

Chapter 461 - Trap

Lanni was rendered speechless by her sister's insane speed of handling things. How fast.

"What if the Xias are on alert?" She asked, not daring to take any risk.

In response, Luna laughed languidly. "Don't worry. As long as their IQ is still at the same level as it was the last time we met, they will never guess that I am trapping them. They will investigate you and find one answer at a time—all of which will be what I want them to find. By the time they realize it, they will be too deep into the ditch I have dug and covered."

Xiehan thought about Luna's words and found a loophole. "The only way to be certain that they will not discover the trap is to get the nation's top hacker on our side. This will eliminate the possibility of them hiring him to find Lanni's whereabouts."

"That makes sense, but the world's top hacker is dead. We don't have to worry about him taking sides." Luna answered jovially. Their luck was off the charts.

"Xia Hanchen." Lanni's lips moved as she made a guess. When Luna nodded, she thought it made sense. It was no wonder Xia Hanchen possessed such tremendous hacking abilities. She knew that Luna was among the top five in the republic, so anyone who could make her pale in comparison had to be the best of the best.

"Bingo." Luna winked at her but Xingyu, Xiehan and Li Yuming were puzzled.

"Xia Hanchen was a hacker?" Xingyu asked in disbelief. Was there an end to his late father-in-law's surprises?

"I wouldn't be shocked." Li Yuming had seen all the shocking bombs that her ex-husband had to offer, so there wasn't much that could faze her.

"Was the language of Galaxis created by him?" Xiehan asked.

"According to the time that Galaxis came into existence, it is possible." Lanni whispered in uncertainty.

Xingyu suddenly sat up straight. "Hold on. The top hacker is dead but what about the second, third and forth? The Xia family could get all of them together and use them to counter us. Or they could even get a whole team of them. Not to mention, the country's top hacker usually isn't the absolute top. There may be a few in the shadows who are hiding their abilities but could wreck the top hacker in seconds."

"No wonder my darling was named as one of the CEOs with the most potential when he was barely twenty-three. He has always thought about every possible outcome of a situation." Luna circled her hand around her man's neck from the side and kissed his cheek.

"You don't need to shower us with dog food." Lanni berated her sister. "But Xingyu is right. What if there is someone out there better than Xia Hanchen and is hired by them?"

"Then we can sway them later." Li Yuming suggested. It was impossible to know the identity of someone they were yet to deal with and this was the only way to go about it. "For now, let's think about what happens once the Xias get the misleading 'truths' about Lanni."

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Meanwhile, Cheng Yu had made Cedric stay over at her apartment. Since the company was currently unsafe, Luna had asked her and everyone else who might be targeted to work from home, and would notify them on when to go back to work.

She could call it a blessing in disguise since it gave her more time to be with her boyfriend even though they were working most of the time.

"Wake up." She nudged the man who was still sleeping and hugging the pillow she had shoved into his arms when she woke up.

"Yu, let me hug you a little longer." He pulled the pillow that had her scent to his chest, making her roll her eyes.

"That's not me, blockhead."

His eyes flew open when he realized that her voice was coming from the side of the bed and not from his arms. When he finally managed to regain his bearing, he frowned at her. "How can you be so evil? You slipped away and tricked me."

"You were too easy to trick. How can you mistake a pillow for your girlfriend?" She playfully smacked his head.

"It has your scent." He retorted.

"It's not breathing." She pulled him off the bed while paying zero attention to his protest about having slept late and needing to sleep for five minutes more.

Once he sat on the couch in the living room, he almost dozed off and she smacked his head.

"Honey, is there anyone who treats their boyfriend as fiercely as you do?" He complained as he rubbed his eyes that were almost closing on their own.

Cheng Yu ignored his exaggerated dramatics. "Luna just sent me a text message stating that we could go back to work. It's safe now."

"What a bummer. I wanted to continue working beside you for much longer." He groaned.

"Well, we can see each other in the evenings." She shrugged. Isn't that what they always did?

"For five minutes." He complained, as it was enough. He wanted to spend more time with her, but his girlfriend was always swamped with work and could only spare five minutes. For the past few days, he had been happy because she would call him over and even if she spent most of that time working, being in his line of sight was enough to keep him happy.

"Make that six. I can add a minute every day." She said so he would stop complaining.

"Only one more? One minute isn't even enough to make out." He groaned.

Her eyes went wide at his words, making him spring his shoulders and sigh. "It's not even enough to kiss."

She frowned at his exaggeration. "Then move into the unit beside mine."

When she said that, she was merely trying to shut him up and didn't think too much of it until she saw him contact movers and go to speak to the apartment agent.

"What are you doing?" She asked with a frown.

"Moving into the apartment beside yours—Well, below yours." The other apartments on Cheng Yu's floor were occupied so he chose one on the floor below.

"I didn't mean..." She felt her head hurt. "you don't have to do this."

"Did I previously mention that I wanted to move out of my parents' house? You just happened to give me a better idea than purchasing a bungalow. You can come over or call me over whenever you want to, and besides, if you get mad at me and kick me out in the middle of the night, I will not have to go home." He explained all so naturally.

"Who the heck said anything about kicking you out in the middle of the night?" Cheng Yu facepalmed.
"Fine, you will no longer make excuses about it being too late to go home so you can stay the night." Not that she minded him staying over.

He grinned in response. Who said so? He could simply say that the elevator was far and he was too tired.

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After dealing with Xia Hanchen, Flynn went back to Germany. Meanwhile, Xiaoshi's parents went back to Australia when they were certain that their daughter was no longer in danger. With Xiehan taking care of her, there was nothing to worry about.

The girl was jovial and in the next few days, she was almost bouncing with joy.

On Saturday, she gave Lanni a call. "Lanni, are you free? Let's have lunch together."

"Does it have to be lunch?" Lanni asked, feeling too lazy to go anywhere. She had planned to do nothing but sleep all day today.

"If possible." Xiaoshi responded hopefully. "I wanted to introduce you to someone who will only be free today. But if you are busy..."

"I'll come." Lanni dragged herself out of bed. She had always felt guilty for not being able to help her new friend since she could not go against what she believed was right, so the least she could do was cheer her up.

"Great! Come to The Grand Pearl. I'll be waiting for you." Xiaoshi chirped.

It was already almost noon so Lanni freshened up and went over.

Xiaoshi was waiting at the entrance so they would not miss each other—and probably because she was too excited to sit still.

"You are here!" She chimed at Lanni's arrival.

"You look happy." Lanni commented. The girl looked radiant in the red dress she was wearing. Her pretty face was delicately made up as though she was going on a date.

She smiled at Lanni's words. "I am happy. Come on, he is already waiting."

Lanni followed her curiously, and the girl led her to the table she had reserved. She was surprised when she saw the so-called guest.

She never would have expected that the person Xiaoshi was going to introduce was a familiar face. "Dr. Han?"

"Xichen, this is Lanni. My friend as well as my cousin's girlfriend. Lanni, this is..." Xiaoshi was in the middle of rattling her introduction when she stopped after hearing Lanni's words. "Wait. You know each other?"

"He helped me regain my memories." Lanni responded then asked, "You know each other?"

Xiaoshi nodded shyly.. "He's my boyfriend."

"He is your boyfriend?" Lanni was taken aback by the sudden twist of circumstances.

On the other hand, Xiaoshi didn't look like it was anything surprising. "Yes! Isn't he the best choice?" She lowered her voice to whisper in Lanni's ear. "He is handsome and so caring, and he knows how to make a woman happy. What else would a woman ask for?"

"Nothing... I guess." Lanni was still trying to wrap her mind around the shocking bomb that had just been thrown her way without a heads up.

Han Xichen's phone rang and because it might be important, he stepped aside to answer it.

Xiaoshi took this chance to pull Lanni onto the seat opposite hers to interrogate her. "Lanni, aren't you happy for me?"

Lanni scanned the slightly younger woman and tried to assess her mood. "The main point is, are you happy for yourself? Although I'm happy that you have moved on despite the difficulty, I don't wish for you to be with someone you don't like." Both situations were difficult and if it was possible, Lanni hoped that Xiaoshi would be in neither of them.

Xiaoshi's eyes searched for Han Xichen and she saw him speaking on the phone while facing away from a window at the end of the room, at an empty spot. "You have heard of forced marriages, right? Forced marriages, business marriages, contracts, literally every kind that involves little to no emotion."

Lanni nodded and wondered why the latter was bringing this up.

"If I were to get into one of those situations; to marry without having feelings for each other, I wouldn't mind it if the other party is Xichen." Xiaoshi answered, making Lanni's eyebrows raise in suspicion and realization.

"That's not something anyone randomly says about guys they don't like. Are you starting to develop feelings for him?" She asked, trying not to sound pushy.

In response, the other smiled. "That happened ages ago without my knowledge. I like him. It took me long to realize it but I really do. He is the best man in the universe."

Lanni's lips finally curled into a smile as she hugged Xiaoshi. "I'm so happy for you. How long have you been dating?"

The latter broke the hug to count her fingers. "Let me see. Eleven...no, twelve hours."

Lanni was taken aback. Twelve hours?

Xiaoshi laughed. "What did you think? That we have been together for long?"

"That's what I thought. How did you even end up together?" Lanni was curious.

"We have been friends for a while now. Friends, or so I thought." Xiaoshi went ahead to explain how their friendship progressed, from the time she gave him bentos every morning in the parking lot to the accidental kiss. "Until last night, the bastard used reverse psychology on me."

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The previous evening, Han Xichen went to Xiaoshi's apartment. She had gotten back to her place after fully recovering. Even so, this was the first time they were seeing each other since the day he had hypnotised her at his condo. She wanted to hug him but then remembered what had transpired between them the last time, and his confession. She stopped in her tracks and went to the kitchen to return with an apple on a platter, then she sat down and started peeling it.

She was not the only one who had changed—he had too. Unlike the other times, he was not here to smile and check up on her. This time, he sat on the couch and looked straight at her. "We need to talk."

"Mmh? Talk about what? You look serious." So serious that her hand that was holding a fruit knife trembled.

"I am serious." His expression did not change. He took the fruit knife out of her hand and placed it on the table along with the half-peeled red apple that she was peeling for him. His actions drew all her attention to him.

"What do you want to talk about?" She had a bad premonition and felt her insides tense up. It must be bad news from his actions.

"I've been thinking about it and decided that we can no longer be close." He spoke after keeping her waiting for a few seconds.

A chill sped down her spine and she was speechless for a while. It was only about a minute later that she found her voice. "Why?"

The man was unfazed by her shocked demeanor. "As you said it before, I will not be able to get a girlfriend while keeping a close relationship with you."

She thought she had recovered from the shock until she heard his words. She took a deep breath then looked at him in confusion. "But you said that you didn't need to have a girlfriend." She could clearly remember the exact time he said it. She had suggested that they break off their fake relationship because if they kept it going, it would appear as though he was taken and that might hinder him from getting into a real relationship. He was the one who rejected the idea. What had changed?

He seemed to read her mind and he frowned. "I didn't need to, and I think the reason is self-explanatory."

"No, it isn't." She shook her head. In truth, she knew what he meant but she just couldn't process it.

"Because I knew that the one I wanted was you." He explained.

"And you don't anymore?" The question came out as a whisper, as though she didn't have the strength to properly ask it.

"I still do." He confessed. "But we don't always have to be with the person we like, do we? And I cannot keep being close to you when you are stubbornly pining for another man." He paused to let the words sink in then added, "Besides, Shishi, I have no desire to be used as a bait. If all you want is to make Xingyu jealous, then please go ahead and make a social media post about hiring a fake boyfriend. I'm sure your dad would not mind too much."

His unfiltered words sliced through her heart like daggers. She couldn't say that they were unkind words since they were all true. All along, he had been giving in to whatever made her situation more bearable, indulging her even though they didn't share any relationship. He was not obliged to help her and was only being kind to himself by pulling away to avoid being used. She was not angry but that didn't mean she was not hurt. She used up what she thought was her last strength to bite out three words. "You are right."

Deep down, she hoped he was joking. She hopefully waited for him to flick her forehead and laugh at her for being so easily fazed, then tell her that he was merely joking. Alas, he stood up and all she saw was his back as he left without sparing her another glance. She hugged her arms and fought back her tears as it finally dawned on her what she had done. It was all her fault that it came to this. She had no one but herself to blame...

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A few hours later, at the doorstep of Han Xichen's condo.

Xiaoshi didn't know how she got here nor could she count the number of times she had taken wrong turns until she finally remembered the right route.

She knew that she shouldn't be here. She shouldn't bother him anymore, but her hands acted like they had a mind of their own and pressed the doorbell.

The door was opened within a few seconds by Han Xichen, who was wearing blue home wear, and he raised an eyebrow when he saw her. "You are not one of the people I was expecting to see any time soon. What are you doing here?"

"I don't want you to stay away." She answered and quickly placed a hand on the doorframe so he would not shut the door in her face—not that she thought he was capable of doing that.

He glanced at her little movement that threatened to bring a smile to his lips, but he kept a straight face. "We have already had this talk."

She was saddened by his nonchalance. "But I miss you so much. I... I like you."

"Shishi, what did you say?" His voice pitched as he looked at her in surprise.

She had already prepared for this so she took a deep breath and continued. "I was blind to not realize it before but I like you so much. I really do."

Seconds passed while he looked down at her and said nothing. When she thought she would pass out from nervousness, his lips finally moved. "You better be sure of yourself because I'll need to prove it."

"H-how?" She stammered.

Chapter 463 - Prove It—2

"Let me think about it." His brows scrunched up in seriousness as he thought about what to make her do to prove what she had just claimed.

Her heart raced uncontrollably. He was not going to tell her to do something impossible, right? Deep in her heart, she unknowingly trusted him and knew that he would not take advantage of this chance to make her do anything against her wishes. The only thing that worried her was that he might have already given up on her and did not like her anymore, and that he would ask her to do something impossible as a way of getting rid of her.

He kept her guessing for more than a minute and watched her wait nervously before he finally snapped back to reality. "Yes. I know just the task for you."

"What..." Her voice shook as it disappeared into a whisper.

He looked down at her like a predator that had finally caught its little prey and finally ordered, "Kiss me."

"What?" She looked up at him and blinked in surprise. Just this?

"What? Didn't you say you were willing to prove that you like me? This is quite a normal thing for people to do when they like each other, is it not?" His deep voice reverberated in her ears.

"It is." She took deep breaths to calm her racing heart, then realized that he was laughing at her.

"Aren't you going to come in?" He teased.

She finally realized that he had long stepped away from the door while she was still grabbing onto the frame like her entire life depended on it. She coughed at her silly actions and entered the house in small steps. When he let out a laugh, she finally realized what was happening and frowned, then turned to face him. "You did it on purpose."

He neither admitted nor denied it, and she knew she had guessed right, She punched his chest with restrained force. "You scared me. You idiot."

He grabbed her hand that was on his chest with a jovial laugh. "You deserved it. Who takes that long to realize their feelings? I even had to employ such 'special' means for you to finally awaken."

She sighed and no longer blamed him. He was right, after all. She took the liberty to rest her head on his chest. "I thought I had lost you."

"You didn't. If you didn't realize your feelings, I would hypnotise the hell out of you." He joked then looked down at her seriously. "What about my kiss?"

Her cheeks burned at the reminder. After preparing herself mentally, she raised her head and tiptoed to press a harmless peck on his lips.

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Thinking about Han Xichen's endless teasing that followed after the kiss last night, Xiaoshi felt she could die from embarrassment. She would never dare to talk about it.

"That's how I ended up as his girlfriend. It turns out the idiot was using reverse psychology on me." She explained to Lanni.

"He really needed to do that. You are a blockhead." Lanni laughed. She didn't know the details of the relationship between the two but merely from Xiaoshi's narration, she could tell the girl had fallen for Han Xichen soon after their first meeting.

Xiaoshi sighed out of the blue. "Lanni, do you think I have detachment issues?"

"I'm not sure I know what that's supposed to mean but I don't think there is such a thing as moving on too soon." Lanni answered.

"That's what I was thinking about. Can you read minds too?" Xiaoshi laughed but she was serious.

Lanni detected this and nodded. "It's up to you-it would never be up to anyone else how long it takes for your heart to let go of something. No one has the right to judge you and even if they do, ignore them and live your life the way you want to."

Lanni frowned when she thought about her mother. She had heard countless insults directed at Li Yuming for not remarrying, but she knew that Li Yuming would be scolded even if she did fall in love again. What people wanted was gossip-in a way, it had nothing to do with what kind of decisions one

made. She didn't want Xiaoshi to be scared of introducing Han Xichen to the people who knew about her previous infatuation of Xingyu in fear that they would judge her for moving on too fast.

"Are you girls done discussing me?" Han Xichen finally returned from his phone call.

"Not at all. We're just getting started." Lanni joked at Han Xichen's response, and Xiaoshi laughed.

The man's lips curled into a smile as he sat opposite Xiaoshi, then he casually glanced at Lanni. "Do you recall everything now?"

Lanni nodded then immediately shook her head, looking a little confused before she decided to explain it. "We could say I remember everything except one section. It's all tied to one place. When people talk about matters related to it, I find it familiar but when I try to recall how I left the place, I either lose focus or get a headache."

She was talking about Galaxis. She couldn't remember a fragment of memory on her own, not even whatever had happened with Flynn. Everything she knew was what Flynn had told her regarding her previous training period. Even so, the man had refrained from telling her the things that actually mattered, and had only given her general information.

"Then it was your decision to shut it out. Your brain doesn't want to recall it so I would advise you to not force it." He spoke after giving it some thought. In his experience, such fragments of memory would turn out to be the most traumatic experiences that the patients had undergone, so in this case, he hoped that Lanni would forget them forever.

She nodded at his words. "Okay. I'll take your word for it." She no longer needed Galaxis anyway-Han Xichen was already dead and if there was anything left regarding that den of criminals, it was no longer her business. Besides, Flynn was there.

"Thank you." She once again said to the man across the table, who had helped her rediscover herself.

"Don't thank me. We are family." He smiled and shot a meaningful glance at Xiaoshi, who was wondering whether she would have needed to spend so much effort to recover her memory if Han Xichen had agreed to erase her memory.

When she heard his words, she snapped back to reality with a start. "What? Family?"

"Aren't we going to be in-laws in future?" He was having a blast teasing her. "She will be the wife of my cousin-in-law." He was certain that his friend considered Lanni as the only woman he would be with.

Xiaoshi was rendered speechless by his logic. "You can't talk about marriage when our relationship is how old?" She started counting her fair fingers.

"Twelve hours, thirty minutes and seven seconds?" He beat her to it. "Yes I can. Are you planning to dump me later?"

"No." She frowned and wanted to beat him up. Who the hell talked about dumping each other within the same day that they got into a relationship?

The man didn't think he had said anything wrong. "There are only two paths that a relationship can take; breaking up or spending the rest of your lives together. Which one do you prefer?" As she was still speechless, he added, "I prefer to get married and have very many little Shishis."

"You, stop teasing me." She finally realized that he was having way too much fun with this. "And why do you only want Shishis and not Xichens?" He sunk into thought but shook his head. "Sons... Well, I have nothing against sons, but I'm afraid they might turn out to be like me."

"You don't want your kids to take after you?" This was the first time Xiaoshi was hearing such a thing but she quickly understood the reason. "I knew you were the worst kind of person when you were little. Naughty kid."

"I was not naughty. At least not as naughty as you were." He retaliated as he blocked the punch that was about to be playfully thrown at his chest from across the table.

"Who said I was naughty?" She asked defensively.

"Do I need anyone to say it? It is evident from your current personality that you were the naughtiest kid in the neighbourhood-the kind that other parents like to use as a bad example when teaching their kids to not pick up the bad habits." He laughed at her face that had contorted in anger.

"You meanie. Don't talk to me!" She harrumphed and pretended to be angry with him, shuffling closer to Lanni to ignore him.

Lanni smiled slightly as she watched the new couple bicker like little kids.. It reminded her of the time when she and Xiehan had just started dating, and she suddenly missed him so badly.

Chapter 464 - Disoriented

"Lanni?" Xiaoshi called out when she realized that Lanni had spaced out for too long. The latter didn't seem to hear her so she tapped her arm, and she finally jolted out of her trance.

"Mmh?" She looked confused.

"Why aren't you eating?" Xiaoshi pointed at the food that had been delivered a few minutes ago, but was untouched by Lanni who was deep in thought. She hadn't even realized when the food was brought in.

She picked up her cutlery. "It's right. I'm still a little disoriented... I guess it's because I slept too much."

"Do you want to go out for fun later?" Xiaoshi suggested. She knew that Lanni had something on her mind and it had nothing to do with her feeling disoriented. She couldn't probe unless the latter was

willing to talk about it herself, so she could only offer something that would help her cheer up without being intrusive.

Lanni was thankful for her good intention but she had to call a rain check. "Maybe next time?"

"Of course." Xiaoshi did not push it. "If you need someone to talk to, I'll be right here."

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As soon as she finished having lunch with the new couple, she left the restaurant absentmindedly and before she realized it, she had rang Xiehan's doorbell.

"My love, I thought you were going to sleep all day." The man opened the door with a complicated gaze. He was pleasantly surprised to see her but was at the same time worried, especially when he noticed that she didn't seem to be in the best mood.

"I missed you." She confessed and threw herself into his arms.

He embraced her lovingly and kissed her forehead. Her hands were wrapped around his neck while her face plastered herself onto his chest. He didn't need to ask her to know that she had something on her mind. Before he could ask about it, she raised her head and her lips crashed against his.

He quickly adjusted to the sudden gesture and wrapped his arms around her waist, pulling her into a tighter embrace as he kissed her lips. He gently sucked her lower lip as his right hand slid against the side of her neck, his thumb caressing her ear before sliding down to lift her chin.

Her arms tightened at his back as she took the initiative to slide her tongue through his lips and she had to tiptoe to make up for the difference in their height.

He held her waist and lifted her off the floor to carry her into the house, then sat on the couch and placed her on his lap. She gazed at him for a few seconds then smiled and got off his lap to sit beside him.

He glanced at her with a curious side-eye. "Should I assume that the ambience here is much better so you wanted to take a nap here instead?"

She responded with a smile. "Yes. Isn't that because you are here? Obviously, naps are much sweeter in your presence."

"When did you learn to be such a sweet talker?" He chuckled at her honeyed words.

"That's an effect of being close to you." She implied that one is marked by the company one keeps.

"That isn't simply an effect. It's a perk." He exaggeratedly gave himself credit and she rolled her eyes.

"Can I sleep in your room?" She asked out of the blue and he frowned.

"What kind of question is that? Of course you can sleep anywhere you find pleasing, at any time you want. You can even sleep on top of me if you think it's more comfortable." The second part of his statement was meant to be a tease.

"I wouldn't mind doing that later, but I will have to pass the offer at the moment."

"Are you sure about that? My chest is more comfortable now." He took her hand and brought it to his chest as though asking her to try it out.

In reality, she didn't need to feel it to know. "I know that. It is my favorite pillow after all, of course I would know."

"Do you need me to carry you there?" He took her up from the couch before she answered, and she could only wrap her arms around his neck.

He placed her gently on the bed and sat beside her, next to her legs. "Go to sleep."

She didn't close her eyes and continued looking at him, and he found her odd. "Is there something wrong?"

She didn't know what was wrong with her either. She felt a wild flood of emotions that she couldn't quite place. All she knew was that she wanted to be close to him. When he asked her whether something was wrong, she couldn't stand it anymore and sat up while looking at him.

"Come here." He pulled her into his arms, and took her lips in his. All her insecurities vanished in a flash as she lost herself in the flame of his passionate kiss. He took his time to savor the taste of her lips while at the same time reassuring her that he was there for her and that everything would be alright.

Many things had happened in her life in such a short time, it was understandable for her to feel on edge; so he strived to make her forget the pain and remember the happiness that life had to offer.

He broke the kiss and looked into her lost eyes as he caressed the side of her face with his thumb. "I love you."

She pushed on his shoulders and he complied by lying down as she wanted him to, then she climbed onto him as their lips met. He held her waist to support her as she kissed his lips, then flipped to pin her under him.

"I want you." She whispered as her fingers caressed the back of his head. "Make love to me."

He was already aroused and he almost lost control at her words. He burrowed his head in the crook of her neck and kissed it, sucking it gently as his left hand held her waist. His right hand held up her thigh and caressed it, making her dress slide up her waist.

She slid her hand off his neck and reached at her side to pull down the zipper she knew he was looking for. She sat up briefly to let him take off her dress then slumped back onto the bed while pulling him down on her.

Her lower body girated against his manhood that was already hard in his pants. It stiffened harder from her actions and he groaned, impatiently ripping his clothes off his body.

He looked into her eyes that were now filled with desire and reached his hand between her thighs. She whimpered when his hand came into contact with her wet core.

He felt the small patch that had formed on her panties and in the next moment, he pulled it off her waist and slid himself into her.

He sucked her nipple as he gently pushed in and out of her. He pressed the other between his thumb and forefinger, earning a whimper from her.

"Xiehan," She whispered against his ear. His eyes that were full of desire looked up to meet her passionate gaze. "Take me hard."

He kissed her lips then held both sides of her waist as he picked up his pace.

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Lanni fell asleep as soon as they were done and when she woke up, she was on her own and the space beside her was cold. Xiehan must have woken up long ago. She looked around and noticed the rising sun through the open window, making her widen her eyes.

Did she sleep all afternoon, throughout the entire night? When she looked down at herself and saw the blue nightdress she was wearing, she knew that she was right. Xiehan must have helped her freshen up. She wondered where he was.

She checked the kitchen and didn't find him. However, he had made her breakfast and left it on the dining table. It was still hot, so she guessed that he was still nearby.

"You are finally awake. I was starting to wonder whether tales about princesses being kissed out of their sleep are really true." Xiehan remarked when he found her scanning around for him.

"There is only one such princess." She retorted. Now that she had found the person she was looking for since she woke up, she realized that she was hungry and sat down to eat breakfast.

"Do you need to go to work?" She asked since he was already late if he was planning to go to the office.

"Honey, it's Sunday." He was amused.

She was shocked then realized that he was right.. Yesterday was Saturday, which is why she had been sure that she would find him at home. Did she lose part of her brain after sleeping for too long?

Chapter 465 - Mr. Unreliable CEO

While they had breakfast, Xiehan finally had the chance to have a good talk with Lanni.

"Did something happen?" He asked. She was not herself the previous day.

"It's nothing. I was just feeling blue about your departure." She confessed.

For a moment, he didn't know what to say. When he announced his departure, she had seemed so nonchalant that he almost believed that it didn't make her in the slightest bit unhappy. Who would have thought that her feelings would later come raging out like a flood.

He pulled her onto his shoulder to pat her. "Don't think about it. The days will pass by before you even realize it."

She did not doubt this. She knew that the hardest part was his departure. Soon after, the time would fly and he would be back in no time. She couldn't help wondering how the wives of military officials felt every time their husbands had to leave.

"Don't let your mind run wild." He flicked her forehead, knowing that she was thinking too much when he saw her start to space out. "Do you want to sleep some more? You can do so after breakfast."

"Not anymore. I have slept for so long that I will turn into a potato if I sleep anymore." She rejected the idea immediately.

Her phone rang and when she found that it was Lin Jian, she had the urge to roll her eyes. "Mr. Unreliable CEO, when am I supposed to report to work? I'm growing old just waiting for your signal."

"About that." Lin Jian cleared his throat on the other end. "I was about to ask whether you needed more time to deal with your family matters. You can start working after that."

"Are you insane?" Lanni couldn't understand how he had managed to be the CEO of Lin Media Group without causing the downfall of the entire company. He was too lenient.

"Are you about to complain about me giving you too much free time? It's not like I have much choice."

"Why wouldn't you have a choice?" She wondered whether he was dreaming.

"Can't you check the space beside you for an answer?" the man sounded like he was complaining.

Lanni was about to scold him when she realized what he meant. Was it Xiehan's fault?

"Mmh?" Xiehan raised an eyebrow in question when he noticed her staring at him while holding her phone against her ear.

"Don't make things difficult for my boss. I was wondering why he wouldn't give me any work, turns out it was because of your meddling." She glared at him strictly.

"Isn't it your fault?" He retaliated.

"How is it my fault?"

"You were working so hard that I had to employ some special means." He looked at her then his eyebrows furrowed slightly. "Now that you mention it, I shouldn't have contacted Lin Jian. I should have let you drain yourself to find myself an excuse to punish you."

She was speechless at his ability to say such words while knowing that the phone call was still on. But then again, he had merely talked about punishing her. It was she who had let her mind run wild.

"Uhm you know what? I'll just get back to work." Lin Jian hung up to run away from the atmosphere that he guessed might start heating up any instant.

She looked at him when the call ended, and he finished his sandwich nonchalantly before looking at her quizzically.

"I will start working tomorrow. You cannot interfere." It was not a request.

"There has to be rules for that." He countered seriously. "You cannot work for more than seven hours every day."

"That's..." She was speechless at the fact that he could even make such a suggestion. "What if there is a lot of work and I have to work overtime?"

"Don't work overtime. It's not good for your health." He sternly reasoned out.

However, that was impossible. "How about this? I will not work overtime unless it is really necessary and I will give an explanation if I have to."

Their conversation was interrupted by a call from Wen Lin. He was about to ignore it but she signalled for him to answer it as it might be important.

"Xiehan, I was planning to throw a banquet for Ruby." Wen Lin stated. "After all, she has been back for a while now and we are getting more comfortable around each other. I think it is the right time to introduce her to the world."

Xiehan waited for her to finish her explanation before asking, "Do you think the world should know that Ruby is the real daughter of the Ji family? You should keep in mind that Ruby is not a long lost daughter or one who has just returned from studying abroad. She is a young woman that many people know about, but they know her as Neil Chan's daughter. Are you ready to explain the truth to everyone who asks about it?"

Wen Lin paused for a few seconds and seemed to think about it. "I have thought about it and your father and I have decided to let the public know the truth. It's only right. My daughter cannot continue to live in hiding. She was already robbed of the life she deserves before. If she continues living with us without a proper title, people will make all sorts of wild speculations and if we keep her away from us, we will be robbing her of the parental love she has missed all these years.

Once we tell everyone the truth, we will protect her and besides, Xia Hanchen is dead."

"I have nothing against it." Xiehan approved of it. "However, I wouldn't advise you to explain that someone deliberately swapped her for Ji Feifei."

"Of course. We don't want to directly alert the enemies. We will make it seem like a case of accidentally carrying the wrong baby home then years later coincidentally stumbling upon the truth."

"When do you want to hold it?" Xiehan asked.

"Let me discuss it with Ruby."

On the other end, Ruby had just entered the house when Wen Lin hung up the call. Before she could call her over to discuss the banquet, Ji Huifen beat her to it.

"Ruby, come here."

She walked over and sat on the space that Ji Huifen had patted beside him.

The man scanned her for a while then asked, "Why are you only close to your mother? I have yet to hear the word 'dad' from you."

He sounded aggrieved like he had been robbed of something valuable, making her lips curl upwards. It wasn't that she had a particular preference when it came to her biological parents. She was trying to create a good relationship with both of them. It was just weird to call anyone else aside from Neil dad.

However, she knew that she should; Ji Huifen wasn't any less of her father than Neil was. She cleared her throat and bit out. "Dad."

Ji Huifen's heart melted into a puddle. "Good girl. Come here. I will show you to the grand library."

She stood up since he had stood up, even though she was confused by his order. "But Xiehan said that it is forbidden for anyone to set foot there."

"Yes. But my daughter isn't just anyone. Would you like the free trip?" He held out a hand to her.

She placed her palm on his. "Yes."

Wen Lin watched the father-daughter Duo with a smile. Thinking about the wild turn of events, she couldn't help wondering whether this was the heavens giving her another chance. She had not been a good mother to Ji Feifei and had learnt her lesson the hard way. Now that her biological daughter was home, she strived to be more attentive—even though Ruby was already an adult.

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At the same time, in the Old Jiang Mansion.

Xinghe leaned against the railing of the balcony of the master bedroom, looking outside with a lost expression.

"Dear, what's wrong?" Jiang Xingren appeared beside her with a worried expression. It was rare to see his jovial wife looking so sad.

"I'm just worried. Have you heard about Luna's dad?" She turned around to face her husband. When he nodded, she frowned. "How can you be so nonchalant about it? He is a dangerous man and he had us all fooled! Heaven knows how many underlings he had that could go after Luna."

Jiang Xingren thought about it but still didn't find anything to be worried about. "Dear, what's there to be worried about? He is dead, so our daughter-in-law is safe. Even if he had a hundred underlings, they would scatter in confusion since they no longer have a master to guide them. Even if they later start to work under someone else's orders, Xingyu will be able to protect Luna."

"You are right." She was confident in her son.

"Come here, my wife.." He embraced her.

Chapter 466 - The Luckiest

It was only four days after Xia Hanchen's demise that news of it was published. It was all Flynn's idea; since the former was a renowned businessman, it would be questionable if he simply disappeared without a trace, with no explanation whatsoever.

It was also his idea to state that he was involved in a fatal car accident and that he had died in the hospital while undergoing a surgery to remove a clot that was near his brain. Obviously, no one would go around asking every surgeon whether Xia Hanchen underwent the surgery in their hospital and even if they did, he had already arranged for a false schedule in a hospital.

When Xingyu read the news which he knew to be fake at a single glance, he was in his room in the Jiang Mansion and Luna was brushing her hair at the vanity. He knew that there wasn't anyone who would not be sad about their parents' death. It must be even sadder for Luna, having to lie to the public when she knew fully well what the truth was.

He placed the newspaper aside and wrapped his arms around her from behind.

"Mmh?" She questioned his sudden move.

"Don't be sad." He placed his chin on her shoulder as he took the hair brush from her hand to help her brush her hair and soothe her at the same time.

Contrary to his expectations, she frowned for a second then laughed when she finally understood what he was talking about. "I would not be sad over the demise of someone I hate so much."

"Are you sure? Are you really not sad?" He knew that she often held back what she really felt and lied about being alright so she would not worry anyone.

She nodded. "I'm telling you the truth. I've never been happier. In fact, we should be celebrating the fact that a villain has left our lives."

Regarding the last part of her statement, he couldn't disagree. It didn't matter who the villain was and how close they were to the people they hurt, their death would be a joyful occasion to all the people they hurt.

He pulled her off the vanity by her hand and she followed his lead, then she was confused when she saw that he was leading her to the bed.

"Come, let's celebrate." He pulled her into his arms with a meaningful grin then started fumbling with her clothes.

"Don't be such a pervert. You know that's not what I meant." Her voice pitched. Even though she was blaming him and calling him a pervert, she did not move away nor did she do anything to make him stop touching her. A single touch by his finger was all it took for her mind to go blank and she wanted him to keep touching her.

"This is what I meant." He smiled as his hand moved up at the side of her body. He found the hem of her pajama top and lifted it to come in contact with the skin on her waist. It was warm and as usual, soft to the touch. He let go and reached for the front part of it to unbutton it instead. She was not wearing a bra so when he slid the soft cotton top off her, the top half of her body was entirely exposed in his view.

"Honey, the baby." She whispered gently to remind him when his hands circled around her half naked body.

"I'll be gentle. I won't hurt you and our baby." As he promised, he raised her chin with his thumb and kissed her lips. Her hands reached for his shirt but she was too weak from his kisses to make a move. He paused and helped her by ripping the shirt off him to throw it at the side, then hugged her waist.

Her toes curled as she felt his fingers run up her back, then slide into her pajama pants. He pushed them off in one move and they slid down her body as she held onto his shoulders, weak from his touch.

"You are so beautiful, my love." He whispered coarsely then lifted her off the floor to place her on the bed.

While he held her in his arms, she fumbled for his belt and unbuttoned it then made to take his pants off. He placed his hands on hers and looked into her eyes, then led her right hand onto his manhood.

"You are so hard..." She sounded surprised at the fact that he could get a boner so fast.

"This is what you do to me." He croaked as he pressed her hand against his throbbing boner. She could feel it pulsing in her hand through his boxer briefs and she rubbed her hand over it in slow strokes.

Shifting from her side, she positioned herself to hover over him and tugged his briefs down. He immediately knew what she wanted to do.

"You don't have to do this." He knew that not every woman was into oral sex. His fiancée, in particular, had never shown an interest in it.

"I want to. I want to make you feel good." Without waiting for another word from him, she took him in her mouth. Although she had never done this before, she knew what to do from hearing other women talk about it. She caressed the base of his manhood, her head bobbing as she tried to take as much of him as she comfortably could.

He threw his head back as he groaned in pleasure, motivating her to keep going.

Since she was not used to it, it wasn't long before he realized that she was starting to feel tired. He didn't want her to be uncomfortable so he stopped her and made her lie on the bed, placing a pillow behind her.

"You drive me crazy." He confessed as he gently entered her body, earning a moan from her. His movements were gentle and slow and her toes curled behind him from the pleasure that she felt. She felt a pool gathering in the pit of her stomach, making her hug him tightly and uncontrollably bite his shoulder.

"Don't hold back. Let it out." He said teasingly in her ear.

"Xingyu," She moaned out as she reached her climax, then felt him come a few seconds later.

He hugged her in his arms and kissed her forehead while she took deep breaths to calm down from the waves of pleasure.

"What's with that look?" He noticed her staring at him a few moments later.

"Baby wants to say hi to his dad." Came her metaphoric reply and he took a few seconds to understand what she meant.

Although he had just had a climax a few minutes ago, his manhood hardened once more at her words. A single touch of hers was able to elicit such a huge reaction from him. Sometimes he wondered how it

was possible for other men to talk about finding their wives less attractive when they were pregnant. He found Luna more and more beautiful every day and the fact that they were about to become parents and get married to spend the rest of their lives together drove him crazy every time he thought about it.

One kiss led to another and soon, they were drenched in sweat as they hugged each other.

"I've been wanting you more than usual. Is this normal?" She asked, finding it strange how frequently they made love lately.

"It's normal." He kissed her lips. "When your fiance is as handsome as me, it goes without saying that you will keep wanting him and will never have enough of him." He explained his nonsense through a laugh.

"How narcissistic." She rolled her eyes tiredly. "I get scared sometimes. What if our baby is a son and he turns out to be like you?"

He laughed at her indirect diss. "Then you will be the luckiest mother on earth and I will be the luckiest dad. He will be the cutest baby in the entire universe." He scanned her with interest and she didn't need to ask to know what he was thinking. He was trying to imagine what their child would look like if it was a daughter, by looking at her.

"Now that I look at you, I think a girl would be adorable. I would name her Mina," He stated the name he had just come up with.

"Why Mina?" She asked curiously.

"I don't know. It's the name I just came up with." He laughed.

"I think Xiaomu is a better choice. To make Jiang Xiaomu actually exist." She ignored his choice, and he thought she made sense. Besides, it was a name that her sister used before so it was meaningful. He had to admit that she had a greater choice for names.

"What if it's a handsome little Xingyu?" He asked.

She looked at him with a gentle smile.. "I would name him Linhou."

Chapter 467 - Good Boy

The following day, Lanni received yet another call from Lin Jian.

"Do you need any more time off? I just read the news?" He asked, wondering whether she needed more time to get over the roller coaster that had just happened in her life.

"If you are worried about what happened to my dad, then your worries are unfounded." She responded. At this rate, she wondered whether she would ever actually get to work.

Her nonchalance baffled Lin Jian but he could not retaliate since it was she who knew whether or not she needed time off, and she had claimed to be alright. "Then start working today. Come over to Lin Media Group and I will give you a task."

She was overjoyed and quickly changed into official attire and prepared to go to Lin Media Group.

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The receptionist had already been informed of her arrival so she let her in as soon as she arrived. Lanni was shown to Lin Jian's office.

She arrived just in time to hear the man harshly scold a female employee for messing up her work. The young woman dashed out of Lin Jian's office with tears in her eyes, rendering Lanni speechless. So Lin Jian could be serious at work too. What was more surprising was that he could also be strict with beautiful women. Thanks to his debauchery, everyone assumed that he was unnecessarily lenient with pretty girls that looked helpless, and they all wondered whether women would be the downfall of Lin Media Group.

"Come in." He bellowed at the door since he had already seen Lanni, and when the latter walked in, his overly serious expression morphed back to normal. Even then, the so-called normal was only in comparison to the strictness he had exhibited earlier. There was still an air of authority around him.

They were at work so Lanni did not mind, though she was shocked to realize that the man also had times when he could get serious and focus on work.

"What's my task?" She asked so as to not waste each other's time.

"Let me see." Lin Jian looked up from his work and read through a file before he explained the content to her. "There is a notorious woman that the police as well as the special forces are after. Her name is Li Xiyan."

"Are you kidding me?" Lanni was puzzled.

"You know her. I am aware of that" Lin Jian did not flinch. "Li Xiyan is a criminal who had been previously caught by the police but unfortunately, she ran away. She is suspected to be under an alias. Don't only focus on this point, though. She could be under an alias, or she could be hiding away in her true form since everyone expects her to be under an alias. Your task is to find her and report where she is as well as where she had been."

"What?" She was even more shocked when she heard everything he had to say. "My task is to find Li Xiyan? I didn't know I was supposed to be an undercover journalist of sorts?" This was exactly what she had been at Galaxis and she wasn't certain that she wanted anything to do with it.

"One of our roles as journalists is to inform the public of what lurks in the shadows that they should be wary of. I expected you to have learnt this in Media School." He sounded so serious that she almost mistook him for an impostor.

"It's not that I don't want to do it. I'm just shocked." Honestly, she didn't think it was a coincidence that her first task just happened to be related to Li Xiyan.

"Don't worry. I am not asking you to go undercover or disguise yourself like you did when you exposed the Feng family. You can work as your true self. Of course, if you want to go under a disguise, I will not stop you from doing that either. As long as you get the result as you should." He said seriously, then realized that she was still giving him a skeptical look. He knew without needing to ask what she was shocked about.

"Is it surprising that I'm giving you something related to what you already wanted to find out?" He asked, and she nodded. He then let out a tiny chuckle and swung by his chair so he was facing her directly. "It's a mere coincidence that we were going to investigate Li Xiyan either way, since you happen to want to do that, I thought I may as well give the task to you. Call yourself lucky." Before she could actually celebrate her luck, he added, "Don't be too happy yet. I will give you four days"

"Four days?" The exclamation escaped her lips.

"Is it too much? I think so too. Make that three." He spoke sternly, his eyes looking at her seriously as though he was threatening to decrease it to two days if she said anything about it.

"I will do my best." She bowed her head and made her way out of his office. Her eyes blinked for a while before she shook her head in disbelief. Was that really Lin Jian?

One second, the man was giving her calls and fondly addressing her as his friend-in-law, while cutely begging her to go over to Lin Media Group. The next second, he was trying to kill her by dumping on her head a heavy duty atomic bomb in form of a task and asking her to complete it within three days. Couldn't he at least give a warning before such insane transformation?

Thinking about it, Lanni shrugged as she left Lin Media Group. She was planning to take care of Li Xiyan after dealing with Xia Hanchen anyway. Take it as her taking advantage of work to sort out her personal matters. It would use less time.

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After an entire morning of working his butt off, Lin Jian finally had a moment to take a breather over lunch hour. He thought about whether or not he should spend that time working but shook his head in the end. While there was a lot of work to be completed in a short time, that didn't mean he shouldn't eat and rest. Ruby would be worried about him if he didn't take good care of himself. Worse than that, she might start to let her imagination run wild and think he was in the company of another woman if he did not give her a call to check on her.

Thinking of this, he took out his phone and dialled the contact number he had saved as [My Ruby].

"Babe, how have you been?" He asked when the girl answered the call, which was almost as soon as he dialled it. Since she liked reading comics on her phone, he guessed that she must have been reading and had answered the call accidentally.

"I'm alright." She ignored what she had heard him call her. Since she had given him a chance, it was expected that he would use pet names on her.

He thought about what to tell her and realized that he had nothing in mind. All he had wanted was to check on her and he didn't think about what he would say once she answered the call. He frowned as he went through his schedule on his large, black desk and it gave him an idea. "I heard about the banquet"

"Yes." She was currently trying to draft up an invitation card before copies would be made of it. "Will you attend it?"

Her question took him by surprise. He thought she had always wanted more than for him to stay far away from her, so he was taken aback when she asked about his plans. "I will attend it if you take me as your male companion."

"Is there an end to your bullshit?" She rolled her eyes even though she knew that he would not see it. This man was so full of drama that sometimes it made her wonder whether he had chosen a wrong career path. Perhaps being an actor would suit him. If he acted the role of an insane drama king, he would not need any acting skills, he would simply need to bring out the real him.

"Why would there be? I want to bullshit my way into your heart. Is this not allowed?" Came his crazy reply. "Let's have lunch together."

"I'm busy with schoolwork as well as preparing for the banquet." She dismissed him. It wasn't that she didn't want to dine with him, she was just too busy at the moment.

"What a bummer, I'll be all on my own." He complained.

"Isn't there a retinue of ladies waiting to dine with you?" She chimed, but he knew she was not suggesting for him to take another woman out for lunch. He had been with enough ladies to know when they don't mean what they say.

"How can I do that? I can only have lunch with you." He said, much to her relief.

"Good boy." As expected, she was happier.. "Let's have dinner together if you will be available."

Chapter 468 - I Came To Say Hi

After three nights of little sleep, Lanni finally had significant progress in her search so she gave Lin Jian a call.

"I know where Li Xiyan is." She reported.

"Do you have evidence that she is Li Xiyan?" Asked Lin Jian. His implication was that she could have followed the wrong lead or worse, Li Xiyan could have set her up to find the wrong person.

"Yes. I'm sure of it." She would never mistake anyone else for the woman who harmed her best friend and almost ruined her sister's life.

He was satisfied by her response. "Let's go and confirm it. Meanwhile, call the police."

"Why are we involving the police?" Lanni asked. It wasn't that she didn't know, but she preferred to deal with Li Xiyan personally. The last time they involved the police in dealing with that woman, the woman was helped out of prison.

Who knew, there might just be another Han Xichen to help her out a second time. However, she knew that saying this would not do anything to sway Lin Jian. Since three days ago, she had found out that he drew a significant line between work and personal matters. She could only do as she was told.

"She lives in an apartment complex in the east outskirts of the city. Shall I send you the address?" She asked.

"No need. We are going there together. Where are you? Come over to Lin Media Group." As he spoke, he called his assistant over the intercom and asked him to arrange for bodyguards.

About twenty minutes later, Lanni arrived at the company building. When she saw the fleet of cars awaiting them and the bodyguards outside the cars, she shot a look at the man beside her. "What the heck? Do you think we are supposed to make a grand entrance like mafia bosses of some sort?"

"You do not expect us to go unguarded, now do you? Li Xiyan is not your everyday thug." He countered.

"Yes, it is exactly because she isn't your everyday thug that we shouldn't make such an appearance. What makes you think she will sit back and wait for us even while knowing that we are going there for her?" She frowned at her boss's strange logic.

"We can all hide and proceed carefully." He shrugged as he made his way to the third car on the queue. He opened the back passenger door and waited for her to get in.

She got in reluctantly but still had something to say. "The more we are, the harder it is for us to hide. Li Xiyuan's late husband was a programmer and the nation's proclaimed top hacker. Heaven knows the kind of security measures he put in place for her to avoid her getting caught."

"Speaking of that, where is your sister?" Lin Jian asked as he instructed the chauffeur to start driving. All the bodyguards entered the cars and they drove off.

"Nope. We are not going to involve my sister in this. She is pregnant." Lanni rejected the idea sternly. It was already bad enough that they had made Luna work so hard during this period. The more danger they involved her in, the higher the risk that she would be emotionally unstable.

"Okay. We can still do without her." Lin Jian compromised, and Lanni guessed that he probably knew a talented hacker.

When they were close to the apartment complex, the car stopped and Lin Jian instructed Lanni to get off. When they were out, she finally realized that they were the only ones who had arrived, and the other cars were nowhere in the vicinity.

"What are you looking for? I told you my men are pros in hiding." He smiled with a tease.

"Okay. Then let's go." She knew there was no time to waste. Lin Jian had already contacted one of his friends who was a police officer, and he arrived soon after they did.

The man greeted Lanni and shook her hand. "Did you say you knew where Li Xiyuan is?"

"Yes. I will show you to her unit." Lanni so badly wanted Lin Jian to change his mind but she knew that it would never happen so she gave up on the thought.

"I've been wondering, why would Li Xiyuan live in an apartment even while knowing that she is a wanted criminal?" Lin Jian wondered aloud.

"Because she knows that no one would think of such a highly populated apartment when looking for her. She is rich and under the eye of the police, so anyone would imagine that she lives in a secluded

villa or bungalow." Lanni answered him as they made their way up the stairs. They had avoided the elevator because of possible security measures that Xia Hanchen might have put in place for Li Xiyun.

She lived on the eighth floor, so the three were out of breath by the time they made it up.

They carefully walked towards the unit that Lanni had stated. To prevent her from running away, there were several policemen stationed on every floor, and they were in casual clothing so Li Xiyun would never guess their identity before she got caught.

Lanni rang the doorbell under the guise of housekeeping staff. However, after waiting for a while, there was no movement on the other side, much less anyone to open the door. The policeman was preparing to break in when the door swung open on its own.

He frowned and walked in, then searched all the rooms in the house and returned while shaking his head. "She is not here."

"What? I am sure that this is where she lives. It couldn't be wrong." Lanni was baffled by the outcome.

"She lives here." The man took a picture from a side table and showed it to them. It was Li Xiyun's picture without a disguise. "However, it is also possible that she rented this apartment to create confusion but lives somewhere else."

"Can I look around?" Lanni asked.

"Be careful. Never mind. Let me come with you." The man slid a pair of gloves on and gave her a pair so she would not leave any fingerprints behind.

"Thank you." Lanni made her way towards the corridor.

"Stay behind me." The man ordered. "Where do you want to check?"

Lin Jian took out his phone to ask his men to check for any traces of Li Xiyan as Lanni walked around the house with the policeman.

She entered the bathroom when he let her and checked around.

"She was here recently." She pointed at a bottle of shampoo.

The man looked at it and nodded when he realized that the shampoo had been used before. He then touched the faucet and found that it was still warm. "She was here a few minutes ago. She took a shower."

Lanni was relieved that she had not gotten the information wrong.

"She must have run away. Stay away from this place and let my colleagues and I handle it." He instructed, and Lanni left to go back to the living room where Lin Jian was waiting.

"Did she run away?" Lin Jian guessed.

Lanni was about to nod when she noticed a fallen vase along with a broken floor lamp near the window. Her eyes narrowed. "Looks like she was kidnapped."

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Lanni's final guess was right because the next week, Lin Jian's friend called him to report that Li Xiyan's body had been found. From the modus operandi, the police concluded that the murderer was probably the same person who killed Ji Feifei.

Lanni was in disbelief when she heard the news. She didn't need to make a guess and directly made a call.

"You did it, didn't you?"

"Don't worry, no one can trace it back to me." Flynn chuckled on the other end. "I deliberately used Xia Hanchen's method, and there is no way to prove that I was close to that psycho."

"How funny it is for you to call anyone a psycho." Lanni berated him.

"Now, now. I thought you would be happy about it. If it makes you feel better, I did not let her off easily. I tortured her for longer than I did with Xia Hanchen and by the time she died, she had spent two days begging me to kill her."

Lanni was still speechless so he added, "Sis, I will get rid of everyone who has tried to hurt you in the past and is still alive. No matter who they are, I will drag them out and show them what happens to people who mess with my family."

When Flynn hung up, he finally got down the car as he had arrived at his destination. In his mind, he thought back to his mother who had suffered for merely existing. 'Mother, I made them pay for it. Are you happy?'

...

Li Yuming was about to leave the house when the doorbell rang. She opened it and almost fainted when she saw who the incomer was. "What are you doing here?"

"I came to say hi.." The man smiled as he ran a hand through his hair down his brown ponytail."

Li Yuming stared at the man before her in horror. She had never met him before but from the description of her daughters and her late brother in the past, this should be Xia Hanchen's son; the child he had with his German girlfriend—Flynn.

She didn't need anyone to tell her that he must mean harm. After all, he must think that it was partially her fault that Xia Hanchen dumped his mother after using her. She also knew that whatever happened to Li Xiyan was his handiwork, so it was obvious that he was definitely not here to make friends.

"What are you doing here?" She asked instinctively, and a second later decided that she didn't need to know. "Please leave."

"What was that? Aren't you too hospitable? You are sending me away even without knowing why I'm here." Flynn's lips curled into a smile.

"I don't have any business with you nor do I need your presence. If you don't leave, I will call the police." Li Yuming threatened as she took out her phone to dial the emergency number for the police.

The man grinned. "You don't need to do that. I only came to say hi."

He snatched the phone from her hand to confiscate it then entered the house much to Li Yuming's horror. "Aren't you going to offer your guest anything to eat? How hospitable you are."

"Please leave." Li Yuming didn't want to entertain him even for a second.

"Why? I really only want to say hello to my sisters' mother." Flynn looked up at her like she was heartless by sending him away.

Lanni entered the house and was surprised by the gloomy atmosphere, then her gaze landed on Flynn who was making himself comfortable on the couch. Her first reaction was to rush to Li Yuming and check her all over. "Mom, are you alright?"

Li Yuming nodded even though she was clearly uncomfortable, and Lanni glared at the man on the couch.

"What are you doing here?"

Flynn raised an eyebrow at her antics. "I see, my sister does not trust me."

"We are uncomfortable about your presence. Just go." Lanni insisted, and Flynn had no choice but to stand up to leave.

"What's the commotion all about?" Asked Luna, who had just woken up from her nap. She then saw Flynn who was about to leave and shook her head. He knew fully well that his presence was still bound to make everyone nervous. Why the hell would he come without a notice?

Flynn turned when he heard Luna's voice, and smiled when he saw her make her way down the staircase. "Luna, your mother and sister don't trust me. Can you tell them that I mean no harm?"

Before Luna responded, Li Yuming jumped in the young man's way. "Don't look at my daughter. Luna, go back to your room and wait for me to tell you when to come out. Lanni, go up too."

Flynn laughed, his gaze still on Luna since Li Yuming was shorter than him and did not manage to block his line of sight. "Do you think I'm dangerous? Surely, you don't think so, right? After all, you trusted me with your sister's life more than a year ago."

Lanni frowned at Flynn's insane words and pushed his back to lead him out.

"Alright, alright, I'll go. Tell me if you ever want me to pay a visit." He left willingly, but Lanni was still skeptical.

"Are you really okay?" She asked Li Yuming. She also knew that there was no way Flynn would like a woman who was married to Xia Hanchen before.

"He didn't do anything." Li Yuming patted her chest in relief and sat down. She then looked at Luna who had made her way over. "What does he mean you trusted him with your sister's life before?"

"He is talking about that time when I asked him for drugs to make Lanni lose her memory." She confessed, making Li Yuming's eyes widen. "I knew he cared about Lanni but I didn't know why he did. I thought he liked her until I learnt who he truly is." She explained. In truth, she had questioned her conclusion many times in the past but didn't have any evidence so she had let it slide.

Thinking about what she did, she took Lanni's hand. "I'm sorry Lanni. I shouldn't have made you lose your memory without your permission."

"It's alright." She dismissed it. It was all in the past. Besides, perhaps she would have still forgotten what she had to even if Luna did not induce it.

"I don't think he means any harm." Luna stated. "Otherwise, he would not have come here. We all know what he is capable of."

Lanni nodded in agreement. If he could sneak Li Xiyan out of her house under the watch of so many people and not be noticed by any of them, then he could have done the same for Li Yuming if he wanted to. "Even so, he is like a double-edged sword that can help us but once we do something he doesn't like, he could harm us. It is still safe to stay as far away from him as possible."

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Ruby's banquet was set to happen a few days later so it would coincide with her birthday.

Because of this, the Ji family only invited close friends.

The banquet was being held in the Old Ji Mansion and Ruby had called Lanni and Xiaoshi to help her dress up.

"Lin Jian is here asking for you." Xiaoshi reported when she returned with drinks for them. Since they knew that the two of them were cousins, they had become closer so when she saw Ruby smile at the news, she didn't hesitate to ask for gossip, "Are the two of you finally together?"

"He's on probation." Ruby joked and the girls laughed, even though Lin Jian really was on probation. He had been walking on eggshells lately and did not even dare to smile at any woman when greeting her.

"I must say, if he has managed to last this long before getting kicked out by you, then he really does love you." Lanni commented.

No one would find it comfortable to be super cautious especially if it involved avoiding something they liked doing. He must love Ruby to be willing to drop all his bad habits and avoid everything that Ruby could misunderstand at all costs.

"Lanni is right." Said the deep voice of the man who had just walked in and happened to overhear what Lanni had said in his favor.

Ruby peeked at him through the mirror. "Don't take her words as a cue to revert back to your old self, do you understand?"

"Why would I do that when I have the world's most beautiful woman as my girlfriend?" He closed in on her and took the chance to kiss her cheek. "Babe, you look beautiful."

"Thank you."

Lanni and Xiaoshi slipped away so they would not interrupt the couple. As soon as they got downstairs, a hand appeared before them and dragged Xiaoshi to the side. Lanni was startled for a moment before she noticed that the incomer was Han Xichen. She waved at Xiaoshi with a smile. "You guys catch up, I will see you later."

"About that, Xiehan is looking for you." Han Xichen spoke as he held Xiaoshi's waist.

"Stop it, there are people around." Xiaoshi was embarrassed that Han Xichen didn't hold back and was acting as though they were on their own.

"They are just arriving and have a lot of catching up to do. No one will care about us." He held her chin up so she would look up to meet his gaze. "I missed so much I almost became ill."

"But I give you bentos every morning. You don't even have the chance to miss me." She protested.

"That, you do. But you send a maid to drop it off at my office. That is not the same as you bringing it." He countered.

"I thought it was the food that mattered." She looked up at him quizzically.

He nodded. "Of course it does. Not everyone is lucky enough to get a taste of your yummy delicacies everyday, so it matters a lot. However, the person who cooked it matters even more and I miss her every day."

"You flatter me too much." Xiaoshi averted her gaze when she noticed the heads that had turned her way, and just happened to see Luna who was walking past them with Xingyu.

"Hey, boss." She offered Luna a smile.

"You can just call me Luna." The latter corrected yet again. "How have you been?"

"I'm doing great." Before she could say anything else, Luna and Xingyu were swarmed with countless people who looked ready to tumble over each other just to say hi to each other.

"Now that I look at them clearly, they are the perfect match." She said in a low tone, referring to Luna and Xingyu.

"They are meant for each other." Han Xichen added, then took her hand. "And so are we.. But we are a more perfect match than them."

Chapter 470 - Wrong Vs Right

"Aren't you going to accompany your sister?" Lanni asked Xiehan when she found him waiting for her.

He gave her a once over. "And leave my girlfriend on her own so other men can drool at her? Not happening." He hooked her arm around his.

She let out a smile as she tilted her head to look at him. "I don't want my man to be drooled at either."

"No one has the audacity to do that. They run the risk of having their heads chopped." He laughed, making her wonder whether she was scary in the eyes of other young women.

"I mean, I will chop their heads off." He added, making her chuckle. "Don't stain your hands."

As they walked into the banquet hall, they ran into someone that Lanni would never expect to meet anywhere.

"Ah Chen? Why are you here?" Lanni asked in surprise as she eyed the young man who was once her senior when she was in B City University.

"I'm accompanying my mother. Long time no see." The young man had expected Lanni to attend the banquet as well—being Xiehan's girlfriend—but he didn't think he would really bump into her.

"I'll let you guys catch up." Xiehan offered and went to continue welcoming the guests, making Lanni's eyebrows raise in surprise. The jealous Xiehan was willingly leaving her in the same space as a man who was once crazily in pursuit of her? Was the sun rising from the west tomorrow?

"How have you been? You disappeared on us ever since you went to Star Art International." Ah Chen asked to strike a conversation.

"I went back to my origins." She answered mysteriously, not directly stating that she had decided to drop out of art school and had recently finished studying what she thought she was meant for. "What about you?"

He found her words bizarre but he did not probe too much. "I graduated and found a job." as he spoke, he noticed his mother waving him over, probably to introduce him to some of her friends. He sucked in a breath. "Aw, bummer. Do you want to catch up over coffee sometime? This is my cell phone number." He gave Lanni a card.

"Sure." Lanni took the card, though she was planning that she would only catch up with Ah Chen after confirming that Xiehan would not mind.

She held the card and felt it between her fingers as she wondered whether or not her mother would come. She had been invited, but there was still a great deal of friction between her mother and Wen Lin even if they all pretended that there was no rivalry between them. If it was possible, Lanni hoped that there would be peace between her mother and her boyfriend's mother.

"He will be your text task once you finish the current one." A voice spoke beside her ear, almost spooking the hell out of her. She frowned when Lin Jian's words sunk in.

"Who, Ah Chen?"

When the man nodded, Lanni was even more confused. "What do you suspect him of?"

Lin Jian looked around and when he saw that there were many people around, he led her to the garden so they were far from everyone's earshot. "Weapon smuggling."

Lanni was shocked and she still had a frown on her face. "I am not close to him but I know that he would never be involved in any shady business."

"No one is ever capable of being involved in shady business until you find evidence of their actions. It was the same with Xia Hanchen as well as Li Xiyan." Lin Jian countered. "And speaking of Li Xiyan, I have a very strong feeling that you know what happened to her even though you did not mention it."

"What are you talking about?" She feigned innocence.

Lin Jian scoffed at her perfect acting skills. "If you cannot tell the difference between work and personal business, what are you doing in this line of work? I'm talking about the fact that you are willing to uncover everything but you pretend to know nothing when it involves someone close to you."

She blinked innocently but inwardly, she was in turmoil. Did he know that Flynn was the one who had kidnapped and murdered Li Xiyan?

He must know, or he would not be saying such words. But whether or not she knew, what could she do about it? It wasn't like she could hand Flynn over to the police. Even if she did, she did not have the evidence and she would create herself a new enemy.

"You know what I'm talking about. Think about it, do you want to keep a snake by your side?" Lin Jian questioned with a raised eyebrow. "You must know better than to use work to execute your revenge, That aside, I hope you do not do anything of that sort with Ah Chen. The main target is his fiancée, but since you seem to have had a past acquaintance with him, it will be easier to investigate her through him."

"Ah Chen is engaged?" She was surprised, then it dawned on her. No wonder Xiehan was willing to leave them to catch up while he went about his business. It turned out, he no longer thought of Ah Chen as a threat since the latter would no longer pursue Lanni while he was engaged.

"Her name is Qiao Linyou. She is an actress." He explained.

Lanni nodded, that was a name she had heard many times. The said woman was an international level actress who rose to fame when she was a teenager. More than that, if Lanni's memory served her right, wasn't that actress Lin Jian's ex-girlfriend? She didn't ask but she wondered whether that was how he knew about her weapon-smuggling business.

Lin Jian explained the details of what she needed to do, then looked at her seriously. "About that guy who likes to style his hair in a curly ponytail, you know what's the right thing to do." He then walked away.

She let out a sigh. What should she do? Trap Flynn to reveal evidence of what he did to Li Xiyan?

But he did it for her and Luna, so Li Xiyan would no longer hurt them in future. Scratch that. He was doing it out of his own selfishness and need for revenge too. But even so, it would be hard to trick him even if she tried-not that she wanted to.

"What are you so lost thinking about?" Xiehan circled his arms around her waist and pulled her against him.

"Flynn." She answered with a frown.

Xiehan didn't know what exactly she was worried about but since he had brushed past Lin Jian who must have been on his way from speaking to Lanni, he could pretty much guess the kind of discussion that had transpired between them.

"Do what your heart feels is right, something that will not haunt you." He said to her, and she frowned.

"Do you also think that I should hand him over to the police?" She asked helplessly. If she didn't have to, she did not want to do it.

"I'm not saying that the law is specifically right or wrong. It's all up to you. If you think that by handing him over, you will help the nation get rid of a criminal and you will be proud of it, then do it. If you feel that everything will go wrong and many people will be in danger, and that by leaving Flynn free you will be saving innocent lives, then leave things as they are. Lin Jian will not force you to do anything."

She wasn't sure she could understand what he had said but he was not taking any specific sides so she felt she could talk to him freely. That, and the fact that he had always understood her. "It's just... I will be lying."

"If you don't want to lie, then don't say anything." He suggested. Withholding information wasn't right either, but he felt it was a lesser wrong than lying.

She nodded and leaned against his chest. "Thank you my love."

"You don't need to thank me. Let's go inside, the banquet is starting."

She nodded and hooked her arm around his as they walked back into the banquet hall.

The Ji family decided not to hold an announcement to state that Ruby was their daughter but instead, they walked around with her and introduced her as the Ji family's young miss, then let the rumor spread to prepare everyone for the shocking twist that they would announce later into the banquet.

Lanni did not completely relax and superficially held small talk with the guests, while trying to acquaint herself to those close to Ah Chen or whose brands had ever used Qiao Linyou as their ambassador. It would be easier to investigate her if she knew as much as possible about the actress, but she could not directly probe.. Instead, she found ways to make the other parties bring her up on their own.