

Chapter 411 - The Recipient

"It's still in the library of the Old Ji Mansion."

Lanni thought about it and suggested, "Let's go and have dinner with your parents tomorrow."

Her intention was obvious, and it had been long since his parents saw her. Naturally, they would be jubilant.

Hence, the following day, Xiehan picked her up from work and they went to the Ji Mansion together.

That evening, Xiehan and Lanni were not the only guests.

Uncle Yun had wanted to catch up with Ji Huifen so he dragged his wife along. Since they were Xiehan's parents after all, Ji Meiling put behind their conflicts and agreed to dine with them.

However, neither Ji Meiling nor Wen Lin was comfortable with each other's presence. It was not unexpected. Back then, a battle had threatened to break out when Ji Meiling insisted that she would take his nephew back with her. She had almost fallen out with her brother as well, and it was only when their late mother intervened that she was able to take Xiehan away. As a result, she and Wen Lin no longer saw eye to eye.

To prevent the awkwardness, Ji Huifen talked about Xiehan—a common topic for all of them.

"You rarely bring my daughter-in-law back. Are you trying to make sure I'm bored to death?" Wen Lin complained unhappily.

Xiehan grinned. "Isn't she here now?"

The woman was not pacified. "Who knows how long it will take for you to think about me again."

Ji Huifen butted in, "How about the two of you have a baby?"

Lanni choked on the water she was drinking while Xiehan coughed. "Father..."

"If the two of you are too busy, we can help you take care of him." He offered.

Before the couple could respond, Ji Meiling interrupted. "No way! Can you take care of a child?"

Everyone was shocked by her words, but she didn't think she had said anything wrong. She glanced at her brother and her sister-in-law. "If you cannot even take care of your own child, how will you be able to take care of someone else's baby?"

"Ji Meiling!" Wen Lin roared.

Ji Meiling glanced at her indifferently. "Am I lying? Even after your son was taken away, you did not learn your lesson. How did you bring up your daughter?"

Wen Lin was so angry that she wanted to rip the other woman into pieces. "It is not up to you how I bring my children!"

"Of course. It is up to society." Ji Meiling scoffed. "Your daughter turned out as a criminal. It's not you who is going to suffer but the people she schemes against. And whose fault is that if not yours?"

Ji Huifen felt a headache coming on. "Meiling, that's enough."

"No it's not. She will never acknowledge her mistakes if no one points it out. Let me ask this, since Ji Feifei was imprisoned, have you ever visited her as her mother?"

She didn't need to ask. With Wen Lin's personality, the response was predictable.

She shook her head and turned to her brother. "I guess you didn't visit her either? Do you realize that some people turn into criminals just because they lack parental love? I'm not saying that Feifei is not in the wrong, but as her parents, how can you completely abandon her? Are you even human?"

Are you going to pretentiously claim that you were afraid that you would be lenient if you saw her miserable state?" She read their minds with a sneer. "If you cannot bear to punish your child for committing such grave crimes, how do you qualify to be parents?"

Ji Huifen and his wife were ashamed of her words. Although she was harsh, none of what she said was false. They had already failed to fulfill their responsibility and Ji Feifei turned out the way she did. They didn't even realize the kind of person their daughter was until she hurt many innocent girls. After that, they should have paid more attention to her, but it had been months since they last saw her.

At the side, Lanni rubbed Xiehan's hand under the table. She knew that he was conflicted. On one side was his biological parents who loved him. On the other side was his aunt and uncle, who had loved and taken care of him like their own son for years. It was no different from being caught in between two mothers, both of whom he loved. It was hard to speak without seeming like he was taking sides.

Luckily, Ji Meiling calmed down after stating all the things that had been pent up in her heart for years.

After dinner, the Yun couple went back to Xiehan's mansion while Lanni and Xiehan decided to stay over for the night.

In Xiehan's room, Lanni studied her boyfriend as he tempered with the surveillance cameras on the corridors. "Are we really going to sneak around? We can just tell your parents the truth...?"

The man paused his movements and shook his head.

She instantly understood. "You want to tell them the truth when everything is clear?"

He nodded. "That, and the fact that everyone is currently a suspect."

Of course, it would not make any sense for Ji Huifen or Wen Lin to switch their own child and scheme against their own family. However, the more people found out about this matter, the higher the chances would be for the mysterious supporter to find out their whereabouts. Most importantly, he did not wish for anyone else to live in fear.

Lanni nodded at his reasoning and waited for his signal. When he was done, he led her to the library, which was on the fourth floor. It occupied the entire floor and although it had three entrances, it was continuous.

She was awed. "How huge."

With a library this big, it was impossible for one to be unable to find any kind of books. She didn't realize before that there was anyone in the Ji family with this kind of hobby.

As though reading her mind, he explained, "It was my grandpa's. He had strictly forbidden anyone from coming to the fourth floor. Although he is no longer with us, the family still follows this rule."

Lanni nodded in understanding. "No wonder they were sneaking in."

It was like a whole other dimension with antique shelves filled with endless books. On the walls were beautiful landscape paintings, some of which she had only heard of but never seen in real life. There was even a century-old painting which was said to have been the masterpiece of Cedric's great great grandfather, who was a legend of his era.

She held back her interest in art pieces and looked around for more relevant things. Xiehan retrieved the old letter and gave it to her.

It was clearer now that she was holding the original version. She looked through the browned, dog-eared letter and directly went for the sign she had thought was familiar.

However, it was as though her brain was locked. No matter how she thought about it, she couldn't seem to remember where she saw it.

The only thing she could think of at the moment was, "Is the matter related to your grandpa? He must have been the recipient of this letter, after all."

The man looked at her from the book he was going through. "That's possible. However, he was not the only one who accessed this library."

"He is not?" Lanni was puzzled. Since there was a rule, why would anyone else access it?

The man shook his head. "There is a fingerprint lock on all the doors. No one can come in even if they want to. We only accessed it because I cracked it earlier."

Lanni raised an eyebrow. "Fingerprint sensors didn't exist twenty years ago."

She finally understood why he thought that someone else had access to the library. It could be whoever installed the fingerprint lock.

"I'm certain that it was definitely not my grandma either. She had no interest in art. But that..." He pointed at a painting of a mountain on the wall. "That's your mother's. I saw her painting it stroke by stroke when I was a kid. However, my grandpa was no longer with us. So, I suspect that my dad has been coming here. The letter must be addressed to him and he must have kept it here so no one would ever find it."

"It may have some important information." She speculated. If not, then Ji Huifen would have torn or burnt it. He would not keep it in a place where it was still possible to retrieve it.

The man was looking out through the window, his blue eyes deep with emotion.

She carefully suggested, "I have an idea. If I recognize this sign, then there must be someone close to me who has seen it before."

Before he could remind her, she smiled. "I will not explain it to anyone. I will just let them coincidentally see it."

He doubted that it would work, but it was better than a dead end. "Go ahead."

Receiving his permission, she made a call on the spot. "Hello, is this EFW? I would like to order a custom-made bracelet."

Xiehan smiled when he heard her.. How smart.

Chapter 412 - Twilight

After giving the details of the kind of bracelet she wanted, Lanni sent a picture and asked for the strange sign to be embedded onto it. After that, she smiled. "Now, all I have to do is wear the bracelet often. If anyone has seen the sign before, they will definitely ask about it."

Xiehan thought about her method speechlessly. Although it was slow, it was much better than randomly asking everyone if they had seen it before. The latter method would only work if they were willing to explain everything, which was not the best thing to do at the moment.

"Meanwhile, I will help Ji Feifei get out of prison." He declared out of the blue.

She looked up at him in shock. "Since when did you become such a loving brother? Unless you..."

"It's hard to investigate her when she is not in my line of sight. The only way to keep watch is to keep her within my radius. Don't worry, I will not let her do anything out of line." The latter statement was a reassurance to her. They both knew the kind of feelings Ji Feifei harbored for him.

Lanni withdrew her gaze. "I know. I'm not worried about that."

He closed in on her and raised her chin. "Really? But you are giving me that look."

She closed her eyes for a second. "I'm just... nervous."

She was afraid of what might happen if they failed to find out the truth and retaliate in time. Would Xiehan be in danger?

Understanding what she was worried about, he pulled her into his arms and rubbed her back soothingly. "It's okay. I will not be in danger."

Reassured, she nodded and leaned against his chest.

"Let's get out of here." Now that they knew that Ji Huifen could access the library, it meant that their presence could be discovered. She nodded and took a picture of a painting on their way out.

After leaving the library, he wiped out all traces of their presence before they went to sleep.

In the next few days, no one noticed a thing about Lanni's bracelet. It was just as expected. She simply hoped that there was someone who would recognize it, but she was not entirely sure about it. Although she was not too hopeful, she was still disappointed.

However, something else happened and caused a stir online.

It was not sure who started it, but a bunch of youngsters started cursing Luna online.

[So what if she is a genius? She is merely a school dropout.]

[She has the audacity to say it in an interview. She even sounded like she was proud of it. Urgh... I'm so disgusted.]

There were even a few 'mothers' who spoke up.

[A business interview is supposed to be inspirational and encouraging. By publicising a school dropout with poor moral values, what are you trying to do? Are you trying to tell youngsters that they should follow her bad example?]

[She is pregnant at such a tender age. Girls her age should be focusing on their education! How immoral!]

[I heard young master Jiang was initially engaged to another girl but she seduced him and blackmailed him with a baby, so he had to break up and get engaged to her instead. So vicious at a young age!]

[Who knows if the baby is really Jiang Xingyu's? Such shameless women can do anything to marry into wealthy families. The Xia family isn't doing that well anymore, anyway.]

Lanni was infuriated when she read these comments. Someone was tired of living. From the focus of these comments, it was obvious that someone had started the thread with a malicious intent, and that person was also controlling the comments. There was no single person who had stood up for Luna. Or perhaps, there may be a few, but their comments must have been deleted.

What was more puzzling was that Luna had not deleted the post. She could do that in seconds. However, it was a good thing that she hadn't. It would be better to find out who the thread starter was.

While Lanni looked through the information, the site suddenly closed down. She was about to conclude that Xiehan or Luna was at work when she realized that it was not hacked. It was just a new comment

and it had shot to popularity so fast that the website almost couldn't stand the influx of new replies and likes.

She checked it curiously and found that it was a new comment by a user called [Twilight05.]

[One look and it's clear that this thread is full of brainless fools.

So what if a girl did not complete her college studies? Does that make her less respectable? Did you try to find out why she could not go on? Let's not mention the unfortunate circumstances that can force a student out of school. Of course, a genius of her level does not need school. It's degrading to her IQ to be in the same class as ordinary people.

Immoral? Seduced an engaged man? Get your brain checked. The whole world knows that she is his first girlfriend. don't yap nonsense or we will start to think that she ruined your daughters' chances of being with such an outstanding man. Also, she is an adult. It's up to her when she wants to have kids. What does it have to do with you, is she carrying your baby?

Latched onto a powerful man? Please. Does Li Yuming's daughter need to marry into wealth?

I hope your daughters are trolled and harassed. See if you still dare to point fingers at an innocent young woman.]

Lanni was stunned when she read the post. She read it several times over, and repeated the third phrase about ten times. Does Li Yuming's daughter need to marry into wealth? Li Yuming's daughter?

She was not surprised that someone would term Luna as Li Yuming's daughter, since many people now knew that they were sisters. What shocked her was that... Twilight05 was Li Yuming's pen name!

She would have thought that it was probably a fan of Li Yuming's who had used the same nickname to match their idol, but when she saw the explosive reaction from Li Yuming's fans, she knew that this was really her mother's account.

Why would she speak up for Luna? She even acknowledged their mother-daughter relationship!

She smiled and directly called Li Yuming to ask about it.

In the end, the latter's response made her regret asking.

"Everyone knows that she is your sister. If her reputation is tarnished, you will be dragged in the mud along with her. The rumors might affect me too, I'm only doing it for us."

Lanni sighed and hung up. She had long accepted that it was a lost cause.

On the bright side, the tide had changed following Li Yuming's comment. There were new comments expressing their support.

[School dropout or not, I love Little Moon! Ps: I'm still waiting for "Demons Vs Gods".]

[What insane nonsense! All you haters are just jealous of Luna. Don't make me start listing all the geniuses and tycoons who did not graduate from high school.]

[Twilight is right. The thread starter must be bitter because their daughter was rejected by Xingyu.]

In the end, the thread was reported by many users so it was deleted. However, it proved a point. Someone was trying to target Luna.

Could it be a competitor who wanted to strike her down before Moonlight Studios got too famous? Was it someone who was seeking revenge for a personal grudge?

Just as she thought about it, a new piece of news popped up from Moonlight Studios' official website. "Demons Vs Gods" had been released!

Excited, she finished her work at lightning speed and prepared to install it. There was a mobile version as well as a computer version, so she installed it both on her phone and her laptop. It was lunch hour so no one would mind her playing in her office.

She was stunned when she looked the game up. Tens of thousands of downloads in just a few hours? Just how many people were waiting for this game? It seemed like they would save up a lot on marketing.

Thinking about this, she installed the game and created an account.

The game was romance-action themed and suited both men and women. There were two modes; story mode and battle mode. The story mode was no different from a simulation, where one would create their own character and 'live' the tale of the game.

In battle mode, one would choose their type of character which could be a demon, a human or a god. They could be a solo fighter or form teams, but one could only team up with their own kind. Every few hours, an anonymous treasure chest would be released. The players had to fight their way to the source and find it, then safely return to their own camp. Points were awarded for every hit and kill, and the treasure would usually contain experience points, diamonds or weapons which would be shared among the members of the team who got it.. Of course, a team was allowed to 'steal' the treasure chest from another team before it was opened.

Chapter 413 - The Moon's Only Star

After thinking about it, she decided to be a demoness. It was impossible to change a character unless one created another account. The advantage of being an immortal was that after attaining a certain level, one would no longer need to borrow power from the in-game immortals during battles. They would gain their own power.

She was surprised to find that there was already a fierce battle going on. A treasure chest had been announced a few minutes ago. Although a team of humans had been the ones to find it, it was currently in the hands of demons, and was at risk of being snatched away by goddesses.

She laughed and created a username, then sent a message to the game.

[Does anyone need a teammate?]

Almost instantly, two demonesses and a demon were beside her. It was a full team so they joined in the battle.

However, since they were all new to the game, they were struck down before they could even move a few steps. After restarting a few times, they were more used to the game, so they played for longer.

The game chatroom was blowing with activity as several players earned enough experience points to rank highly on the leader board. Their usernames made one speechless.

[I rule the leaderboard. Bite me.]

Lanni burst into laughter. Why did that arrogant name sound like something Lin Jian would choose?

There were crazier ones like [Grandmaster of leaderboard legends] and [The moon's little star.]

When Lanni saw the top player's name, she couldn't hold back her laughter. [The moon's ONLY star]. When she saw that [the moon's little star] had disappeared, it couldn't be any more obvious. Xingyu had just gotten rid of a rival and declared dominance while at it.

The jealous man even sent a message into the game.

[The Moon's ONLY star: Luna is mine!] The message was obvious. One could use Luna's name if they wished, but that was only if they were tired of living.

After that, he fought battles in a row and managed to snag the top position on the leaderboard. As if competing with him, [I rule the leaderboard. Bite me.] made sure to come second, proving that he was

indeed Lin Jian. It made one wonder just how idle these CEOs were. Didn't they usually have countless meetings to attend every day?

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The feedback for the game was excellent. It was almost as though everyone was playing and enjoying it. Within the first day, it was clear that "Demons Vs Gods" was going to be popular.

In the evening when Xiehan picked her up, Lanni asked whether he was playing the game too. In the end, she was baffled at his username. [L'homme du soleil]? What did that even mean? She knew that it must be a French term but she didn't understand what it meant.

She looked up at him curiously.

Grinning flirtatiously, he leaned over and explained, "Your in-game username is "Little sun."

"Yeah...so?" She was still confused. She had only decided on this nickname because she saw her sister's "Little moon".

He glanced at her like she was slow-witted. "If Xingyu's name is "The moon's only star, what is mine?"

"The sun's star? No, that doesn't make any sense. The sun's... man?" She guessed as her heart picked up its pace. When she saw him nodding, her cheeks flushed. Why was her man so cute?

"Did anyone ask about the bracelet?" He asked as he sped along the highway.

She sighed in disappointment and shook her head. "I'm still convinced that someone will."

He looked at her but didn't say anything that might dim her hope. He was currently making arrangements for Ji Feifei to be set free.

"Can you drop me off at my dad's villa? He called me over for dinner."

He nodded and switched the lane at a roundabout.

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Xia Hanchen was overjoyed when Lanni walked in while holding Xiehan's hand. He had called his daughters over for dinner and did not expect that not only would they both come, but they would bring his sons-in-law while at it.

"Come in!" He jovially led them to the living room.

Xingyu frowned when he saw his friend. "You traitor. So this is what you have been doing!"

"What have I done?" Xiehan was puzzled as he sat on the couch with Lanni beside him.

Xingyu looked like he had been dealt a blow. "You pretended to be busy recently when you have been secretly coming over to spend time with our father-in-law. Do you think you will become the favorite son-in-law by doing that?"

"Uh..." Lanni was speechless. That was a thing too?

Xiehan ignored his grumbling friend and started catching up with Xia Hanchen. Of course, he wanted to be in his father-in-law's good books. If not, would Xia Hanchen trust him to take care of his precious daughter?

Because both of his darlings were home, Xia Hanchen was excited. "I'll make dinner for..."

"No, don't!" Luna yelled reflexively, startling the three of them. When she saw their baffled looks, she giggled with a hand over her mouth. "If he cooks for us, we will know that he is happy because his daughters and sons-in-law are back. However, those who don't know will think that he is angry and doling out revenge."

The three of them finally understood. So, he didn't know how to cook.

"Why don't I cook? It's been long since I cooked." Xiehan rolled his sleeves and stood up.

Seeing him, Xingyu frowned bitterly. He was doing it on purpose! He was sure that Xiehan had been spending a lot of time cooking for Lanni and his skills must have improved by leaps and bounds. He was going to use this chance to please Xia Hanchen!

What a coincidence, he had been cooking for Luna too. He would definitely outshine him. He rolled his sleeves too. "I'll go too."

Xia Hanchen laughed at their dramatics. "The three of you stay here and munch on snacks. I'll show the guys around the kitchen."

Luna chuckled at the show that was about to unfold. "They're so childish."

Lanni laughed and made herself comfortable, then tied her hair into a bun so it would not be a bother. When she raised her hand, her bracelet came into clear view. Luna saw it and was a little surprised. "How pretty! Is this from EFW? Is it custom-made?"

Lanni smiled and looked at her. "Yes it is, but how would you know?"

"Just a guess. It's the brand you like most and you prefer bespoke pieces." She took Lanni's hand and examined it. "It's so unique and..."

The word "beautiful" hung on her lips.

Lanni saw her puzzled expression and felt tensed for some reason. "Luna, is something wrong?"

"Of course something is wrong! How could you and dad get father-daughter jewelry and not include me?"

"Huh? Father-daughter jewelry? What are you talking about?" Lanni was baffled.

"Is it a coincidence?" Luna mumbled softly, looking relieved. "Makes sense. You cannot get different pieces of the same set so many years apart. Is it just a coincidence?"

Seeing her sister's shocked look, she explained, "Dad had a watch when we were young. I remember it because it was his most treasured watch. On its face, there was this sign." She pointed at the strange sign on Lanni's bracelet. "However, I don't see him wearing it anymore. It must have gotten too aged or perhaps, it's ruined."

Though the latter was almost impossible based on the quality of the watch.

Lanni was puzzled when she heard her sister's words. It turned out, it was her father's watch. Could it be that she had seen that watch before, and that was why she found the sign familiar?

Although it didn't sound very plausible, it was the only clue she currently had.

Under the guise of going to drink water, she found her dad in the kitchen and casually asked, "Dad, I remember you had a treasured watch before. I don't see it anymore."

Xia Hanchen was visibly stunned, but he laughed. "Are you trying to make me give it to you? Sorry, it was a gift from a friend. I wouldn't let you have it."

"Friend...what friend?"

While Xiehan and Xingyu were busy preparing ingredients to cook, he responded with an indifferent smile. "Flynn's father."

"Wait, what? You know his..." She shook her head. "No, the point is, Flynn is an orphan." Or at least that was what he had claimed before.

Xia Hanchen raised an eyebrow. "Is that what he told you? Turns out he doesn't trust you too much."

"Dad..." She complained.

He sighed. "Since he didn't tell you, it's not in my place to mention it. Anyway, after spending some time with him, I found out that his dad is actually someone I'm very familiar with."

Lanni nodded and didn't ask anymore. At least she had a clearer clue now. Flynn's father would definitely have a clue. Perhaps, he even knew the meaning of the words on the letter.

Trying to push her luck, she raised her bracelet to him and asked, "Do you know what this means?"

Xia Hanchen was a little puzzled. However, it was not time to ask questions yet, so he merely responded, "This is a signature.. Flynn's father's."

Chapter 414 - It's Mine

Lanni sunk into thought. Should she ask about Flynn's father? However, it may arouse too much suspicion and she was not ready to explain yet, so she decided to let it be. She would investigate it later.

"I think it's my turn to ask questions now." Xia Hanchen smiled and left the kitchen.

Exchanging glances with Xiehan who had been secretly listening, she followed him out. He turned as though to confirm whether she was following him and asked, "Why are you so curious about my watch? Also, why did you make a similar bracelet?"

"Uh... I just liked it." It wouldn't turn out to have some strange meaning, right? She felt that her father's gaze was weird. What if it turned out to be the sign of some forbidden organization, and she had claimed herself as part of it by wearing this bracelet?

She laughed at her own exaggerated thoughts. If it was related to some organization, her father would have definitely known about it, and he would warn her.

When he heard his response, he nodded and said nothing more about it. Even so, he tapped her shoulder slightly. "Even though Flynn is your friend and his father was a good friend of mine, the agency he is affiliated with is not one you can fool around with. Don't go poking your nose where it does not belong."

"I will not ask him anything." She was embarrassed that her intention had been discovered so easily. It was only natural that Xia Hanchen was against her having anything to do with Galaxis, considering what they had done to them before.

Hearing her response, he patted her head in satisfaction. As they talked, they arrived in the living room where Luna was going through a beauty magazine leisurely.

The guys soon finished cooking and set the dining table with a lavish spread of dishes. The aroma of the attractive-looking dishes was so alluring that their stomachs grumbled.

Xia Hanchen nodded in satisfaction when he tasted the dishes. Of course, aristocratic families usually had servants and chefs. However, he knew that most women would be pleased if their men personally cooked for them. When he saw each of them fondly serving dishes for the girls, He was pleased knowing that his daughters would be in the hands of men who genuinely cared for them.

He watched the peaceful atmosphere and asked, "Lanni, have you ever thought of changing your surname?"

Lanni paused in her movements. "Huh?"

Not just Lanni, the other three at the table were shocked too. They instantly understood what Xia Hanchen meant, but they were so taken aback that it felt as though they could not comprehend a word.

"Your surname was originally Xia. You are a daughter of the Xia family. Would you like to change your surname back to what it should be?" He asked again, explaining it more clearly this time.

"Well..." Lanni was so stunned that she couldn't say a word. While she did know that her surname was originally Xia, she had never thought too much about it. She was perplexed now that he mentioned it.

"I will let you think about it." Xia Hanchen eased into a smile.

"No, dad. I..." Lanni knew that it would only be more difficult if she let it drag on, so she immediately shook her head. "I can't. I'm sorry."

Although she liked the fact that she had reunited with her dad, she didn't want to completely ruin her relationship with her mother and changing her surname might do just that. Her mother had doted on her for so long after all. Even though there were things they did not agree on lately, it would be unfair to do something that might hurt her feelings even further.

"I understand." Xia Hanchen was visibly disappointed but he did not push it in fear of making his princess unhappy.

A long pause of silence followed. Luna spoke up to ease the atmosphere, "Lanni, do you mind accompanying me to the gynecologist tomorrow?"

Xingyu was baffled. "But we were..."

"I remember, your assistant mentioned something about you having to attend an emergency meeting in City H tomorrow?" Luna interrupted with a glare.

"Yes." Xingyu swallowed his grief and watched from the sidelines as his sister-in-law snatched what was initially his role.

"I'll take the day off tomorrow." Lanni took out her phone to send an email to her boss. Since she had never taken a day off work before, and since she had always been efficient, she would be granted one easily.

"At what time is your appointment? We can go to shop for some toys after leaving the hospital." Lanni suggested. She had a feeling that Luna wanted to talk about something else as well.

However, Luna shook her head. "I cannot take the whole day off. Moonlight Studios is still in its..."

Before she could complete her statement, Xingyu gave her a stern look. "Are you trying to overwork yourself again? Have you forgotten your main role?"

She was startled by his tone, then her eyes drooped. "I won't do it again..."

Seeing her pitiful demeanor, he was unable to continue scolding her so he rubbed her head. "Just take tomorrow off, okay? I will help you handle matters at the company. Over the weekend, I will take you somewhere fun."

"Really?" She brightened up and leaned against his arm.

It was no longer surprising that Xingyu treated Luna like a little girl, even using such things as a trip to coax her. What was still shocking was that around Xingyu, Luna acted like any other girl who was deeply in love with her man. After watching this forceful display of affection, Xia Hanchen felt stuffed. After dinner, he insisted on having both of his daughters stay over for the night and shoed the sons-in-law off before they had a chance to retaliate.

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After watching a movie together, Xia Hanchen led his daughters to their room on the second floor. He pushed open a door leading to one of the three humongous rooms in the villa. It was styled simply with light yet refreshing tones and had two large, regal beds that were only a few feet apart.

"I thought you would want to sleep in the same room. If not, one of you can go to the next room, they are identical." He explained as they walked in.

"A sleepover doesn't sound like a bad idea." Lanni bounced onto the bed on the left while Luna carefully sat beside her.

"I don't hate the idea too much either. I'll just have to put up with her for the night." Luna looked like she was at a loss.

"Hey! I'm the one putting up with you!" Lanni complained, though she knew that her sister was joking.

"If so, then go to the other room."

"Nope. I like this one better."

"Then go to the other bed."

"Nope. I like this one better. And I sat here first, so it's mine."

"I'm the elder sister, so it's mine."

At the door, Xia Hanchen burst into laughter, his lips curling in pride. This kind of scene should have happened years ago when the twins were still kids. However, they didn't have time to grow up together, much less bicker over such petty things.

He didn't expect much but he had long prepared a room for them and had been waiting for the opportunity to let them stay together. Seeing them come to an agreement and decide to sleep on the same bed, he let out the breath he had been holding. It seemed like they really were in good terms. They were not acting it out for the sake of not worrying him.

As soon as Xia Hanchen left, Luna glared daggers at her sister. "What have you been hiding from me?"

Lanni froze. She knew that she couldn't hide it forever. However, she really couldn't talk about it. She was at a loss. "There's nothing. I just..."

"I see. I'll go to sleep first then." Luna shrugged and turned off the bedside lamp, lying in bed.

Lanni peeked at her using the faint, blue light from the colored floor lamp at a corner. "Are you mad at me?"

Luna turned to her side and nodded in displeasure. "I know it when you are anxious, nervous, distressed and scared. I can feel it, you know. Yet, you won't tell me what's troubling you. You won't let me help you. If I can't help you, then what's my use as a sister?"

Lanni was rendered speechless. She took a deep breath to still the rush of emotions. "Luna, it's not that I don't want to tell you about it. I just can't...yet."

Before the latter could retaliate, she added, "You have so many things to take care of now, and you are pregnant. I don't want to selfishly put your life and that of the baby in danger. Besides, this matter is not directly related to me.. I'm just helping out."

Chapter 415 - A Couple Made In Heaven

Luna was unhappy about not being of any help but what Lanni said made sense. She could only nod unwillingly. "If there's anything I can do to help, promise me that you'll tell me about it."

"I will." Lanni promised. In actual fact, there were things that would be much easier if they had Luna's help. Even so, she didn't want to involve her unless they had to.

The following day, Xia Hanchen made breakfast for the girls. While they ate, he expressed his understanding regarding the previous day's topic. "I know that you are scared that if you changed your surname, your mother would be sad. Perhaps she might even do something that might ruin your relationship. But Lanni, if she loves you, she should stop being so selfish. She should let you do what you want."

Lanni paused in her movements and he continued, "It's not just about this matter. Lanni, if you ever want to do anything but are afraid that she would not support you, I want you to know that daddy will always be on your side."

Luna didn't say anything to comment about it, since the relationship between her and Li Yuming was already so strained.

Lanni couldn't deny his words. She had to admit that Li Yuming was indeed a bit selfish at times. If not, they would never have had an argument about her career, she would not have made Lanni believe that she was an artist, and Lanni would not have to do a minor online course in the field that she wanted. Hence, she was glad that her father didn't think the same way. "Thanks dad."

Soon after breakfast, the girls made their way to the gynecological hospital.

The report was out sooner than they thought, and Luna hugged it happily like it was her baby.

Lanni smiled. The gynecologist had concluded that the baby was in good health, but she had reminded Luna to be more careful of her health and not work too hard.

Lanni pulled her to a bench and sat her down before lecturing her. "Luna, aside from being the CEO of Moonlight Studio's, you are also part of the software production team. Don't forget that you are someone's fiancée as well as a mother too. How can you take care of all these tasks on your own? You have to take breaks sometimes. Take care of yourself."

Luna reclined onto her sister's shoulder as she sighed. "You are starting to sound like Xingyu and auntie."

Those two had been taking turns nagging her every other day. Jiang Xingren even wanted her to take a break from work for a few months.

"If you don't do what you should be doing, of course we will nag you." Lanni pinched her cheek.

Luna was about to say something when she suddenly stopped and stared in a direction. "What is she doing here?"

Lanni followed her gaze and when she saw Li Yuming, she was surprised too.

At the same time, Li Yuming saw them and waved at them. They reflexively waved back, but still wondered why she was here.

"The point is, this is a gynecological hospital." Luna was even more puzzled.

Lanni shrugged. "Perhaps she is here for a friend?"

Luna nodded at the speculation then stood up. "It's not our business. Let's go and shop around."

Lanni stood up and cast one last glance in Li Yuming's direction then followed her sister out of the hospital. No matter how strange it seemed, it was indeed not their business.

Since Luna's stomach was becoming more obvious, it was no longer comfortable for her to wear normal clothes. They went to a store selling baby clothes and clothes for expectant women.

Luna tried on a few dresses before they went to the baby clothes' section.

Lanni held up a cute tiny white dress and felt her heart warm. "How adorable! It makes me almost want to have a baby."

Luna laughed and teased her. "That's not happening any time soon. Unless you are pregnant."

Lanni rolled her eyes at her taunt. "I can't be. Xiehan and I have always been careful."

"Accidents might happen." She lowered her voice to tease her intentionally.

In response, Lanni rolled her eyes and sighed. "Actually, I wouldn't mind that kind of accident happening."

Luna picked up a weird emotion in her tone. Why did she sigh so sadly? Was it because Xiehan was not ready? Though Lanni was probably not ready either. She was still a little too young after all.

As usual, they bought unisex clothes and toys for the baby, then they decided to have lunch.

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Today, Lanni and Luna were not the only ones shopping around.

Xiaoshi dragged Han Xichen around the mall and bought nothing in particular.

Since they made Uncle Yun believe that they were in a relationship, they had to make it look real. Han Xichen had a day off today. Coincidentally, Luna had given the software department two days off as a reward for the excellent feedback that the game had received. Hence, he brought her out for shopping and they deliberately took several pictures while at it.

The man's hands were full of shopping bags of different sizes as they entered a jewelry store.

As soon as they walked in, a middle-aged woman welcomed them with a sweet smile. "Hello, you look so beautiful together!"

Xiaoshi blushed when she heard the compliment. Because they were shopping together, everyone thought of them as a couple and complemented them for looking good together.

There was even a cute sales lady who recommended them a pair of couples bracelets and said that they were a couple made in heaven.

Han Xichen was more used to it, he led her to the waiting couch like a good boyfriend and took out his phone to show the sales lady pictures of necklaces. "Do you have these necklaces?"

"Yes. Give me a minute.." The sales lady went to bring them from the store.

Chapter 416 - Betrayal Of The Heart

"Is there anything else you would like?" He asked gently. His voice was soothing and alluring, make her heart feel like she was in a race.

She shook her head with her cheeks flushing. "N-no."

He nodded, then waited for the sales lady to bring the necklaces.

Once they were brought, he held up a fiery red ruby necklace and placed it around her neck. "It looks so beautiful on you. It accentuates the color of your eyes."

"Thank you." She touched the necklace as her eyes fluttered. They both knew that he was merely doing it to look like a real boyfriend. Why was she so flustered by his actions?

The main point was, the man she loved was Xingyu. Why was she so flustered under another man's fluttery? Why was her heart betraying her?

His fingers brushed against her skin as he helped her try on the other necklaces. Each time, it was as though she had been struck by electricity. She had to keep reminding herself that they were faking it to remain sane.

Initially, she had wanted to try on a few official clothes too. However, she could no longer stand it. She was almost going insane.

Of course, his compliments about her beauty were true. His urge to give her all the treasures in the world was also true. He just didn't know the kind of effect his gestures had on her.

Or perhaps...he knew.

He knew what would happen if he kept spending so much time with her. However, he was just being selfish. For some reason, he didn't want to part ways with her, which would have been the most appropriate thing to do. In actual fact, they had agreed to put up an act for a month and then find a believable reason to break up. However, there was still two weeks left but he was already starting to feel reluctant.

"Han... Dr. Han, I want to go home." She declared after getting the jewelry packed.

He looked at her curiously. "You don't want to get a new perfume anymore?"

She turned and widened her eyes in confusion as she looked at him. "How did you know that I wanted a new perfume?"

"You've been glancing longingly at the store across the street." He pointed out at a store that belonged to a famous perfume brand.

She inwardly gushed about how observant he was. Was there anything that missed his scrutiny? She shook her head when she thought about it. "That's YX. It's a century old brand and all their perfumes cost a fortune. I can't afford it."

For some strange reason, she couldn't make excuses around him. It was as though each of his questions was hypnotic, she would tell him the truth even if she didn't initially intend to do so. If she managed to lie, he would see right through her like a demon of sorts. Since she had already spilled the main idea, she shrugged and added, "I don't want to use my parents' money for everything. I plan to give myself a treat once I get my bonus income."

He glanced at her as she spoke, sounding like a young lady who was trying to be independent. His lips curled upwards. "I could buy you one."

She reflexively shook her head. "I don't need it anymore. I already have one from a different brand."

Although she said it with a smile, he knew that she was rejecting it because she didn't want to owe him anything when they were neither close nor supposed to be close.

He nodded and gave his card to complete the purchase. Since there was nothing wrong with a man buying gifts for his girlfriend, she didn't say anything against it. Later, she would return the money or give the necklaces back so he would give them to his sister or his real girlfriend.

At the thought of this, she couldn't help timidly asking, "Do you...have a girlfriend?"

He raised an eyebrow teasingly. "Aren't you my girlfriend? Babe, are you trying to deny me?"

Her ears flushed crimson and she jabbed him. "Be serious. You know what I'm asking. Stop giving me that look!"

He gave a low chuckle. "You asked this before and my answer was no."

"Oh..." Strangely, she was a little relieved.

She was yet to comment about it when he continued with a devilish smile, "But if you are willing to be my girlfriend, I will no longer be single."

"Stop joking around." She grabbed his hand and made him stand.

Leading him out, she kept some distance from him as she let her mind run wild. His car was parked some distance away so they had to walk for a while. While she focused on her inner thoughts, she didn't realize that she had trailed onto the car path, and a speeding car hooted at her.

"Careful!" He dropped the bags in one of his hands and grabbed her arm, pulling her to his side. She lost her footing from the shock and from his sudden pull, making her bump onto his chest. He checked her over to ensure she was alright before steadying her and picking up the fallen bags.

"How old are you? Don't you know how to walk carefully along the streets? You..."

She didn't hear the rest of his scolding. Her heart fluttered as she glanced at his eyes that looked so serious, and his lips that were moving in attempt to lecture her.

"Are you even listening?" His eyes squinted when he saw the silly smile on her small, pink lips.

She snapped and nodded as she blinked her eyes, but it was clear that she had probably not heard a single word. She must have left her brain in the jewelry store.

What was tragic, her silly look was so cute that it made him wonder what it would be like to have a little sister. Or perhaps, it would be better if he had a girlfriend instead.

He looked helpless. "Never mind." Moving all the bags to his right hand, she grabbed her small hand using his left and kept a close watch on her as they headed to his car.

Chapter 417 - Too Predictable.

Han Xichen opened the passenger door and helped Xiaoshi in, then he kept all the bags in the backseat before occupying the driver's seat.

The entire car ride was silent until they arrived at her apartment. As soon as the car stopped, she dashed out like her house was on fire. "Thanks for the ride, Dr. Han. I'll go up first!"

"You forgot something." He laughed and stepped out of the car.

"What?" She paused and looked at him curiously, then saw him opening the door to the backseat to reveal the colorful shopping bags. She scratched her head awkwardly. "These... I should give them back."

He raised an eyebrow. "You want me to wear them?"

"Of course not!" She was speechless at his attempt to act dumb. His tone was even so natural that it sounded as though he was seriously considering the idea. "I mean... It's already good enough to fake it. As for the gifts, you could give them to your sister."

He grinned at her idea. "My sisters are much older than me and are all married. They will beat me up if I do such a thing as give them clothes and jewelry that teenage girls and young women like."

She laughed, not daring to imagine the scene of Han Xichen getting beaten up. "Then... You can keep them. What if you meet a girl later, and she likes them? You can give it as a gift."

She thought her idea was perfect, but he looked aggrieved. "You want me to give to my girlfriend the things we used as props for our act?"

She was suddenly at a loss. "But they are so expensive. I can't simply take them..." She knew that the man would definitely not accept a refund.

"Why don't you take it as a friendly gift? If you still feel like it's too much, you can treat me to lunch."

By 'treating him to lunch', he meant that she should continue making him bentos whenever she had the time. He hoped that she would understand what he meant without needing him to say it out aloud. Luckily, she did.

She smiled as she asked, "What do you like to eat? I will make it for you tomorrow."

"I'll like whatever you cook." He answered without thinking through it. When he saw her widened eyes, he couldn't help pinching her cheeks and teasing her. "What I mean is that I'm not a picky eater. I don't have any food allergies—at least none that I know of. What are you thinking?"

"Oh... Nothing." She shook her head. His words sounded like what a man in love would say. 'I would eat anything as long as my love cooked it'. Was it her fault that she misunderstood his implication?

The man glanced at the shopping bags and decided that they were too many for her to carry on her own, so he picked them up. "What's your unit?"

"Uhm...20. It's on the 6th floor." She followed him into the elevator nervously. When they arrived, she opened the door with slightly trembling hands.

Ever since she moved into her apartment, she didn't have many visitors. Aside from the cleaning staff, Xiehan had dropped by a few times to check on her and fill her fridge. Her dad had only been here once...

To put it simply, this was the first time that she was letting a man who was not her relative into her apartment and it was strange. What was more strange was that she didn't feel uncomfortable about it.

After placing the bags on the couch, Han Xichen didn't intend to overstay his welcome. He straightened his sleeve and turned to leave. "I'll ask the staff at the reception to let you into my office when you come. You don't have to stand in the parking lot and wait for me."

She nodded, though it didn't make much difference whether she waited in the parking lot or in his office. His routine was so strict that she could almost always know what time to appear in the parking lot. However, he might have to handle an emergency and be late. In that case, it would be more convenient to access his office.

That evening, Lanni reported her progress to Xiehan.

"It turns out, Flynn's parents are alive. I don't know why he would lie to me, but that doesn't make him a suspect yet. He is too young to have done anything significant twenty years ago. On the other hand, I have a bad feeling about his father."

Xiehan pulled her onto his lap and showed her the content on his laptop screen. "I overheard your conversation with your dad and started digging up. On the twentieth of every month, he would come to B City and leave on the twenty-second. However, in October, he would stay for a little longer and leave on the twenty-sixth."

"I didn't know Flynn was this predictable." Lanni found it baffling when she saw the dated travel and hotel records. He had always struck her as a smart and sneaky person.

Xiehan raised an eyebrow. "As long as it is something that happens often, there is bound to be a pattern. My guess is that during these trips, he came to visit someone he cares about—and it's very likely for that person to be his father."

She thought the speculation made sense, but, "The point is, Flynn is German. Shouldn't his dad be German?"

"That doesn't mean he cannot live in B City for many years. Besides, he looks mixed to me. Look at this." He pointed at the records for the past two years.

"His last routine visit was two years ago. A day after he returned to Germany, a huge dent appeared in his bank account. Something must have happened to his dad at the time, making him spend a lot of money. He stopped coming to B City routinely, but this proves one thing; his dad is indeed suspicious. I couldn't find his records."

Lanni rubbed his arm. "It's already impressive that you could find so much." Flynn had the backing of Galaxis, after all.

"It's a huge clue." He agreed.

"Do you think he could be the mysterious supporter?" She asked.

"So far, we have only proved that he is the sender of that letter. We still don't know what it means." Although that was what he said, he was almost fully convinced that the sender of that letter was the culprit behind everything. After all, the only noticeable strange thing about the past was that letter. Everything else seemed to be normal, and it would have been impossible to prove that Ji Feifei was not a child of the Ji family if Lanni did not play tricks.

The other party must have lackeys in B City and this made their work easier.

Lanni was in deep thought. "Actually, there's a way to translate that letter."

"No way." He rejected her suggestion without having to hear it. Before she could protest, he added, "Honey, I know you are trying to help me out; but I can't let you seek that creepy man for any reason."

"But if his father wrote it, he might know what language it is. Perhaps, he might understand it too." She insisted.

He raised an eyebrow at her. "How many of Flynn's words can be trusted?"

She thought of something and let out a smile. "All of them, if there is something in it for him."

Before he could forbid her from using herself as bait, she caressed his hair. "Aside from helping you figure things out, this is actually quite fun."

She didn't know when it started but recently, she had been looking forward to finishing her work fast so she would continue trying to find more pieces of the puzzle. It was like playing a mystery game, only that this was real life and failure to resolve the mystery or alerting the enemy might result in death.

Since it involved her own amusement, he didn't say anything against it anymore. He gave her the picture of the letter and forcefully gave Flynn a video call by hacking his computer.

In a few seconds, the man's face appeared on the screen.

"This style of a 'grand' video call is Luna's style. However, Luna wouldn't be sitting on Xiehan's lap so you should be Lanni." He analyzed.

"Stop pretending to be unable to tell us apart." She wanted to give him a slap through the screen. She had long realized that apart from the people closest to them, he seemed to know them too well.

Being exposed, he laughed. "What's up? Did you miss me? Did you finally decide to come back?"

"In your dreams. I only need..."

Lanni suddenly stopped speaking as her gaze focused on the calendar behind Flynn. She gathered herself and calmly asked, "Flynn, where are you?"

"Galaxis." He answered in one word, as though she was asking a stupid question.

"Okay. It's hard to communicate this way, I'll give you a phone call." She hung up immediately. She then tilted her head and asked the man behind her, "Did you see it?"

He shook his head. She was in front of him. He only noticed that she must have seen something shocking but was unable to follow her gaze.

She was still in shock. "It's the sign... I remember it now. It's the official seal of Galaxis as well as the signature of the Big Boss.

This means that Flynn's dad... is the Big Boss of Galaxis."

She seemed to understand something. "No wonder he lied about his parents being dead."

Chapter 418 - A Warning

Afraid that Flynn would find it odd if she took too long, she took her phone and hurriedly gave him a call. Since she had already found out the identity of his father, she was no longer in a hurry to send him the letter.

On one hand, it was because she knew how loyal Flynn was to Galaxis. She was not confident that he would help her out. On the other hand, she now suspected that the bizarre letter was written in a code language exclusive to Galaxis. Since she was a former trainee at Galaxis Academy, it was likely that she had learnt it too. However, it was just a suspicion. She couldn't entirely rely on remembering it.

When he answered the call, she thought about it and asked, "Will you be in B City any time soon?"

"If you ask me to come, I will be there as soon as you need me." He responded in the tone of a lackey answering to his boss.

"Then get on the next flight to B City." Lanni demanded, thinking that he was definitely kidding. However, the man chuckled softly and said, "Got it." He then hung up.

Lanni looked at her phone in disbelief. "That was too easy. Why do I feel like I'm falling into a trap?"

"He probably wants your help with something but he has been unable to convince you, so he is going to use this chance to his advantage." He couldn't forget how earnestly Flynn had tried to lure Lanni back to Galaxis. "If he asks for anything you don't want to do, I'll shove him onto the first flight to Germany."

Lanni chuckled at his protective tone. "Don't worry. I will not let myself be at a disadvantage. Take care of Ji Feifei and leave this to me."

"I'm more or less done. Ji Feifei will be set free in about a week." He announced proudly, as though waiting for praise. She giggled and ran a hand through his soft hair. "My baby has worked hard."

He enjoyed the praise as he hugged her. "Aren't you going to reward me?"

She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed his lips.

...

The following morning, Flynn had arrived and he asked to meet Lanni in a café.

Xiehan would never completely trust that man so he accompanied Lanni to meet him.

The man ran his hand through his hair that was in a ponytail and yawned as he looked at her. "I rushed over for you. It better be something important."

Lanni, who was sitting opposite him, smiled and raised an eyebrow at him. "You have always disregarded me and treated me like a spoilt princess who had no business discussing anything with you. How could you say you rushed over for me? The reason you are here so fast is because you want something from me, right?"

Flynn shot a provoking glance at Xiehan then held his chin in his hand as though he was at a loss. "You are no longer so gullible. What will I do? It's almost the same feeling as...being unable to deceive one's little sister anymore because she has grown up."

"Go straight to the point." Lanni couldn't stand his taunting.

Enjoying the fact that it was so easy to annoy her, he grinned with his arms crossed. "Tell me what you need."

Choosing to trust him this once, Lanni took out the printed picture of the letter and spread it out on the table in front of him. "Do you understand this language?"

He looked up at her in surprise. "I thought you recovered all of your memory. You don't remember this?"

Lanni remained silent. It turned out, her speculation was right. It must be a code language and she must have been taught how to use it when she was Flynn's trainee.

The man swept a glance through the letter and looked up at the two of them. "Interesting. I didn't think you would receive such a...strong message. Who is the recipient?"

"I want to know what it means." Lanni ignored his question.

He shrugged since it was not his business to begin with.

"I can tell you..." He looked at Xiehan meaningfully.

Lanni held her man's arm. "That's alright. There's nothing to hide from him."

He frowned slightly and looked straight at Lanni. "The thing is, I need you to do something for me, but it's not time yet. I can only explain it when the time comes. If you agree to owe me this favor and do whatever it is when I ask you, then I can consider translating it for free."

"You..." Xiehan was ready to protest to this nonsensical term.

Lanni patted his arm. "It's okay. He wouldn't dare to cross the line. I have something against him."

Flynn raised his eyebrow at her threat. "Are you trying to scare me, princess? You know that doesn't work on me."

Xiehan clenched his fists to stop himself from launching a punch. What right did this man have to call Lanni that?

Lanni no longer minded him. She simply took out a lipstick from her pocket. "Do you remember this?"

He frowned when he saw the 'lipstick' in her hand. "What's that?"

Lanni smiled, her eyes full of mischief. "Don't feign innocence. It's the flash drive you have to Luna. I'm her sister. What makes you think she would hide it from me? And you... you did something against Galaxis' privacy policy." In real sense, this USB flash drive had been given to her by Xingyu. He didn't want to look into her private matters and knew that he may not resist the temptation if he kept it, so he gave it to her. She had not checked the content either but she was sure it was something that would put him in a tight spot.

"What makes you think anyone would believe that I have something to do with it?" Flynn grinned meaningfully.

Lanni waved the lipstick at him. "I'm not sure about that. But one thing's for sure. This would make the biggest headline for Tian Yu Media."

It was unsure what the man was thinking. He suddenly declared, "I will not try to take advantage of you, don't worry. Once the deal is complete, I will want that back."

"Sure." Lanni kept it back in her purse with a smile.

"What a waste of my effort. She didn't even check the content." The man suddenly sighed, making Lanni wonder why he was so sure about it. Before she could ask, he looked at the letter seriously.. "It's a warning—or more specifically , a threat of what's going to happen."

Chapter 419 - Adopting A Pig

Lanni and Xiehan exchanged glances. They had thought as much. Lanni looked at Flynn and asked, "What's the exact message?"

"I will let you know how it feels like to lose the one you love and not be able to do anything about it. You and your whole family will pay for what you have done." He paused and looked at them. "That's what the letter says."

"Who is it addressed to?" Xiehan spoke up to ask for the first time. He wanted to be sure whether it was related to Ji Feifei's matter.

"Is there a specific date... Or year?" Lanni added.

"No." Flynn answered Xiehan then looked at Lanni like she was an idiot. "Obviously, no. The only essence of such letters is to make the recipient anxious for the longest time possible. Why would there be a specific date?"

"My work is done, right?" He asked with a raise of his eyebrows.

Lanni thought about it and shook her head. "No. You have to make a promise."

Hearing her order, Flynn chuckled. "Princess, are you trying to extort me? I don't remember promising to keep anything a secret."

Lanni tensed up. If the letter was really written by the big boss of Galaxis—who they now knew was Flynn's father—would he rat them out?

"I'll owe you." Xiehan declared.

"Xiehan..." Lanni glared at him. How could he agree to owe this unreasonable man so easily?

As expected, Flynn looked overjoyed. "Well, then. I guess I'll have to carry some secrets to my grave, then."

Xiehan held her and smiled. "Don't you trust your man?"

Lanni nodded sadly. "But he isn't a kind person."

"Don't worry. I'm not that kind either."

Lanni was less anxious when she heard his reassurance.

The man stood up and yawned. "I'm tired. Help me say hi to Luna."

Lanni frowned. Why would she?

As if reading her mind, Flynn shrugged. "If you don't, I'll go and say hi to her myself."

Not wanting this complicated man to go anywhere near her sister, she gritted her teeth. "Fine."

...

"You will be late for work. I'll drop you off." Xiehan looked at the time on his watch and anxiously nudged her into his car.

Fastening the seat belt, she let out a sigh of relief. "We have much more information now. The only person who wanted to seek revenge against the Ji family is the mastermind behind the swapping—and he is also the same person that's been protecting Ji Feifei from behind the scenes. At least we have a specific identity now; the boss of Galaxis."

Xiehan listened to her rattle on and turned on the autopilot then mode pulled her to his side and pressed his lips against hers. "Thank you, my love."

She wrapped her arms around his neck and deepened the kiss. "I don't want to go to work. I want to stay in your arms all day."

He slid an arm around her waist and unbuckled her seat belt, pulling her into a tight hug. "I can help you take the day off."

Instead of being overjoyed, she pulled away from him. "Never mind. Xiehan, why do you give in to everything I say?"

He raised an eyebrow at her accusation. "I shouldn't give in to everything you say?"

She nodded seriously. "At a time like this, you should not tolerate my laziness. Otherwise, I will become so spoiled that there will be no difference between marrying you and letting you adopt a pig."

His lips curled as his blue eyes filled with happiness at the mention of marriage. It turned out, she thought about their future too. Flicking her forehead, he grinned. "Why not? I can feed my little pig and give her everything she wants."

Lanni shot him a glance. Did Xiehan just call her a pig?

No, that was not the main point. The main point was, why did she think it sounded sweet?

—

In the evening.

After leaving work, Lanni dragged Xiehan to Li Yuming's villa. On one hand, it had been ages since she last spent time with her mother.

On the other hand, her mother had been close to the Ji family in the past, she might know something that they didn't.

Intending to give her a surprise, they didn't tell her beforehand. When they arrived, they told the housekeeper to not announce their arrival yet.

Lanni naughtily crept up behind her mother and wanted to playfully cover her eyes from behind. However, she was startled when she saw what Li Yuming was doing. She was playing Demons Vs Gods!

"You play games too?" Lanni was surprised.

"Lanni?" Li Yuming felt her soul leave her body from shock but she quickly recovered and turned to hug her daughter. The backrest of the couch was a huge hindrance so she circled it and pulled Lanni into her arms. "You're here. You didn't tell me you were coming."

"We wanted to give you a surprise." Lanni was awkward. Clearly, she was the surprised one.

Li Yuming shrugged. Although it was not common for women her age to play such games, she didn't think there was an age restriction for playing games. "It's a nice and creative game. It's also the type you like. Are you and Xiehan playing too?"

"Yeah, do you want to play a round together?" Lanni waved Xiehan over as she suggested.

"Sure. Come here." She pulled Lanni to sit beside her and let Xiehan sit opposite them.

What a stark contrast. If this was in the past, she would have given all her attention to Xiehan and Lanni would complain about the unfair treatment. However, it had been so long since her daughter visited. She didn't dare to visit Lanni either, in fear that Lanni would be displeased. She didn't dare to let this chance slip.

Lanni logged into the game using her phone and so did Xiehan.

However, Lanni soon realized a bummer. "What the heck? Xiehan, your girlfriend is a demoness. Why would you be a demigod?"

The man shrugged innocently. "A demoness and a demigod... Don't you think it's an interesting pairing?"

Lanni glared at him and ignored him. "Mom, what's your character?"

"A demon. We can pair up." Li Yuming stated, much to Lanni's relief.

"Let me invite Xiao Yu. She's a demoness too."

Hearing that, Xiehan called Lin Jian who was also a demigod, and Xingyu who was a god. Another character soon slotted himself into their team: Cedric, a god. Demigods could pair up with either gods or humans, giving Xiehan and Lin Jian an unfair advantage. Luckily, one could only be a demigod by unlocking a certain level, so this made it fair.

Lanni initially wanted to play a round of demons against gods with Xiehan's team but they were unevenly matched. Just as she wondered whether to invite one of her in-game friends, a message appeared on the game interface.

[#5 ranking player, Little Moon, is online.]

For entertainment's sake, there would be a notification whenever the top 5 players logged into the game, since everyone wanted to challenge them. Before anyone could summon Luna for a challenge, Lanni dragged her into their team.

"Little Moon?" Li Yuming seemed to find the nickname strange.

"Luna." Lanni answered, suddenly realizing what she had done. Luckily, it was merely a game so Li Yuming did not fuss about it.

When they were ready, the demons prepared to raid one of the gods' camps. Since Luna was the highest ranking demon, she naturally told them which route was safest to use.

A few seconds into the game, there was a complaint.

[I rule the leaderboard. Bite me.: How is this fair?! We are going against a team of demons, two of whom are the creators of this game! Obviously, they know everything about it.]

[Yu07: Shut up. You have Cedric on your team and he took part in creating the game too.]

Lanni laughed at Cheng Yu's rebuttal that immediately cut off any chances of Lin Jian playing foul.

In actual fact, knowing the details about the game didn't give any team an advantage. After all, they would be up against other players and teams, which made it difficult no matter how informed one was.

[L'homme du soleil: Are we starting? Let's set up traps for these clueless demonesses.]

[Little Sun: (@L'homme du soleil) You should have said that in your team's private chat.]

L'homme du soleil: (@Little Sun) does it make a difference? You won't escape our traps either way.]

Lanni was infuriated. "Hey! These arrogant demigods! Let's teach them a lesson."

Li Yuming chuckled at their battle spirit and went along. She was not as good as these youngsters, so she almost died several times. When the gods realized this, they kept aiming at her so they would weaken the demons by eliminating their teammate.

For some inexplicable reason, every time she was struck, Little Moon would shield her.

It was just a game. Why was it making her feel so emotional?

Chapter 420 - Things Aren't Always How They Appear

When the game ended, the demons had managed to steal the treasure from the camp of the gods, albeit with their 'lives' almost depleted.

Xiehan had almost managed to kill them but luckily they had Luna.

[I rule the leaderboard. Bite me. : That was foul! How could you hypnotise us to fight against each other?] Lin Jian complained.

To his words, Cheng Yu scoffed.

[Yu07: Idiot, she didn't hypnotise you. She charmed you. It's one of her powers.]

Lin Jian was speechless. Was it too late to be a demon? Although he ranked second on the leaderboard, he didn't have any special powers and could only use ordinary weapons.

[The moon's ONLY star: (@Little moon) Luna...]

Luna saw her man's message that sounded aggrieved and immediately asked, [My love, what happened?]

[You can only charm me. You can't charm other men.] Came the childishly jealous reply.

Luna was speechless. [It's just a game. In real life, I only want to charm the hell out of you.]

[Little sun: Uh... is it too late to run away?]

Lanni had just logged out of the game when she received a private message from Luna.

[What was that all about?]

She was talking about the fact that Lanni had dragged her into the same team as Li Yuming.

Lanni shrugged. [I found her playing. Anyway, forget it. She left and won't be joining us anymore.]

[Oh...]

Lanni stared at the monosyllabic reply for a while. Why did it feel as though her sister was not happy about the news?

Setting her phone aside, she made her way to the kitchen where Li Yuming had gone.

Li Yuming was lost in thought as she prepared the ingredients to start cooking. When she heard Lanni walk in, she looked over with a smile. "Are you hungry? I'll get you a snack as you wait for dinner."

Lanni shook her head. "I just wanted to ask you something."

"Go ahead." Although Li Yuming said so, her hands tightened around the handle of the knife she was using to chop onions. She hoped it wasn't a question whose answer would worsen their relationship.

Earlier, Lanni and Xiehan had agreed that they could tell Li Yuming the truth so she asked, "You were close to the Ji family before Ji Feifei was born, right? Did you ever... Notice anything strange about them?"

Li Yuming looked at her in surprise, obviously not expecting that kind of question. "Strange? What kind of strange?"

"The thing is, someone vowed to revenge many years ago and... they sent a letter in a weird language and Ji Feifei..."

"Lanni, stay away from trouble." Li Yuming's tone was suddenly stern, and the knife in her hand dropped with a clatter.

"You know something?" Otherwise why would she react like that?

Li Yuming picked up the knife and placed it on the kitchen counter before closing in on Lanni. "Lanni, what I know is...unbelievable. No one would ever believe me if I said it. Not even you and Xiehan.

It's best if the two of you don't try to investigate."

Lanni was baffled. Li Yuming knew everything? They were just trying their luck. No, the point was, "If we don't investigate, the Ji family might be in danger. Xiehan might be in danger too."

Li Yuming flinched when she heard her words. "The thing is, they..." She sighed halfway through her words. "It's just, Lanni, things aren't always the way they appear. Sometimes the truth is more cruel than speculation."

Lanni blinked as she tried to figure out what her mother meant. "Mom, tell me what you know."

Li Yuming cupped her face, looking aggrieved. "No. I vowed to remain silent."

Lanni could tell that the second part was a lie. However, what was baffling was, why was Li Yuming so sure that she and Xiehan would not believe the truth?

Unless, Xiehan's father was the one behind his own family's potential destruction?

She laughed at her wild thoughts.

Don't be silly. He cannot threaten himself, now can he?

When Lanni explained Li Yuming's reaction to Xiehan, the man was not entirely hopeless.

"It's a clue."

"How so?" She asked in surprise.

"I'll talk aunty into telling me something more specific." He looked determined.

She frowned. How would he do that when even she couldn't get anything clear out of her mouth? Before she could ask, she remembered what he was best at. "Well, good luck."

He smiled and took her hand. "I may not be able to do it in a day, but I will do it nonetheless."

Lanni smiled and leaned against his shoulder as they waited for dinner.

—

The following day.

In the morning, Xiaoshi made a bento and rushed to the hospital. Although she was allowed to go to his office, she still wanted to wait in the parking lot for some strange reason.

Five minutes into her waiting, Han Xichen arrived. He seemed to have expected to find her here as he smiled while stepping out of the car. "You have a thing for the parking lot?"

She smiled sweetly and tried not to stare at him. The man was wearing black pants and a navy blue shirt. Although it was nothing complicated, she couldn't help imagining how handsome he would look if he draped a lab coat over him.

The man walked towards her and took the bento from her hands. "Thank you."

She nodded. "Then...then I'll leave now."

"Wait." He frowned when he caught sight of something on her finger.

"Mmh?" She looked at him quizzically.

Silently, he took her hand. She felt as though she had been struck by electricity as his hands touched hers. He examined her fingers with a frown. "What happened?"

She finally remembered the cut on her forefinger when he mentioned it. "That... I

I cut myself while chopping vegetables."

He frowned at her nonchalance. "Don't you know how to clean and cover a cut? How old are you?"

When he saw that she was starting to let out that silly smile yet again, his handsome brows furrowed. "Come, I'll treat it for you."

Thus, he led her to his office and sat her down before bringing over a first-aid kit. He cleaned the cut in fast, precise movements that were pleasing to her eyes. When he was done, he placed a band aid over it.

She looked down at her finger then up at him in displeasure.

He glanced at her and raised an eyebrow. "What's wrong?"

She averted her gaze timidly. "I want a cute, cartoon-printed one."

He looked at her and wanted to burst into laughter. Even so, he went to find one of those band aids that were meant for little girls; a pink one with an animation princess drawn on it.

In reality, he knew that she had nothing against the former band-aid. She just wanted to act a little spoiled.

Even she didn't know why she was doing it. All she knew was that she didn't want to leave so fast.

"Don't get it wet." He instructed when she was done.

"Mmh."

He let go of her hand, and only then did she realize that she was holding onto his. She looked up and met his deep, black eyes that seemed to suck the soul out of her.

She had the urge to look down but at the same time, she wanted to keep looking into those eyes that sucked her in like a pair of vortices.

"I..." She wanted to say something but nothing left her parted lips. Her heart picked up its pace when she realized that his face was getting closer to her... So close that their lips were only the width of a finger apart.

Her eyes shut as she fought the urge to lick her lips.

Seconds passed. The kiss she awaited did not arrive. When she opened her eyes, she was met with his fiery eyes. His lips were curled into a smile that seemed to make fun of her.

"You will be late for work." He reminded her with a smile.

"Oh." She snapped back, but she did not avert her gaze from his eyes. It was only several seconds later that she realized what he had said, and jolted out of the seat.

"I have to run! See you tomorrow." She rushed away like a scared rabbit.

He chuckled when she rushed out and tousled his hair as he gazed at the door. What was he doing just now? Was he out of his mind?

...

Xiaoshi ran all the way to Moonlight Studio's and only paused to take a breath when she entered the elevator. Her mind was in a mess.

Earlier, was Han Xichen going to kiss her?

Surely, he wasn't right?

But if not, why did he get so close to her?

If he was, why did he stop?

And why the hell did it matter so much?

While deep in her own thoughts, Xiaoshi didn't realize that someone had walked in on the fifth floor, and neither did she realize that the person who had walked in was Xingyu.