

Chapter 381 - Friend-in-law, Help!

Downstairs.

Lanni was about to retire to hers and Xiehan's room as well when Lin Jian stopped her.

"Lanni, can we talk? I need you to do me a favor." He flew to her side anxiously.

"What is it?" She was sleepy so she wanted to get this done fast.

Seeing that Xiehan was shooting him a mean look for bothering his wife, he cut the chase and went to the main point. "It's an emergency. In fact, a life and death kind of emergency... There's this shocking piece of news that was discovered about a celebrity. However, I don't like how the articles were written. I have already received almost a hundred of them but none of the proposed headlines is attention-grabbing enough and the articles... Urgh... instead of keeping the reader glued, they will make the news lose the desired effect."

He looked like he was about to die from the nonsense that his subordinates had written, making Lanni's lips twitched. "Are you the CEO or the chief editor?"

"While I am the CEO, I gave the Chief Editor some time off to deal with a family emergency. Besides, I like getting it done myself sometimes."

Lanni found him strange. "Then why don't you get it done yourself?"

He immediately looked miserable. "If I could do it myself, I would not be seeking you. Please help me, friend-in-law! You are the prettiest and kindest friend-in-law one could ever ask for. Can you really bear to see a handsome man so sad?"

Lanni was speechless. What the heck was friend-in-law? Also, his words...

Xiehan glared daggers at his friend and took Lanni's hand.

Lin Jian was about to ask what he had done wrong when he realized that Lanni and Ruby looked uncomfortable as well. He finally understood it. The tone he had used to speak to Lanni...

Damn it... That was the tone he had always used to get anything from women. It was incredibly charming, but it made it sound as though he was trying to lure Lanni.

He coughed at his own mistake. "Anyway, the point is, I really really need your help. If you don't help me, I will bug you every time I see you."

Lanni was amused. Xiehan was about to rebuke his friend but Lanni stopped him. She then smiled sweetly. "Okay. Just tell me what the piece of news is. I will come up with an amazing title and write the article tonight."

Lin Jian was overjoyed. "Awesome! I will send it to your email right now."

"May I go now?" She raised an eyebrow at him.

"Yes yes." He nodded then hugged Ruby on the couch. He was so elated that he couldn't conceal it. Ruby wondered what was so exciting about having an article written for him, but she did not ask. It wasn't her business anyway.

"Do you want to do something fun together?" Lin Jian inched closer to the beauty, realizing that he had almost neglected her.

"Like... Like what?" She blushed from his proximity.

"You decide. We could watch another movie, go to the top floor to gaze at the stars, play some games... Or Anything else you want to do. Wait. If you are not sleepy, that is."

"It's okay." She had just slept not too long ago and although it was just a short nap, she no longer felt sleepy. "We can go to the top floor. I just happen to need some fresh air."

"Okay." He grabbed her hand excitedly and, thinking that she might be cold later, he grabbed a shawl before leading her upstairs.

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The breeze was a little cool, giving off the soft scent of nature. It was indeed calming.

"I knew this would be the best choice." She opened her arms and spun on the spot, taking in the cool breeze like an excited child. She grabbed his hand and pulled him to the concrete balcony. "look! There's Orion!" She pointed to a part of the sky.

He followed her gaze and burst into laughter. "You cannot see Orion in summer."

"Oh." She chuckled awkwardly then decided to admit it. "I've never gazed at the stars."

"Why not?" He tilted his head to ask curiously. Weren't most girls interested in stars? For some reason that he didn't understand even after dating so many girls, he still couldn't fathom this little interest of theirs.

Ruby sighed with a shrug. "I just... Couldn't."

Seeing how sad her expression had turned, he didn't interrupt and waited for her to gather herself.

At last, she laughed dryly. "It just never interested me."

Although that was what she said, he knew she was lying. Besides, based on Neil Chan's overprotective and paranoid character, he could guess the reason. He took her small hand in his gently. "You can watch with me if you like."

He then went ahead and started pointing at the stars and naming the constellations for her. The topic slowly shifted into planets and space, and she asked all the questions she had always been curious about, all of which he answered with detailed explanations.

"How do you know so much about astronomy?" She finally couldn't help asking.

His lips eased into a charming smile. "It was one of my momentary interests. So I studied it on impulse."

"Why did you stop?" She looked aside when she realized that she had almost been charmed silly by that smile.

"It was, after all, an impulsive choice. I left the school of astronomy when the curiosity faded."

They were talking about his interest in astronomy. Why did his words make her so uncomfortable?

"Did I say something wrong?" He panicked when he saw her droop her head in disappointment.

"No, I... I'm just tired." She lied.

He held her chin and looked into her sad eyes. "Ruby, you know you can tell me anything."

She frowned and thought about it then simply blurted her question. "Your interest in everything is momentary... You have never liked anything for more than a few days. Does... Does this..."

"You are wondering whether my interest in you is a fleeting impulse as well?" He finished the question on her mind.

"Yes." She nodded, then immediately regretted asking. What if he said yes? What if her question triggered him to dislike her?

She had wanted to push him away on the basis that he might just ditch her later, but she couldn't. Even though she already knew the kind of pit she was digging for herself by getting closer to him, she just kept sinking deeper and deeper.

Lin Jian gazed at her lovingly, a warm smile on his lips. In the next moment, he suddenly became serious. "Ruby, I don't know if I told you this before but I really like you. It is neither an impulse nor a momentary interest. To be honest, I never really liked any of my exes. I was just playing around but with you..."

"How many girls have you said that to?" She interrupted coldly.

"Wait, what?" when he heard her words, he finally realized the crisis he was facing.

"Your reputation of being a playboy will one day make you untrustworthy. No one will believe you even if you tell the truth." He repeated Xiehan's and Xingyu's words in his head. Those two had been right. He indeed didn't ever like any of the girls he dated before and merely liked the attention he got from them. When he told her this, she said nothing and merely gave him a disdainful look. He was telling the truth but he didn't believe her...

"How many girls have you dated in total?" She asked the question he was most scared of.

"Uhm... I don't know. I lost count years ago."

Ruby almost rolled her eyes. According to the rumors, he had his first girlfriend when he was nineteen or twenty years old. If he had been switching girlfriends once or twice every week for all these years, it was hard to imagine how many they were. "How many thousands?" She exaggerated, looking at him seriously.

"Thousands! No way... Even though I lost count, I know that they cannot be that many. They could probably exceed four hundred by just a few." He quickly defended himself.

"Four. Hundred?!" Her mouth gaped in disbelief.

"No, no! Three. Three hundred." He shook his head and waved his hands quickly.

"Three hundred?" Not only was Ruby not relieved, she was even angrier. "You... You dated all those women?! You..."

She paused and asked, "And you slept with all of them?"

Seeing her gaze turn increasingly angry, he had the impulse to lie and say that he had never slept with any of them, or just a tiny percentage of them. However, he knew that lying would only extinguish the tiny trust she had in him. So he shamefully admitted, "Yes. But Ruby..."

She flung his hand away. "Don't touch me!"

She must be disgusted by him...he couldn't blame her. But he couldn't give up either. He grabbed her hand just as she made the third step to get away from him. "Ruby, I'm sorry for being such a jerk in the past. But I've stopped playing around, I promise.. I will only be with you from now on."

"Ruby, please believe me." He pleaded.

Ruby was rendered speechless by this man's audacity. He expected anyone to believe him?

Seeing that she was not budging, he sighed helplessly. "Give me a chance to prove it to you. Just one week. If I mess up in the slightest, you can ignore me forever."

She crossed her arms in front of her chest. "One week...isn't that the longest time your relationships can last?"

His eyes drooped. One week sounded like he would simply date her for show and then ditch her on the seventh day, which would still be enough for him to satisfy his thrill. However, that was not what he had in mind. "Four days. Give me four days then."

"Three." She said with a tone that did not allow any space for negotiation. While it didn't sound like there was any difference between the former and the latter, Lin Jian took the mission seriously. He only had three days to prove that he loved her.

Though he couldn't help but wonder, before three days ended, what would their relationship be?

"May I go now?" She looked down at her wrist that was still in his grip.

"Sure."

He was still holding her hand despite saying so, so she was confused.

"Can I hug you?" He closed in on her. Before she could react, she was suddenly pulled onto his chest. The hug lasted a mere second and he pulled away immediately after. "Goodnight."

"Goodnight." She turned away to flee. Why did she suddenly think this conservative side of him was harder to resist than his flirtatious side? How dangerous! She had to get away before he charmed her into getting into getting into a relationship she might regret.

The next morning.

Lin Jian was the first to wake up. He paced the living room with thoughts flooding his mind. On one hand, he wondered whether Lanni was done writing the article while on the other hand, he couldn't think of ways to earn Ruby's trust no matter how hard he thought about it. If he used any of his past tricks, it would only make her flee farther away from him.

Just when he thought he was about to have a mental breakdown, he finally caught sight of Ruby descending the stairs. He gathered himself and tried not to be too excited before he smiled and stepped forward to meet her. "Ruby, good morning."

"Morning." She noticed the dark circles beneath his eyes, which was something she had never seen before. She also realized that he was still wearing the clothes from the night before. It was as if he had not slept a wink.

Even so, she didn't ask and decided to mind her own business.

Lin Jian was overjoyed that she had not ignored him. "Are you hungry? I will go and make breakfast."

"Ah no! Stay away from the kitchen!" Jiang Xingyu, who had just arrived, freaked out. He was not in the mood to get a stomach upset.

Lin Jian was unhappy. "What's with your overreaction? Ruby just woke up, so I'm going to cook her a nutritious breakfast."

"At least we know that you are doing it out of love. Those who didn't know will think you are seeking revenge!"

Ruby chuckled at the side. "Is he that bad at cooking?"

Xingyu didn't know where to start. "If we didn't secretly help him out the last time, we would have to eat salty lumps of coal in place of vegetables. In fact, the whole kitchen might have exploded."

Ruby cringed awkwardly. "Uh... No thanks."

Lin Jian glared at Xingyu. Were they really friends?!

Noticing his hostile look, Xingyu stretched his limbs lazily. "Why are you glaring at me? I'm only helping you out."

Lin Jian finally understood. That was right. If he claimed to cook for Ruby and ended up ruining her appetite, she might be unhappy.

"Never mind. I'll order takeout." He took out his phone.

"You don't need to. I was going to make breakfast." Xingyu made his way. No wonder he had woken up early and come down before Luna did. He never left her side lately, acting like the perfect shadow. He decisively followed his friend so he would learn how to cook and prepare at least one meal for Ruby.

Ruby watched them with a smile and turned on the television. Just as she settled down, her phone lit up with an incoming call. She slid her thumb across the screen. "Dad?"

"Where are you?" Neil sounded anxious.

"Uhm at the beach...?" Didn't she already tell him that she was going with Lin Jian?

"Not possible. You are lying to me. I saw you in B City last night, and you were at the entrance of Emerald Bar." Neil's tone sounded strict. He was not the kind of dad to prevent his daughter from doing what she wanted, but it would still upset him if she lied to him.

"What? What in the world...Are you sure you were not hallucinating?" She was alarmed.

"You are the one who is hallucinating."

Helplessly, she switched to a video call and went out. Then, she made her phone face the ocean in the distance. She then turned it to see her confused father. "Do you see it now? We are still at the beach."

"But I saw... Never mind. It must be someone who looks like you."

"Someone who looks like me..." Xiaoshi?

That was the closest person she could think of. The last time they met, they realized that they looked so much alike that they almost concluded themselves to be sisters. But since they were cousins, it still made sense. The main point was, her dad saw Xiaoshi enter a nightclub?

She suddenly had a headache. She didn't have anything against anyone entering a club, but as a girl, how could Xiaoshi go to such a place on her own? Emerald Bar was B City's gathering of ruffians and even a few mafia gangs had been spotted there. What if she was bullied by those brainless hooligans?

She heard footsteps behind her and turned to see Luna.

She finally understood it. The last time they had met at the banquet, she had realized that Xiaoshi was in love with Xingyu. Was it because she was heartbroken about her love being engaged that she went to get herself drunk?

Luna raised her eyebrow at the woman who was studying her intently. "Is there anything wrong?"

Ruby shook her head. She couldn't blame Luna for Xiaoshi's heartbreak. It wasn't like she had broken up a couple. It was just the latter's one-sided feelings after all. Even so, she wished she was close enough to her cousin so she would comfort her.

Luna shrugged at Ruby's peculiarity and sat in the living room where Cheng Yu had just arrived. She sat down and held her chin against her palm.

"I have a bad feeling about your gaze." Cheng Yu felt goosebumps rise on her skin.

As expected, Luna winked. "It's the second night you guys slept together. Did something happen this time?"

"Ugh... If you keep being this gossipy, my godchild will turn out into a gossipy baby." She groaned.

"That's okay! She can just follow her aunt to become a news reporter."

Cheng Yu knew that she would never win this round so she changed the topic. "I was analysing the user statistics for XYC last night and realized that we really need a marketing director. Coincidentally, Cedric has someone in mind and is going to recommend her."

"Someone that Cedric recommended? Who is that?" Luna's attention was finally diverted.

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The guys soon finished cooking breakfast and set the table.

When they were done, a servant walked in with a small stack of newspapers and magazines.

Lin Jian went over to check them out and saw one from Tian Yu Media.

It immediately piqued his interest. "Huh, let's see the standards of this agency that a certain friend-in-law insisted on working for."

On the top page was a few headlines, each one more shocking than the last. However, he was not surprised by any of them since he had seen most of those revelations in the articles he received the night before.

However, when he saw the hot topic of the entertainment news section, his blood ran cold. He blinked and read it again.

[DEVIL IN DISGUISE: The cringe worthy truth about Qian Yan Ran.(Page 14)]

There was no doubting it. He had a bad feeling at the pit of his stomach as he flipped to page 14. Then he saw it. It was an article explaining why the said superstar had changed so much in recent months. In fact, her style had undergone a huge transformation too, and fans had been questioning it for a while. Finally, the truth had been discovered. The current Qian Yan Ran was an impostor. She was a rival artist who had retired when her talent ran out. Later, she went under the knife to look like Qian Yan Ran, and eliminated the former so she would take her place. Simply put, it was not that Qian Yan Ran had changed. The true Qian Yan Ran was dead.

But the main point was... how could Lanni do this? "Li Lanni! Get down here right now!"

Chapter 383 - Exposed

Lanni descended the staircase following Lin Jian's ear-shattering shouts. She had slept very late the previous night so she was unhappy. "Lin Jian, why are you shouting so early in the morning?"

Xiehan, who had just left the study, looked at his friend reprimanding as well. "Did something happen?"

"Yes! Your little beauty stole my news article!" Lin Jian reported anxiously.

Lanni frowned and countered. "What article?"

"The one about Qian Yan Ran. Don't you dare try to worm your way out of this one!" Heaven knew how much traffic Oracle Daily would have gotten from this.

Lanni blinked innocently. "Stole? You gave it to me. My man was there too, he can bear witness."

At the side, Luna and Cheng Yu were watching the spectacle with a giggle. Lanni was too naughty.

"Yes, I gave it to you... But that's so you could help me write the article. It was for Oracle Daily but you send it to Tian Yu Media."

Lanni chuckled. "Whoever said I would write for Oracle Daily? As the chief editor, how could I write articles for a competitor instead of grabbing it for my own agency?"

Lin Jian was speechless.

Lanni slumped into a couch and yawned. "But I wrote a different one for you with the same information. If you don't mind, you can send it to your company so they release it with the afternoon news."

The whole room roared in laughter. How would that be of benefit? Oracle Daily would simply be blasted for copying outdated news.

Seeing the sulky Lin Jian, Xiehan laughed at him gloatingly. "Who told you to try and trick my girlfriend? You cannot outsmart her."

He had long seen through Lin Jian's intention. His main aim was to let Tian Yu Media know that Lanni was collaborating with its competitors. She could be scolded for it but in the worst case scenario-which would be to Lin Jian's advantage-she would lose her job.

Once she lost her job, he would invite her to an agency under Lin Media Group under the guise of helping a friend out.

"Is it that obvious?" He slumped to Ruby's side sulkily.

She laughed at him before offering solace on her shoulder.

He quickly forgot all about the news. What was more important than getting closer to Ruby? In fact, he should be thanking Lanni, not complaining about her!

Lanni chuckled when she saw how the situation had spiralled. "Actually, there is nothing wrong with trying to scout an employee, but you should use fair means. You are lucky that I decided to deal with it mildly but I hope it doesn't happen again."

Lin Jian reflexively sat up straight and looked at her. "Your words... What's wrong with Lin Media Group? You can work at any of the agencies you like or even come to the main company. You have no idea how great this offer is."

"I have an idea but I'm not coming, CEO Lin." Her tone was indifferent. Her aim had never been to work for the biggest agency or media group. She was in it for experience, and Tian Yi Media could give her enough of that without putting her under unnecessary pressure.

"That's enough fighting for a morning. Do you guys still want to eat?" Xingyu called from the door of the dining room.

Cheng Yu stood up with Luna and went to the dining room. Lin Jian was disappointed about having to leave Ruby's side, but when he tried to hold her hand, she did not push him away so he smiled happily.

Lanni yawned and looked miserable. She was hungry, but she so badly wanted to sleep!

Comprehending the situation, Xiehan held her. "You can go back to sleep after having breakfast. We can go to play later."

The group was planning to have fun today before going back to B City at night. The next day would be Monday and they would need to go back to work.

Lanni nodded and stood to go to the dining room. When everyone was settled down, she noticed that someone was missing. "Where is Cedric?"

Everyone looked at the empty space beside Cheng Yu, where Cedric liked slotting himself.

Cheng Yu was puzzled. How come she had noticed his absence? Was she that uncaring? "I'll go and check up on him."

When she reached their room, the man was still asleep on the floor. She was still contemplating whether to wake him up or let him continue sleeping when she indistinctly heard a groan.

"Cedric?"

When he did not respond, she took small, careful steps towards him and peeked down at him. It was then that she noticed that he was trembling slightly under the white sheet.

She panicked and hurriedly uncovered him. "cedric!"

The man turned and opened his eyes lazily. "Mmh? What is it?"

Her heart lurched in her throat when she saw how lifeless his eyes looked. "What happened? Are you feeling unwell?"

He nodded then immediately shook his head and sat up with a lot of difficulty. "It's nothing you should worry about."

Seeing his sorry state, she believed none of his words. Wordlessly, she helped him onto the bed and only then did she notice how high his temperature was. Was he having a fever?

She didn't need to ask how it happened. Her gaze lingered on the floor and the thin sheet he had been covering himself with.

Her heart clenched in guilt. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have made you sleep on the floor. I..."

All she had cared about was for him to keep his distance from her, but she forgot that the nights were quite cold in summer. She slept comfortably on the bed while he had to make-do with the floor carpet. Just how heartless had she been?

Seeing her expression, Cedric laughed and croaked through his parched throat. "I'm really okay."

"Stop talking. I will get you some medicine." As soon as she finished speaking, she helped him recline onto the bed and pulled the duvet over him.. She then wet a towel in the bathroom and placed it on his forehead, then urged him to wait for her.

Chapter 384 - I Saw That

When she went back downstairs, she pushed the guilt out of her mind. She could not reverse time no matter how guilty she felt. All she could do to help at this point was take care of him during this period. She served a bowl of congee and announced, "Cedric is feeling unwell so I will bring his breakfast upstairs."

"What happened to him?"

"Should I call a doctor over?"

Everyone asked simultaneously. Lin Jian looked sad. "It's probably a cold. It must be because of sleeping on the cold floor. Poor thing."

Cheng Yu felt her brain want to explode when she was reminded of her mistake.

"No, you don't need to call a doctor yet. He has a fever." She answered Xiehan, then asked, "Do you have any fever meds?"

Xiehan shook his head. "I will get someone to buy some at the pharmacy."

"I can go buy them." Xingyu offered immediately. Lin Jian jabbed him then said, "I have some pills in my room. I will bring them to you."

"Thank you." Cheng Yu was relieved, then she carried the tray and went back upstairs.

Lin Jian was about to stand when Lanni blocked his path. "There is something you are not telling us."

"Huh? Me?" He asked innocently.

"Yes, you. I saw you jab Xingyu just now." Ruby raised an eyebrow.

Luna glanced at him curiously. "How is it possible that you are the only one who has fever medicine?"

Lin Jian was speechless. Why were the women all attacking him at the same time? "That's because it's safe to have medical supplies in the house. Ptherwise, what would you do if you became sick in the middle of the night?" He gave the most logical excuse.

There was nothing wrong with his reason except, "The point is, you knew what was happening before Cheng Yu even said it."

"Fine, fine, I'll spill it." He sat back down, knowing that if they kept bugging him for answers, Cheng Yu might get suspicious as well. "Last night when Cheng Yu was asleep, Cedric filled the bathtub with ice cubes and took a bath. The idea was to make her worried about him if he became sick."

"How would you know?" Luna asked suspiciously, and everyone including Xiehan and Xingyu listened in as well.

"I gave him the idea. Can I go now?" He pleaded.

Lanni glared at him. "Do you know how worried Cheng Yu is?"

"Don't play such games again." Luna seconded.

"I won't, bye!" He fled as soon as he had the chance.

Xingyu looked amused. "No wonder I found it strange that he had meds on him. He isn't the kind of person to remember to carry such things as first aid kits and medical supplies."

Ruby recalled something and wanted to laugh. No wonder she thought she saw him leave the house late at night. Was it to help Cedric buy the medicine in advance? He was helping another man get a girlfriend before he did so himself. What a good friend...?

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Upstairs, after helping Cedric take his medicine and feeding him breakfast, Cheng Yu decided to sit at the edge of the bed and look after him. She took out her tablet to sketch while at it.

"Yu..." Cedric started.

She looked over. "Mmh? Are you feeling uncomfortable?"

"No." He was struck by how attentive she was. Although he was not faking his illness to gain pity, this wasn't any better. He had harmed himself just to gain her attention. He realized that although he wanted her to stay by his side, he wanted it to be because she was happy to, not because she was worried about him.

Her worried expression as she looked up broke his heart. His lips moved. "I'm alright now. You should go to the beach with the others."

She smiled at his attempt at not making her life come to a stop just because he was unwell. Placing a hand on his forehead to feel his temperature, she set her tablet aside. "No one is going yet. Besides, who will take care of you if I leave?"

"I will be asleep and won't need any taking care of." He secretly enjoyed the touch of her palm, but still didn't want to selfishly force her to stay by his side.

"Then you can just go ahead and sleep." She took her tablet and continued what she was doing. "There are things I have not finished yet."

Instead of falling asleep, he tried to get off the bed.

She flew over immediately and stopped him. "Where are you going?"

"To take my drawing tablet." He answered monotonously.

"You want to draw? You should rest for a while."

"I'm not sleepy yet. Can I draw a little and sleep later?"

"Uhm..." Why did he sound like a boyfriend asking for permission from his girlfriend?

Not wanting to think about it too much, she took out his drawing tablet from his bag and gave it to him.

He immediately made several sketches without stopping and only looked up briefly. He was surprised to see her lost in a trance. When he snuck over to peek at what she was doing, he saw that she had drawn a female character in four different pictures, and in each picture, she had the same dress but in different colors. She was probably trying to find the best color for her.

He spoke gently beside her ear. "Is this Jasmine, the female lead of [Reborn as The Daemon's Wife]?" He recognized her as one of the characters from her latest comic. She had only drawn the initial sketch before but he remembered her.

Because he spoke gently, she was not startled and nodded. "I just can't decide what color suits her best."

He scrutinised it more closely. "Mmh...although she is supposed to be the innocent kind of beauty who many people find gentle and cute, she is the bravest and strongest woman one could ever meet. So I think bold colors suit her better." He then took her hand and used the stylus between her fingers to point at the first picture. "Instead of pink, maybe you could try burgundy? Also, instead of a floral dress, you could use ornaments. Like diamonds.." He suddenly stopped . Why was her face suddenly turning red?

Chapter 385 - Too Sweet

"This is just my opinion, it's still up to you whether or not you think the same way." Cedric was careful not to pressure her into doing what he wanted.

She ignored the strange feeling she had from his proximity and his voice beside her ear, and changed the character's dress into a long, burgundy one with tiny, clear diamonds embedded at the waistline and hem. The end result satisfied her as well and she couldn't help looking at him in awe. "As expected of the top artist!"

He laughed lightly. "There's one more thing."

She let go of the stylus, letting him make the adjustment he was talking about. He simply made some tiny changes to the diamonds and the character's eyes, but the end result was too shocking. The picture had gained more definition, making it look like the female lead could walk out of the screen the next second. Her eyes looked like they were alive as well.

Her jaw dropped and she pulled him to sit beside her before questioning him like an interviewer. "How do you even do it? You don't need to use any effort to be the best."

This time, he didn't accept the praise as arrogantly as he would always do when they were both students of Star Art International. He smiled mysteriously. "Whoever said I don't use effort?"

"You do?" She was more shocked than she was when she first heard about him.

"Naturally. Or I would never achieve such results. To be honest, I end up draining myself too much most of the time."

Her eyes were on the verge of rolling out from how wide they were. She blinked in confusion. "Why would you do that to yourself?"

Mental health was the most important thing for everyone. As artists, they had always been reminded to take care of themselves and not overwork their brains. For imaginative creators, overworking could lead one to lack motivation and make them quickly reach their bottleneck. There were many past stories about artists who went insane or fell into depression...

Yet, not only did he drain himself, it was a regular thing as well? How outrageous!

He maintained his smile, even chuckling a little. "Because I have to. I have to be the best no matter what."

Although he was saying such determined words with a smile, she thought she could feel a hint of sadness in his voice. "You're crazy" lingered at the tip of her tongue but she could not say it out no matter how hard she tried. She continued looking at him in surprise as she chose the right words to ask her question. "Is there...a reason why you have to be the best, even if it means hurting yourself in the process?"

He averted his gaze.

"If it's personal, you don't have to..."

"It's not." He interrupted before starting to explain. "In the past, it was because I wanted my dad to recognize my potential."

He paused and decided to start narrating from where it all began.

"You know about my sisters and how we don't have the same mothers, right?"

She nodded.

He continued, "My dad was already married to my mother and they had Xiaoli. It was a marriage of convenience between them, but they were peaceful. That was until my dad's first love reappeared, and it turned out that they had a daughter together. She was even older than Xiaoli."

"Natalie?" She guessed.

Cedric nodded. "Yes. The truth was revealed. It turns out that my grandparents forcefully set my dad up for a business marriage to save their company, so he could no longer be with his first love. When he understood the situation, he relented and agreed to the marriage but before that, he snuck away to bid his love farewell. Natalie was a result of that."

Cheng Yu was flabbergasted. Who would have thought that the prominent Han family was so messy?

"When my dad found out about Natalie, he struggled with himself for long until he finally found the courage to face my mother and ask for a divorce. He had already planned it out and decided that he would take Xiaoli with him and marry his first love. But just when he finally mustered the courage and brought it up, they realized that my mother was expecting me. So he could no longer have a divorce.

My father hates me and my mother for being the hindrance for him and the love of his life. On the other hand, my mother despised me for being the reason why my father disliked her. She didn't bully me or hit me and neither did she deprive me of anything I needed. But every time something went against her will and she scolded me for being the harbinger of all her bad luck, my heart would be filled with despair.

So I used up all my effort to try and be the son they can both be proud of."

When he was done speaking, she felt her heart ache. She never would have guessed that while he seemed like a pampered young master all along, his life was multiple times more painful than one could imagine. She raised a hand to stroke his soft, brown hair before she could stop herself. "You are already amazing, Cedric. You don't need to prove yourself to anyone."

He nodded, holding her wrist and cradling it delicately. "Actually, I have long stopped caring about their opinion of me."

"But you still work so hard." She sounded sad.

He nodded, not denying her claim. "I don't work as hard as I did in the past since I already acquired most of the skills I need...but I still work hard so you won't think of me as an incapable, lazy bum."

"What?" Why was this suddenly about her?

She understood what he meant, so she quickly shifted from that topic. "Actually, you are already great even when you are not trying too hard."

"That's because I have you as my major motivation."

"Uh..." She was speechless. Since when did this guy gain such a sweet tongue?

Chapter 386 - Romance Tutor

Seeing that the atmosphere was about to get awkward, Cedric decided to change the topic. "At what time are we going to the beach?"

She shot him a look. "What do you mean 'we'? No matter what time everyone is going, you are staying behind to rest."

His heart warmed from her caring tone. No one had ever shown him such care aside from his sisters, who had to do it secretly to avoid getting scolded by their parents. "Actually, I feel much better now. Didn't I already take medicines?"

Most importantly, he had the most effective cure right beside him, of course he would be better in seconds.

She placed her hand on his forehead to feel his temperature, then grabbed his hand and took his pulse. Still not satisfied with the results, she asked for a thermometer. Luckily, Lin Jian had one so she had him measure his temperature. In the end, she agreed that he was indeed alright.

Even so, she was still cautious. "Why don't we go out later?"

weighing the options, he decided that staying back with her and spending some time alone was much better than going to play at the beach with everyone else so he quickly agreed.

She tilted her head and raised an eyebrow when she saw him nod. Why did it feel like he was a little too happy about this?"

...

Meanwhile, when they got Cheng Yu's message, the others decided to go first and let the duo join later.

Lin Jian proudly flaunted with his nose in the air. "It would have been tragic if we went back to B City with her treating him like an enemy. But since he has a love master—me—for a romance tutor, they will be on friendly terms even if they won't be dating."

"What the heck is a romance tutor?" Lanni found it laughable.

Luna went along to tease. "Some love master, huh. You are not even dating yourself yet you claim to be able to teach other people how to woo girls?"

Although Lanni and Luna were teasing him, they were actually happy for their friend. It would be awesome if she got someone to take care of her. Of course, they would give Cedric a good beating if he dared to break Cheng Yu's heart. They were just a little unhappy about not being able to spend time with her.

When Lin Jian heard them, he retaliated immediately. "Who is single? My Ruby agreed to give me a chance!"

"Uh... What?" Ruby was stunned.

"She did? When did that happen?" Lanni and Luna were puzzled.

"Should I open a bottle of champagne for you?" Xingyu offered.

Xiehan cast him a sidelong glance. "If he is serious about it, that is."

"Hey! Of course I'm serious. Am I such an unreliable jerk in your eyes?"

"Aren't you?" It was a unanimous chorus, everyone glaring at him, including Ruby.

Lin Jian was speechless.

"Let's play basketball." He suggested, to change the topic of focus away from himself.

"No balls." Xingyu reminded immediately.

"What do we play then?" He sulked.

Lanni glanced at the calm sea and pulled Xiehan's hand excitedly. "Let's go for a swim!"

'Thanks Lanni.' Lin Jian muttered inwardly as he anticipated Ruby's reaction.

"I don't know how to swim." She sounded bummed as she spoke up in embarrassment.

He grabbed this golden chance and tried to hide the excitement in his eyes. "That's okay. I can teach you."

"But... I'm scared of the water." She bit her lip nervously.

He held her hand gently as he led her towards the water. "Don't worry, I will not let you feel scared."

Thinking of something, his excitement was heightened by leaps and bounds. He had just been wondering how he could prove himself within such a short time and a chance presented itself on a golden platter.

In such a situation, it was common for a man to try and take advantage of the girl's vulnerability to make inappropriate moves. But from the number of times that his female friends had ranted to him about being taken advantage of, he knew that she would find it repulsive if he did the same.

Hence, he thought of a way to teach her without touching her inappropriately.

He led her to a part where the water reached his waist and stopped. "This part is not deep so you can easily stop when you feel tired. Besides, the sea is calm so you can relax. Let's first get you used to the water." He helped her float with his hand under her tummy to make her feel less scared then slowly let go when she could float on her own.

At the side some distance from them, Luna watched with a chuckle. "They actually look good together. But what's up with Xiehan and Lanni? I feel like they're hiding something."

Xingyu felt that way too, but he brushed it off. "Every couple has their own secrets. They don't seem to be fighting so I don't think we should try to intervene."

"I know, I'm just curious." Luna couldn't figure it out no matter how she thought about it. However, Lanni would definitely tell her whatever was going on when she was ready, so she didn't try to probe. "Right. Honey, do you have a lot going on tomorrow?"

"Not too much. Is there something wrong?" He asked as he splashed some water onto her already dripping hair.

"I scheduled an emergency meeting with shareholders tomorrow in the afternoon. You are one of them."

"I will be there on time. What's the emergency, though? I can help you sort it out." He offered.

"What if it's troublesome?" She didn't dare to take up too much of his time.

"If it's troublesome, then I will get Jian and Xiehan to help."

Indeed, there could never be a problem too huge for three CEOs. Even though one of them was not a CEO, he was a business genius as well. "Thank you my love." She hugged him.

A roar suddenly resounded.

Lanni burst into laughter as she stopped swimming. "Sis, is that your stomach grumbling? Because I swear, I thought I heard thunder."

"Hey! That's mean. Why would it be me?" Luna complained.

"Because you are the one who gets hungry every two minutes?" Lanni teased.

Lin Jian stopped teaching Ruby and held her hand, swiftly leading her towards the land. "You really heard thunder, Lanni."

The sky darkened in a flash as soon as his words were out and in the next few seconds, a louder roar of thunder resounded.

Chapter 387 - Charades

In just a few seconds, it started raining heavily. Xingyu lifted his fiancée by the waist and rushed back to the house.

The stalls were being blown away and houses around the beach were quite far apart so the closest safe shelter was still Xiehan's manor. Xiehan carried Lanni and sprinted as well, arriving at the same time as Lin Jian and Ruby.

Although it had just been raining for a few minutes, they were thoroughly soaked by the time they arrived.

...

Cheng Yu woke up with a start when she heard the loud growl of thunder. She had unknowingly fallen asleep while chatting with Cedric earlier.

She looked out through the window and panicked. "Oh my God! The others are still at the sea!"

"They're back." Cedric spoke from behind her just as she prepared to rush out.

Cheng Yu let out a sigh of relief when she heard him. "You still need to rest, don't simply run around."

After warning him, she opened the door and peeked into the living room from the mezzanine. Seeing that everyone was alright and they were rushing into the house, she was at ease and went downstairs to the kitchen.

She returned from the kitchen with a large flask of ginger soup for everyone just as they returned from their rooms after taking a shower.

"Ginger soup is known to prevent colds. Come on, drink some." She served it to them in bowls like they were kids. She then picked up the bowl she had prepared differently and gave it to Luna. "Yours has a less amount of ginger and honey."

Luna received the bowl and cozied herself on the couch with a smile. "Thank you." Cheng Yu was just too considerate.

"It's nothing." She sat down on the couch opposite. She could never forget how lovingly Luna had taken care of her before. She had no way to repay the kindness, taking care of her during her pregnancy was the least she could do.

"Why don't you take some yourself?" Cedric reminded as he inched closer to her.

"I don't need it. On the other hand, you had a cold this morning so it might be beneficial to you." She stared hard at his untouched bowl to remind him.

"But it tastes horrible." He complained.

Lin Jian held in his laughter. How old was this guy?! He still acted so childish around Cheng Yu.

What was more surprising, Cheng Yu actually tousled his hair and gently promised to make him strawberry pudding if he finished his soup.

That works too?

"I'm so mad! Didn't the forecast say that it would be sunny and calm today?" Ruby complained, unhappy that she could not learn to swim.

"Well, it really is calm." Lin Jian groaned.

"Weather forecasts aren't always a hundred percent accurate. We can do something else instead." Lanni suggested.

"Charades?" Luna proposed the game she was best at.

"Good idea. That way, Cheng Yu and Cedric will get to join." Xiehan nodded. He had noticed that his girlfriend didn't like the fact that they left her friend behind earlier.

It was decided.

The rule was the same as usual: they would play in pairs.

"We are going to win this." Xiehan was excited just thinking about it. Usually, he didn't need to complete his statements before Lanni understood what he wanted. Sometimes it took just a single word.

Similarly, it usually took just one glance at Lanni's expression to know what she wanted. With such perfect telepathy, was there still a question of who would win?

Xingyu scoffed from beside them. "In your dreams. Luna and I are both experts at indoor games, and have the best chemistry and telepathy."

However, the girls had something different in mind.

"It would be unfair for couples to play against pairs of friends and enemies." Luna pretended to be concerned for Cheng Yu, even jabbing her while at it.

"Hey!" Cheng Yu pouted. Cedric was not her enemy, okay! But that was not the point...Why did she get the feeling that her friend was plotting something?

"Luna is right." Lanni went along mischievously. "I will pair up with Luna. Cedric can pair with Xingyu, Xiao Yu with Idiot Jian and Ruby with Xiehan."

"Who did you just call an idiot?" Lin Jian was the first to explode.

"That's your main point?" Xingyu was speechless.

Lin Jian grumbled. "Right. The main point is how I don't get to pair with Ruby. Xiehan, can we switch partners? I don't mind pairing with her."

Xingyu no longer knew what to say. Was he the only one who thought that it was unfair for twins to be on the same team?

"Then, who should I switch with?" Cedric looked miserable. He just had to pair with Xingyu. He shot a look at Lanni. She did this on purpose!

Lanni laughed and shrugged. "You are in love with my friend, which means you will get to hang out with us often in future. If you keep clinging onto a spineless grudge with my brother-in-law, wouldn't that make things awkward?"

"I've been meaning to say, what grudge are you even holding?" Luna questioned him.

"They are just being childish. Let's begin." Cheng Yu rolled her eyes at Cedric.

Hence, no one switched their partner. What was more shocking, Cedric complied.

No one knew it, but Lanni's words had caused quite an impact on his heart. "You will get to hang out with us often in future"... It was as though she was confident that he and Cheng Yu would definitely end up together. How could he not be happy?

The pairs set the rules and started playing.

Lanni and Luna guessed each other's word correctly every time and even did it within just a few seconds. It was not surprising that they were leading the scores. However, another pair baffled everyone. Xiehan and Ruby were too telepathic! Their scores weren't any less than the twins'.

Lin Jian couldn't help commenting. "We all understand that Lanni and Luna are twins—two sisters, one mind, they say. But what about Xiehan and Ruby?"

"We're probably just good at it." Xiehan smiled.

However, Ruby inwardly laughed. Of course, they were siblings! Despite not being twins and not staying together for all these years, it was still easy for them to understand each other.

The game continued late into the afternoon, and Lanni sighed. "We may not be able to go to B City tonight."

With the weather being so unpredictable, it would be dangerous to leave tonight.

Luna looked distressed when she thought about it.

As if understanding her concern, Xingyu patted her to comfort her. "Don't worry about the meeting. We can just have a conference video call later. If not, we can reschedule it."

Naturally, he hoped that they would make it to B City in time but if that couldn't happen, forcing it was not an option.

She nodded. Luckily, she had been competent since the company set foot into the business world. Since she had never been tardy or lazy, the higher ups would not be unhappy about her rescheduling just one meeting.

They played poker and watched another movie.

When it started raining again in the evening, Lanni helplessly took out her phone and stepped aside to give her boss a call.

"CEO Qian, I'm really sorry to trouble you. I went to the beach but it's raining heavily, I may not be able to make it back to B City in time for tomorrow's meeting." She apologized nervously.

On the other end, the other party didn't sound displeased. Instead, he comforted her. "You have been working so hard. Take this as a break. Don't rush over until it is safe to do so, okay?"

"Thank you, CEO." Lanni sighed in relief as she hung up. "CEO Qian is so considerate."

"Is he?" A voice resounded from behind her, and she turned to find that it was Xiehan.

She laughed when she understood his expression. "He is my boss, it's a good thing that he is considerate to his employees. Don't tell me you are jealous of this too?"

Xiehan didn't answer her but he was sulky as he closed in on her. "He treats you so well... a little too well."

She tiptoed and tapped his nose. "That's just because your girlfriend is the most amazing employee. Besides, I have the most handsome and awesome boyfriend. Why would I still notice other men?"

"Mmh." He was placated when he remembered that she was already his girlfriend. Even if the other party had a motive, she would not notice it, let alone be moved, because she had a boyfriend.

She hugged him but still felt that something was not right. "Are you alright? Did something happen?"

He tightened his arms around her. "Nothing. I'm just a little emotionally unstable."

Even he couldn't understand what was going on.

"I know just what you need.." She wrapped her hands around his neck and kissed his lips.

Chapter 388 - Too Worrisome

Xiehan held her waist and deepened the kiss. It was not a gentle, loving kiss but a ferocious one as though he was venting something.

Her body shuddered when he bit her lip. "Did something happen?"

He collected himself and shook his head. "As I said, nothing you should worry about. It's just that..."

She waited patiently for him to continue.

He sighed helplessly and pinched his nose bridge. "My aunt and uncle are planning to visit soon."

She tilted her head in confusion. "Isn't that a good thing?"

"Well, it is. We won't have to make a trip to Australia anymore. Well, we can later but it will not be because of this. Alas, I'm afraid they're not just coming to visit. They are coming for Xiaoshi."

Lanni still didn't understand how that was a bad thing.

It shouldn't be a bad thing, however, "I have failed as a cousin. I didn't protect her well enough and let her fall in love with a man who couldn't be with her."

She tousled his silver hair with a tiny smile. "It's not your fault, my love. It's never your fault who someone else falls in love with. Even if you think you are responsible for introducing her to your friends and letting her meet Xingyu, you still couldn't control fate. They would have met even if not through you."

He nodded and held her hand. He already knew this, but there was someone who didn't. He found the best way to break it to her without causing too much shock. "You see, my uncle pampers Xiaoshi too much. As long as it's something she wants, he will get it for her. Even if it means snatching it from someone else."

Lanni finally comprehended the situation, and her heart trembled. "You mean to say, that if he finds out that Xiaoshi is in love with Xingyu, he will try to break him and my sister apart?"

"That's not impossible." He answered worriedly.

"It's ridiculous!" Lanni frowned in disapproval. She shook her head in denial. "I don't really think there can be such an unreasonable person. Can there? I mean, he wouldn't ruin so many lives just to give his daughter what will never truly belong to her right?"

"Calm down." Xiehan patted her to comfort her as he led her back towards their room. "I'm not saying it will definitely happen, it's just the worst possibility."

She sighed helplessly. "I know. But if it happens... I'm just worried about what that would mean for Xingyu and Luna."

"Don't worry. I will not let that happen." Even he knew how unfair it would be.

...

Xingyu and Luna's room.

Luna gazed at her laptop absent-mindedly and yawned for the third time in a few minutes.

Xingyu looked over from his work and walked to her, lifting her from the chair without a warning. "Why are you overworking yourself? Look how tired you are."

"I'm not tired, just a little hungry." She wrapped her arms around his neck comfortably.

He looked down at her teasingly. "What kind of hungry?"

"You're so naughty..." Luna berated him, though she couldn't deny that she was hungry for him as well.

So as to not starve his wife and baby, he gently placed her on the bed, pulled the covers over her and left the room to bring her something to munch on.

He made his way to the kitchen and was just about to take a detour on the hallway when he overheard familiar voices.

"I'm just worried about what that would mean to Xingyu, and especially for Luna." It was Lanni's voice.

It was not his habit to eavesdrop on other people's conversations, but he had clearly heard his and his wife's names. Since it was about them, his curiosity was piqued and he stopped to listen.

He didn't hear clearly what Xiehan said to Lanni and only caught "don't worry" among his words. Taking a deep breath, he decided to go his way, though he couldn't help but wonder what those two were up to. They had been acting really strange lately.

With a shrug, he pretended to have heard nothing and headed off to the kitchen to prepare a light snack for Luna.

...

A few minutes later.

Ruby tossed in her bed and sat up, curling in her blanket like a scared child.

The lightning flashed through her curtain, followed by a terrifying roar of thunder that spooked her out of her wits. Although she was already so old and despite learning about it over the years, she was still unable to overcome her fear of thunder.

She trembled as she hugged her blanket tightly, wary of the ghosts that may appear in the next instant. She couldn't sleep with the light on but when she turned it off, she would be spooked almost to the point of tears.

Pulling the blanket away carefully, she made small steps out of the room and dashed out of the door like there was a terrifying ghost in her room.

She had just made a few steps towards the staircase when she heard footsteps. She was so terrified that she ran back to her room, panting heavily. She didn't dare to enter and neither did she dare to stay outside and meet whatever ghost was coming up the stairs.

At a loss, she plastered herself against the wall in an attempt to get away.

"Are you okay?" Came a familiar voice worriedly from in front of her.

She sighed in relief when she realized who it was. "Xingyu? Yes, I'm okay. You are up so late."

"I went to get something to eat." He responded.

It was then that she realized that he was carrying a plate of delicious-looking vegetable salad.

"I was going to get water to drink. I'll get going then." She then fled.

He watched her retreating back with interest. Why did she look so scared?

Just as he wondered why, a large rumble of thunder filled the air, followed by a restrained scream from the staircase. Comprehending the situation, he grinned and held the tray on one hand, then took out his phone to send a message.

[Your beauty is scared of thunder. Now's your golden chance.]

Lin Jian, who was having sleepless nights from wondering how to prove his love to Ruby, responded in five seconds. [Where is she?]

A few seconds later came another text.

[How did you know?]

He had even attached a "suspicious" emoji.

Xingyu laughed. Did this guy overthink and imagine that Ruby had gone to look for him because she was scared? He explained the situation briefly and retreated to his room.

...

Downstairs.

Ruby grabbed a tub of ice cream and turned on the television.

"Who eats ice-cream when it is so cold?"

A voice sounded from behind her, spooking her so much that the ice cream fell onto the carpeted floor.

Lin Jian was shocked. Xingyu had stated the situation but he didn't expect it to be this severe. He suddenly didn't know what to do.

He was yet to figure out how to handle it when she threw her spoon away and jumped right into his arms. "I'm so scared!"

His heart broke when he felt her body trembling. He had never seen anyone this scared of thunder before. Although he found it strange, he couldn't bear to ask her about it. He hugged her and stroked her back gently. "I'm here. Don't be scared anymore."

She nodded but remained in his arms with no intention of moving away.

"What do you want to watch?" He adjusted her into a more comfortable position and asked, but he received no response. He carefully peeked down and found that she had fallen asleep. Her beautiful face looked more adorable with her eyes closed, and the red fringe on her forehead made her irresistible.

He so badly wanted to kiss her forehead but thinking of her scared look earlier, he restrained himself. She had probably been unable to fall asleep despite being very sleepy, all because she was scared.

Hence, he carefully carried her to her room. He gently lay her on her bed and tucked her in, then stayed by her side for a while. He intended to leave when she fell into a deep sleep but he unknowingly fell asleep at the side of the bed, holding her hand in his.

—

Ruby was not the only one having a sleepless night earlier.

Cheng Yu had spent hours trying to buy time but no matter what she did, she still became sleepy in the end.

After witnessing Cedric have a fever this morning, she couldn't bear to let him sleep on the floor anymore. He couldn't let her sleep on the floor either, so they were sharing a bed tonight.

The thought of it was making Cheng Yu lose her mind. What kind of sin had she gotten herself into? She tried to pass time while doing all sorts of unimportant things.. Alas, with time, she was so sleepy that she almost nodded off on the table.

On the bed, Cedric was watching her with an amused expression. Was she that scared of sharing a bed with him? Then, if she knew that it would not be the first time that they slept on the same bed, wouldn't she beat him to death? Since he still wanted to stay alive, he didn't mention it.

"Aren't you going to sleep yet? it's not good for a girl to stay up too late." He asked with concern.

"I will soon. Go to sleep first." She yawned.

Understanding that she was still uncomfortable around him, he lay on the bed and closed his eyes. Even then, he was worried that she would force herself to stay up all night and didn't drift into sleep. If she still didn't go to sleep after a few minutes, he would use the excuse of being sleepless and wanting to watch a movie to go to the living room.

In the end, he was too worried for nothing. Soon after he closed his eyes, he heard the soft patter of her footsteps against the fluffy carpet. She closed in on him and he felt her gaze on his face. Then, she poked him carefully. He didn't know what she was up to but he didn't react and continued feigning sleep.

After poking him a few times for confirmation, she carefully circled to the other side and climbed onto the bed. Since she was already so sleepy that she could barely keep her head steady, she fell into a deep slumber as soon as her head hit the pillow.

...

The following day.

In the afternoon, Xiehan was informed that it was safe to travel back to B City.

"Aw what a bummer. I wanted to continue enjoying the inevitable vacation." Lanni was the first to complain.

Xiehan chuckled at his girlfriend's antics and rubbed her head. "That's okay. We can go on many vacations when we are not busy."

"Mmh." She nodded. In reality, she wanted to go back to B City as soon as possible so her work would not delay anymore. Her career was still in the rising phase after all. It was just inevitable that she would feel lazy once in a while.

Luna was relieved when she heard the news and went to pack hers and Xingyu's luggage."

"What are you doing? Aren't you going to pack?" Cedric leaned over Cheng Yu's shoulder in interest. He was especially jovial today, which was perfectly normal considering the fact that they had spent the night peacefully last night. When he woke up, he had found her leg sprawled carelessly across his lower body while her hand lay on his chest.

Even though he knew that it was just her poor sleeping habits and had nothing to do with her personal interest, he was still so tensed up that he blushed fiercely just thinking about it.

She was not fazed by his presence behind her and casually said, "I'm booking my flight ticket."

He frowned in displeasure. "You don't have to..."

She turned and shot him a look. "I don't want to fight with you about this."

He nodded in agreement. "I don't want to fight about it either. Why don't we save ourselves and each other the trouble? Let's skip the part where I chew your plane ticket or 'accidentally' spill water on it and fast-forward to when we go to B City together."

Cheng Yu was speechless.

"I won't bother you. I promise to be good. Pretty please..." He looked at her pleadingly with those beautiful, bright eyes, making her heart melt into a puddle.

"You have to stop doing that!" She berated as her cheeks flushed. She already couldn't stand it when he acted flirtatious. When he acted cute, it was a whole other level. She could end up saying yes to his every request without thinking through it.

Which made her wonder, since when did she like guys who could be considered as cute? She thought she liked the mature type. Perhaps it was because he could be mature when he needed to be and irresistibly cute the next moment? Her poor heart!

Seeing her fan girl expression, Cedric smiled happily. "I'll take that as a yes."

At the side, Lin Jian had a pensive expression. "Are we seriously going to the same city on four different planes?"

When no one paid him any attention, he clammed his mouth shut and went to pack his luggage as well.

When he was done, he returned to the living room to find that everyone else was ready to leave. Ruby was tapping something on her phone furiously. He went over to take a look. "Is something wrong?"

She looked frustrated. "Lu Meili's latest movie is screening tonight. I can't get a ticket from the official site and it will be too late if I wait to get to B City first."

Lin Jian was taken aback. "You like Lu Meili too?"

Ruby nodded before realising that they had something in common. "Wait. You like Lu Meili?"

"Of course!" was excited. "She is too beautiful for anyone to not know her. Not to mention, she has been an actress since she was a child. We were probably still playing with mud when she received her first award as the best child female lead. Back then, Xiehan, Xingyu and I would sneak out to watch her shows. She was our goddess!" When he finished blabbering about Lu Meili's beauty and talent, he realized that the room was engulfed in an unnatural hush.

Lanni glared at Xiehan beside her.

He quickly defended himself. "You are my only goddess, my love."

Almost at the same instant, Xingyu waved his hands at Luna who was glaring at him, defending himself vehemently. "Honey, you know that I idolize no woman but you! Lin Jian is lying. He is the only one who was smitten by that actress. He even followed her to the US and proposed to her on her eighteenth birthday!"

Luna burst out laughing. "Of course, I know you only love me."

At the side, Cedric and Cheng Yu laughed at how strong these two men's desire to survive was. It was only then that Lin Jian realized the grave he had dug for himself.

Not only did he know Lu Meili's birthday, he had even proposed to her after following her all the way to the US! Could he still redeem himself?

Damn you Jiang Xingyu! Are we still friends?

He had totally pushed him under the bus!

Seeing Ruby's raised eyebrow as she looked at him like he had yet again proven himself as a jerk, he looked towards Xiehan urgently.

Xiehan was too busy laughing at him but when he received his gaze, he didn't heartlessly push him under the bus. "At the time, we made a bet and decided that the loser would propose to the most popular female star. Jian lost and had to propose to Lu Meili since she was the most popular female star at the time."

Ruby seemed convinced by this answer and Lin Jian sighed in relief.

However, Cheng Yu just had to mess with him. "What did Lu Meili say?"

Lin Jian really wanted to die. "Don't ask me anymore, okay? I was just a silly young man myself at the time."

Sigh, this was too scary! Being a playboy did have its payback.

After making enough fun of Lin Jian, Lanni pulled Ruby aside to speak to her. "I was anticipating Lu Meili's movie too. Coincidentally, I have three tickets for tomorrow."

"You do?" Ruby was surprised for a moment, then filled in the gaps. If she had three tickets, wasn't that enough for her to go and watch the movie with Luna and Cheng Yu?

Lanni could pretty much guess what she was thinking and laughed. "I was planning to watch it with Xiaoshi and Luna so I bought three. However, Luna had already bought two so she could watch it with Xiao Yu, so we ended up with five."

Ruby was excited but still asked carefully, "You don't mind if I join you?"

"Of course not! Then it's decided. Tomorrow night, be there or be square." Lanni chirped.

The latter smiled and thanked her. She knew that it was not completely impossible to get tickets no matter how popular the movie was, but she thought it was better to go with Lanni's group than watch it on her own.

However, as she turned, she caught sight of Luna briefly giving a thumbs up to Lanni.

She suddenly understood the situation. So the sisters were planning to use this chance to observe her. Her hands slowly balled into fists. Just when she thought that they were starting to trust her...

AN

Runs around with flailing arms.

Any MBL readers here?

The nation's top actress/Lu Aotian's and Wan Jia's beloved princess/ Mu Zichen's beautiful wife, starred in yet another movie!

If you haven't read the book yet, search My Beautiful Love. Lu Meili is so adorable as a baby!

Chapter 390 - Lock Him Up In Bed(and Do All Sorts Of Naughty Things To Him)

The following day.

After settling her work, Lanni finally had time to watch the planned movie with the girls. Since her office building wasn't that far from her apartment, she took a quick shower and changed into casual clothes before going over.

The girls had already arrived and were waiting for her outside. Cheng Yu hugged a bunch of snacks alongside a bucket of popcorn and cola, making one wonder whether she was going to watch or eat.

As Lanni approached, she waved her over excitedly. "Lanni!"

Lanni sauntered over and was about to hug them when Xiaoshi dragged her to the side. "You didn't tell me Luna was coming."

Lanni felt awkward. "If you are uncomfortable, you can sit beside me. We will be watching the whole time anyway."

In the end, Xiaoshi decided to ignore her awkwardness. She had been unable to face Luna ever since she realized that the man she liked was her fiancé. However, how long could she continue to hide? Luna was her superior now, and bumping into each other was inevitable. Not to mention, her cousin-in-law was Luna's sister. Even if she hid now, she could not hide forever.

She confidently clung her arm around Lanni's and led the way. Ruby, Cheng Yu and Luna followed suit. They had managed to contact the management so their seats were placed on the same row. Because Cheng Yu was right behind Luna, they sat next to each other. Xiaoshi naturally sat next to Lanni who she was closest to. Unknowingly, Ruby had thought of the same thing so Lanni was sandwiched between them... and Xiaoshi realized that the person next to her on her left was Luna.

She gave a gentle smile. "Boss."

Luna laughed at her antics. "I already told you, you don't need to be so formal. Just call me Luna when we're not at work."

The movie was yet to start and she didn't want the atmosphere to be eerily silent, so she casually asked, "How are you?"

While she asked, her gaze was directed at Luna's slightly bulging belly.

Luna rubbed her stomach with a gentle smile. "We are fine. The little thing gets a little naughty sometimes but it's still alright."

Oddly, she realized that unlike just a few days ago, she didn't feel hurt when Luna talked about the baby. She genuinely felt happy for her. Not that she had ever harbored any ill intentions towards Luna, but the realization that she wasn't jealous was baffling. It seemed like... that psychologist's method had really worked. Just a few days and there was such significant progress?

"How have you been? Are you getting along with your colleagues?" Luna's question pulled her out of her thoughts.

She nodded. "Work is perfect and my workmates are friendly. I get a lot of inspiration from them."

Luna was relieved. This was Xiehan's cousin after all, so she hoped for the best for her. "What about... Outside work?"

"My parents are coming to visit. And I got a boyfriend." She blurted out before she could stop herself. Crap. That was a lie.

"You did?" Luna was surprised, and so were the three secret eavesdroppers at the side.

She could only nod and hope they didn't ask for too many details. Luckily, the lights dimmed and the movie started screening. By the time the movie ended, she would have thought of a perfect lie in case they asked again.

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When the movie ended, Xiaoshi received a phone call so everyone forgot to ask about her new boyfriend.

Cheng Yu was just about to sigh in relief about evading questions when Lanni placed a hand on her shoulder and teased. "How is Cedric?"

"Same as usual. So stubborn I want to lock him up." She answered half-heartedly.

Luna chuckled and winked suggestively. "It's a good idea, actually. Lock him up in bed and do all sorts of things to him!"

"What? You..." Cheng Yu's face flushed crimson.

"You can buy sexy lingerie and perform a strip tease." Lanni added, lowering her voice.

Ruby lowered her voice a little and added, "I know a newly opened lingerie store. Although it is not a renown brand, their products are amazing!"

"How would you know? I thought you don't have a boyfriend, why do you need lingerie?" Cheng Yu tried to change the topic by questioning Ruby.

The latter shrugged. "Can't I buy them for practise? And don't try to change the topic."

"Let's discuss this at a more suitable place." Luna suggested seriously.

In the end, all five of them went to Lanni's apartment which was the closest.

After ensuring that they had the desired privacy, they earnestly started teaching Cheng Yu how to seduce Cedric.

"Are you girls being serious? Cedric and I..."

"Obviously like each other. And that's enough to get things rolling." Lanni interrupted her friend and whipped out her phone. "If you are too shy, you can just buy them online. They have all sizes."

"With your skin tone, red would look perfect on you." Ruby observed seriously, her chin rested in her hand.

"What? Red is a little..." She blushed just thinking of it.

"Pink can do too." Lanni tried to imagine her friend in pink.

"Mmh.." Luna observed Cheng Yu seriously as well. "I think a deeper shade of pink will do. Like hot pink. You don't need to go for complicated-looking lingerie since it's the first time."

Ruby found a pink piece on her phone and handed it over excitedly. "Got it! This would look gorgeous. With your boobs..."

"You perverts!" Cheng Yu was sure that her face resembled a tomato right now.

At the side, Xiaoshi coughed at these girls' earnest effort to get their friend laid. She knew almost nothing regarding men and sex, so she quietly listened.

"We can get your hair done tomorrow. Lanni will help you with makeup, then you can call Cedric out for a dinner date." Luna said, more excited than when she was planning her own date.

"Actually, cooking is better. Just drag the guy to your house and cook. When both of you are done eating, life him into your bedroom and lock him up. I'm sure he will be thrilled to have you tie him onto the bed." Lanni said exaggeratively.

Xiaoshi was holding her stomach from laughing too much. "If you are afraid about him mistaking your relationship, you can confess to him first and become his girlfriend, then tease him later."

"Actually, that makes more sense." Lanni nodded in agreement, and so did Luna and Ruby.

In the end, they bought several sets of lingerie for Cheng Yu, as well as a new fiery red dress and diamond heels. They then helped her plan her dinner date scheduled for two nights later.

After hearing all the encouragement from her friends, Cheng Yu was excited. She was no longer afraid of Cedric's family opposing their relationship. He had told her about his past and from that, she concluded that they wouldn't have the time to meddle in their son's private life.

Hence, she happily placed the order for the items they had selected.

"I suddenly have the urge to tease Xingyu." Luna chuckled mischievously.

"Did you peek into my mind and learn that I'm thinking of teasing Xiehan tonight?"

"You don't say! I will select my lingerie then." Luna unhappily shoved her phone aside. "They cannot deliver them today. Who wants to go shopping?"

"Count me in." Ruby was the most excited, despite her single status. She coughed when she realized that she didn't have any use for it. In the next moment, she shrugged. She could wear it the next time she met Lin Jian. That playboy would definitely want to take things further soon.

Xiashi grabbed her purse. "I'm going too. I can learn a thing or two."

"We better accompany Mrs. Jiang and take good care of her." Cheng Yu stated as an excuse and stood up, but soon realized what her words had indirectly implied.

She wanted to bite her tongue off when she noticed Xiaoshi's frozen smile. She didn't mean it that way! Not explaining would make the atmosphere tense and explaining would only confirm what Xiaoshi had thought she meant. Gosh!

Lanni cleared her throat. "With four bodyguards/fairy godfriends, Luna will definitely charm the socks off Mr. Jiang tonight."

The atmosphere was a little less awkward so they made their way to the store.

The most active duo was undoubtedly Lanni and Luna.

"That's my design!"

"I chose it first."

"No, I chose it first."

"Fine, let's take one each but in different colors."

"Okay!"

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"Didn't we agree on different colors?! You copied me!" Came the battle again.

"No, you copied me. I chose red first."

At the side, Xiaoshi raised her eyebrows at the battling sisters and glanced at Cheng Yu beside her. "Why are they fighting?"

Cheng Yu facepalmed and shook her head.. Could those two be any less childish? "It's not like their boyfriends will know it if they are wearing the same lingerie."