Even though she was obviously more hurt than she was letting Lanni know, at least she could still think clearly.

Luckily she was sensible enough to know better than to try to wreck Xingyu's relationship with Luna.



Since she wanted to be alone for a while, Lanni let her go to the guest room to rest.

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The following day.

As it was going to be Lanni's first day of work, she woke up earlier than usual and prepared everything she needed to go to her new workplace. After dressing up in a blue peplum dress and donning a pair of diamond high-heeled shoes, she was about to leave her room when Xiaoshi found her first.

"I was just about to come and check up on you." She smiled at the young woman.

Xiaoshi looked much more vibrant than she did the previous night. "Good morning, Chief Editor Li! It's your first day of work so I made nutritious breakfast for you! I also prepared you a bento so you don't go hungry."

Lanni was awed. "Thank you Xiaoshi. Let's have breakfast together."

The girl went to the dining room with Lanni.

"Cousin woke up much earlier because he had to go to the office and didn't want to wake you up. Anyway, he prepared some sandwiches for you to snack on when you are hungry." She explained as she sat down opposite Lanni.

Lanni smiled at the cousins' supportive way of sending her to work today. Xiehan had even left a love note for her on the bedside table, to wish her luck on her first day—she certainly needed it, especially since she was going to work in a position she had never thought she would once work on.

As they had breakfast, she observed that Xiaoshi didn't seem to be pretending to be happy just so she would no longer worry about her. She seemed to be genuinely feeling better, so Lanni relaxed a little.

"It's such a bummer that both you and my cousin are going to work." Xiaoshi felt bummed that she would have to be alone.

Lanni chuckled. She was about to suggest that she go for clothes shopping with Luna since the latter had taken a short break from work but remembering how strained their relationship was at the moment, she sighed and said nothing.

She was still thinking of what to say to break the awkwardness when Xiaoshi's phone rang and the caller was none other than Luna.

Xiaoshi was startled. She stared at the screen for a while then took deep breaths to calm down before answering the call.

"Xiaoshi, are you busy this afternoon?"

"No. Is anything the matter?" She asked reflexively.

"I want to go and check out baby clothes and toys but my unreliable sister is going to be busy all day. Could you accompany me?" There was a short spell of silence before she added, "I would also like to talk to you about something."

Xiaoshi's heart sank to the pit of her stomach. Luna had found out after all...

Clenching her hand into a fist, she agreed to the meeting.

"Awesome! I will pick you up at my unreliable sister's apartment at noon. We can have lunch together before shopping."

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When the call ended, Xiaoshi was deflated. "Will she hate me now?"

"Of course not. Since you are not doing anything wrong, why would she hate you?" Lanni comforted her.

Xiaoshi let out a smile. "You know, I had decided to go back home today. I was going to take the first flight back to Australia... But when I woke up this morning, I changed my mind and decided that I will not be a coward and run away from my feelings. After all, only by facing the reality will I move on." She sighed. "But now I'm starting to think that maybe I should have left."

Lanni no longer knew what to say. Since Xiaoshi was always constantly moving from one country to another, it was not easy for her to make friends. Now that she had found that she, Lanni and Luna had so much in common and that they could be friends, she was scared of losing them and was now afraid that if she and Luna talked, their new friendship would disappear into thin air.

Thinking about it, she held the girl's hand. "You know, if you and my sister cannot get along now, then you were just not meant to be friends."

Xiaoshi nodded. "Wait, is it really possible for people to be friends despite having feelings for the same person?"

Lanni tried to think back and the only pair she could think of was Ji Feifei. She shook her head. That disgusting weirdo had feelings for her own biological brother, turning them into enemies. But then again, they were never friends to begin with so that did not count.

"Now that you mention it, there was such a thing between Xiehan and Xingyu."

"Wait. What do you mean?" Xiaoshi was flabbergasted.

Lanni laughed when she realized how her words sounded. "That's not what I mean. I mean, Xingyu was in love with Luna and Xiehan was in love with me; but no one knew we were twins. They both thought they were in love with the same woman and, heavens, I thought they would have a falling out."

Since they didn't, it was possible to get along as long as they did not scheme against each other.

"I feel better now, Lanni." Xiaoshi smiled. Though she wondered what Luna wanted to talk about.

"Then I will go to work now."

"Good luck, Chief Editor Li." The girl winked, enjoying addressing Lanni using her new title.

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Tian Yu Media.

"Good Morning, Chief Editor Li." Mr. Ming greeted as soon as he saw Lanni enter the building.

"Hello Mr. Ming." Lanni entered the elevator meant for executive employees, which she had been given access to the previous day.

"I will show you around and introduce you to the people you will be working with frequently." The man said, and led Lanni to a conference room on the tenth floor.

Several employees were already sitting around the large rectangular table, and they looked up when Mr. Ming walked in with Lanni.

"This is the new Chief Editor, Li Lanni." He introduced, then the employees greeted her in unison.

A woman who looked older than Lanni walked in, and Mr. Ming took the file she was holding before turning to Lanni.. "This is your assistant, Han Lili."

Lanni held the meeting with her new subordinates and by the end of it, she knew that she would get along with most of them. Of course, there were a handful of them who thought it was impossible for her to have deserved the position of Chief Editor—considering her age—and one of them was her assistant.

Since the two lay their eyes on each other for the first time, Lanni felt a strong sense of hatred emanating from the other. It was as though they were enemies in their previous lives and just happened to be reincarnated into the same dimension.

Lanni didn't care much about her spite, and hoped that they would each stick to their own lanes despite their obvious dislike for each other.

Alas, that was clearly not what Han Lili was thinking. She must have felt that it would be more thrilling if she and Lanni kept brushing shoulders and creating trouble for each other.

It was merely thirty minutes into their work when she delivered a stack of news articles for Lanni to look through and approve with a signature.

Sitting on the high executive seat behind her desk, Lanni started flipping through the articles and reading them.

"Why do you need to read them? You just need to sign at the bottom. All of these articles will be published anyway." Han Lili remarked.

Lanni frowned slightly and continued reading.

The woman crossed her arms disdainfully. "Why do you need to be so pretentious? Pretending to be Miss goody two shoes and reading word for word will not help to save the time we are already losing. Why don't you just..."

"Are you going to teach me how to do my job?" Lanni looked up sternly. As she did, she held up one of the news articles. The headline was about an infamous celebrity, Yan Qingqing, and the article was of her being discovered to be a drug addict. She had supposedly been enrolled in a rehabilitation center.

Lanni checked the name of the writer and then raised an eyebrow at Han Lili. "Call Yu Ming over."

Soon, a young girl was brought over by the scornful Han Lili.

Lanni shifted her gaze between them.

"Do you have evidence to support what you wrote?"

The young girl shook her head. "But, I have written it in such a catchy way, surely no one will ask for evidence."

Lanni shook her head in disapproval. "How did you obtain this piece of news?"

Yu Ming cracked her knuckles nervously. "A celebrity told me. She and Yan Qingqing are close friends so she would definitely know such a thing about her."

"Close friends?" Lanni raised an eyebrow. "If she is her close friend, then why would she disclose to a reporter something that could ruin Yan Qingqing's career? What kind of friend would do that?" When Yu Ming remained silent, Lanni added, "Besides, who is to say that she did not lie on purpose? What if she pretends to be her friend but is actually the person who so badly wants to ruin her? What if we were to publish this news only to find that it was a lie and Yan Qingqing sues Tian Yu Media for libel?"

"Chief Editor, I was wrong. I was so desperate to find a huge piece of news that I didn't think this through." Yu Ming admitted her fault when she realized the huge mistake she had almost made.

Lanni did not make things difficult for her. "Take this back, and take this as a final warning. Use your brains next time."

After all, it was simply common sense that a journalist should not report false news. Alas, there were so many cases of media agencies merely focusing on the views and sales that some journalists no longer felt the need to verify whatever they were going to write about.

When Yu Ming left, Lanni turned to Han Lili. "Do you now realize why I need to read through the articles? If you don't, there is something wrong with your brain."

"Hmph." Han Lili turned on her heel with a snort.

"Stop right there." Lanni stood up with her arms crossed.

Han Lili didn't understand why, but she subconsciously stopped when she heard Lanni's stern tone.

Lanni circled her desk and faced the woman. "Han Lili, I get that you don't like me—trust me, the feeling is mutual—but that doesn't mean I will tolerate your rudeness. Go to HR and get your job description. Once you understand it, you can make the choice whether to resign or come back here and do your job as you should."

When she was done, she went back to her desk and continued doing her job.

Han Lili left the office, rolling her eyes as soon as she was out. "Who the hell does she think she is? She only got to that position because of a mistake!"

"Are you talking about the new Chief Editor? She is quite fitting for her job though..." Yu Ming, who was on her way back to Lanni's office, mumbled when she heard Han Lili curse.

"Mind your own business." The latter harrumphed her way to HR.

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Lanni looked up when Yu Ming returned.

"Chief Editor, I had another article but..."

Although she didn't complete her statement, Lanni understood her. She must have been scared that the article would not be approved so she didn't submit it. Lanni took it from her and read through it. The topic was a celebrity as well, but this time it was about a celebrity getting married. However, she was not the only one who had written about this piece of news.

Lanni read it and compared it to the rest then said, "This is what will be published. But did you try to interview her?"

"I couldn't get through to her agent." Said Yu Ming.

"Prepare for the interview. I will contact her." Lanni offered, then got back to work. By the time she was done approving all the articles that would be included in the next day's issue, she was so tired that she wanted to drop on her desk and fall asleep. She had forgotten to eat her bento, so she warmed it up.

Just as she took a bite, Xiehan called.

"Honey?" She was surprised that he would call before his knock off time.

"How is your first day of work, Chief Editor Li?" He asked.

"Not a walk in the park." She sighed. It was only the first day and she had to deal with a b\*tch already. How many more would she have to deal with by the end of the year?

"The first time is usually the hardest. Once you get used to your new position, it will be much easier to handle whatever challenge comes your way." He encouraged.

"You are right. I just wanted you to coax me a little." She acted spoiled.

"Did you miss me?" He teased as usual.



"Mmh... let me think." She pretended to hm and haw for a while. "There are so many handsome men in Tian Yu Media. Even the CEO is a stunning hunk. Why would I still miss you?"

"Would you leave me for him?" He sounded pitiful and wronged.

"Of course not." She laughed after successfully teasing him. "Why would I have eyes for other people? They are like passing clouds."

"Hmm." He was more satisfied after hearing her flattery. "Honey, I will leave work earlier today. Shall I pick you up?"

"I drove here." She responded.

"I can get my chauffeur to drive your car back."

"Won't that be troublesome?" She frowned.

He let out a charming laugh. "Babe, I'm just finding reasons to get to see you earlier. Can't you tell?"

A smile escaped her lips. "Since that's the case, I will do Mr. Ji the honor of letting him pick me up."

"Then, you better go back to work so you finish up soon. Don't forget to miss me."

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Meanwhile, Luna and Xiaoshi had just finished their lunch and were walking around the mall.

Compared to Luna's joyous mood, Xiaoshi was torn in between excitement and tension.

She saw that Luna neither looked disappointed nor angry, but that didn't stop her from sitting on pins and needles. What would Luna want to talk to her about? No matter how hard she thought about it, the only thing she could come up with was Xingyu.

On that note, they went to the children's section in the mall and started looking around.

Luna chuckled when she saw the clothes for one day old babies. "How tiny!"

Xiaoshi held up the tiniest apron she had ever seen. "They are cute."

"I know, right? Whoa, these shoes..." Luna paused to check out a pair of shoes that could fit in her jeans pocket. But just as she reached to pick them, she paused. She didn't know whether her baby was a boy or a girl yet. Deciding to check later, she turned to Xiaoshi and realized that the latter looked blue.

She was surprised. Didn't Xiaoshi love babies and everything related to them? She had thought the latter would be overjoyed to accompany her. "What happened?"

Xiaoshi looked troubled but shook her head. "Nothing. What did you want to talk to me about?"

Luna smiled slightly. "You must have guessed it, actually."

Xiaoshi was deflated.. As expected.

"Let's take a seat and talk about it." Luna suggested.

Xiaoshi nodded, so they went over to the resting area. There weren't many people in the children's section of the mall so they were the only ones in the resting area, providing privacy if they needed to talk.

As soon as Luna sat down, Xiaoshi bit the bullet. "I'm sorry. I..."

"I'm sorry, I didn't ask for your permission before looking you up..." Luna started at the same time and was surprised by Xiaoshi's words. She raised an eyebrow to probe. When the other shook her head with a relieved look, she found it weird but brushed it off and continued to explain. "I saw that you were coding an application and knew that you are a programmer. When I looked you up, I found that you don't work for any company and merely sell your apps when they are completed."

"Yes... I only do it for fun and I'm not that good at it." Xiaoshi was surprised that someone even noticed it.

"What are you saying? You are so talented!" Luna gushed. "Would you be interested in joining my company?" She finally got to the point. Although she guessed that Xiaoshi must have decided to work the way she did because she did not want to be under any company's contract, she didn't want to give up without trying.

"You see, although my company is a start up, you can be rest assured that I will not let you be at a disadvantage. If you are willing, we can discuss the terms. Uh... why are you looking at me like that?" She noticed that the girl was staring at her.

"You own Moonlight Studios... you are also the one who created the comic application you recommended to me?" Xiaoshi asked. When Luna nodded, she almost screamed in excitement. "You are so awesome! You made me feel like a clueless rookie... can I get an autograph?" She couldn't believe that while she kept wondering which heavenly programmer had managed to create such an excellent app, the heavenly programmer was right beside her!

"You exaggerate." Luna chuckled, then looked at her probingly to ask what her decision was.

Xiaoshi excitedly opened her purse and fished out a pen. "Of course I would be overjoyed to work for my idol! Do you have the contract here with you?"

Luna was surprised. She had managed to recruit her that easily? She had prepared almost a thousand words for negotiation. Since it made things easier for both of them, she was happy as well. "I will get someone to send the employment contract over."

She then contacted Cheng Yu and shared their location.

It was only when they were done talking that Xiaoshi realized that she had been worried over nothing. So Luna had intended to talk about recruiting her all along... it had nothing to do with Xingyu after all.

In relief, she dragged Luna to shop for baby clothes. This time, she was super excited and helped Luna select cute toys.

"If you don't know the baby's gender yet, you can buy both... or you can buy unisex clothes." She suggested.

"Why didn't I think of that? I must be turning into an idiot." Luna slapped her forehead. They both laughed and went ahead to select adorable unisex clothes.

Within half an hour, Cheng Yu came over.

"Over here." Luna waved her over, and the latter walked over.

Handing the contract over to Luna, she smiled and lowered her tone to tease. "It's only been a few days since I last saw you and you are already glowing. Is boss Jiang so aggressive?"

"Get lost." Luna glared at the pervert then introduced the two of them.

Xiaoshi quickly signed the contract. "Aren't I the luckiest person on earth? I get to work for a pair of beautiful bosses, and they are both friendly."

Cheng Yu smiled and shook her hand. "Welcome to Moonlight Studios. We are lucky to have you."

Luna read through the signed contract and recalled a detail. "I forgot to add a term. Whenever you want to go to Australia to pay a visit to your parents, you can apply for some time off."

"You are so kind." She had even thought about the fact that her home was so far away. "If you pamper me too much, I might become willful and make you go bankrupt."

Luna and Cheng Yu laughed.

"I'll just give my mum a call. Please excuse me." Xiaoshi stood to go make the call.

As soon as she was out of sight, Cheng Yu's expression turned serious. "What do you think you are doing?"

"Did I do anything wrong?" Luna shrugged innocently.

Cheng Yu frowned. "Isn't she that girl you suspected to be in love with Xingyu?"

Luna nodded.

Cheng Yu slapped her forehead. "Since that's the case, then why are you getting so close to her? Not only are you letting her accompany you to shop for your and Xingyu's baby, you are also giving her a job? What if she stabs you in the back?"

"I thought it through." Luna smiled. Although she suspected that Xiaoshi had feelings for Xingyu when she noticed her dejected expression in the Ji Mansion, she couldn't be too sure. Perhaps she was overthinking things. Besides, whether Xiaoshi liked Xingyu or not, she was not doing anything to try and break them apart.

Not to mention, "I'm not going to miss out on a capable employee simply because I think she likes my fiancé. How many female employees in the company are obsessed with Xingyu?"

Cheng Yu felt it made sense. There were countless girls who kept swooning over Xingyu every time he visited and even confessing their love to him. Some of them were even so crazy as to threaten to end their lives if he didn't pay them attention, and hated Luna for being rumored to be in a relationship with him. There wasn't much difference if they employed one more fan of Xingyu as long as she stayed in her lane.

"But what if she causes you trouble?" she asked when she thought about it.

"Come here." Luna beckoned with her finger. When Cheng Yu leaned over the table, she whispered, "Don't tell anyone, but I don't really trust people from the Ji family."

Cheng Yu finally understood her ultimate goal and laughed. "You are evil... a good kind of evil."

Luna didn't trust Xiaoshi too much, especially after witnessing Ji Feifei's and Wen Lin's hatred<sup>1</sup>, it was not surprising that she had doubts about Xiaoshi. The latter was friends with Lanni as well. Hence, by bringing Xiaoshi to her side, Luna would be able to uncover any evil intentions if Xiaoshi started scheming—killing two birds with one stone.

While planning this out, Luna didn't know that one day, Xiaoshi would save her life and she would regret suspecting her. But that's a story for another day.

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Tian Yu Media.

Lanni left her office when Xiehan called to tell her that he had arrived. When she exited the building, the man was leaning against his silver car. In his sapphire blue suit and dark sunglasses, he looked like he had just stepped out of a men's fashion magazine. Several employees snuck peeks at him, some even dashing over to shyly give him their cell phone numbers.

Lanni chuckled and walked over. "I only took a few minutes but you're about to turn me into every woman's romantic rival?"

Xiehan grinned.

When she walked over to him, the ladies around thought that just like them, she had taken a fancy to the handsome man and was going over to strike a conversation.

They deliberately waited to see the outcome.

"Isn't that the new chief editor? Do you think he would spare her a glance?" One secretary who had just gotten rejected asked another.

The other glanced at Lanni. "I don't know... but the new Chief Editor is so beautiful. Surely he will be moved by her."

As the two girls conversed, Han Lili snorted after appearing out of nowhere. "What makes you think that beauty can guarantee being liked by a man? Besides, what's so beautiful about her face?" She then sauntered away.

"What's wrong with her?" The short-haired secretary asked her friend.

"She got ignored so she's taking it out on others. She's crazy." The other laughed, then they both gasped in surprise when Xiehan pulled Lanni into his arms and kissed her.

"Do you now realize just how attractive your man is? You should spoil me a little more." He teased.

"How about I beat your face sore? that way, you will no longer be so handsome and they won't want you." She looked like she was serious about it. He laughed and opened the car door for her.

By this time, all the female employees had their jaws on the floor. It turned out that the handsome man was the Chief Editor's man!

...

"Can you accompany me somewhere?" Xiehan asked after driving for a while.

"Where?" She looked at him in surprise.

"Here." He pulled over, and Lanni was surprised.

A jewelry store?

Chapter 355 - I Owe You A Life

"Why would you want to come to a jewelry store?" Lanni was confused.

Instead of answering her, Xiehan helped her out of the car and led her into the store.

As soon as they arrived, a salesman hurried to welcome them. "Mr. Ji, Miss Li, good afternoon."

"Is it ready?" Xiehan asked as he led Lanni to seat on a chaise longue.



"Yes." The salesman hurried into a section in the store, then brought over a jewelry box.

Xiehan took it from him and opened it. When he saw the content, he smiled in satisfaction and proceeded to talk to the salesman about a few things that Lanni couldn't fully comprehend. When they were done, Xiehan held the box out to Lanni. Inside it lay a gorgeous, blue diamond necklace.

"This... is for you." He said.

Lanni was caught in between shock and joy. "How did you know I wanted this necklace?"

"I saw that you wanted to buy it online but there were only two of them produced by its designers and they had already been sold, so you couldn't get it. Hence I got the designers to make a new one for you." He explained.

She smiled and threw her arms around him. "Thank you my love!"

He then proceeded to put the necklace around her neck. When he saw her touch it with contentment written all over her face, he smiled.

As they exited the store and returned to the car, Lanni kept her gaze on him. She frowned when she noticed his furrowed eyebrows. "Honey, what's wrong?"

"Nothing. I was just thinking about something." He shook his head.

"Care to share?" She asked. Whatever it was must be the reason why he was restless.

"I'm just wondering whether you will love me forever." Xiehan looked troubled.

"What nonsense have you been listening to lately?" She chuckled, then held his hand. "Of course, my love. I fell in love with you, and that will never change. You don't need to have any doubts, okay?"

Reassured by her words, he frowned at his own silly thoughts. Even though he knew that Lin Jian was a blabbermouth whose words were always mere chatter that didn't make the tiniest bit of sense, he still became restless when the blabbermouth said that women couldn't wait to get married to the men they loved, and that Lanni's not being ready could mean that she no longer loved him. But thinking about it clearly, how could Lanni stop loving him?

"What happened at your office today?" He asked to change the topic, even though he had intended to find out later.

"Nothing much." She didn't think Han Lili was too hard to handle. She simply needed a few days and the woman would be as tame as a kitten.

Xiehan turned to look at her. "I overheard your subordinates say things like you were accidentally made the Chief Editor."

"Accidentally?"

He nodded. "When you went to the interview, your name was accidentally swapped with Han Lili's so you did the interview for the position she had applied for. When the top management realized the mistake, you had already been hired so they made her your assistant."

He scoffed at the nonsensical tale. "This must be her way of making everyone look down on you and think you are incompetent. Do you need me to get rid of her?"

Although he didn't mention it, they both knew that people thinking she was unqualified was not the worst outcome. With time, some would begin to question whether what happened really was an accident, or whether Lanni had bribed her way into the position.

Actually, he was tempted to get rid of Han Lili without asking Lanni, so she wouldn't have to deal with such annoying flies. However, he also knew that Lanni wouldn't want him to interfere with her work matters without her permission.

She scoffed. "You don't need to dirty your hands because of such a tiny bug. I will handle her on my own."

---

Days passed in the blink of an eye. Soon, it was the 3rd of March.

The banquet was being held in a hotel owned by the Jiang family, and since there were not too many guests, they had managed to make everything perfect in such a short amount of time.

"You guys are awesome. I owe you a life." Xingyu said to his friends in his dressing room.

"It's nothing." Xiehan raised a toast to him, while Lin Jian blabbered nonstop about how he should be repaid.

Xingyu was in a good mood so he did not chew him out. Adjusting the brooch on the chest of his grey tux, he snuck a glance at Lin Jian. "I've been meaning to ask, how did you manage to get Ruby to accompany you to this banquet?"

Xiehan was surprised to see him enter the hotel with Ruby as well, considering how he had been whining the last time about Ruby not sparing him a glance.

Lin Jian thought back to how he had been bugging her all week, and how he had promised to get out of her hair if she accompanied him to this banquet—a promise he was definitely going to break. "You have no idea."

Xingyu patted him on his shoulder to wish him luck. "The guests are here. I'll go get my fiancée."

Lin Jian clutched his chest to nurse his wounded soul.

"When Ruby agrees to marry me, I will shove all of you with dog food to your deaths!" He vowed.

Xiehan shot him a glare and ignored him to go and look for Lanni.

...

Luna's dressing room.

Lanni, Cheng Yu and Xiaoshi helped Luna get dressed and did her makeup. When they were done, Luna stood up to look herself in the mirror. When she saw the beautiful, radiant young woman looking back at her, even she was awed by her own beauty.

She had thought that the grey, body hugging gown would look too revealing but surprisingly, she looked beautiful without being too over the top.

"Something is missing." Lanni brought over the gown's detachable skirt and fixed it onto the waist of the gown. When she was done, she circled her sister and blew a kiss. "You are ready to go, Mrs. Jiang. I bet your fiancé will wish to hide you in his pocket so he is the only one who gets to see your beauty."

"I know right! Forget all the other men. Even I would want to steal you from him if I were a man." Xiaoshi winked, and the girls all laughed.

"You girls are exaggerating too much." Luna chuckled, blushing.

"I have an idea." Cheng Yu winked, and Lanni and Xiaoshi caught on what she meant immediately.

"I know those naughty looks. You girls better not be up to anything evil." Luna warned seriously.

"Yes, mommy." Lanni teased.

At that moment, a knock resounded on the door.

Cheng Yu was closest to the door, so she went to open it. When she saw that the incomer was Xingyu, she crossed her arms with an evil grin. "Good evening, Mr. Jiang. How's it going?"

"Nothing much. I just came to pick my future wife." Xingyu looked proud of himself.

"I see." Cheng Yu cleared her throat and looked back into the room to send a signal to the others. She then looked back at Xingyu, who already had a feeling that something bad was coming his way.

"Mr. Jiang, Sorry, I will not let you take my best friend away today."

"Wait, what?" He was flabbergasted.

"Are you kidding me? This is not a wedding!" Exclaimed Lin Jian who had just arrived. Because it was just an engagement banquet, they had not prepared for this kind of stunt.

Cheng Yu gazed at them and shrugged. "Whoever said it is restricted to weddings? We have Luna, so we decide the rules."

"Yeah. Besides, Luna is such a perfect goddess. Do you think it makes any sense if you take her away so easily?" Xiaoshi added, having just pulled Lanni over to join in the fun.

Xingyu looked at her in surprise. "Xiaoshi, you too? I thought you were on my side."

Xiaoshi knew what he meant; Xiehan was his best friend and therefore, he was definitely on the groom's side. Since she was Xiehan's cousin, Xingyu thought that she would follow her cousin and be on the groom's side.

But when she heard him call her name and say he thought that she was on his side, her heart inexplicably skipped a beat.

She quickly shook the nonsensical thoughts out of her mind and crossed her arms. "Of course I'm on Luna's side. Before you take our beauty away, you will have to pass some tests. If not, we will just take Luna away and marry her ourselves."

Lin Jian waved his hands urgently. "Please don't! We will pass whatever tests. Wait. We can help him out, right?"

"Of course. But we can start with the two of you." Cheng Yu smiled.

"My test is a question. If you didn't get together with Luna and had to choose one of us, who would it be?"

#### Chapter 356 - Too Thick-skinned

Lin Jian left the question to his friend and Xingyu didn't need to think through the answer. "If Luna and I didn't get together, then you can forget ever attending my engagement banquet."

When he saw that Cheng Yu was raising an eyebrow at him as though calling him out for being a lying jerk, he was helpless. "I'm telling the truth. I fell in love with Luna at first sight and before that, I had never loved any woman. Which means that if I didn't ever see her, then I wouldn't ever fall in love."

Cheng Yu crossed her arms. "Let's be realistic here. You are the only son in your family so definitely, you would get into a conflict with your parents if you decided to never get married. Are you sure you wouldn't go for the next option if Luna rejected you for too long? For example, Lanni?"

"Don't say such terrifying things! Lanni is Xiehan's girlfriend." Xingyu waved his hands.

"What if she wasn't?" Xiaoshi joined in.

"What I mean is, she is Xiehan's girlfriend so we cannot make such jokes about her."

Seeing that Cheng Yu was about to come up with another question, Lanni chuckled and patted her shoulder. "That's enough. Luna will kill us if we wreck her engagement party."

Xingyu sighed in relief and looked at Lanni like he had seen a saviour.

However, an even more difficult question landed. "How can you tell my sister and I apart?"

"Why would you be called identical if anyone could tell you apart? I mean, if your hair was not a different color, I bet even your mother wouldn't know who is who." Lin Jian came to his friend's rescue.

"Yeah. Are you sure you would be able to recognize yourself correctly if the two of you stood in front of a mirror?"

Xingyu's cousin, who had just joined in the fun, added.

In response to their words, Lanni let out an evil smirk. "That's the point. If I remember correctly, a certain someone once recognized his girlfriend wrongly and kept bugging his sister-in-law." If such a thing happened again, the repercussions could be tragic.

"I'm sorry. It will never happen again." Xingyu was ashamed of himself when he recalled how he had insisted that Lanni was his girlfriend and almost caused a misunderstanding between Xiehan and Lanni.

Holding a hand over his chest, he added, "I know my wife now. Whenever she is around, my heart picks up its pace and I feel like my life is finally complete. This feeling will never be present with any other woman no matter who she is."

"Jeez! You didn't have to do that, you know! You even threw your dog food at your groomsmen." Lin Jian lamented.

Cheng Yu took a peek at Xiaoshi suspiciously. The girl looked like a dagger had been thrust through her heart, proving them right. So Xiaoshi really did have feelings for Xingyu.

"One more thing and you will pass my test." Lanni announced. "You have to promise all of us that you will treat Luna well. She is precious to us, you know." She looked at the girls, who nodded in agreement.

Then she added seriously, "You must accept that every time you bully her, we will give you a good beating and punish you whichever other way we find suitable."

Xingyu did not bat an eyelid. "I accept whatever punishment you decide, and I also promise that you will not need to use it on me."

Lanni nodded in satisfaction. "You better keep your promise."

"Are we really needed here?" Lin Jian whispered to Xingyu's cousin. The man had managed to pass every test on his own, after all.

"Mine is a simple question." Xiaoshi said when it was her turn. "Which brand of makeup is Luna using tonight?"

Lanni and Cheng Yu giggled, while the men were flabbergasted. The girls are the ones who chose and did Luna's makeup. How would Xingyu know?

They would not be able to come up with the correct answer even if they racked their brains for hours.

"I guess this is where I come in." Lin Jian puffed his chest out proudly. He had bought makeup for so many girls that he knew all the popular brands. Since Luna was the daughter of a wealthy businessman and the fiancée of an even wealthier CEO, she should logically go for the best brand regardless of the cost. Hence, he started listing off luxurious makeup brands. "Galaxy?"

Xiaoshi shook her head.



"Starry Night?" He tried again.

Xiaoshi once again shook her head.

At this rate, they could spend the whole day guessing. Hence Xiaoshi came up with a rule. "If the third guess is wrong, you fail."

Lin Jian felt his head shatter. But he was betting on three more brands! He turned to Xingyu pitifully. "I have failed you..."

Just as the girls celebrated teasingly about how Luna was once again theirs, Xingyu calmly spoke. "G&M."

The girls exchanged shocked glances then stared wide-eyed at him. "Did you take a peek?"

"Did you text Luna to ask? That's cheating!"

Xingyu chuckled. "Of course not. Do I even need to?"

My wife's skin is a little more sensitive than average people, so she is usually very careful. Since G&M brand majorly focuses on sensitive skin, people with allergy to certain makeup products and expectant women, Luna has always used this brand."

Xiaoshi was amazed. "The question was meant to test how well you know your fiancée and whether you pay attention to the finest details. Well done, you pass."

"Woohoo!" Lin Jian yelped in excitement, even though he had barely contributed.

On that note, Xingyu was allowed into the dressing room to take Luna. She smiled radiantly when she saw him. "I knew those naughty girls would pull some tests on you."

He held her into his arms. "Forget simple tests from a trio of girls. No matter what tests life throws at us, we will always be victorious. My love, you look so beautiful that I want to cancel the engagement and just admire you all night."

"You can admire me after the banquet." She hooked her arm around his. "The guests must be here. We shouldn't keep them waiting."

...

On that note, the banquet began. After the introductory speech, Cheng Yu was going to get herself a glass of champagne when a strong hand pulled her away and she got dragged to a secluded section.

"What the hell are you doing?" She asked the culprit, Cedric Han.

The man looked wronged.

Seeing his pitiful demeanor, she had the urge to pat his head. "Are you alright?"

He nodded and shook his head immediately after. "I'm just as good as anyone could be when attending the banquet of his enemy."

She furrowed her eyebrows at his complaining tone. He had the guts to complain?! Wasn't he the one who clung onto her like gum and insisted on coming to the banquet with her?

Seeing her accusatory tone, he whined. "I only wanted to spend some time with you! Who would have thought..."

Cheng Yu had to admit that his skin really was thick. He could manage to go to the territory of the man he hated so much simply to spend some time with the girl he liked?

Though she couldn't totally blame him. When he confessed his feelings to her, she neither agreed nor refused to be with him and vaguely told him that she was not ready. Hence, he decided to wait for her.

Alas, she had been avoiding him with all sorts of excuses so when he found the chance, he stubbornly clung to her.

"Yu, I'm bored. Let's go somewhere more secretive and pass some time."

She rolled her eyes at him. "What's the point of going to a banquet if you are merely going to stay aside and pass time? I'm going to use this chance to make connections with other people in the business circle."

"But, Yu..."

"One more word from you and I'll deduct your salary by eighty percent." She cut him off.

Cedric was deflated. He had almost forgotten that Cheng Yu was his boss now. Although she also drew comics on the comic application, it didn't change the fact that she was a co-founder of Moonlight Studios and that made her rank several tiers above him.

He was the heir to a regal conglomerate and didn't care much about the money he earned from drawing comics. However, he was still devastated when Cheng Yu threatened him. Would her heart ever soften and find a place for him?

Chapter 357 - The Wrath Of Xia Luna

Xingyu led Luna to the banquet hall with their arms hooked. "Are you ready?"

"Well... I guess?" Luna stuttered.

Xingu slowed down his steps worriedly. "Are you alright? If you are feeling unwell, we can cancel the banquet and have it on some other day."

When she saw him whip out his phone in preparation to make a call and call off the banquet, she shook her head helplessly. "I'm alright. I'm just nervous."

More than her nervousness, she was in disbelief. It was still hard to believe that she was engaged and that she was hosting her engagement banquet tonight. It still felt like a dream.

Xingyu held her hand to comfort her. He knew that she was still new to such settings. "If a guest makes you nervous, just imagine they have a pair of bunny ears."

Luna burst into laughter. "Do you think I'm a little girl?"

"It still lessened your nervousness though." He chuckled.

She couldn't deny that she was indeed a lot more relaxed after laughing at his antics.

"There you are. You look so beautiful!" Madam Jiang exclaimed when she finally saw her soon to be daughter-in-law. She took a moment to admire her then turned to her son. "It's almost time for the opening speech. You guys will do the opening dance as well."

"Got it." Xingyu led Luna to the stage.

Just as he took the microphone, they both saw a figure walking in through the entrance. Luna was shocked. Li Yuming attended the banquet?

Xingyu held her hand. The guests' attention had been drawn by the arrival of Li Yuming. He lowered his voice to ask, "Are you happy that she is here?"

She shrugged. "Honestly, it makes no difference.

Before this, she had been scared that Li Yuming's absence might make it feel like the banquet was incomplete, and that she would be overjoyed to see her. But seeing her arrive, Luna realized that it didn't really make a difference whether she was there or not.

...

Li Yuming's presence may not have made a difference to Luna, but it did to other people. When Madam Jiang saw her, she nodded in approval. "She finally knows to look for her daughter."

Jiang Xing Ren shot her a glance. "Who is to say that she is not here merely to save herself face? After all, more and more people are finding out that she has two daughters, Luna and Lanni. If she doesn't show up at her own daughter's engagement banquet, what will everyone say about her?"

Madam Jiang frowned when she realized just how high the possibility was. Perhaps Li Yuming was here not because she wanted to, but because she was scared to lose face.

"Whatever. As long as she doesn't ruin my daughter-in-law's day." She dismissed.

Li Yuming looked over at them and when her eyes locked with Madam Jiang, she let out a smile. She then took a glass of champagne from a waiter's tray and took a sip when Xingyu raised a toast to everyone.

A slow song started playing, and Xingyu led Luna to the dance floor. He pulled her palm onto his shoulder and wrapped an arm around her waist, then started moving gracefully to the rhythm.

They looked happy and love stricken as they looked into each other's eyes and danced around the hall. Soon, the guests started to pair up and join in.

Jiang Xingren dragged his wife to the floor, Xiehan naturally chose Lanni for the first dance and waltzed just a short distance away from his parents.

"May I have this dance?" Cedric appeared before Cheng Yu.

"Do I have a choice?" She asked in a low volume. They were being watched, so it would be awkward for him if he got rejected. Hence, she grudgingly placed her palm in his hand. "This once."

Cedric was overjoyed.

Using the same trick, Lin Jian managed to get Ruby to dance with him and he was even happier than the groom when she agreed.

Li Yuming felt a mixture of complicated feelings as she watched everyone enjoy the dance. She was about to go to the washroom when someone magically appeared before her. "It's nice to see you."

Her gaze narrowed when she realized that it was Xia Hanchen. "I cannot say the same about you."

The man chuckled and asked to dance together, to which she sternly said no.

"Come on, can't you humor me for our daughter's sake? Today is her special day." He gazed at Luna.

Li Yuming followed his gaze and studied how Luna didn't seem to have anyone else in her eyes. It was as though the banquet hall was just a backdrop and all she could see was Xingyu. "Does she look like she cares?" After all, she didn't even care to say hello.

Xia Hanchen threw his shoulders back. "I don't know, but I care."

Before she could figure out whatever nonsense he was trying to say, he grabbed a drink from a passing waiter's tray and took a sip, heading away from her.

—

The banquet went on smoothly.

After dancing for a while, Xingyu brought her to introduce her to the Jiang family's close friends and relatives.

He brought her to an elegant foreign woman with a bob haircut. "This is my cousin-in-law, Lexi." He introduced, calling for the woman's attention. "Lexi, meet Luna, my wife."

"I lived long enough to see you get engaged. Congratulations!" Lexi shook their hands, then lowered her voice to tease Xingyu. "You have good taste."

They chatted a little before Lexi's husband brought her away.

Xingyu held Luna's hand as he watched the duo leave. "Those are Chloe's parents."

"Oh..." Luna was embarrassed when she remembered who Chloe was. It was the little girl who had once called Xingyu at night, making her misunderstand and think he was in a relationship with another woman. "They didn't bring the girl with them to see you?"

Xingyu was a little surprised too. "Perhaps they don't want to bother me with their child anymore, considering I'm engaged now. After all, their cute daughter almost made me lose the trust of my wife." He glanced at her meaningfully.

"Shut up." Her cheeks flushed. She noticed something from the corner of her eye and her brows knitted.

"Did something happen?" He tried to follow her line of sight but didn't see anything particularly attention grabbing.

"No. Play on your own for a while, I'll be right back." She unhooked their hands and disappeared into the hallway as soon as her words were out.

She stalked to the end of the hallway and found the person she had noticed, Xiaoshi. She was sitting on the floor and hugging her knees.

"Xiaoshi?" She called out and held a hand to touch the girl's shoulder.

The girl's body visibly stiffened. However, when she turned, she had a smile on her face. "Luna?"

"Why are you sitting here on your own?" Luna asked, even though she already knew the answer.

Xiaoshi maintained her smile, even though her eyes clearly portrayed just how hurt she was. "I wanted to take a breather. I will be back in shortly."

The latter nodded. She knew that even if she made Xiaoshi talk, there wasn't anything she could do to make her feel better, so she let it be. Even so, she could not leave her to stay out here on her own, especially not when she was so sad. "Have you tried the strawberry cakes? Lanni selected them. Have a taste later."

"Mh." Xiaoshi cheered up and went back into the hall. Sighing in relief, Luna went to say hello to some of the guests.

...

A few minutes later.

Luna finally found the chance to take a breather and talk to her girlfriends.

"Holding a banquet is so tiresome." Lanni lamented.

"You can say that again! But I'm happy that I've found a few more partners to collaborate with." Cheng Yu smiled.

"Well done, Xiao Yu." Luna raised a toast to her, but she drank a glass of juice instead of wine.



"I will have to thank CEO Jiang for inviting such prominent guests. But since he already has you, you can help us thank him." Cheng Yu winked suggestively, earning a glare from Luna.

Lanni chuckled and suddenly paused. "That is..."

Cheng Yu and Luna followed her gaze to see the said CEO Jiang talking with Xiaoshi. Just as they were about to dismiss it as a common conversation between friends, Xiaoshi turned to leave but tripped on the hem of her dress and fell right into Xingyu's arms!

The girls' jaws dropped.

...

The girls were not the only ones who witnessed the scene. Lin Jian and Xiehan did too.

"Bravo!" Lin Jian clapped. "Wait. Not bravo. That's a great move, but she is doing it on a taken man. Can she really handle the wrath of Luna?"

Xiehan raised an eyebrow to the scene. Did she really trip on purpose?

Chapter 358 - The Culprit

Luna clenched her fists so hard they cracked.

"Luna, you..." Lanni was still speaking when she realized that Luna was no longer beside her. Instead, she was beside Xingyu.

She grabbed Xiaoshi and pulled her away from Xingyu, glaring at her fiercely.

"Luna..." Xiaoshi stuttered.

"I didn't expect this from you, Xiaoshi. How dare you try to seduce my fiancé using such a lowly move, and right under my nose ! Have you no shame?"

"It's not what you think!" Xiaoshi defended herself.

"Oh, it's not?" Luna crossed her arms, regarding the other sarcastically. "Sure, I'm supposed to believe that your gown was so long that you tripped on it, and 'accidentally' fell onto my fiancé's chest because he simply happened to be there. Yun Xiaoshi, who are you trying to fool?"

"Luna, you..." The girl shook her head, her mouth wide in disbelief. "I... excuse me."

She dashed out of the banquet hall.

The guests immediately fell into chatter.

"How shameless! She actually dared to seduce the groom in a hall full of guests!" A middle aged lady frowned in disapproval.

"Well, the groom is quite handsome. We cannot blame her for falling for him. But seducing him when she knows that he is engaged is indeed too much." Another remarked.

"Youngsters these days..."

"That's mean." Xingyu remarked as the hall filled with whispers and curses about Xiaoshi's behaviour.

Luna shot him a glare. "Are you sad that I told off your little beauty? Speaking of which, why did you catch her?"

"Because it really was an accident. She would have gotten injured if she really fell. She is Xiehan's cousin after all." He wanted this to end as fast as possible. Although he found it absolutely adorable that she was jealous and protective, this was a banquet after all.

"I can't believe this." Luna let out a laugh. "You really thought she tripped? You would believe a woman as long as she cries and looks pitiful? Now I understand why men end up getting tricked by women."

"Honey..." he awkwardly held her shoulders.

When she looked at him like she wanted to rip him into pieces, he waved his hands in self defense. "I'm just saying, being angry will exhaust too much of your emotional strength. How about I help you? I can be angry on your behalf."

Luna rolled her eyes, still furious at what had just happened. But since she didn't want to ruin the banquet over such a trivial matter, she let it be.

The banquet rolled back into order and the guests soon forgot about what had transpired. However, Xiaoshi didn't go back into the hall.

Lanni was initially intending to let her be alone for a while but worried that she might hurt herself, she went to check on her. She looked for her for a while and just when she was about to give up her search, she finally heard sobs coming from the parking lot. She followed the sound and sure enough, Xiaoshi was crying her heart out as Xiehan scolded her.

"Do you know what would happen if you selfishly ruined Xingyu's family? Not only would Xingyu end up hating you, Luna would hate you as well. Then, (I know she is not that kind of person) but what if you get bullied at work? Also, don't forget that you are my cousin. If my in-laws have a bad impression of my family, do you think they would fully trust me with Lanni? Also, do you know how disappointed aunt would be if she found out that you are going after someone else's husband?"

Lanni felt a headache coming on as she approached them. "Xiehan, enough."

"It's for her own good." Xiehan's gaze narrowed. Although he was happy that Xiaoshi fell in love with a nice man, he was taken and there was nothing that could be done about that.

Xiaoshi threw herself into Lanni's arms like she had seen a saviour. "Lanni, I really didn't mean to. It was really an accident."

Lanni patted her head in surprise. "Are you telling the truth?"

Seeing that there was finally someone who was willing to hear her side of the story, she nodded vehemently. "I received a text message from someone who claimed to be Xingyu, saying that he had something to tell me and that I should go on my own. Because it was within the hall and there were many guests, I didn't think too much and went to him. But then he said he didn't send me any text message. We laughed it off and I was about to go and look for the real sender when I felt a tug on the front hem of my dress. Then my shoe got trapped and I lost my balance. I would have fallen on my face if Xingyu didn't hold me."

Lanni was flabbergasted when she heard the recount of what had transpired. "Do you still have the message?"

"Yes. It's right here." She hurriedly fumbled for her purse and fished out her phone. She scrolled through a few times but after a while, her expression changed.

"What is it?" Lanni raised an eyebrow.

"It's gone!" Xiaoshi was in disbelief. "I swear, I did not delete it."

Xiehan snorted at the side. "Let me have a look at your phone."

Xiaoshi was upset that her cousin didn't fully trust her, but she gave her phone to him if it could prove her innocence.

"My laptop is in my car." He said as he inspected the pink phone. "I will find out whether your phone was hacked into, and recover the deleted message."

He had just finished his statement when a loud crash resounded from the hall. Screams followed, and the lights went out.

It took a minute for the lights to be back on when and when they were, what met everyone's sight was the humongous chandelier on the floor. It had shattered into pieces.

"I'll go check on everyone. You check Xiaoshi's phone." Lanni headed right back into the banquet ball when Xiehan nodded. Although she knew that she was being paranoid for nothing, there were so many cases of assassination that happened in a similar fashion. Her heart raced as she dashed to check on Luna.

She was relieved when she saw the latter with Xingyu.

"There you are. I was coming to check on you." Luna looked pale, she had probably imagined the same thing.

Lanni threw her arms around her sister. "I'm glad you are fine. I was scared."

Luna rubbed her back. "That was strange... why would a chandelier suddenly drop?"

Xingyu thought hard about it. there was no such thing as too much caution. "Lanni, could you and Cheng Yu help us check whether everyone is alright? I will ask Lin Jian to join you. Luna and I will go to check what happened."

Lanni nodded and broke the hug. "Be careful."

...

Luckily, no one was missing and only a few people sustained slight scratches from when the chandelier broke, and were currently being taken care of. Lanni heaved a sigh of relief when everyone was accounted for.

She joined Cheng Yu and Lin Jian in the dressing room after calling Luna to report the situation.

"Do you think the banquet can still be saved?" Cheng Yu was helpless. Although no one was badly injured, some of the guests were still in shock.

"I believe Auntie Xinghe and Uncle Xingren will take care of it." Lin Jian nodded to the guests who were talking to Madam Jiang.

Soon, Luna and Xingyu joined them, looking uneasy.

"Indeed, someone tampered with the chandelier. Xingyu and I checked, and from the security footage, someone tried to turn off the surveillance cameras. Although this has nothing to do with the chandelier, it is sneaky. We also found out that the chandelier broke because of a sudden change of voltage, which could have been done by someone on purpose." Luna looked disappointed and sad as she explained.

"Did you find out who it was?" Lanni had a bad feeling about it.

"Someone who wanted to ruin the banquet." Luna laughed bitterly. The culprit didn't want to hurt anyone, they merely wanted to ruin the banquet. Looking at the guests who were taking their leave one after another, the scheme was a success.

Lanni thought back to Xiaoshi's words and frowned. "No wonder. What if they wanted to use Xiaoshi to ruin the banquet? After all, if a woman seduced the groom in his engagement party, the bride might be so angry that she would create an embarrassing scene."

"What are you even saying?" Luna frowned. Was she saying that Xiaoshi's incident was really an accident?

Lanni explained what Xiaoshi had told them in the parking lot, and speculated that it was the same person behind both scenes. But who hated Luna and Xingyu so much?

Just as they spoke, Xiehan came in with Xiaoshi behind him, shock written all over their faces.

"What happened?" They all looked over at him, waiting for the results of his investigation.

Xiehan clenched his fists as he bit out the words.. "Aunty Li was behind it."

#### Chapter 359 - Shocking Coincidence

Lanni widened her eyes in disbelief. "How could that be?"

"The evidence is right here." Xiehan showed her the text message he had recovered on Xiaoshi's phone. The cell phone number indeed belonged to Li Yuming.

Lanni shook her head. "How could she do this? Wait. What would she even gain from having Xiaoshi get to Xingyu?"

"You don't get it yet?" Luna laughed bitterly. "Mildest outcome, I would be so angry that I would wreck the banquet, and then I would turn into the joke of the entire city.

Or, I will think Xingyu is playing around and break up with him. Or who knows, what if Xiaoshi really seduced Xingyu and he fell in love with her? What would happen to me then?"

Lanni didn't know what to say. Just the fact that a mother could even want to do such a thing to her own daughter was shocking.

"How dare she? I will kill her!" Roared a voice from the door, making everyone have a bad feeling.

Lanni felt the world was ending when she turned and saw the enraged Xia Hanchen. "Dad..."

The man did not collapse as they dreaded. Instead, he went back to the banquet hall where most of the guests had already left, and only a handful were left.

He sucked in a breath furiously and grabbed the hand of Li Yuming who was about to leave. In the next instant, he landed a slap right across her face.

"How dare you!" Li Yuming exploded.

"No. How dare you!" Xia Hanchen roared. "I know you hate my daughter. I get it. But how dare you try to ruin her engagement? She is pregnant with your grandchild, yet that doesn't even stop you from plotting against her?!"

Li Yuming's jaw dropped with every word that the man said. "What nonsense are you saying? When did I plot against Luna?"

She looked up to see Luna walk towards her with Lanni, Xingyu and Xiehan. She laughed as she pointed a finger at Luna. "Of course. It must be her. What lie did this girl say this time?"

Luna clenched her fists tightly, and Xingyu held her protectively.

"The evidence is already here, yet you are still trying to deny it?" Xia Hanchen was in disbelief. "We all know that you are the one who tampered with the chandelier. We also know that you deliberately set Xiaoshi up to cause misunderstandings. Do you even have a heart?"



Li Yuming furrowed her brows. "Ridiculous! I attended this banquet out of respect for the fact that I am still Xia Luna's biological mother, but that doesn't mean you can accuse me of anything and pin whatever blame you want onto me!"

Luna rolled her eyes. "Quit pretending." She then took Xiaoshi's phone from Xiehan and tapped on the screen to reveal the message, and then showed it to Li Yuming. "Since you are innocent, can you explain why you sent this message to Xiaoshi?"

Li Yuming shook her head without checking out the message. "Yun Xiaoshi and I have only met twice in our lives and I don't have her cell phone number. How would I send her a message, and why would I even do it?"

Seeing that Luna was still holding the phone to her, she casually read the message, and then she was stumped.

"I understand that you hate me, but I am your daughter after all. Doesn't it break your heart?" Luna asked.

"Luna..." Xia Hanchen felt his heart shatter into pieces. Before he could say anything else, Madam Jiang, who had been watching to see whether Li Yuming would tell the truth, came over.

"Yuming, I don't know what comes over you every time you see Luna and tempts you to bully her, but I will not let you bully anyone from the Jiang family. Please leave before I call the police and have you arrested for attempted physical assault." She pointed towards the entrance as she wrapped a hand around Luna's shoulder.

Li Yuming had never felt so humiliated. She took in a deep breath but scoffed in the end. "Lanni, let's go."

"I will stay with Xiehan tonight." Lanni responded expressionlessly.

Li Yuming looked at her. Did she also think she was responsible?

Lanni avoided her gaze. She couldn't start to describe how disappointed she was. Li Yuming shrugged and left.

...

"I'm sorry I misunderstood you." Luna said to Xiaoshi later when they were alone.

Xiaoshi forced a smile and said nothing. It was not okay. Nonetheless, "I understand. I wouldn't be comfortable if I were in your place either. But Luna, you should know that I have no intention to wreck your engagement."

Luna remained silent, wondering how she could make it up to Xiaoshi for having misunderstood her.

"I guess we could never be completely comfortable around each other." Xiaoshi said through a smile.

Luna couldn't deny it so she nodded. The only way she could be comfortable around Xiaoshi was if the girl stopped loving Xingyu and moved on, but that was definitely going to take a while.

—

After seeing the remaining guests off, Jiang Xingren led his wife out of the hotel, and so did Ji Huifen.

Lin Jian saw Ruby try to slip away and dashed to her. "Where are you going?"

"Away from you!" Ruby looked bummed that she had been found out.

"But we are supposed to go together." He slotted himself next to her, and hooked her arm with his own.

"You only asked me to attend the banquet with you and the banquet is over. What else do you want?"

"I will drop you off. Otherwise, your dad will give me a good beating the next time he sees me." He used the only available excuse though he was not lying. Ruby was insanely pampered by her father. If he felt that a man was taking advantage of his daughter and not guaranteeing her safety by making sure she was home, he couldn't guarantee that he would not get his legs broken.

Ruby rolled her eyes. At this moment, she didn't have a choice but to let this playboy drop her off. Even if she said no, she wouldn't be able to hail a cab in this part of the city. If she called her dad to have a chauffeur pick her up, he would tell her to let Lin Jian drop her off. What a headache. "Fine."

Lin Jian was overjoyed. "Give me a second. I will say goodbye to Xiehan and grab my car keys from the dressing room." He dashed off as soon as his words were out.

She crossed her arms and leaned against his car to wait for him.

A minute passed. She was just wondering whether she should still wait when she saw a girl head out. She frowned in surprise.

Xiaoshi was surprised when she bumped into Ruby. She couldn't explain it but she found Ruby quite familiar. More than that, why did they look almost like a copy of each other?

"You are...?" Xiaoshi asked as she tried to recall what Lin Jian had called her earlier.

"Ruby." Ruby introduced herself with a smile. "Yun Xiaoshi, right?"

Xiaoshi nodded. "You know me?"

"Yes. Aren't you Xiehan's cousin?" Ruby smiled, making the other surprised.

They ended up chatting a little, before Xiaoshi pointed out the shocking coincidence. "You know, I used to think that the only way people could look alike is by being twins. You know, like Lanni and Luna. But looking at you..." Xiaoshi was surprised by what she was about to say. "Forget the similarities between us. I can swear, your eyes look just like my mothers!"

"You are kidding!" Ruby laughed.

"I swear, I'm not kidding." Xiaoshi reached to take out her phone so she could show Ruby a picture of her mother, but remembered that she had given it to Xiehan so he would check it out for her and ensure she had not lost any data from when it was hacked.

"Uh... can I use your phone for a minute?" She asked shyly.

"Sure." Ruby didn't think too much of it and handed over her phone.

Xiaoshi quickly logged into her social media account and found a picture of her mother, then showed it to Ruby.

The latter was stunned. "We really do have the same eyes."

"I told you. What a coincidence, right? Hey, do you think my mum had twins and didn't know about it?" She guessed jokingly.

Ruby burst into laughter. "You're so funny. But I am at least a year older than you."

"Oh well..." Xiaoshi shrugged. Perhaps it really was a coincidence.

"Don't get worked up. Perhaps we might be related but in a different way?" Ruby giggled.

"What do you mean?" Xiaoshi was stumped.

Ruby heard footsteps and when she looked up, she saw Xiehan leaving with Lanni and Lin Jian. She looked back at Xiaoshi with a laugh. "I was just kidding!"

## Chapter 360 - An Audacious Request

"Hey Lanni." She flashed a smile at Lanni who was beside Xiehan.

When the latter merely smiled and nodded to acknowledge her, she pulled a lock of hair behind her hair nervously. "Can we talk?"

Lanni shifted her gaze to Xiehan while in thought, trying to confirm her last conclusion. The man was not paying attention to Ruby and was busy showing Lin Jian something. Relieved, she pulled Ruby to the side. "What do you want to talk about?"

"I'm sorry." Ruby went straight to the point. "I may have said things... that caused a misunderstanding."

"Misunderstanding?" Lanni raised an eyebrow. She had clearly confessed that she liked Xiehan. What was there to misunderstand?

Ruby knew this, which was why things had almost spiralled out of control. "Lanni, if I leaned against you and said that I like you, what would you think of it?"

Lanni thought about it and really couldn't think too much of it.

"That's my point." Ruby smiled. "The misunderstanding was only caused because I was beside him and because he is a man."

"Right..." Lanni decided to let go of the matter since she wouldn't gain anything from dwelling on it anyway.

Ruby knew that Lanni didn't really trust her words so she added, "actually, I'm in love with Lin Jian."

"What...?" Lanni was surprised. There was someone who liked that idiot?

Ruby looked embarrassed. "Well, I couldn't help it. But being with someone like him... is there any woman in B City who hasn't been with him? Just how many girlfriends does he have already? Although I like him and I know he has interest in me too, I would rather keep my feelings to myself than be with a man who can't keep his d\*ck in his pants for a moment."

Lanni was still surprised about the sudden information. Nonetheless, she was not surprised about Ruby's decision. After all, being with a man who would only date you for a day or two and then break up was merely asking for a heartbreak. Recalling what the idiot had been yapping about lately, she couldn't help remarking about it. "Love changes people. Perhaps he will stop playing around since he is in love with you now."

"If only that can happen." Ruby smiled. It was near impossible, considering this was Lin Jian they were talking about. "Well, I hope you're no longer mad at me. Can we still be friends?"

Lanni had to admit that she did feel happier about Ruby being in love with someone else and not having an interest in her Xiehan. "Sure."

The girls hugged, but Lanni was still slightly wary. After all, if Ruby hated her and wanted to get rid of her, she might just pretend to be friendly to her.

"Xiehan must be waiting. I'll get going now." Lanni was about to turn and go back when she noticed Ruby's troubled look. "Is there something else?"

Ruby took the latter's hands. "Lanni..."

She was about to say something when she changed her mind midway. "Do you want to grab a drink together sometime?"

Lanni knew that it was not what the girl wanted to say, but she didn't say anything about it.

...

Xiaoshi went to say goodbye to Ruby before she could get into Xiehan's car with Lanni.

"See you soon?" She said as she hugged Ruby.

Ruby sighed and was about to leave when she recalled something. Xiaoshi could be of help too... Hence she carefully brought it up. "Xiaoshi, could you help me with something?"

"Of course." She was happy to be of help.

"Could you..." Ruby carefully made sure that no one was listening. "Could you help me meet up with Xiehan?"

Xiaoshi was stumped. What?!

"Please don't misunderstand. It's just that he has been avoiding me but I have something very important to tell him. I would have asked Lanni for help but we just cleared a misunderstanding and I am not ready to start another.

Xiaoshi blinked her eyes in disbelief. "What could be so important? Tell me about it and I will pass the message to him, or tell Lanni about it."

"I can't... it's a secret as well."

Xiaoshi looked at her suspiciously. What was so secretive that Lanni couldn't hear about it? She was at a loss too. "I'm sorry. My cousin would be mad at me if I helped another woman meet up with him in secret. You do know what someone else might think, right?"

"Please." Ruby pleaded earnestly. "I promise, it's not anything that could sow discord between Lanni and Xiehan."

"My cousin's waiting." Xiaoshi saw that Xiehan was waving at her and used it as an excuse to flee. What a strange woman. But why was it that when she saw Ruby looking so pitiful, she almost couldn't take it? If she stayed for a single second more, heaven knew she would have thrown away all her caution and helped Ruby.

...

Lanni's apartment.

Xiaoshi unknowingly paced the living room in distress. No matter how she tried, she couldn't get Ruby's pitiful gaze off her mind. In the end, Xiehan grabbed her hand so she would stop pacing. "What's wrong with you?"

Xiaoshi stopped and glanced towards the kitchen, where Lanni was making some snacks for them. "Cousin, can you do me a favor?"

Xiehan chuckled helplessly. "If you need something, you can just say it. Why do you need to look so depressed?"

Xiaoshi felt guilty that she was about to do this, but she couldn't stop herself. What if it really was an emergency and only Xiehan could be of help? Hence, she pushed the guilty thoughts to the back of her mind. "Could you meet me tomorrow? I will tell you then."

Xiehan raised an eyebrow. Was it because Lanni couldn't know whatever they were going to talk about? "Xiaoshi, what mischief are you up to this time?" He asked strictly.

"Nothing! I have never been up to any mischief, okay? Then it's decided. I will see you at Flowery Ile Hotel at noon." She dashed into the kitchen before he could say no.

"What are you making? It smells delicious!" She exclaimed as soon as she barged into the kitchen.



"Does it? I hope it tastes as good." Lanni laughed. "I'm making strawberry cupcakes and the last time I made them, they were a disaster."

"I'm sure they will be awesome." Xiaoshi rubbed the back of her neck and then took a glass and half filled it with water. She took the water in small sips and when Lanni was not looking, she quickly sent a message to Ruby.

The two of them had exchanged contact numbers the first time they met tonight.

[Flowery Ile Hotel at noon.]

'Sorry cousin.' She thought as she sent the message, then hoped that Ruby indeed had something important to say. She then acted as though nothing was happening.

—

The next day.

In a large conference room in Moonlight Studios.

Because she had been away from work for a while, Luna had many reports to listen to. When they were done, she finally talked about the new face in the meeting room, who everyone had been curious about throughout the meeting.

"Everyone welcome Yun Xiaoshi, the new programmer. She is capable and talented and I hope no one will give her a hard time." Luna introduced and everyone looked at Xiaoshi.

"Please take care of me." Xiaoshi said modestly, then shyly added, "Don't listen to boss. I would never be a hundredth as good as her."

"She is pretty and humble. Is she single?" A male employee asked, and everyone burst into laughter.

"She is pretty, but I still want to contest with CEO Jiang for boss. Do you think I can win?" Another male employee interjected.

"Jokes aside." Luna massaged her temples. It was because she was usually friendly even when she was serious that everyone grew a little too close to her, not that she minded it.

Knowing that the male employees were not joking and they really had feelings for her, she deliberately raised her hand so they would see her engagement ring. Heaven knew that a certain someone would explode if he heard them joke around about stealing her away.

After the meeting, Xiaoshi was shown to her office, where she would be working with a few other programmers. Her new workmates were friendly and spent most of the morning explaining Moonlight Studio's current project to her.

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Noon, at Flowery Ile Hotel.

Xiehan wondered what the hell his little cousin was up to. But knowing that she rarely made unnecessary trouble, he went over to the VIP room that she had sent to him.

Alas, as soon as he opened the door, the person he saw holding a menu was not Xiaoshi, but Ruby!

"You..." He was in disbelief, quickly understanding the situation. What lowly trick was this?

"I'm sorry I used this trick. Xiehan, can you sit? It's important." She said immediately.

"If you want to talk business, give my assistant a call. If not, then stay in your lane and don't ask for trouble." He growled and turned to leave.

"Xiehan!" Ruby stood up, but perhaps she stood too fast, a thud resounded as she fell onto the floor, passing out.