

Chapter 421 - Precious Baby

On the twelfth floor, the elevator doors slid open and Luna walked in.

"Boss." Xiaoshi greeted, and only then did she realize that there were two bosses in the elevator, so she greeted Xingyu too.

Luna nodded at her before looking at the man beside her. She was surprised to see him and gave him a puzzled look. "Don't you have a meeting in a few minutes?"

They had just talked a while ago and he told her that he was preparing for an important meeting.

The man grinned. "Yeah, your meeting. I came to pick you up for your meeting at Royal Hotel."

Luna was speechless. "Honey, I can go on my own."

When he looked at her like he did not trust her, as though she was a little girl who needed him to take care of her even if she was simply attending a meeting, she knew that trying to talk him out of it would be a waste of her breath. Hence, she shrugged and leaned in his arms. "If you dote on me too much, I will be so useless that I will no longer be able to take care of myself."

"That's okay. I can take care of you forever." He said matter-of-factly.

At the side, Xiaoshi couldn't stop a silly smile from forming on her lips. She couldn't help wondering how it would sound if Dr. Han were to say such words to her.

In the next second, she widened her eyes. Shouldn't she be wishing to be in Luna's place? To hear such words from Xingyu? Why was she wishing to hear them from Han Xichen instead? However, although she reminded herself of it, her imagination was still filled with Han Xichen's seductive smile.

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Royal Hotel.

When Luna and Xingyu arrived, the other party was already waiting.

It was a middle-aged man, CEO Hu, who owned a famous software production company. However, in the past several years, his company's business had been declining because he had not been able to produce anything that was worth mentioning. It was as though he had reached a bottleneck.

To prevent himself from going bankrupt, he had decided to invest in softwares from small-time companies, and he would earn tremendous profit if the softwares appreciated in value.

"CEO Jiang, good morning!" Although CEO Hu was about the same age as Jiang Xingren, he was still quite respectful to this young man who had been labelled as one of B City's most successful businessmen despite his young age.

"Good Morning." Xingyu was neither too polite nor too rude. He helped Luna to her seat like she was a delicate and precious little egg, then went straight to the point in fear that his wife would be too tired from negotiating too much.

CEO Hu saw his actions and knew that if anyone wanted to survive in this city, they should never think of messing with this young woman. CEO Jiang pampered her too much!

"Then I'll cut the chase. Miss Xia, I would like to offer you a mall that I acquired recently. The Hillside Mall; it's quite popular especially among young women, and business has been flourishing in recent years. I will also offer you 5 percent of shares of Hu Group. Miss Xia, what do you think?"

"There's no such thing as free lunch." Luna had thought that they were going to discuss an investment but from the looks of things, that didn't seem to be the case.

The man smiled. "Well, you can term this as a free lunch. I can also accept any other terms you have, as long as you sell Demons Vs Gods to me."

So that was it.

Luna grinned but shook her head. "Sorry, that's the hard work of my friends and I. I will not sell it."

The man had expected that she would definitely say yes, so he was a little surprised. "How could that be? If you sell me this game, I will change a few things and make it the top ranking game on the application store. Of course, you will still own some rights to the game. We can also split the profits, and you can also name whatever other terms you would like." Afraid that she would say no, he added, "Although your studio has gained a bit of reputation recently, you are still at most rookies. It will definitely benefit you to collaborate with a company whose old games already have tens of millions of fans."

What he said made sense. After all, it was only natural that gamers would want to try out the new games of the companies they were familiar with.

Still, Luna shook her head without flinching. No matter how good the offer was, this was not just her hard work. Xiaoshi may not care much about it since she only completed it to fulfill her duty, and Cedric might have done it for the same reason. However, for Cheng Yu, this game meant the world to her. Just like the comic "The demigod's wife", this game was Demons Vs Gods was her beloved baby. How could Luna bear to sell it?

"I'm sorry. I can accept an investment or a partnership but I will not sell it."

"Miss Xia, please think about it. We can discuss with your partners too." The man did not want to lose this chance.

Seeing that he would be insistent, she stood up. "It doesn't matter what you offer."

The man was about to look at Xingyu so he would help him convince her, but the latter did not give him a chance. He could only inwardly lament about it.

As they walked towards the parking lot, Xingyu pulled her into his arms and joked. "What do I do? I want to kidnap you and lock you up so you can only make games for the two of us to play. Later, we will have many kids and they will play with us."

Luna frowned and pinched his cheek. "CEO Jiang, has your imagination always been this wild?"

They were still speaking when a gust of wind rushed towards them. Xingyu reflexively protected Luna behind him and stopped the young man who was rushing over from bumping into them.

The man stopped and bowed to apologize. "CEO Xia, I'm sorry for stopping you so audaciously."

Xingyu looked at him ferociously, making the young lad tremble in trepidation. He looked not a day older than eighteen; he must have just graduated from high school, so they couldn't understand why a lad this young was seeking them.

Luna emerged from behind Xingyu and asked, "What is it?"

The boy looked hopeful. "CEO Xia, can we have a talk? It's about software."

After glancing at Xingyu and receiving his approval, she nodded. "Okay. Let's grab a cup of tea."

A few minutes later, in the Royal Hotel.

Xingyu sat aside to let them talk.

The young man took out a USB Flash drive from his pockets and gave it to Luna with his trembling hands. "This is a software; I made it myself. If you find it worth it, can you please buy it?"

Luna expected such a thing, so she glanced at Xingyu at the side. The man had carried his laptop over so he brought it to her.

Luna inserted the USB flash drive and checked the content after having the boy insert the password.

However, she frowned when she clearly saw it. It was a game, and the overview as well as the theme baffled her. "This looks so much like Demons Vs Gods."

The boy looked hopeful. "I created it three years ago and did not intend to ever sell it. However, I urgently need the money now so I audaciously sought you. I hope you will consider it."

Luna closed the information with a slight shake of her head. "It's exactly because it looks like Demons Vs Gods that I cannot purchase it. Why would I have two games that look at least 65% alike?"

In fact, Luna was not sure whether she was dreaming but the two games were almost identical. Aside from the story mode of Demons Vs Gods which had been created out of the two comics, everything else was similar. If she launched it as an application, she was certain that not only would many aspects such as the team rules and the gameplay be the same, even the 'world' might look alike. The only noticeable difference was the absence of immortals.

The boy's eyes drooped in disappointment. However, he did not bug her too much. He stood to leave.

When Luna saw him leave, she immediately thought of young talents who ended up getting oppressed by the big fish in the business world. She couldn't help asking, "Do you have any other softwares, or can you create one if I told you what to do?"

"Yes. I can do anything." His extinguished hope returned.

Luna nodded in approval and gave him a card. "Why don't you come for an interview? If you qualify, I will let you work in the software department.. You can save up the money and go to college to further your studies if you wish to."

Chapter 422 - Boss Yu And Cedric

Once Luna had settled the boy, she went back to Xingyu who was waiting for her.

"Are you sure about this?" He asked her, having heard a little about their conversation.

She hooked her arm around his. "Don't worry, I know what I'm doing."

Because she had everything in order, he nodded. "If you need anything, don't hesitate to tell me about it, okay?"

"Of course." Although she had not snagged the investment, she may have found a genius. This trip was worth it.

She smiled when she thought about CEO Hu's words and looked up at him joyously. "While he neither invested nor collaborated with Moonlight Studios in the end, his reaction proved a point; Demons Vs Gods is on the right track."

He smiled and rubbed her head. "My darling is awesome."

Meanwhile, In Moonlight Studios.

Cedric dashed to Cheng Yu's office when he heard that he had been called over.

"Yu, you called for me." A smile was plastered across his face, and he was almost flying from how happy he was.

"Mmh." Cheng Yu pushed her laptop aside and stood up, stalking towards him.

Before he could process it, she hugged him. "I missed you."

He felt giddy from the sudden hug, his heart instantly picking up its pace. "Yu, I missed you too. But I can't presumptuously come over to find you."

Resting her head against his chest, she wrapped her arms around his waist. "You can come any time you want."

"Really? Don't give me that kind of freedom. Otherwise, I will spend all day here and forget about my work."

She chuckled and said nothing about it.

They barely had any time to spend together. Aside from squeezing in a few minutes to have lunch together, they couldn't meet up all day. In fact, it wasn't every day that they got to have lunch together since they ate at different times most of the time.

As for the evenings, they could only meet for a few minutes before they each went their own way. How was this different from a long distance relationship?

"Let's go shopping on Saturday." He suggested, and she nodded immediately.

"On second thought, let's go somewhere this weekend. Just the two of us."

This time, she pushed against his chest and looked at him in surprise. "How is that possible? Will your family allow it?"

He shrugged. "Why not? They don't restrict my movements. Speaking of which, I want to move out soon."

Cheng Yu thought it was a good idea. That way, he would be farther away from his family who he no longer wanted to be close to.

"Would you like to move in with me?" He suddenly suggested.

When he saw her glaring daggers at him, he quickly corrected himself. "I won't speak nonsense anymore. Yu, don't be mad, okay?"

Cheng Yu looked at him seriously. "Do you know why I cannot move in with you?"

He shook his head innocently.

Obviously, he didn't know.

She sighed. "Cedric, I don't want to rush things between us. We only started dating less than a month ago. We are yet to be completely comfortable around one another. How can we be ready to live together?"

He thought about her words. "But Yu, we have already slept in the same room before and we were comfortable about it."

She raised an eyebrow at him. "That's one night. What does it prove?"

Most importantly, I don't want to take things any step further until I'm sure that there will be nothing coming in between us. I know that we may disagree on some things or even get into arguments but honestly, I can't take constant fights—especially if they are caused by outsiders. Let me settle things on my end first, okay?"

"No." He shook his head and pulled her into his arms. "If there is any settling, I want to do it with you. Let's do it together, okay?"

"Stubborn." She pinched his waist as she chuckled at his attitude that seemed to constantly change from that of an attention-seeking boyfriend to that of a mature and supportive man.

"I have to get back to work. See you this evening, okay?" She coaxed him with a kiss.

Holding the back of her head, he kissed her for a little longer before he left unwillingly.

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In the evening, Cheng Yu contemplated before deciding to carry some work home instead of working overtime. She had already promised to meet up with Cedric after all.

As expected, the guy was already waiting for her at the parking lot. When he saw her, he rushed over like a loyal puppy. "Yu, are you tired? I'll give you a massage."

Smiling, she launched herself into his arms. "This is enough."

"Really? I thought you would need a kiss too." He teased as he held her.

"That would be even better." She was so comfortable that she didn't want to move an inch.

Passing by, the other employees' Jaws dropped to the ground when they witnessed this scene.

"Boss Yu and Cedric?!" a secretary with rectangular framed glasses shrieked.

"What about it? Cedric has been going after her for as long as I can remember." The short-haired employee beside her shrugged.

A chatter slowly broke out.

"It's such a pity, Boss Yu is his superior. This pairing feels so wrong..."

"Are you nuts? This is Cedric Han we are talking about. The great painter Han! His latest painting is only slightly less valuable than one of Li Yuming's oldest works." An employee in the know explained.

"Then why does he need to work here?" Another asked.

"Yeah. He can just be a full time painter. If I were to earn half as much money from painting, I would never wish to work in an office."

The first employee scoffed at these ignorant idiots. "Isn't it obvious? It's only because he wanted to be close to Boss Yu. Luckily, his hard work paid off."

"Uh... I suddenly remembered something. Boss Yu once posted a picture of a pair of hands then later admitted to being in a relationship. Could it be that her boyfriend is actually Cedric?"

"That's possible. I heard they were in the same class before."

The girls were awed just thinking about it. How cute!

However, the guys' hearts broke.

"Stop speculating wildly. They're probably just friends." One of Cheng Yu's die-hard 'boyfriend' fans grumbled.

"Yeah. So what if they kissed? She will jilt her as soon as she realizes that he is not good enough for her."

Gradually, the discussion morphed into a battlefield for girls being happy for their boss versus guys feeling jealous and wondering what was so good about Cedric. In the end, they decided to settle scores via an intense battle of Demons Vs Gods.

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Oblivious to the battle happening because of them, Cedric hugged his girlfriend and pressed gentle kisses onto her forehead. When they remembered that they were still in the parking lot, they entered his car so they would grab a drink together before going home.

After thinking of where to go and not agreeing on a cafe even after a long while, Cedric suggested taking a walk in the park near Goldenwing Apartments.

She felt it was a good idea since she rarely took a walk lately. She had always carried a pair of flat sandals with her whenever she wore high heeled shoes. When they arrived at the park, he parked the car and she changed her shoes before they started walking around.

"Mmh... The air feels so fresh here." She closed her eyes and breathed in the cool, fresh, calming scent of blossoming flowers. The park was dotted with several types of colorful flowers which were organized into a beautiful collection. She was awed. "How beautiful. This would make the perfect spot for a picnic."

Cedric took her hand and held it. "Indeed. So beautiful." Though he was looking at her, not the park.

"Screw shopping. We can do that online. Let's come for a picnic on Saturday instead." Her happy mood seemed to have brightened even more.

"Okay." He couldn't say no to something that brought her so much joy.

She happily pulled him towards a bench surrounded by red and white roses, then sat down and pulled him beside her. "Cedric, I would like you to meet my brother soon."

"Your brother?" He did know that she had a brother, but he was surprised that she wanted them to meet.

She smiled as she looked up at him. "Mmh. He... Aside from Lanni and Luna, I consider him my only family. Obviously, I should tell him about such an important thing as me having a boyfriend."

He nodded, happy that she was considering letting him meet such an important person. "What does he like?"

"Forget the formalities. He is simple minded and will like you as long as he knows that you will treat his sister well."

He was relieved that the boy sounded easy to please. "You said apart from Lanni and Luna, he is your only family? Does this mean you consider the twins as your family?"

"Yeah." It should be an obvious fact by now.

He carefully asked, "What about me?"

He didn't want to sound like a whiny and jealous boyfriend, he just wanted to know where he stood in her heart.

She glanced at him and pretended to think hard about it. "You..."

"Mmh?" He was anxious under her stern gaze.

"Just a temporary fling, obviously."

He was stunned for a second before he looked wronged. "Yu, how can you say that?"

She burst into laughter after having teased him. Before she could correct herself, he pulled her into his arms and kissed her. "I will not allow you to make me a temporary fling. Even if I am indeed just a fling, I have to be at least a permanent one, the kind that lasts forever."

She held onto his arm as she allowed herself to rest in his arms. "As you wish."

He tousled her hair and looked into her eyes. "Yu, I love you."

Cheng Yu swallowed and returned his gaze, her fingers gently trailing along his handsome face. He leaned down to kiss her, but just as their lips were about to connect, she felt a sudden violent tug on her elbow and just as she turned, a slap landed on her left cheek.

"You b*tch!"

"You..." Cheng Yu glared at the incomer, a middle aged woman in luxurious clothing.

"What 'you'? Do you know what you have done?"

She was just about to slap Cheng Yu once more when a firm hand blocked her attack.

Scoffing in anger, Mrs. Cheng glared at Cedric. "Is this the stupid boy toy you have been hanging around with?"

Cedric tugged on Cheng Yu's arm, trying not to lose his temper. "Yu, who is she?"

"The woman I used to call my mother." Cheng Yu did not mince her words, her eyes glaring at the middle-aged woman like they could bore fiery holes in her.

"What did you say? I gave birth to you!" The woman exploded and threw her bag at Cheng Yu's head.

The latter dodged it easily and smiled scornfully. "If it wasn't because of that, do you think I would have tolerated you for so long?"

My whole life was almost destroyed by you. You did everything in your power to prevent me from chasing my dreams. Shen Yuran, what right do you have to comment about my character? Did you ever take your time to discipline me like other mothers do?"

It seemed like Shen Yuran's only weapon was launching slaps, she tried to swing her hand again. This time, it was caught and twisted by Cedric. Before she could explode, the young man looked at her condensingly.

She huffed and pulled Cheng Yu's hand. "I will not allow you to tarnish the Cheng family's reputation! You are coming home with me!"

"What right do you have to tell me what to do? I'm not your daughter!" Cheng Yu spat and flung her hand out of Shen Yuran's grasp.

Shen Yuran froze in her tracks.

Cheng Yu didn't care about her anymore. She grabbed Cedric's hand and led him away. "Don't mind her. I will make sure she doesn't bother us anymore."

"Do you need help getting rid of her?" Cedric suggested out of the blue.

She chuckled at his tone. "Can you not make it sound like she is a supervillain? While she is a villain, she is not that hard to get rid of. I can swat her away any time I want."

She just didn't want to take extreme measures yet because she was still her mother after all. But if Shen Yuran kept pushing her luck, she could not guarantee what would happen.

Cedric pulled her to his side. "Look, there's cotton candy. Do you want some?"

She followed his gaze to the spot he was pointing and nodded. Anything to get her mind off that woman.

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In the next few days, Xiehan tried to talk Li Yuming into telling him what she knew about the Ji family's past. However, none of his words made her willing to utter a single peep. He didn't give up and continued trying.

Meanwhile, Ji Feifei returned on Saturday. Wen Lin happily called her son over for a meal.

Xiehan didn't plan on wasting a single second. Once he was called over, he picked Lanni up and drove to the Ji family home.

When they arrived, they found that the so-called dinner was in fact, a feast. Several dishes had been cooked and Wen Lin had invited her closest friends as well. It was not surprising that Ji Meiling and her husband were present, although it was obvious that the former did not want to be here.

As for Ji Feifei, she had plastered herself beside Wen Lin, enjoying her affection as though it belonged to her. When Xiehan saw her, he almost gave in to the urge to strangle her. However, he maintained his smile and ignored her as he held Lanni's little hand.

"Brother!" Ji Feifei smiled and greeted fondly, ambling over to hug him.

Xiehan moved away just as her hand was about to touch him, disgust flooding his handsome face. Who is your f*cking brother?!

Because of this damned girl, his sister had been separated from the family for years. She still had the audacity to call him that? Was her brain filled with nothing but pee?

Ji Feifei was embarrassed when Xiehan avoided her. Although he was usually unfriendly to her, he had never been this hateful before. She fought back her fake tears and rushed back to Wen Lin. "Mommy, does brother think I'm disgusting? Is it because I spent so much time in jail? But I took a long, thorough bath and changed into new clothes..."

As expected, Wen Lin couldn't bear to see her daughter looking so sad. She immediately shot Xiehan a glare. "Xiehan! How can you treat your sister so coldly? She has suffered so much, why aren't you comforting her?!"

Xiehan shook his head. "Whose fault is it that she was sent to jail? Have you already forgotten what she did? I only got her out because it's what Lanni wanted. However, that does not mean I have forgiven her."

"Lying! You're lying! She hates me so much. Why would she ask you to help me out? Don't think that you can lie to make our parents accept this venomous snake into our family!"

Xiehan was speechless at someone's shamelessness. Who exactly was the vile snake?

Before he could explode, Lanni faced Ji Feifei. "Honestly, I would let you rot in prison if it was up to me. You destroyed too many people's lives and you aren't even sorry for it. However, I didn't have much choice. Luna kept bugging me about it every day and besides, your best friend Ruby did me a big favor and this is the only way I could repay her."

At the mention of Ruby, Ji Feifei tensed up. She soon recovered when she remembered that Mr. G had already tempered with the DNA results. No one would ever know the truth.

She pretended to be even more wronged. "That doesn't give you the right to despise me! I'm..."

"Feifei, come here." Ji Huifen called her to his side. It was already bad enough that he had to constantly witness the fights between his sister and his wife. If his daughter and his future daughter-in-law did not get along either, he didn't think he would want to live anymore.

Xiehan sat a few seats away from Ji Feifei and pulled Lanni beside him. On the opposite side were Ji Meiling and her husband, and beside them were Jiang Xingren and Xinghe.

Now that Ji Huifen had averted the possible fight, the room fell into silence.

"Are we waiting for anyone else?" Ji Huifen asked his wife in a low tone.

"Yeah. The Lins." Wen Lin responded, stating that the Lins were almost here.

When Xiehan heard their conversation, his lips curled into a smirk. He excused himself and gave Lin Jian a call, his scheming eyes trailing towards Ji Feifei.

Want to pretend to be a queen? Let's see if you will still have the courage once the real queen is here.

Lanni realized what her boyfriend was trying to do and cleared her throat to stop a laugh. How naughty of him.

She looked up when she heard approaching footsteps and was a little puzzled when she saw Xingyu walking in with Luna. It was not surprising since the Jis had watched Xingyu grow up and treated him like their son, so they must have called him and Luna over; but why in the world did Xiaoshi arrive right behind them? It could be a coincidence, but why did it seem deliberate?

If Lanni thought so, how could the parties involved not realize it?

Ji Meiling shot a displeased look at Wen Lin. How childish.

Just because Ji Meiling had said a few things about Ji Feifei—which were all true, Wen Lin had deliberately brought Xingyu, Luna and Xiaoshi into the same frame?

Was she trying to force Xiaoshi into making a fool out of herself?

When Ji Feifei saw the strange trio, her lips curved upwards. Having heard of the situation among them from her mother, she was rather smug, especially when she recalled how Luna had tortured her before.

How could Jiang Xingyu fail to notice a noble girl like Xiaoshi and instead fall for the daughter of a jinx?

Well, it didn't matter.

A good show was about to unfold.

Chapter 424 - The Seed Of Doubt

Luna swept a glance at Xiaoshi then at Wen Lin. Her eyes seemed to ask what she was up to. Wen Lin felt as though she was sitting on needles when she felt her gaze. Why would she glare at her so fiercely? Had she sensed something?

Even so, she did not regret what she did. Whether Luna knew about it or not, it would not change the fact that Xiaoshi had feelings for her fiancée. No woman would tolerate their own love rival. Actually, she had nothing against Luna. She merely wanted to use her as a weapon against Xiaoshi.

Xingyu led his fiancée to sit down beside his parents, completely ignoring Xiaoshi who was beside Ji Meiling. The atmosphere turned more awkward as soon as the two women who were meant to be romantic rivals sat at the same table. This was different from the two of them working in the same building, since they didn't share an office.

"Xiaoshi, how have you been? I heard you are working for Xia Luna now. Is everything alright?" Ji Feifei spoke up, her eyes full of malice as she indirectly insinuated that Luna must be bullying Xiaoshi.

Xiehan tensed up slightly, knowing that the damned b*tch would not randomly speak up unless she was up to something. He subconsciously wanted to glare daggers at her.

Xiaoshi did not seem to detect the malice, she smiled at Ji Feifei. "I'm alright. Luna is a great boss."

As expected, Ji Feifei clung onto this point. "really? You should be careful when dealing with people, you know? You cannot blindly trust people like her."

This time, Lanni could not hold back. "Ji Feifei, what are you trying to imply?"

"Obviously, that she is the daughter of a jinx, a pretentious b*tch and a murderer."

"How dare you!" Lanni wanted to tear her into pieces.

However, Luna chuckled. "Sis, I can't believe you would get flustered over the words of someone like her. Are you meeting her for the first time?"

Lanni sat back down with a displeased expression. "I know...but that doesn't mean I will tolerate her saying such crap about my sister."

In response to her words, Ji Feifei scoffed. "Did I lie? Your sister is such a pretentious b*tch! If not, would she snatch a man from Shishi? She knows fully well how much Shishi loves him... and she is her employee as well as her brother-in-law's cousin. How heartless does one need to be in order to do such an inhumane thing?"

Everyone turned to look at Ji Feifei and wondered whether there was something wrong with her brain.

Xinghe frowned. "Ji Feifei has been in jail for so long. She should not know a thing of what has been happening lately, much less have such bizzare misunderstandings about them. I wonder who told her such things."

While speaking, her gaze trailed towards Wen Lin, indirectly accusing her.

Knowing that the matter might get out of control, Wen Lin cleared her throat. "Feifei, don't be mean. Luna is your sister-in-law's sister, so you have to be polite to her."

The latter rolled her eyes with no intention to do as she was told.

As they spoke, the Lins arrived, and the atmosphere that was initially starting to calm down immediately tensed up again. To be exact, it was Ji Feifei who was tensed. What was that b*tch doing here?!

Lin Jian had walked in with his parents following behind him. Beside him was Ruby, whose hand he was holding.

Before anyone could ask him, Lin Jian walked forward to introduce Ruby. "Aunt Lin, Aunt Xinghe, Aunt Meiling, this is my girlfriend, Ruby. I knew that I would meet you here so I brought her along to introduce her." These three had been teaming up with his mother to constantly nag him about getting into a serious relationship so it was nothing out of the ordinary for him to introduce his genuine girlfriend to them.

Wen Lin's eyebrows twitched slightly.

Xinghe looked at the young woman and smiled. "Ruby? Neil Chan's daughter? Little Jian, You have a good eye."

Ji Meiling smiled too. "That's true. She is so beautiful. Come here, let aunty have a good look at you."

"Meiling, don't scare her!" Wen Lin berated Ji Meiling and pulled Ruby to her side.

At the same time, Madam Lin was full of pride. "My stupid son finally realized that he has been wasting his life away. Ruby, if he dares to bully you, tell me and I will kick his butt for you."

"Am I really your son?" Lin Jian complained.

In response, Qian Lihua, his mother, rolled her eyes and harrumphed. "Unfortunately, yes. How I wish I gave birth to a son like Xiehan or Xingyu instead. Would I still need an idiot who knows nothing but to play around with innocent girls?"

"Mother, can you not embarrass me?" He complained.

She pinched his ear slightly. "Then can you not embarrass yourself?"

Although she was complaining, she was very pleased. The whole nation knew her son as a playboy. It was a relief that he finally became serious. As his mother, she could clearly tell that her son loved Ruby.

She sat beside Meiling to catch up. "How is Xiaoshi doing? I heard she is working now. What a responsible young woman."

Ji Meiling was proud. "I hope she is not merely playing around for a few days."

Qiao Lihua didn't pay any heed to Ji Feifei who was supposed to be the star of the day. She had always felt that the latter was not as innocent as she appeared, and she would not pretend to like her. She focused on the other girls instead.

Shifting her gaze between Ruby and Xiaoshi, she frowned. "Huh?"

"Aunty, is there... something wrong?" Xiaoshi asked nervously.

"Nothing's wrong. I'm just baffled at the coincidence. Why do I feel like you and Ruby look so much alike?"

Ji Feifei tensed up when she heard her words.

"Now that you mention it. I have always thought so too! She even has eyes that look similar to Meiling's. What a sweet coincidence." Xinghe added.

When Ji Feifei saw her aunt scrutinizing Ruby, she cursed under her breath. Did this b*tch come here to go against her?!

At the same time, Xiehan smiled. Heh.

He then glanced at Ruby. "I think she looks a little like father. If I didn't know better, I would think she is our sister. It must be why she is best friends with Feifei—because of this sense of security. Right, Feifei?"

"Y-yes." Ji Feifei wanted to explode. Why was Xiehan saying such things? Was he suspecting something? To ruin whatever thoughts they could have, she pretended to unconsciously say, "When Ruby was a teenager, she had an accident and was disfigured."

Her implication was that she had to undergo a cosmetic surgery, which would definitely deter her original appearance. So, it was purely coincidental that she looked similar to the Jis.

She thought her response was flawless, but Lanni raised an eyebrow. "Really? But I was Ruby's friend when we were young and I don't remember such a thing. She has always looked this way."

Ji Feifei pretended to smile but deep down, she so badly wanted to murder Lanni.

When Lanni realized this, she glanced at Lin Jian. Knowing that it would not be shocking if he made that kind of joke, he studied Ji Meiling curiously.

"Aunt Meiling, are you sure you didn't have another baby and accidentally forget about her?"

"You punk, what nonsense are you thinking about?" Ji Meiling laughed and pinched his cheek.

Lin Jian raised an eyebrow. "You didn't? What about you, aunty Lin? Ah, now that I recall, Ruby's birthday is the same as Feifei's. Could it be that you had twins but didn't know about it?"

Qiao Lihua couldn't stop herself anymore, she pulled her son's ears. "You idiot, what nonsense are you spewing?"

Lin Jian rubbed his ear but resumed talking. "Am I? I've heard of such dramatic stories. I've even heard of babies being switched at birth."

As though realizing something, Lanni gasped in pretend shock. "Ji Feifei doesn't resemble uncle and Aunty Ji in the slightest, yet Ruby does. Isn't it a little strange?"

Xiehan smiled at her and pinched her secretly, but on the surface, he placed some food in her plate. "Stop fooling around. If you joke too much, Feifei might start to doubt her identity."

Lanni chuckled and remained silent.

This was all within Xiehan's wish. They didn't want to directly state that Ji Feifei was not the daughter of the Ji family but Ruby was. Not only would that be dramatic, they would alert the enemy too. So they decided to instead create a seed of doubt in Ji Huifen's and Wen Lin's hearts. This way, the couple might start to investigate.

If Ji Feifei found out that she was being investigated, she would run to her supporter for help and give them just the chance they needed to find out who he was.

Chapter 425 - Babe, Are You Doubting Your Man?

The meal went on with immense awkwardness. However, it was neither Xiaoshi nor Luna who was awkward. Instead, it was Ji Feifei who would never have expected that the show she was awaiting did not arrive. It was her who was in the limelight like a clown. As if that was not horrible enough, her parents must have started to doubt her identity.

She could not let them find out the truth! If they found out, she would be dead.

They soon finished dining, and the Jiangs were the first to leave. Ji Meiling was afraid that her daughter was secretly sad, so she led her away too. Lin Jian wanted to have a word with Xiehan so his parents left first.

When it was just the few of them left, Xiehan spoke up. "Did Ruby find a place to stay yet?"

Lin Jian was baffled. Since when did Ruby not have a place to stay? Before he could point this out, the girl pinched him and he understood. He didn't fully comprehend the situation but judging by the secret reactions of Ruby, Xiehan and Lanni, he played along. "Not yet."

It was meant to be a casual conversation but Wen Lin heard it since she was still close by. She asked curiously, "Why wouldn't she have a place to stay?" Wasn't she Neil Chan's precious daughter?

Lin Jian looked awkward so Lanni spoke up, "She had a fight with her dad because she is dating Lin Jian. However, it would be inappropriate for her to temporarily live with him since their relationship is still in its developing phase."

When she saw Wen Lin thinking about it, she pretended to snap out of it. "Wait. She can stay at my place. Ruby, you won't mind, right?"

Ruby knew what the ultimate plan was so she pretended to be at a loss. "But you and Xiehan..."

She did not complete her statement but her implication was obvious. She did not want to distract the couple's bonding time. Ji Feifei, who was gloating at the side, frowned. Why the hell was Xiehan keeping close to Lanni?

Ruby shook her head timidly. "Thanks, Lanni. I'll just stay at the hotel."

As soon as her words were out, Lanni suggested that Ruby stay at Li Yuming's villa. However, it would be awkward since the two were not close to each other, and Lanni would not be present.

Xiehan grabbed this chance to strike the ultimate blow. "It's not safe for a girl to stay at a hotel on her own. Why don't you stay here?"

"Huh?" She pretended to be shocked, but Ji Feifei did not need to fake it. Her eyes were on the verge of rolling out of their sockets.

"Aren't you best friends with Feifei? You can use this time to catch up. Besides, there are many guest rooms here." He then turned to Ji Feifei and acted like the reasonable elder brother. "Feifei, you regained your freedom all thanks to her. I'm sure you would be excited to stay with her, right?"

"Y-yes. Brother knows me best." Despite her shock, she had to pretend to be happy about it.

Ruby glared at her venomously. Who the hell is your brother? Don't go claiming other people's brothers as your own.

...

Just like that, Ji Feifei was stuck having to live under the same roof with Ruby for heaven knows how long. Not only that, but she would also have to pretend to be best friends with her. Ji Huifen and his wife didn't mind this arrangement, so she didn't have any excuse to send her off and could only grit her teeth.

At the side, Xiehan let out a tiny smile. He would torment that woman to her death one step at a time.

...

Since she knew that she was in danger of being found out, Ji Feifei decided to secure her position before it was too late. She had to please Wen Lin and make sure that even if her parents found out the truth, they would be unwilling to part with her.

Hence, as soon as she woke up the following day, she went to the kitchen and made herself busy making breakfast. She used a cooking guide she found online and ended up scalding herself a few times by the time she had finally managed to whip up breakfast.

Although it displeased her immensely, the result was better than expected. Wen Lin took her hand worriedly. "Feifei, what happened to your hand? Did you scald yourself? Why did you go to cook?"

Grabbing this chance, she immediately looked wronged. She looked down and smiled as she explained, "I was away for so long that I missed you. I just wanted to do something to make you happy."

Xiehan was not going to give her the chance to evoke his parents' pity. His lips twitched. "If you wanted to do something to make everyone happy, it would have been better to let the chef cook. What the heck is this?"

"Bacon..." Ji Feifei responded timidly, looking like she was on the verge of tears.

However, Xiehan didn't back down. He flipped the so-called bacon using a fork and glanced at her. "Oh? I thought it was a flattened piece of coal. Does it actually look like bacon—or anything edible—to you? My appetite is ruined."

"Xiehan!" Wen Lin exploded. "Your sister tried her best. Is this how you treat her?"

Lanni, who had been keeping silent, looked troubled. "Aunty, Xiehan is not wrong. It does look like coal."

Wen Lin glared at them but before she could say a word, Ji Feifei ran out with tears in her eyes.

Ruby raised an eyebrow and waited for For Ji Feifei to try to get revenge later. It would be fun.

Ji Feifei, I will be waiting.

...

When Xiehan and Lanni got into his car so he would drop her off, she couldn't help glancing at him curiously. "What are you doing? By directly going against her, aren't you sowing discord between you and your parents?"

He cupped her face with a grin. "Babe, are you doubting your man's tactics?"

Chapter 426 - I Would Commit Murder For You

"What are you up to?" She asked as she caressed his face.

"Bribe me and I'll tell you." He grinned.

In response, she pecked his lips lightly, making him chuckle.

"I'm not sowing discord between my parents and I, they know better than to push me away. I'm only trying to push that woman on edge and at the same time, creating the perfect opportunity for my sister and my parents to get close."

"How so?" She tilted her head and asked curiously.

"Do you really think she will treat Ruby well?"

Lanni finally comprehended his plan. Was Ruby going to put on the act of a tortured white lotus? It was hard to imagine...

While they spoke, they arrived at Tian Yu Media.

He glanced at the time and found that she was about twenty minutes early. Pulling her into his arms, he kissed her cheek. "My love, I'm already starting to miss you."

"Is it just me, or have you been a little clingy lately?" She chuckled as she patted him on his head.

He held her tightly in his arms, making his reluctance to part with her apparent. When she asked about his clinginess, he thought about it and decided to be honest. "I'm a little afraid."

"Afraid? What are you scared of?" She looked at him in askance.

"Afraid that you will leave me."

She glanced at him and was helpless. Baby, how did you come to such an insane conclusion? Why the hell would I want to leave you? Although this is what she thought, she knew that he could be merely acting spoiled and waiting for her to dote on him. Hence, she patted his head like the baby he was acting as. "I wouldn't leave you. Okay, my love?"

He still looked reluctant to part, so she held his neck and kissed his lips. "Be good. I'll accompany you tonight."

When she was done speaking, she opened the door and entered the building before them. He watched her back until it disappeared among the other employees, then looked down at himself. How could she carelessly throw such words at him?

Thanks to the words she had mindlessly uttered, he was almost unable to focus on his work all day. His mind was filled with nothing but her. By the time it was lunch hour, he couldn't hold it anymore and gave her a call.

"Have you eaten lunch?" He asked in a raspy voice.

On the other side, Lanni glanced at the mountain of work on her desk and lied, "Yes."

"What did you eat?" Came his next question.

"Braised meat and rice. How is work, my love?"

She was trying to divert his attention, but he wasn't so easy to fool. "You sound like you're lying. Go and eat before getting back to work."

She gasped at his stern tone. "Why would you make such a wild assumption? I..."

"Li Lanni, are you going to eat on your own, or should I come and pick you up for lunch?"

Knowing that she would not be able to convince him, she could only resign to her fate. Otherwise, he would set his work aside just to take her out to eat. What kind of sin would that be? "Okay, I'll go eat. Do you have to be so fierce?" He even used her full name, jeez!

"If I'm not strict with you, will you work yourself sick?" He still sounded unhappy.

She called her assistant over and asked for the latter to send her some food. She then returned to the call. "Baby, I ordered some food. Can you stop being mad at me now?"

The man was silent for some time, he seemed to be thinking about it.

His silence was making her more nervous by the second. "Honey... Xiehan?"

"It seems like... I've been doting on you a little too much. You are getting naughtier by the day."

"Uh..." She was yet to ask what he meant when the man directly hung up. Why did his words sound so wrong? Something felt fishy, but she couldn't immediately figure out what it was.

...

Feng Ji International.

Lin Jian arrived at Xiehan's office just as he hung up the call with Lanni.

He slotted himself in the seat opposite Xiehan and let out a breath.

"Ruby is actually your sister... I would never have guessed it."

Because he needed Lin Jian's help slotting Ruby into the Ji Mansion, Xiehan had later explained why he was doing so, or else Lin Jian might have misunderstood something.

"Don't tell anyone about it."

"Including Luna? She cornered me earlier and wanted me to provide an explanation for whatever has been going on."

Xiehan rubbed his temples. It was already within his expectations that they would not be able to hide it from Luna. Although he could guarantee that Lanni would be safe, the only way to convince Luna about it was to explain everything to her. Alas, they still wanted to keep the matter as secret as possible.

When Lin Jian saw his friend's expression, his eyebrows furrowed. "Xiehan, you do know that you cannot keep everything to yourself, right? We are your friends. Why don't you let us help you?"

"I don't want to drag everyone into the mess." He explained. He had merely told Lin Jian that Ruby and Ji Feifei had been switched at birth, but he had not said anything about someone being behind it all.

Lin Jian couldn't guess what was happening no matter how he tried. He could only pat his friend on the back of his shoulder. "If you ever need help, I'll be right here."

"Would you commit murder for me?" He joked.

"Who do you want me to kill? Should I get rid of their body too?" Lin Jian was not joking, he looked like he was really ready to kill for him.

Xiehan's lips curled into a smile.

...

Much later in the evening, Xiehan picked Lanni up. She had worked overtime and only left the office at 8pm.

When she entered the car, she slumped against the backrest and let out a breath. "I'm so tired."

He glanced at her from the corner of his eye. In the next second, he tugged her abruptly and she landed on her stomach, lying on his lap.

"Xiehan, you..."

"You never listen, do you?" As he spoke, his palm landed on her butt.

Her eyes widened in shock. "Did you just spank me?"

He slapped her butt again just as her voice fell.

Chapter 427 - If I Don't Teach You A Good Lesson, My Surname Is Not Ji

"Why have you been so naughty?" He asked her with a glare, as he spanked her yet again.

"I didn't. I had to...I had a lot of work to do." She was utterly speechless. Did he think she was a child? He was seriously...

Just as she thought about it, she felt his hand rubbing her backside and her face flushed scarlet. What was he doing? Honey, we are still in the car. The chauffeur is still here...

She was yet to voice this out when his palm landed yet again, making her let out an ambiguous-sounding yelp. She covered her mouth in embarrassment. She had finally understood what he meant this morning when he said that he had doted on her too much. Was this his way of teaching her a lesson?

At the front, the chauffeur desperately minded his own business and ignored whatever was happening behind him.

Xiehan looked at the little thing who had finally stopped struggling to leave his lap and swiped her hair off her face. "Will you continue to disregard your health and work overtime?"

She finally had a chance to explain. "Honey, I'm not disregarding my health. It's just..."

"Mmh?" She felt his hand rise behind her and closed her eyes. However, what she was waiting for did not arrive. Instead, she heard a sly threat. "If I don't teach you a good lesson tonight, my surname is not Ji."

They had arrived at her apartment, and he pulled her hand and led her out of the car. He dragged her all the way to her apartment and as soon as the door opened, he pinned her against the wall.

He pressed a kiss on her lips before she could gather her brains, as his hand circled her small waist. He kissed her demandingly, making her body go limp as he took her tongue in his mouth and sucked on it.

Just as she wrapped her arms around his neck, he took her small hands and held them above her head, securing both of her wrists with one of his hands.

Looking down at her seductively, his fingers traced her shoulders and found the hem of her short, peach dress. He gently lifted it and caressed her thigh upwards in slow strokes.

Her skin felt as though it was on fire as his fingers slid against it, and she so badly wanted to touch him too—but her hands had been held too tightly. He caressed her inner thighs upwards but just when he was a tiny inch away from the part she wanted him to touch the most, he stopped.

Seeing his evil grin, she knew that he was doing it on purpose.

Her slight disappointment quickly morphed into excitement when he slid the straps of her dress off her shoulders. He ripped her bra off and kissed her shoulder, trailing down her boobs. Her breath accelerated as she felt his tongue slide down her skin, igniting a fire under her skin. He sucked on her skin gently, making a gasp escape her lips. He took one of her nipples between his thumb and forefinger and took the other in his mouth.

Alas, he stopped just as he thought that he was going to suck on it.

He was totally doing it on purpose!

He touched and teased her in places she so badly wanted to be touched, but just when she was about to hit the peak of her excitement, he would stop.

Too weak to move, she leaned in his embrace and tried to pry her wrists out of his grip.

Kissing her lips, he carried her to her room and threw her onto the bed, trapping her between his body and the bed.

He tugged on her dress that was halfway undone and pulled it off her body along with her soaking wet panties. His grin was full of mischief when he looked into her eyes, and she was yet to figure out what he was up to when he parted her thighs and held them in place. The words she was about say turned into a moan when his tongue suddenly came into contact with her aroused clit.

Her back arched as she threw her head back, moaning and whimpering in immense pleasure. She so badly wanted him... so badly wanted to feel his manhood inside her.

But just when she was a second close to her climax, he stopped.

An alluring smirk formed on his thin, sexy lips as he exited the room, leaving her all hot and needy.

She closed her eyes and finally understood what he meant by teaching her a lesson. This was torture! Moving her body, she wondered whether he was coming back. She waited for a while, but the man seemed to be determined to torture her.

What was worse, she couldn't stop her mind from running wild. She couldn't get his sexy, masculine body out of her mind, nor could she stop thinking about what would have happened if he didn't leave just now.

Her right hand unconsciously cupped her breast, her left hand sliding down her body as she recalled the feeling of his touch. Unable to take it anymore, she slid off the bed intending to follow him out. Just as her hand connected with the door knob, the door opened and he walked in.

Wordlessly, he grabbed her, bent her over the edge of the bed and thrust into her roughly. A sudden moan left her lips.

"I will not be gentle." He pulled her hair out of her face and warned beside her ear, before he picked up his pace and made hard, rough love to her.

When he hit his climax, she slumped on her stomach, trembling from the innumerable orgasms she had just had.

He climbed onto the bed and pulled her tired, flushed body into his arms.

When her heartbeat had slowed down a bit, she looked up at him. "Honey, was that supposed to be punishment? Because if it is, then aren't you luring me into making more mistakes?"

Chapter 428 - Naughty Little Minx

"You haven't really learnt your lesson, have you?" He glared down at her threateningly.

In response, she bit her lower lip and slotted herself onto his chest, her gray eyes gazing into his. "If not, what will you do? 'Teach me a lesson' again?"

His chest vibrated with his deep laugh. This naughty little minx. "I'll punish you all night."

He flipped her as soon as the words left his mouth, and pressed her under him. He wasn't joking when he said that he would punish her all night.

Meanwhile, in the Jiang Mansion.

Xingyu finished his work and went back to his and Luna's room, only to find her reclining against a pillow with a laptop on her lap.

He frowned in disapproval. "Aren't you going to sleep?"

She smiled at his arrival, then raised one hand to ask for a hug. When he had hugged and kissed her, she continued clinging onto his arm. "I still have a few things to do. Go to sleep first."

"What would you have to do so late at night?" It was too late and besides, he had already taken care of all matters regarding Moonlight Studios. What else did she need to do?

"It's about my sister. I'm sorry, I can't explain the exact situation since she didn't even want me to know about it in the first place. However, I need to make sure she does not land in danger." She explained vaguely.

He could only accept this information that was as good as her not opening her mouth in the first place. However, that didn't mean he was happy about it. He grabbed the laptop out of her hands. "You can do that tomorrow."

"No, my love... It has to be tonight. Just five more minutes. I promise, I will be done and I will go to sleep then."

He wanted to say no, but when he met her pleading eyes, he couldn't bring himself to do so. He sighed helplessly. "What will I do with you?"

"Dote on me forever." She giggled after having had her way and pecked his cheeks, then resumed her research.

Earlier, she had cornered Lin Jian to interrogate him about what had been going on. However, the latter refused to spill a single word.

What he didn't know is that when she pinned him to the wall by his shoulders, she planted a bug on him.

Well, what she did was an invasion of privacy. However, there was no such thing as right and wrong in matters regarding the safety of her sister. She would even commit murder, forget placing bugs on people.

As she thought of this, she played the video of Lin Jian's conversation with Xiehan with her Bluetooth earbuds on. Her eyes widened at Xiehan's explanation.

Ruby was his sister? They were even switched at birth?

Her eyebrows furrowed as she thought about everything that had been going on. No wonder Lanni was suddenly close to Ruby, who was supposed to be her love rival.

To be exact, she was not her love rival. All along, she had been merely trying to get close to her brother!

No wonder Ruby and Xiaoshi looked alike. They were first cousins!

But what she couldn't understand was, if Ruby was Xiehan's sister who was accidentally switched at birth, then why did she act sneaky instead of saying it outright?

After Xiehan found out, why was he and Lanni being secretive? Shouldn't they announce it to the Ji family?

Then there was Ji Feifei...

"I think I know what's going on." She mumbled under her breath. In the next moment, her fingers flew across the keyboard of her laptop as she tried to follow Lanni's and Xiehan's trail.

While Xiehan had been careful, Lanni had accidentally left behind a tiny clue, which was sufficient.

It turned out, those two had sought out Flynn. It made her pensive. Why would they need Flynn's help?

If they needed a hacker, Xiehan was one himself. If they wanted someone to help them investigate, they would seek Lin Jian or her. For them to go through all the trouble and have Flynn fly over, it could only mean one thing: this matter was related to Galaxis. But what was the relationship, exactly?

After thinking about it, she took a deep breath and hacked into Xiehan's laptop.

...

Xiehan was just calming himself from the intense activity he had been up to when an alarm resounded on his laptop. Someone was hacking into his laptop! Who in the world had such guts?

He slid off the bed and took the laptop from the nightstand, then started to fight back. The more he battled, the more he found it strange. Why did this person's modus operandi seem so familiar?

He forcefully video called the other party after draping a random robe on his body, and was surprised when an extremely familiar face showed up. He was wondering who had the guts to hack into his laptop and it turned out to be the most gutsy hacker in the city.

He turned to Lanni who had sat up in surprise at what was happening. "Did you tell Luna about it?"

"Do I have to?"

"Does she have to?"

They had responded at the same time.

"..." He was speechless at their unanimous response. Okay.

"What do you want?" He asked the woman on the screen.

"Why don't we save each other's time? Tell me everything else I need to know and I will no longer need to hack into your computer." Luna was running out of time so she went straight to the point.

"What if I don't?" Xiehan was not willing to drag her into everything.

She shrugged. "Then, I will hack your computer till it breaks. Do you want to try me?"

Xiehan knew that aside from having his laptop hacked, Xingyu would bite him into pieces if he let his delicate fiancée overwork her precious fingers by having to hack too much. He sighed and resigned to his fate. "Tomorrow, Feng Ji International.. I will explain everything."

Chapter 429 - Give Them A Chance

The following day.

Lanni woke up to a phone call from her dad. Her voice was still raspy as she answered the call. "Morning, dad."

"Lanni, did I wake you up?" Xia Hanchen asked, his tone sounding worried.

"Not really. What's up?" She looked at the space beside her and realized that Xiehan had already left. He had left a note on the bedside table, which she picked up to leisurely glance through.

[Honey, I have a meeting in the morning so I have to leave. I've left breakfast on the dining table. Enjoy <3

P. S: Don't go doing naughty things.]

She blushed and threw the note aside, dragging herself out of bed as she held her phone to her ear. "Dad, did you call me for something?"

Since he had already woken her up, he could only tell her about it. "Are you free today? I would like you to meet some uncles and aunts."

Lanni was slightly taken aback. Ever since she reunited with Xia Hanchen, he had never mentioned a word about the Xia family. She had almost forgotten that they existed. However, she couldn't really leave B City on such short notice. She asked, "Does it have to be today? I have things to do today."

The other line was silent for a moment before Xia Hanchen let out a sigh. "That's okay. We can go tomorrow instead. If that's alright with you, I will pick you up in the morning."

"Uh...I have things to do tomorrow too." She sounded troubled. "I have a meeting in the evening too, and I don't know at what time it will end."

"What a bummer." The man sounded a little disappointed but he immediately cheered up. "When are you free?"

Lanni scratched her hair. "I don't know, dad. How about I tell you when I'm free?"

The other side went silent.

"Hello... Dad?"

A heavy sigh resounded as the man's deep, disappointed voice filled her ears. "Cupcake, I know you may have heard a lot of things about the Xia family, about how treacherous they are and all. Some of them are true. But, not all of them are bad. Actually, some of the things you have heard might be exaggerated."

He paused for a moment before he helplessly continued, "Cupcake, they miss you so much. Can you not hate them before giving them a chance? Could you get to know them before deciding whether you like or hate them?"

Your grandma has been bugging me to let her meet her precious granddaughter again and if I don't bring you back this weekend, she will bug me again."

Lanni did not hear much about the last part, she was focused on the part about having heard too many things about the Xia family that was an exaggeration. She couldn't help frowning. She had not heard that much about them except the things that Li Yuming and Luna said.

When she recalled that he had talked about her grandmother missing her, she was stunned. "But dad, grandmother does not like me. She did not like me from the start. Isn't that why she sent me and mommy away?"

Most importantly, wasn't it Old Mrs. Xia's fault that her parents were no longer together? Wasn't it all because she had got her dad drunk and forced him together with Li Xiyan?

Xia Hanchen knew this, but he still didn't think his mother would dislike Lanni. He explained, "Cupcake, when your mother and I divorced, it was only natural that we take one child each. It just happened that she took you away and I stayed with Luna. Even so, you were still a baby back then and had nothing to do with anything. Why would your grandma dislike you?"

"Does that mean mother had something to do with everything?" She asked about what his words implied."

He stopped in his tracks and let out a breath. "Can we not talk about the past? Anyway, it's your grandma who urged me to go look for you. Don't detest her before giving her a chance, okay?"

Lanni was at a loss. "Dad, I'm really busy today. I cannot call it off. How about we go tomorrow? It's the weekend. I can postpone my plans.

Xia Hanchen was happier now. "Okay. I'll pick you up tomorrow, girl." As if worried that she would still be scared, he added, "I called your sister a while ago and she agreed to go too. She is even bringing Xingyu along, so you don't need to worry about not being with anyone you are familiar with. If you want, you can bring Xiehan along too."

As expected, Lanni was more at ease now. It was not that she did not trust her father, but in such an unfamiliar place, it would be better to have her sister and her boyfriend by her side. "No problem. I will give Xiehan a call and ask him about it later."

When the call ended, she dragged her tired body to the bathroom. Her gaze darkened slightly when she saw her skin through the mirror. She had several ambiguous marks all over her breasts and back, and she even had some on her neck. Rubbing her waist that still hurt, she had to admit that Xiehan had never been as rough as he was the previous night. He still had the energy to wake up so early to go to a meeting...and to threaten her?

After a quick shower, she found that there was nothing appropriate to wear. Summer was nearing its end, and it was still too hot for her to wear a turtleneck sweater. She was suddenly at a loss for what to wear. After rummaging through her closet for minutes, she finally found a sleeveless blouse that she could wear with a chiffon scarf. Luckily, she managed to cover the embarrassing marks without being too obvious.

Though she vowed to revenge for this. That man must have done it deliberately!

As he had stated in the note, there was breakfast on the table, and it included her favorite sandwiches. Smiling, she packed two sandwiches and decided to grab a cup of coffee at the cafe downstairs, since she was almost running late.

...

Tian Yu Media.

"Chief, here are the models that have been selected for the cover of August's EM cover. Please take a look."

Lanni accepted the folder and glanced through it. EM was the fashion magazine owned by Tian Yu Media, and it featured everything related to fashion including jewelry, cosmetics and clothes for men, women and children.

She glanced through the portfolios and was stunned at one of them. "Ruby Chan?"

The little assistant nodded and explained, "Although she is not a model, she is no less popular than professional models. Besides, her father is a famous businessman, not to mention she is very beautiful. I think her striking appearance would be great for a magazine cover."

Lanni thought about it with a frown. Indeed, Ruby was a beauty. Since she had submitted her application, then she must be willing to do it. She closed the file after looking through it once again.

"Give Ruby Chan, Tang Youran and Meng Lan a call. We will have them try out for the job."

That was fair, so the assistant noted it down before placing a USB flash drive on Lanni's desk. "These are the articles for tomorrow's news. I filtered them out and only sent those that are relevant."

"Okay." Lanni inserted it in her computer and started reading through the articles. She frowned when she noticed that the assistant was still standing in front of her desk. "Is there something else?"

"Y-yes." The girl was timid. "Boss, there is a bouquet of flowers and a letter for you."

"From who?" She asked nonchalantly.

"His surname is Ji." Answered the girl.

A smile slowly formed on Lanni's lips but she restrained it and said, "Bring them over."

The girl brought the bouquet of roses over. Although she didn't have a particular liking for flowers, her heart was filled with contentment when she saw the fresh flowers, with dew still dripping from the slightly. Slotted between the stalks was a box of chocolate, which she took out with a chuckle.

She opened the box and found a sticky note plastered onto it.

[Love, I miss you. I hope you think about me all day~Xiehan]

She smiled as she took out her phone to reply. [I would think about you whether or not you sent the flowers.]

...

Feng Ji International.

Xiehan was listening to a report from his secretary in his office when his phone vibrated. He paused and took it out, smiling when he saw the content of the message.

The secretary said nothing, but it couldn't be any more obvious who the message was from. Ever since her boss announced his relationship with his girlfriend, he was constantly found smiling at odd times, grinning at nothing in particular.

It made one want to fall in love!

Xiehan dismissed his secretary before giving Lanni a call. "Do you miss me?"

"Mmh. Are you going to be busy tomorrow?"

Xiehan frowned slightly at her question. "Why?"

"My dad wants me to go to the Xia family home tomorrow. It's my first time in a long time... would you like to accompany me?" She asked. The other side was silent for a while, so she thought that he must be busy. She paused and added, "Well, if you will be busy then..."

"Baby, we had plans for tomorrow." He interrupted, starting to sound strict when he heard about her sudden change of plans.

Lanni widened her eyes and slapped her forehead. She had forgotten about it all thanks to her dad's words. They were planning to go to the Ji family home and anger Ji Feifei in the morning and in the afternoon, they would go on a picnic.

"I'll make it up to you, my love. I was so nervous that I thoughtlessly promised my dad." She apologized guiltily.

Although she had visited in the past, it was under different circumstances and she had forgotten all about it.

"Mmh?" Xiehan raised an eyebrow, his voice deepening dangerously. "Is your skin itching to be taught a lesson?"

"Honey, don't be so fierce." She complained with her voice lowered, her face flushing when she comprehended the second meaning of his words.

He laughed deeply after having teased her. "Sure, my love. I'll accompany you. But after that, you will have to make up to me all night."

"Okay." She blushed at his shamelessness to say such words like they meant nothing.

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In the evening, at Hillside Hospital.

Before going back home, Xiaoshi decided to drop by and take back the lunch box in which she had sent lunch to Han Xichen.

As soon as she arrived, she wondered whether her visit made any sense. She could very well have picked it up the following morning like she always did.

However, she didn't pause in her steps. She took a deep breath and made her way to the elevator.

There was a patient in his office, so his assistant let her wait for him in his resting room.

The resting room was simple with a few pieces of furniture; a bed, a love seat, a television, and a closet. Although she didn't know what doctors' resting rooms should look like, she thought that it was quite pleasant to the eye. It was sparkling clean and beautiful and aside from the slight medical scent, the air carried his mild, masculine scent.

She sat on the white leather love seat, making herself comfortable. In a few minutes, Han Xichen's assistant brought her juice and snacks. She picked up a cookie and wondered when he would be done. As if on cue, the door opened and he walked in.

"Xiaoshi." His face bloomed with a smile as he sat right next to her.

"Hey..." She set down the cookie between her fingers. Why was she suddenly feeling nervous?

"Did you wait for too long?" He asked as he pulled off his white lab coat.

"I just arrived." She smiled. "Are you very busy, should I come back some other day?"

"I would never be too busy for you." He rested a hand on the backrest of the couch, behind her head.

She tried to ignore his presence as his words played inside her mind on repeat. I would never be too busy for you.

He sounded like a loving boyfriend assuring his little girlfriend that no matter how much work he had to do, he would still make time for her. The woman who could be with this man must be the luckiest woman on earth.

To stop herself from thinking too much about it, she gently reminded, "I came to pick up the bento box."

"Oh, that." He stood up and disappeared into a door, then came back with an empty bento box. "Thank you. It was delicious."

"You don't need to thank me." She kept the box away with a slight flush on her face.

He was studying her, then he asked, "Just this?"

"Huh? Uhm..." It was time to go. She knew this but for some reason, she wanted to stay a little longer. Hence she found something random to talk about. "About the break up,..."

She almost bit her tongue when her words were out. What sort of topic did she just bring up?

Since she had already mentioned it, she could only bite the bullet and continue. "When should we break up? And why should we break up? I mean... this was the plan, right? If we don't, our fake relationship might make it difficult for you to get a girlfriend later."

He glanced at her and let out a low chuckle. "That's alright. I don't need to get a girlfriend." So I don't mind keeping this relationship going, he added mentally.

When she understood his words, her heart skipped a few beats as she jabbed him. "Be serious."

He was serious, but she thought he was joking. He could only laugh helplessly. "Then why don't we use the most basic reason? I cheated on you and you were mad at me so we broke up."

She frowned and shook her head. "No. I don't want to use such reasons as you cheating on me, it will create you trouble." not only would her father seek him to battle it out with him, it would also be unfair for such a perfect man to bear the title of a cheating scumbag.

He grinned when he realized that she cared about him a little more than he thought. She was actually worried about her reputation. He thought about it and suggested, "We can say that we stayed together and found that we are incompatible."

"How so?" She asked curiously. Although they were of different professions, he was not too much older than her and he was handsome. Paired with his regal background and how hardworking he was, there was no way she would find such a man incompatible to her.

He thought about it too. Although he had never had a specific type of women he liked, he couldn't deny that a beauty like her was indeed loveable. Even if he was stuck doing this favor for her forever, he would be happy to do so.

He snapped out of his own unwanted thoughts and thought of a plausible reason. "Perhaps you fell for me merely because you were heartbroken, and later, you realized that you don't really love me so you decided to break it off?"

Once again, he didn't offer her the solution he knew would solve this mess once and for all. It was as though he wanted to continue being in this trap together with her.

As expected, her eyes widened at his suggestion. "Can you not make it sound like I'm such a jerk?"

He burst into laughter at her reaction.

"I'm serious! Stop playing around." She jabbed him angrily.

"I'm serious. No one would think of you as a jerk. Everyone knows that an angel like you would never be one." His tone was full of seriousness, not leaving space for one to doubt any of his words.

"What?" She was dazed by the sudden change of his tone.

He cleared his throat when he realized that he had been too unpredictable. "I mean, you have been so kind to me that I decided that an angel like you deserves more than a verbal thank you. I brought you a gift."

While he spoke, he opened the bag he walked towards the bed and opened a drawer by the bedside table. Out of it came a velvet box about the size of his palm and he brought it to her.

"For me?" She took it suspiciously and opened it. A floral red bracelet made of ruby and silver came into view.

It seemed as though he liked seeing her wear jewelry made of ruby, perhaps it was because they complemented her hair color. He had once said that they were a perfect match with her golden eyes.

She wasn't crazy about jewelry but from the buzz among girls on social media, she knew that this was one of the most valued bracelets from the latest series of M Angel, a famous jewelry production company.

She touched it delicately. "It's beautiful. Thank you."

Seeing as her attention was successfully diverted, his lips curled into a smile. While he did buy the bracelet to gift to her, he was planning to give it to her much later. However, he brought it out earlier than planned just to shut her up.

For some reason, he didn't want to keep talking about the break up even though he knew that would eventually have to do it.