

Chapter 471 - Qiao Linyou (1)

She was currently speaking to Ah Chen's mother, who looked jubilant when she recalled that the girl before her was Li Yuming's daughter and that she was once in the same school as her son.

"Is it true that he's getting married?" She asked like any other girl would seek gossip. "I heard he is marrying a famous actress."

The middle aged woman looked neither happy nor sad about it. "It is true indeed. Though I think he is young. But the kids have to be let to make their own choices, right?"

"Yes." Lanni was glad that the woman trusted her to explain so much. Even though they no longer lingered on Ah Chen and soon moved on to another topic, it had still made a major point clear—Ah Chen was not getting married because he was under pressure from his parents.

When they were in B City, the young man once mentioned that he was in no hurry to settle down and that if he found the right woman, he would want to date for at least five years before settling down.

It was less than two years since she and Ah Chen last saw each other and the last time they did, he was still single. Which meant he was rushing into marriage. If it was not because his parents were pushing him, then what was the reason?

Now that she thought about it, it was not very common for young actresses to get boyfriends, much less settle down in marriage. Most of them were scared that they would lose many fans if they settled down,

so even if they did get into relationships, they hid it from the public. Why was Qiao Linyou getting married?

She thought about the possibility of her being madly in love with Ah Chen but shook her head. That was not plausible. Could it be that it was a shotgun wedding and she was pregnant?

She shook her head again at that thought. As an actress with her level of fame, Lanni was certain that she would have decided to abort the baby lest it get in the way of her career.

The only reason left in her mind was that the wedding in itself was fishy. There really was something to hide. She walked ahead and saw Lin Jian so she made her way to him.

"Do you have something to ask me?" Lin Jian guessed and made his way to her, then led her to an empty corridor.

"How was Qian Linyou when you were in a relationship with her? Was she normal like any other young woman, or was there anything fishy about her?" Lanni asked, to which Lin Jian chuckled.

"If there was nothing fishy, I would never have given you such a task. Though I have to say you are impressive for figuring out that she was my ex. Don't tell Ruby." The last thing he wanted was for Ruby to compare herself to his exes and perhaps become insecure once again.

"I won't." She was not planning to yap about it anyway, so there was nothing hard about that.

To ensure that there wouldn't be anyone eavesdropping on their conversation, Lanni showed him to Xiehan's study, whose door was soundproof.

"She comes from a family that is not well off. Even so, she managed to bribe her way into signing with one of the most highly regarded agencies and paved her own path to success. When I first met her, she looked like a wealthy young miss when her first movie was not even popular and she couldn't have earned anything more than peanuts."

"Perhaps she had a sugar daddy?" Lanni speculated. While that was not decent either, it was not half as grave as engaging in smuggling business. Lin Jian furrowed his brows at the thought of it. "Do you think I would get close to a woman who belongs to another man?" If it was possible for him to do that, he would have long tried to be with Lanni or Luna, considering how beautiful they were and the fact that he was still a playboy when he met them.

Lanni bit her lip and held back the scolding at the tip of her tongue. How easy it was for him to say such a thing when he was the city's most infamous playboy. He could play around but his women belonged solely to him?

It was not part of the main point so she asked, "Was she in contact with any fishy people?"

He shrugged as he plucked a leaf from the potted plant on Xiehan's desk. "None that I knew about. I was not with her for long enough to know who she associated with."

"I see." Lanni nodded. The only way to go about it now was to befriend the girl through Ah Chen. She knew that it was not right to use anyone but she also knew that it was not time to tell Ah Chen about her suspicion yet. At least not until she knew why the two of them were engaged.

Decisively, she saved Ah Chen's number and the next time they bumped into each other in the banquet hall, she asked him out for a coffee on Sunday.

"Is there something else?" He asked as he observed that she was still looking at him like she wanted to say something.

"Could you bring your fiancée along? I'm her greatest fan and would be thrilled to meet her." She asked hopefully.

"News does travel fast." Ah Chen chuckled, but she was paying a lot of attention to him so she noticed that he didn't seem to be happy about it. Nonetheless, he nodded. "I will bring her with me."

She thanked him and observed that he looked a little gloomy after talking about his fiancée. It was finally confirmed. He didn't like Qiao Linyou. The banquet went on peacefully but all she was wondering was who else to speak to that might know about Qiao Linyou. While she looked around, she noticed Li

Yuming walk in through the door in the company of Xiehan and a smile graced her lips. Her mother did come after all.

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"I'm sorry I'm late." Li Yuming apologized to Xiehan who had picked her up. "I had to settle matters with the National Art Union. I hope you don't mind."

"It's alright. You don't need to apologize, Auntie." Xiehan led her in, then had to go back to greet another late guest so she let her on her own.

"It's Li Yuming! It's been long." A middle-aged woman hurried over to catch up with her and was awed when she took a clear look at Li Yuming. "Oh My, aren't you growing younger each day?" Although it was a compliment, the other woman's voice held a hint of jealousy. They were clearly the same age. In fact, Li Yuming could be slightly older because her daughters were already so old, while the other woman's only son was still in his late teens. What did Li Yuming do to keep her skin so soft and her figure so beautiful?

Li Yuming was wearing a floor length black dress with the intention of not stealing the limelight from the younger generation but because of her fair skin, it made her stand out all the more. She had a scarf around her shoulders and her hair was in an updo, and if the older women didn't know her, they would have mistaken her for a young woman in her early thirties.

"Thank you." Li Yuming accepted the compliment and started looking for Ruby to give her the present she had prepared. As she walked, someone bumped into her.

"I'm so sorry. Milady, are you okay?" Neil apologized vehemently. Luckily, he had managed to steady the woman before she could trip.

"It's alright." Li Yuming adjusted her scarf and was ready to continue going her way.

Neil was stunned when he heard her voice, and he took a good look to confirm it. "Li Yuming, it's you! Oh my goodness, you look so beautiful that I almost couldn't recognize you."

"Uhm... thanks."

A few meters away, Ruby was about to go to meet Li Yuming when she heard what Neil had said. She stopped in her tracks, stunned at her foster father's tone. 'Dad, are you sure that it's alright for a man your age to say such things?' She thought and turned back to go somewhere else.

When Li Yuming realized that this was Neil Chan, she decided to give the gift box to him. "Aren't you Ruby's... dad? please give this to her. And this is for you."

She held out what looked like a VIP card and he held it up with interest.

"I get a gift too?"

"Of course. It's the least I can do to thank you for supporting my charity banquets." She had finally uncovered the identity of the mystery donor. Although all the money she got from the charity banquets were not meant for her pocket but would be sent to the national charity organization, she still appreciated his support. "Besides, bringing a daughter up is not a piece of cake."

"Tell me about it." Neil laughed. "You must have had it worse. You have two of them and they are both settling down soon.. But at least you have a grandchild on the way."

Chapter 472 - Flowers And Jewelry

"Yes. I feel lucky." Li Yuming smiled brightly. The thought of a toddler running all over the house and calling her 'grandma' brought joy into her heart. And to think that all because Xia Hanchen had

convinced her daughter into the wrong side, she had almost missed out on the joy of being a mother and a grandmother.

Neil couldn't help feeling a little jealous when he saw how happy Li Yuming was. "You have a long streak of good luck coming your way. You must have done a lot of good deeds in your life. Perhaps it's a blessing from the heavens for your kindness? My only baby was taken away from me."

She couldn't help feeling a little sympathetic when she recalled how the kids had explained Ruby's past. Neil had brought her up all these years while knowing that she was not his and that some day, she might reunite with her biological family. "She is still yours. You brought her up and she loves you so much." she said in consolation.

"I used to think that my Lanni would no longer love me when she got a boyfriend but she still loves me as much. Luna is getting more clingier by the day despite being engaged and expectant." When she realized that she had forgotten her manners and sounded like she was bragging about her daughters, she smiled the awkwardness away. "The point is, it's evident that Ruby takes it as she has two fathers. When she gets married, she will have three fathers—she is very fortunate, since some people only have one or two, or none."

"You are right." Neil was happier.

Sighing in relief after having to offer solace to a grown man, Li Yuming decided to catch up with some acquaintances.

"Li Yuming." Neil called before she could get two steps away.

"Yes?"

"Congratulations on your daughter's achievements. I heard that the ban on Luna's company was lifted." Neil spoke up when she turned to face him.

She smiled in return. "The child likes to do everything on her own and play around here and there." Although her words were meant to be modest, she couldn't hide how proud she was of her daughter.

"My Ruby is still so useless. She still doesn't know what she wants." Neil commented, but from his tone, he was not mad at her. Instead, it was evident that he was ready to indulge her until she found what she wanted and focused on it.

"Haha. No she isn't." Li Yuming laughed.

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"Babe, I need you to do me a favor." Lin Jian sought Ruby when the banquet ended and she went to the balcony to take a breather.

She ignored his form of address since she was starting to get used to it. "What do you need?"

"Could you be the cover model for Oracle Beauty magazine next month?"

She frowned at his absurd request that came out of the blue. "I'm not a model." She reminded him.

"I know. But Lanni recommended you." He responded as he looked at her pleadingly. "Besides. Not only professional models can grace the covers of magazines. You are a unique beauty and would look amazing no matter what magazine cover you took."

"Enough brown nosing. I'll think about it." She knew that if she said no, the man would pester her every day for at least a whole week. Since she was not ready to be bugged at every turn, she might as well give him a vague answer and buy herself some time to make a decision after thinking through everything that involved it. Of course, she also had to ensure that the shooting would not clash with her class schedule or else it would be a pain in her neck.

"I knew you would not say no to your handsome, beloved boyfriend. Thank you, babe." He kissed her cheek excitedly.

"Hold on." She took out her phone to give Lanni a call.

"Lanni, you recommended me to be the cover model of Oracle Beauty magazine?" She wanted to know what the other woman was thinking.

In Li Yuming's villa, Lanni had just taken a bath and was sitting on the couch in comfortable cotton pajamas as she answered the call. Hearing Ruby's question, she rolled the pen she was holding as she answered. "You had initially submitted your application for Tian Yu Media but I was yet to send you the contract when I was fired. Why not send it now on behalf of a subsidiary of Lin Media Group?"

Ruby thought it made sense. "Then I'll do it for you." that, and the fact that her boyfriend had specially requested it. She no longer had a reason to say no to it. "When will the photoshoot be held?"

"I don't know yet. I will confirm it with the photography team and let you know about it." She promised.

"Lanni, why aren't you sleeping yet?" Li Yuming asked as she glanced at Lanni disapprovingly from the staircase.

"I will soon." She promised. She was trying to find as much information as she could about Qiao Linyou so it would be easier to befriend her.

Li Yuming silently made her way into the kitchen, only to return a few minutes later with a glass of warm milk to give to her.

"Thank you." Lanni's heart melted as she took a sip, then she frowned slightly when she realized that her mother had added some sugar to the milk. "Mom, are you trying to make me sleepy?"

"Drink up with your mouth shut. Don't stay up for too long." Li Yuming reprimanded her with a stern glare and Lanni could only drink it through a laugh. It had been so long since Li Yuming used a strict tone on her and only after hearing it again did she realize that she had missed it.

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The following day.

Perhaps because she had spent the night in her old room, Lanni slept so soundly that it was already 10am by the time she woke up and sleepily wobbled into the bathroom.

She freshened up and checked the time, luckily she was not late for the meeting she had set up with Ah Chen and his fiancée.

"Mom, I'm going somewhere." She kissed Li Yuming's cheek as she grabbed an apple from the kitchen.

"Breakfast is almost ready." The latter turned, wondering where Lanni had to rush so fast.

"I'm sorry, I have to miss it. I'll be back for dinner later." She suggested compensation and made her way out of the kitchen, in time to see the housekeeper heading towards them with a bouquet of flowers almost large enough to cover her face.

"Who are those for?" Li Yuming was just as perplexed as Lanni. She knew that Xiehan would not send Lanni flowers since he knew that she did not like them. Did Xingyu send them to Luna?

"Madam, it's for you." The housekeeper struggled to hold the white roses that were still fresh, so Lanni stepped forward to take them from her hands.

The housekeeper's words finally sunk in. Did she just say that the flowers were for Li Yuming? Not only that, but she also handed over the small gift box that had been covered by the bouquet.

Li Yuming was surprised too. Although it was common for her to receive gifts and flowers from her fans, they usually only sent them whenever she attended events since they did not know her address. Had her address been leaked? She curiously opened the box and found that it was a jade bangle along with a red gift card with instructions stating that she should redeem her gift from any store of a famous jewelry brand.

"Uh mum,... Do you have an admirer?" Lanni asked at the side, she had been peeking as her mother opened the box.

"You naughty child." Li Yuming frowned at her then realized that the signature on the card was accompanied by the name Neil Chan.

"Flowers and jewelry..." Lanni's voice trailed as she giggled.

"Did you just say that mum has an admirer?" Luna, who had just entered the kitchen due to hunger, asked in shock when she overheard the astonishing piece of news.

"Your sister is silly. It's Ruby's father. He is only thanking me for the gift I gave him." Li Yuming explained, then instructed the housekeeper to find a vase for the flowers, and resumed preparing breakfast when the timer chimed.

"Aw, what a bummer." Luna sulked and yawned.

It took a few seconds for Li Yuming to realize what she meant and when she did, she turned in shock and grabbed a spatula to hold it up threateningly. "You bad children. Get out of here."

What did these two think about every day? It seemed like they were too idle lately.

The girls laughed and rushed out of the kitchen, but that did not stop them from secretly sneaking glances at each other and thinking about how great it would be if their mother found love once again.

When Lanni arrived at the restaurant they had arranged, Ah Chen and his fiancée had already arrived. The girl was sitting beside him and appeared to be an obedient and sweet young woman—the exact image that everyone had of her after watching her movies. No one would guess that the very girl who looked innocent was also involved with suspicious activity.

Lanni made her way to the table and apologized as she took a seat opposite them. "I'm sorry I'm late."

"Were you late on purpose? I wouldn't be surprised." Qiao Linyou asked with a hint of sarcasm in her tone, but Lanni had seen it coming. There was no way she would have expected a woman suspected of such activity to actually be kind. It was going to be a hectic task befriending her, Lanni thought. Even so, she had earned the trust of more impossible people before so this was nothing in comparison.

She let out a chuckle. "How could that be? I'm always the first to purchase the ticket to watch your movie, it would be ironic if I were late to see you in real life."

When the woman looked like her ego had been slightly stroked, Lanni added, "It's just, I was too excited at the thought of meeting my idol. I couldn't sleep last night no matter how many sheep I tried to count."

Ah Chen was puzzled to see that Lanni was such an idolizer too. He smiled as he introduced her. "Meet Lanni. My former classmate and your biggest fan."

Qiao Linyou was not interested to know the name of this crazy fan who wouldn't shut her mouth, but she was puzzled when she heard the name clearly. "Does it happen to be Li Lanni, Ji Xiehan's girlfriend and Xia Luna's sister?"

"Yes. That's me. You know me?" Lanni was not surprised about being recognized by many people but it was indeed shocking that even a famous actress had paid attention to her.

Qiao Linyou shrugged, almost indifferently. "You sure are popular. You clung to the right people."

She was indirectly implying that Lanni had no popularity of her own, and that it was the people around her who were famous. It was not a lie, since she had always been known as Li Yuming's daughter, then

Xiehan's girlfriend, and now it was Xia Luna's sister—Not that she minded. It would be troublesome for her to comfortably work if she had too much fame, so she liked it better this way.

"You are so famous! I love all your movies. I drag my sister to watch them every time." She brown nosed the actress. After doing her research of her for the better part of the night, she knew that what the lady liked most was being complimented. It made her feel accomplished, and the easiest way to make her let her guard down was to make her happy.

However, Qiao Linyou had heard so many of such antics that she already knew what people would say in order to pretend to be her die-hard fans while in reality, they probably didn't even know what genre of movies she acted in. She put on a lovely smile. "Really? Which of my movies was your favorite?"

She expected Lanni to start fuming for words or make excuses about not remembering the titles and start wildly guessing random roles but Lanni surprised her by actually mentioning a movie. "The Villainous consort."

Not only was Qiao Linyou not pleased, but she furrowed her brows. There was no way Lanni had paid an ounce of attention to her. She had probably done a search and stated the first movie that popped up. She hid her sneer. "You watched that? I was merely an extra."

"The third female lead. And you acted the role so perfectly. That's when I became your fan." Lanni corrected. In truth, she had not watched any of Qiao Linyou's movies. Not that she had the time to do so under such short notice. She merely looked her up and made sure to gather as much information as she could.

"Oh." Qiao Linyou was definitely surprised. She was pleasantly shocked. The movie that Lanni had mentioned was like a thorn in her flesh, it was her first movie and she had even been dismissed from the female lead role for not being good enough for it. It was unbelievable that she had earned a fan from that.

Lanni observed her slight change in expression. Of course, as an actress, she was able to handle her expressions flawlessly and Lanni only noticed the change because she was scrutinising her carefully.

"So, am I supposed to give you an autograph or something?" Her arrogance came acting up again.

"That will not be necessary." Lanni smiled sweetly.

"Let's order something to drink. Lanni must have skipped breakfast if she rushed over so fast." Ah Chen spoke up to break whatever awkwardness was about to erupt between the ladies.

Ah Chen ordered first. "I'll have a strawberry cupcake."

Lanni wondered why Ah Chen's order sounded like there was something wrong with it, but she wasn't able to figure it out before she ordered herself a glass of juice.

"I'll have a cup of warm water." Qiao Linyou sounded like she was looking down on the duo who were filling their stomachs with what she thought of as worthless junk.

As they waited for their orders to arrive and sought topics to talk about, Ah Chen's phone rang. He answered it and a sweet female voice greeted gently with a "Hello."

Qiao Lintou's ears perked up, since the call volume was high and she and Lanni had overheard it.

Ah Chen frantically lowered the volume and mouthed to the ladies that he would be back later, then he stepped out of the restaurant to answer the call.

Lanni observed the young actress whose gaze had followed Ah Chen and she looked disappointed. She knew that it was wrong to use Ah Chen, but she chuckled softly.

"What's so funny?" Qiao Linyou was already irritated and almost erupted when she heard Lanni's laugh.

"He is so obsessed with you." Lanni tilted her head as though she was saying something secretive, holding her face in her hands. "It's almost as though he will stop breathing if he is away from you for a moment."

"Why would you say that?" Qiao Linyou frowned. Although the words were out of the blue, she couldn't deny that she had always wished she could hear such a thing about Ah Chen. Just now when he

answered the call that was evidently from a woman, she had been so unsettled that she was surprised when she heard Lanni start to say such words.

"We attended the same banquet and caught up on the latest news about each other. He couldn't stop going on about you and how much he loves you." Before the actress could process the words, Lanni added, "Besides, when we were in B City University, he once mentioned that he would never be with any woman unless he was willing to spend the rest of his life with her—Seeing as you are engaged, he was not bluffing to appear as a loyal guy."

Qiao Linyou was baffled by Lanni's words. She almost didn't know what to say and after thinking for a while, she decided to speak her mind since there was nothing to lose. Besides, Lanni might know Ah Chen better than she did. "But he makes me think that he has someone else in mind."

It had always been that way. If Lanni was not in a relationship with Xiehan, she would have started to think that Lanni was the other woman that Ah Chen was always thinking about.

Lanni assessed her words and knowing that Ah Chen would probably be back soon, she raised an eyebrow. "Maybe he just doesn't know how to express his feelings? Some men are just bad at romance but it doesn't mean they're not loyal or in love."

"Well, you make a lot of sense. Thank you for telling me that." Although Qiao Linyou's arrogance was still intact, it didn't change the fact that she was truly relieved.

"It's nothing. It is just the truth." Lanni did not take too much credit and sweetly smiled. She knew that she had just helped clear the actress' insecurity. Even though she knew that Ah Chen probably felt nothing for Qiao Linyou, it was best to make her think otherwise.

Ah Chen returned and was expecting to hear a terrifying round of scolding for having stepped aside to answer a woman's call. To his surprise, the scolding did not come and instead, the woman was looking at him with a bashful smile plastered on her face. He almost couldn't recognize her. Was it because Lanni was here, so the latter was saving him face by not erupting in the presence of someone else?

But that didn't make sense.. She had always exploded when she wanted to, and that had nothing to do with where they were or who they were with.

Chapter 474 - Unreliable

"I have to go somewhere, so I will not stay for too long." Lanni made an excuse to leave since she had already done her part. "See you again, Youyou."

Qiao Linyou didn't mind the intimate form of address since it was what her fans were fond of calling her. "See you soon."

"Your friend is so kind." She smiled when Lanni had left.

Ah Chen was surprised that she was speaking kindly about any woman. he frowned slightly as she wondered what in the world was going on, but he didn't ask about it. "I told you. She's a great friend too."

"Yes." She responded yet again, and Ah Chen was puzzled. She was not riled up?

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"What's your progress?" Lin Jian asked when Lanni gave him a call later.

"It's just been a day. What can I have done in one meeting?"

"I want to know how close you are to your goal." Retorted Lin Jian.

"She might be starting to trust me. But then again, it's only been a day." Lanni paused as she thought about how possible it was for Qiao Linyou to be putting on an act to deceive her. What if she thought that she was convincing Qiao Linyou when it was the other way round and she was walking into a trap? The former was an actress after all.

In response to her words, Lin Jian snickered. "How lame. I cannot believe that you are relying on that."

"It will work, trust me." Lanni stretched her limbs as she was tired after sitting up for too long. "Which makes me wonder just how it was possible for you to lose such a perfect hand of cards. You were her boyfriend after all, you could have used the chance to find out everything there is to find out about her."

"What makes you think I would stay with a woman for longer than necessary just to investigate her?" Lin Jian snickered, and Lanni laughed at his tone.

"Don't let Ruby hear that."

As soon as her words were out, she heard a knock on the door of her room. She was at Li Yuming's villa, and she knew that not many people could come to her room. Her mother was out while Luna had gone to meet a wedding planning agent, so it was probably a maid. Even so, she decided to use the chance to poke fun of Lin Jian. "Someone's here. Don't tell me it's Ruby. Speak of the devil and she appears?"

"Don't say anything you shouldn't." Lin Jian said in panic.

"Then you have to bribe me to keep my mouth shut." Lanni chuckled and hung up to open the door. She was pleasantly surprised to see the guest at the door and jumped right into his arms. "Xiehan!"

"Did you miss me?" He wrapped his arms around her and entered the room with her.

Pulling away, she peeked along the corridor to ensure no one was watching before she quickly shut the door, not that anyone would poke their nose if they saw them enter the same room secretly. They were a couple after all.

"I'm so tired so I came over to rest." Xiehan explained his visit.

"Okay..." Lanni blinked as she wondered whether there were no beds in his mansion.

He sat on the bed and reclined onto a fluffy pillow. "come here, let me hug you to sleep."

"I don't want to sleep." She tried to ignore her incessantly ringing phone as she declined him and sat in front of the desk beside the window.

"I want to sleep and you are my sleeping pill so come over." He insisted and held a hand out to her.

"Sleep on your own." She ignored his antics.

His brows furrowed when her phone rang the fourth time. It was beside him on the bed, and he looked down at it to see who it was that had the audacity to harrass his girlfriend. He was puzzled to see that it was Lin Jian, the blabber mouth.

"Is it okay if I answer it?" He asked, and she nodded. He slid a thumb across the screen and was about to say something when a rumble interrupted him.

"Lanni, my dearest friend-in-law, please don't tell Ruby, okay? I will give you as many bonuses and days off as you want." He tried to coax her, even using one of the things that employees loved the most as bait.

"Is that so?" Xiehan asked in his deep voice.

The phone was on speaker so Lanni heard Lin Jian's yell of surprise and she threw her head back, laughing.

"What shouldn't she tell Ruby? Are you cheating on my sister?" Xiehan's tone was as threatening as that of a protective brother. As they expected, he had turned into one of those brothers whose sisters no one could dare to mess with.

"T-that's not it. Future brother-in-law, Lanni and I were only talking about my past. I only love Ruby and will never think of cheating on her." Lin Jian frantically explained like a lamb trying to escape slaughter.

"Is it true?" Xiehan asked Lanni, who nodded and resumed laughing.

Xiehan hung up and chuckled. "Coward."

"You were only messing with him." Lanni laughed as she understood why he sounded so sternly earlier.

"Who told him to give my girlfriend so much work?" He explained.

Lanni was speechless. It turned out, he was only doing this to revenge on her behalf?

"Come here." He called, and when she went over, he hugged her like a fluffy pillow and closed his eyes to take a nap.

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Since the supposed ban had been lifted, Moonlight Studios was soon back on track. In fact, the company had gained tremendous profit from the game Demons Vs gods in just a few days. It was all because the infringement case had made many people pay attention to the game and when it was resolved, there were floods of gamers downloading it to try it out.

Hence, the new applications had a great audience. In the end, Moonlight Studios earned 20% more profit than in the previous month.

Luna jubilantly held a meeting and when most matters had been talked about, she smiled in Cheng Yu's direction. "You worked so hard, Xiao Yu. Take some days off to refresh yourself."

Cheng Yu would have been glad to hear that she was being given some time off but she shook her head when she thought about how Luna was nearing her third trimester. "You will not be okay on your own."

"I will. If I can't do it, I will call you for help."

Cheng Yu knew that she was only trying to convince her and would not truly call her for help. Never mind, she would have Luna's assistant check on her often, and report how Luna was fairing. As long as she found it a little harder than she could handle, she would be back in a flash. "Thank you, Luna."

Luna nodded then glanced at Cedric. "Cedric, take some days off too."

Cedric was sitting next to Cheng Yu. When he heard what Luna said, he dipped his head to whisper to her, "We both know what the boss is suggesting, let's not let her down."

Cheng Yu silently smiled, and he knew that she understood it. "Let's plan out a vacation then. Where do you want to go?"

"An island..." She whispered and her voice trailed off when she felt Luna's gaze on her.

"Let's simply contact a planning agency." Cedric suggested.

"Silence." Luna said in the direction of the love birds. They did know that they were still in a meeting, right? She wouldn't mind it if it was just the three of them, but it would be horrible if the other employees thought it was alright to chatter in a meeting.

"We cannot all take time off work at the same time, so the rest of you will get bonuses and salary increments."

"Thank you, Miss Xia." They chorused.

"It's not time to slack off since our competitors are going to work hard. Let's work harder. The aim is to double the profit within the next quarter." She stated as she gazed at them.

"That sounds impossible." Shouted one of the employees.

Luna glanced at him. "No it isn't. The fact that Moonlight Studios still exists is proof of that, is it not?"

No one else said anything to oppose her words.

"The meeting is adjourned." She announced and prepared to leave the conference room. The employees waited for her to leave first, and she had just reached the door when they began to chatter.

"Does Boss have a baby brain?" She heard someone yell.

She turned to the group of employees closest to the front door. "Who said that?"

Her tone was so stern that the others reflexively looked at a young woman in a ponytail.

Luna saw her trembling but did not flinch. "You are fired." She then turned to the others.. "I will not tolerate anyone disrespecting me."

Chapter 475 - Don't Be Mad

Having already fired the disrespectful employee despite her incessant begging, Luna let the matter slide and did not let it ruin the rest of her day. She called Xiaoshi to her office when she got back.

"You can take a week off." She directly stated, realizing how uneasy the young woman looked in her presence. It was as though she was scared of being punished even though it was certain that she had not made any mistake.

Xiaoshi raised her lowered head and looked at Luna in surprise. Not only was she not getting punished, but she was being rewarded as well?

In the next second, she realized what must be happening and frowned slightly. "Boss, you don't have to do this."

"It's not for any reason other than your hard work. I noticed how fast you completed all your tasks in the past month." Luna explained as she reclined in her seat. This was why she didn't announce Xiaoshi's day off in the conference as she did with the other employees—she knew that they would think too much and assume that she was doing it because of the bullet that Xiaoshi had taken in her stead.

Hearing that it had nothing to do with personal matters, Xiaoshi was relieved. She was even happier to receive acknowledgment for her hard work. "I only did my duty as my employee. Thank you so much, boss."

Luna nodded and let her go back to her office.

...

In the evening, Xiaoshi dashed to Han Xichen's condo to tell him the good news. He was not home so her eyes drooped in disappointment. However, she remembered that he was a doctor and his schedule could never be constant, so she decided to go back to her house and give him a call later.

She was just about to leave when she noticed his car entering the complex. Her lips curled into an excited smile as she waited for him to park the car before rushing over to him.

"Shishi, you could have given me a call. I would have come earlier." He pulled her into a hug, wondering whether she has waited for too long.

"I just arrived. I know better than to wait without knowing when you will be home."

"Good girl." He praised her with a pat on her head and a kiss on her forehead. "Come on. Let's go up."

Xiaoshi nodded and took his hand that he was holding out to her. As they approached his house, she couldn't keep the news to herself anymore and smiled as she reported, "Guess what? I have a week off. It was a reward from my boss for my hard work in the last month. Are you very busy? If not, we could go out over the weekend."

The man remained silent for a long while, and she looked up at him curiously then heard him finally speak up. "I'm sorry, Shishi."

"What happened?" Her eyes drooped as she curiously asked.

"An emergency happened at the border. They need as many doctors as possible and I have to rush over. The hospital president included me on the list." He explained.

"I see." She let out a slow sigh at the bad news.

"I'm so sorry. Please don't be mad, okay?" He tucked a strand of hair behind her ear as he looked into her eyes. "I don't know when it's going to last but I'll spend more time with you when I come back."

"I'm not mad. You will give me a call when you have time, right? Or just a text message once every day to let me know that you're alright." She asked. Although she was sad about not being able to be with him, she knew that it was not his fault so she did not blame him.

"I can't tell when I will call as I don't know how grave the situation is but I will at every chance I get." He promised, and kissed her forehead.

"I understand, Xichen. Be safe, okay?" She wrapped her arms around his waist.

He hummed in response. "I will leave tomorrow in the morning. Would you like to stay over tonight?"

"Yes." She didn't want to miss out on the golden opportunity so she nodded. "Are you hungry? I will cook something."

"Let's go and cook together." He shrugged his coat off and wondered whether he should take a shower first. Picking up his coat, he headed towards the main bedroom. He pointed in a direction when he remembered that she didn't know where the kitchen was. "The kitchen is at the end of that corridor. I'll join you in a jiffy."

"Okay." She didn't look at him and disappeared into the kitchen, and he finally understood that she was shy about being in his house for a night. This was probably her first time sleeping over in a man's house?

He burst into chuckles. Why was she so cute?

...

Xiaoshi tried to familiarise herself with the kitchen while trying not to blush too hard. She so badly wanted to pinch herself. Why did she agree to fast? How could she stay the night under the same roof as a man, on their own? It would have been alright if he was still her friend, since she knew he wouldn't expect anything. But as her boyfriend, would he expect something to happen between them?

While she tried to calm herself, her father called.

"Father?" She was still flustered when she answered the call.

"Are you doing great?" Asked the man in a gentle tone.

"Yes. I'm okay." She responded, inwardly cursing when she remembered the only reason why her father called her lately.

"How is Xingyu? Is he warming up to you?" Came the expected question, and she almost didn't know how to answer it.

"No." She bit her tongue.

"Did you try?" He specifically asked, perhaps because he found it odd that Xingyu was yet to warm up to her after such a long time.

She was not trying since she had a boyfriend but she didn't know how to tell him this yet so she guiltily agreed. "Yes."

A spell of silence followed before the man huffed on the other end. "It must be because that bitch is always around him. Just try harder. If worst comes to worst, I will take care of her."

Her heart almost stopped beating when she realized what her father meant. He was not going to do anything to Luna, right? Before it could come to that, she decided to admit it. "Actually dad,..."

"Okay, I'll talk to you later. I have a meeting to rush to." He interrupted and hung up without giving her the chance to explain anything.

She was still in a daze when Han Xichen returned. He held her as he asked, "Shishi, what happened?"

She launched herself into his arms guiltily. "I'm afraid something may happen to Luna again. It's all my fault for not telling the truth from the start and..."

She was so flustered that her voice was incoherent. He patted her back as he led her to sit at the kitchen island. "Slow down and tell me, what happened?"

She explained what her dad had told her on the call just now.

His eyebrows furrowed as he continued to rub her back. "I'll tell Xingyu about it. When I return, I will have a good word with Uncle."

...

Meanwhile, Xingyu observed that Luna was not in her best mood.

"Are you doing okay?" He asked as he sat beside her on the bed.

"Yes. I'm just tired. I had a long day at work." She smiled, but looked forced like she was holding something back. "I'll take a nap, okay?"

He observed her for a while and was more convinced that she was hiding something, judging from her furrowed brows. "Honey, you know you can count on me."

She opened her eyes and looked at him. "It's alright. It's just... I don't want you to worry about me."

"But my love, if you don't tell me what's going on, I will be even more worried." He gently stated.

She thought about it and realized that it was what would happen. The last time she tried to hide her feelings from him so she wouldn't worry him, she ended up drifting away from him and wrecking their relationship.

"Promise me you won't worry too much?" She looked up at him.

He didn't promise that, since he would be worried if it was something too distressing.

Still, she decided that it was probably best to tell him about it.

"The thing is, I've been feeling some... Pains in the belly. It's more than I have ever expected. I don't know if it's because I'm nearing the third trimester or something else. I already booked a gynecologist appointment."

"My love, why didn't you tell me about it earlier?" He asked with a frown, though he couldn't bring himself to scold her.

Chapter 476 - He Is Bullying Me

"When is the gynecological appointment?" Xingyu asked when he had calmed down from his disappointment.

"Tomorrow. I wanted to talk to mother about it before going." She explained.

He nodded then looked at her seriously. "Don't hide such important matters from me anymore, okay? Don't suffer on your own just because you are afraid that you will worry me."

"But if the matter is trivial..." She started, only to be interrupted by his glare.

"Nothing regarding you is trivial. As long as it is anything, no matter how petty you think it is, tell me about it. Do you understand?" His tone was stern and solemn, not allowing for any room for her to argue or negotiate. She could only nod.

"I'm sorry honey." She apologized for keeping things from him.

His gloom faded away as he patted her back. "It's okay. Do you want me to call her over, or will you speak to her in the living room?"

She smiled when she realized what he was thinking. He thought she was talking about Xinghe. No wonder he looked overjoyed, he must have thought that she finally thought of him as her husband and of his parents as hers too. "I wasn't referring to Aunt Xinghe. I was talking about my mother." She specified with a smile.

He was not disappointed. Instead, he was even happier. He could finally confirm that this time, her relationship with Li Yuming had been fixed.

"Do you want to give her a call?" He asked and she nodded.

He was about to say something else when she suddenly raised her head and glared at him ferociously.

"What did I do?" He was shocked by the sudden change of attitude from her.

"Find something else to do and get lost." She growled, and he blinked.

What just happened?

He could not dare to ask in fear of being yelled at, so he left the room and softly closed the door behind him.

...

When Xingyu left, Luna gave Li Yuming a call. "Mother..." She called softly when the woman picked the call.

"Luna, are you alright? You sound weak." Li Yuming immediately observed. Although Luna had been spending more time at home, it was rare for her to give Li Yuming a call so the latter was surprised.

"I'm fine. I just wanted to ask you about something." She stated, finally feeling relieved even though she was yet to know what was happening with her.

"What is it? I'm listening." Li Yuming asked. Luna went ahead to explain what she had been feeling lately, and she listened attentively. When Luna was done speaking, she thought about it for a moment before explaining what she thought about it. "You are alright."

"Am I?" Luna was surprised to hear what her mother had said.

"Of course, it's normal to feel that way. However, if it makes you feel anxious, then we can go to the hospital and have you checked."

—

Meanwhile, Xingyu walked around the corridors to buy time then decided to go to the kitchen to get Luna a snack. He wondered what was wrong with her. Why would she kick him out when he did nothing wrong? If all she wanted was privacy to speak to her mother, she could say so. He wouldn't mind that.

"You're here." Xinghe beamed when she saw her son in the kitchen. She was preparing a plate of fruit salad and had just finished and placed it on a tray when Xingyu walked in. "I was going to give this to Luna. Give it to her on your way back. Do you need a snack too?"

"No, I'm not hungry." Xingyu declined and reached for the plate of colourful fruits.

"Are you okay, my dear?" Xinghe noticed his gloomy look and closed in to take a better look at him.

"No. I'm just anxious." He confessed.

"You can tell me anything." She raised a hand to worriedly take his temperature and was relieved that he didn't have a fever.

Xingyu pointed at the table at the end of the kitchen and went to sit in front of it, and Xinghe sat opposite him. "We have a gynecological appointment in the morning." He explained.

"Is everything okay with Luna?" She asked worriedly. Otherwise, why would the gynecological appointment make him anxious?

"I don't know." He sighed.

Xinghe patted his hand. "It's okay to be anxious. You're a dad for the first time. The second time, you will know that some signs only mean that your baby is doing alright."

As she explained, she couldn't restrain the smile that formed on her face. Never in her life would she have thought that she would soon be a grandmother and talk about her grandchild with her son. When she saw that he was still not reassured by his words, she frowned and looked at him suspiciously.

"She suddenly kicked me out of the room. It's weird that she's mad at me out of the blue." He expressed his confusion.

Xinghe raised an eyebrow at his words then burst into laughter.

"What's so funny?" Xingyu asked with a frown.

"That only means she loves you." She threw her head back and laughed her heart out, imagining Luna's glare when kicking her son out. She was probably one of the few mothers who found it funny that their sons were being bullied. He wondered how that was supposed to express her love for him.

Seeing his confused look, she patted him as she explained, "A pregnant woman's emotions may keep changing rapidly. It's because of the changes in hormonal balance. Surely you should have realized this by now?"

He had, but it still didn't explain why she kept taking it out on him.

"She is taking it out on the person she trusts the most." She explained.

Xingyu didn't make much sense of it but it was great enough to know that Luna still loved him. "Thanks mother. That's what I needed."

Xinghe smiled as she rubbed her son's hand. "You will make the best father, my son. I have this much confidence in you. But once your baby is born, you must never forget that Luna needs to be taken care of too. They both need your love. Only this way can you be both a good husband and father."

"That I will be. I have the best parents to thank for teaching me how." He grinned, and he knew that she made a lot of sense. Luna had experienced such a hectic childhood, it was only fair for her to enjoy a happy marriage and he would do his best to make that possible

"That's one sweet tongue. You took after me." Xinghe praised. She was just about to shoo him off when she saw Luna at the door of the kitchen.

"Oh, Luna. Come here." She beckoned her over.

Luna took a glance at Xingyu and he seemed to bother her even though he was doing nothing but standing there. "Aunty, he bullied me." She complained while pointing at him.

"What? When did I do that?" Xingyu was rendered speechless by the sudden accusation. He has been kicked out of the room. How could he manage to bully her when he was simply minding his own business?"

"You scolded me." She went to Xinghe's side and glared at him to complain to her future mother-in-law.

Xingyu was flabbergasted. "Do you have amnesia? I didn't do any such thing!"

"I'm mad at you for existing. Is that enough?" Luna shrugged.

Xinghe glared at her son before hugging Luna. "My dear, don't mind him. It must be because he is so boring that you don't want to be near him. I made you some fruits. Do you want to eat them now?"

Xingyu was speechless at the preferential treatment.

—

In Xiehan's mansion. Lanni had stayed over the night but while they both worked in the master bedroom, she suddenly let out a sigh.

"The days are drawing closer.

I'm no longer counting down how much time is left before I become an aunt. I mean, that too, but I'm majorly counting the days before you leave. And each countdown is making me feel empty inside."

Xiehan raised an eyebrow as he looked over at her. "My love, when did you become poetic?"

"I'm not poetic. I'm sad." Lanni looked up at him gloomily.

He set aside his documents to pull her over. "Come here. Don't be sad. On the bright side, you still have time to spend with me before I leave." He coaxed. He had been busier lately and they had been spending less time together, which is why he preferred for them to be in the same space even if they were each doing their own work.

She leaned against his arm and because she was tired from all the research she was doing about Qiao Linyou, she fell into a deep sleep as soon as her head rested against him.

Chapter 477 - Suspicion

The following day.

Luna went to the hospital in the company of Xinghe, Xingyu and Li Yuming. Lanni gave her a call in the morning to express her support, feeling bummed that she could not leave her job and rush over to accompany her.

When they arrived at the hospital, not all of them could enter the gynecologist office so Li Yuming and Xinghe remained outside as Luna and Xingyu went in.

The procedure was fast; the gynecologist ran a few tests on Luna after listening to her description. By the time the tests were done, Luna and Xingyu were on the verge of slipping from their seats from sitting on edge for too long.

The gynecologist, a middle aged woman with a pixie haircut and rectangular-framed glasses, found their antics cute. From her experience, they were a young couple and judging from their ages, it was their first time being parents. No wonder they were so anxious.

"Your babies are alright." She announced with a smile, and the duo simultaneously sighed in relief.

"Thank goodness it was a false alarm." Luna ran a hand over her belly with a relieved smile on her face, while Xingyu froze a few seconds after hearing the good news.

"Doctor, what did you say?"

"I said, your babies are alright. Are you happy now?" She smiled, then sat back on her desk as she wondered why the couple was suddenly exchanging such a shocked look. "You are approaching your final trimester so you should be more careful and..."

"Doctor, did you say babies? Not 'baby'..." Luna emphasised on the word. "But babies?"

The gynecologist finally understood what was going on and was puzzled. "You didn't know you were expecting twins?"

They exchanged a glance and shook their heads.

"We didn't know. We didn't want to reveal the gender of our baby yet, so we only asked if our baby was alright." Luna explained with a stutter, still puzzled by what was going on.

"In the last ultrasound, we didn't notice that it was twins either." Xingyu added.

The gynecologist beamed. "Sometimes, the other twin is not noticed as early as the first. But that doesn't mean the other one is not healthy. They are both in good health. Double congratulations to the two of you. Do you want to see them?"

Luna knew that she was talking about an ultrasound, and she immediately nodded.

Since they booked their appointment, the gynecologist was prepared for the possibility of an ultrasound so it didn't take long to prepare for it. In just a few minutes, Luna could once again hear the overwhelming sound of her baby's heartbeat.

This time, she listened carefully and indeed noticed that although the babies' heartbeats were almost in perfect sync, they were clearly two of them. She shot her eyes to the screen and when she saw two little figures, she couldn't stop her tears anymore. "Oh my god..."

"They are so cute." Xingyu's voice was hoarse too.

This was unbelievable. The good news had come so suddenly that he almost couldn't keep up. Not only was he about to be a father, but he would have twins too?

"Xingyu, we will have twins." She emotionally held his hand and squeezed it.

"They will be the loveliest pair of twins in the whole world." He was tempted to ask about their gender but dropped the thought when he remembered that they had agreed to wait for the baby to be born before learning its gender.

The gynecologist watched their mushy interaction and smiled. How great it was to be young. One could freely fall in love and have a lovely pair of twins with the love of his or her life.

...

Outside, Xinghe and Li Yuming were walking on needles as they wondered what was happening inside the gynecologist's office.

It wasn't sure what Xinghe thought about, she turned to look at Li Yuming sternly. "Be honest with me. You are not going to break Luna's heart again, are you?"

Li Yuming frowned at the kind of question she was being asked. "She is my daughter."

"I know. You know what I meant." Xinghe was not trying to start an argument, but it would be best if Luna was never agitated again.

Li Yuming was uncomfortable but she shook her head. "I won't. You also have to take good care of my baby. Don't bully her like many mothers-in-law do to their daughters-in-law."

Xinghe smiled at that. "Don't worry. Even if one day Luna and I are no longer each other's favorite, I will never bully her. She is a kind young woman and most importantly, my son's only love. I cannot bear to do anything that would break her heart."

"I'm reassured knowing that she would be in great hands." Li Yuming admitted. She hoped she could say the same about Lanni being in the same family as Wen Lin in future.

"She will. Don't worry about Wen Lin. She is long past the stage when she disliked Lanni for taking away her son's attention." Xinghe said, as though reading her mind.

"How did you know what I was thinking about?" Li Yuming's eyebrow raised.

"Let me tell you a secret." Xinghe leaned over. "I'm a psychic. Don't tell anyone." She joked, then laughed. "It's just that as a mother, one would think about the well-being of the other child once one of them is settled. It's been that way for me since Xingyu got engaged, so I guessed it should be the same for you."

Li Yuming looked at her in surprise. It was true, but she was shocked that Xinghe thought of Luna as her real daughter. She was happy that Wen Lin's attitude had changed too.

"Are Lanni and Xiehan planning to settle down any time soon?" Xinghe asked the question on the other woman's mind.

"They're not in a hurry." Li Yuming replied, and she was not going to rush them. It was best for them to take their own pace.

While they spoke, the door finally opened and out of it came the excited couple who were giggling and talking about names.

"You are alright?" Li Yuming rushed to Luna's side and hugged her. Just as she had guessed, her daughter was fine, or they would not be this happy.

"It's good news!" Luna excitedly announced.

"What's the news?" Xinghe couldn't in her curiosity anymore.

"We are expecting twins!" Xingyu excitedly spilled to his mother and future mother-in-law.

"What? Really?" Li Yuming excitedly yelled, then remembered that they were in the hospital building and lowered her voice to a whisper. "really?"

"Yes. I saw them, mother. They are so lovely." Luna explained, and they all went to talk about it somewhere more secretive to avoid making noise in the hospital.

In the car, Xinghe and Li Yuming kept glancing at Luna's belly, who didn't stop smiling and rubbing it gently for a second either. Xingyu was no different. If he was not driving, he would jump to the backseat to continue holding Luna and smiling about the fact that he was going to be a dad twice at one go.

"Lanni will be overjoyed. She has always wanted a little nephew or niece to play with, and she will have two of them." Li Yuming commented. She could not wait to share the news with her daughter.

—

Meanwhile, Lanni was thinking her brains off as she ticked off the list she had created. It was a list of everyone that Qiao Linyou met many times. She had initially only written down those she spent a lot of time with, but later realized that the ones she met briefly for just a few seconds were suspicious too. It was only after checking through their schedules several times that she noticed a trend among them when put together.

They were all ordinary people when looked at individually, but after scanning their schedules alongside Qiao Linyou's, she realized that she met up with one of them once every month. It had been happening for at least three years and it was on the third of every month, so it was too much to be a coincidence.

"I guess she was a little careless." Lanni smiled to herself, glad that it was the case. She thought about not meeting the same person too frequently but she forgot about setting the same date. However, it could be understood. As an actress, she could not keep taking days off randomly since her schedule was packed. She could only set a specific day when she didn't work every month.

Her agent probably knew about it, but Lanni was certain that she couldn't get information from him. If her agent were to betray her, he would have done so three years ago. The fact that they were still together could only mean two things.

The agent was either too loyal or oblivious to the fact that her artist was involved in such dark business.. Of course, Lanni couldn't rule out the possibility that the agent was also involved in the business.

Chapter 478 - Compliant

As Lanni thought about it, she stood up from her office chair and made her way to the CEO's office.

"I take it as you have made more progress?" Lin Jian asked when he saw her, since she rarely showed up unless he called her over.

Lanni nodded but didn't explain as it was not time yet. "Is it possible to get a team I can trust and rely on?"

Lin Jian thought about her question and wondered what she was up to. "What do you want to do?"

"To follow someone." She stated briefly, still keeping the explanation to herself as she had not yet been asked about it.

Lin Jian ran the back of his black pen through his ruffled hair, looking at the woman before him with interest. "You do know that it is impossible to trust anyone completely, and that in this field of work, trust is the beginning of all disappointment, don't you?" She didn't answer him and he added, "Still, I must admit that I'm impressed. I'm glad you did not try to do everything on your own and decided to seek help."

"That's because if I follow someone for too long, the other party will be alarmed within a few minutes." She explained.

"Alright. I will arrange a team and send them to you within an hour. How many people do you need?"

Lanni thought about it with a scrunch of her brows. "As many as possible. As long as they can drive. I would like for everyone to follow the person for a maximum of seven minutes."

"That sounds like a random number." Came the man's laugh amid his curiosity as to what she was thinking.

"Trust me, I wouldn't do random things at such a time. Though I'm about to arrange the numbers in a way that they look random."

"I'll send ten." He raised an eyebrow to ask if it was alright. He didn't believe that the person would need more than an hour to get anywhere. Unless they were leaving the city, in which case Lanni's plan might not be successful.

She nodded. "Thank you. I will go ahead to make the arrangements."

...

Just as she left his office, Luna called.

"Luna? How was the appointment?" She asked, her voice still holding the seriousness it did a while ago in Lin Jian's office.

"It's alright. It's good news..." Luna paused when she realized how solemn Lanni sounded when she spoke a moment ago. "My twin instincts are nagging me about you needing help."

Lanni rolled her eyes. "There isn't such a thing. That's your psychic instinct and it's wrong."

"What was that? Are you afraid of asking for my help lately, or are you looking down on me and thinking that I can't do much now?" Luna asked, pretending to be hurt about it.

"No, no. That's now what I meant!" Lanni urgently explained.

Knowing that her sister would otherwise be worried, she could only sigh and explain. "It's like this, I need someone's schedule and I have a feeling that it's stored in their laptop, phone or tablet."

"I'll retrieve it for you. Do you have the person's number?" Luna sounded like she was ready to start working on it immediately.

"Not yet. How about I try to get it today and send it over?" Lanni suggested, and when Luna agreed, she agreed and moved on to another subject. "What's the good news that you were going to tell me?"

"Ah, that!" Luna's excitement returned in full swing. "Xingyu and I... we are expecting twins!"

"What?!! Oh My God, Luna!" Lanni was so excited that she didn't know what to say. "I'm so happy for you, sis."

"When will you pay your little nephews, nieces or nephew and niece a visit? Xingyu and I are writing down all the names we love for both boys and girls." Luna laughed through her words, it was apparent just how happy she was.

"How about I tell you when I'm ready to come over?" She suggested, knowing that her schedule was not predictable at the moment. She didn't want to make any promises that she might end up breaking.

"That's okay. We should also go shopping for the second baby. Ah, my poor baby. I didn't even know it exists until today." Luna's tone was a mixture of excitement and guilt.

"It's not your fault. How would you have known if the doctors didn't tell you?" Lanni coaxed as she settled in her office. "Luna, let's talk after work, okay? I'll give you a call."

Luna remembered that her sister was still at work and quickly agreed. "Sure, sure. Send me the phone number when you can and I will get down to work."

Lanni hung up and continued planning with a smile. It was almost too hard to focus as she thought about how adorable her nephews or nieces would be.

"They wouldn't want a lazy, procrastinating aunt." She muttered to herself and got back to work. Sure enough, Lin Jian sent the team over within the hour.

"Are you all ready?" She asked the group, which was six men and four women. When she realized that the entire team was reporters who were popular, she was thankful for Lin Jian's thoughtfulness. When they nodded, she handed the sheets of paper she had prepared for them.

"Tomorrow, we will follow this car. The first one of you will follow it for three minutes, and the next for five minutes, two minutes..." She described the order which seemed to be random with the way she had written it down.

"The point is to not alert the other party in the slightest. let it seem like a random group of cars going to different places. Don't appear from the same place where the last car went. Not on the same side of the road either, keep a few seconds before the last disappearance to the next appearance. "

As she gave the instructions, the team obediently noted everything down, regardless of the fact that she had joined the company later than all of them and was younger than most of them.

"When should we begin to follow the person?" One of the young men asked.

Lanni felt bummed that she could not give an immediate answer. "I'm sorry, I don't know yet. Can I let you know once I find out? It might come on sudden notice."

"It's okay. We will be prepared just in case." An older woman with long hair responded, then wrote down her cell phone number.

Lanni felt relieved even though she was yet to accomplish the mission. with such a compliant team, the chances of success were high. If it wasn't because she had witnessed how strict Lin Jian was with his employees, she would have thought that it was too good to be true.

When she was done making arrangements with them and taking their cell phone numbers, she gave Qiao Linyou a call and asked if they could meet up. After their previous meeting, they had exchanged contact details and talked over the phone a few times.

"I'm finishing up my shoot in a few minutes. Let's meet up in about an hour, come to my house okay? I'll give you my address." She responded cheerfully, and Lanni was amazed at how fast the latter had started to trust her. Wasn't she scared that Lanni would leak her location to the paparazzi?

Of course, she would not let go of such a brilliant opportunity. She went over to the address that Qiao Linyou sent, notifying Lin Jian of her current location in case anything went wrong. She couldn't entirely trust the person she was investigating for such shady business.

When she arrived, Qiao Linyou had also just arrived home from her shoot and had taken a shower. Her hair was wet and she was wiping it as she opened the door.

"Lanni, come on in. I've been waiting for you." She beamed.

"Hello." Lanni returned the smile and walked in. The villa was exceptionally large and really furnished. Just as Lin Jian said, it was too luxurious for an actress of her level, whose net worth was not much and who was not from an aristocratic background either.

"Feel at home." The actress sat on one of the fluffy couches and ordered the servants to bring them drinks.

"I wanted to ask you for a favor." Lanni went straight to the point, not wanting to stay for too long in this suspicious place.

"What is it?" From Qiao Linyou's sweet smile, one would mistake her for a sweet, innocent woman.

"Do you mind being the model of a business magazine? I think your story would be quite inspiring to young women. You have worked so hard to get to where you are from scratch." Lanni explained.

"If you say so." She did not even think through it.. All she knew was that Lanni was surrounded by a bunch of influential people, so whatever she recommended would be good for her career.

Lanni studied the other woman for a while before deciding to play out the next step. "How will I be able to contact you? To send the contract and talk about everything regarding it."

Qiao Linyou raised her eyebrows. "You have my cell phone number. If I'm unavailable, contact my agent. Here's her cell phone number and email address." As she spoke, she set aside her glass and picked a pen and piece of paper from the drawer at the side of the table, then wrote down twelve digits and an email address gave it to Lanni.

"Thank you." Lanni smiled, masking her sigh of relief about not having to beat around the bush to get her agent's cell phone number.

Qiao Linyou had no idea what trap she was getting herself into. She even returned a smile at Lanni's words. "You're the one I should thank. Most people only want to be my friends to use me, you know. It's rare that there is someone who is thinking of mutual benefits and wants to help me out. You get where I'm coming from, right?"

Lanni nodded. "I do. I get backstabbers all the time."

"Then we have more in common than we would have expected." The actress laughed. The doorbell rang as they chatted, and she called a servant over to open it.

"Oh, what a pleasant surprise. You're here." The woman smiled as she saw her agent walk in, then her gaze shifted to Lanni who was opposite her.

"Here is my agent. You haven't met her yet. Her surname is Ming. Ming, this is Lanni, my friend. We were just talking about you."

"Hello Ms. Ming." Lanni greeted the woman who looked to be in her late thirties, knowing that she should be wary of her.

"Hey." The woman did not spare Lanni a glance and turned her arrogant eyes to her actress. "This is?"

"Lanni. She's my friend." Qiao Linyou repeated, knowing that her agent did not truly want to ask who Lanni was but was instead wondering what she was doing here. "You have probably seen rows and rows of news about her, I'm sure." She added.

"I see. Yes I have." Ms. Ming narrowed her eyes at Lanni, her hostility so apparent that it made the latter uncomfortable.

"Youyou, I need to get home now and get ready. I have dinner plans with my boyfriend." Lanni made an excuse since she knew that being here would only give Ms. Ming more reason to be skeptical of her.

"Oh, don't flaunt your love to me. I have a fiance too. Take care." Qiao Linyou laughed as she stood to see Lanni off.

"I will. Take care too." At the door, the women exchanged flying kisses by the cheek as though they were long time friends but as soon as Lanni stepped out, the fake smile faded off her face.

"Linyou, what is that woman doing here?" Ms. Ming started to interrogate the actress as soon as Lanni left.

"Why can't she be here?" The young woman slumped onto the couch with her legs crossed, sipping on her drink as though she was pleased about something.

Ms. Ming couldn't believe that her artist was being this careless. "She is suspicious in every manner. First, she is a journalist. An undercover one at that. Not to mention, she now works for Lin Media Group."

"There isn't anything against me being friends with someone in her profession. If anything, she can help me gain more publicity. About her being an employee of Lin Media Group, isn't that a guarantee? Lin Jian is her boyfriend's friend." Qiao Linyou countered with an irritated tone since she didn't like being told what to and not to do.

"And of course, she might be useful when it comes to helping me get back together with Lin Jian." She added and took another cooling sip. The thought of it made her feel excited.

However, Ms. Ming had to take a deep breath to stop herself from slapping the hell out of Qiao Linyou to wake her from the dream she was immersed in. "What makes you think you can get back together with him? That guy already dumped you."

"Yes... but before he did, I got popular because I was his girlfriend. Do you forget this?" The young woman stood up as she set her now empty glass aside, pacing towards the window in her pink bubble. "Not to mention, he left me because of his own pride. Just because I was still a budding actress and he was a player who had to keep up his reputation. But people grow up, Ming. He might have left me because of my status but I have the money now. I don't need a family's reputation to get me a good man."

Ms. Ming was helpless as she walked to Qiao Linyou's side. "There are many great men out there who are after you. Don't get me started on the list."

"Please don't start." Qiao Linyou frowned as she turned, stubbornness written all over her face. "My eyes are set on him. You know the reasons. He's handsome, easy to settle and of course, he's insanely good in bed. Don't forget the wealth—there's never too much of that."

"Linyou, you are getting yourself in..."

Before she could complete her statement, Qiao Linyou snapped. "I am explaining what I think to you but that doesn't give you the right to speak to me as you please. When was it your turn to control my decisions?"

"I'm only giving my opinion." Ming responded.

"And I do not need your opinion right now. I know what I'm doing, got it?"

Ms. Ming was familiar with Qiao Linyou's temper and knew that pushing the young woman's buttons would do her no good. She could only sigh. "Okay, as you wish. But you cannot be close to people like Li Lanni. She is dangerous."

"What part of that harmless fly is dangerous?" Qiao Linyou laughed and made to leave the room.

"The part that she is Li Yuming's daughter? The part that she is Ji Xiehan's girlfriend? Which do you think is more scary?" Ms. Ming was at it again.

Qiao Linyou had calmed down after yelling at her agent, but she felt her head start to hurt again when the latter resumed lecturing her.

"Neither. She is just a little girl I can squash whenever I want. But I don't need to do that because she is useful."

"Keep away from her, I'm warning you." Ms. Ming would have let the matter be but if Qiao Linyou got in trouble, so would she..

The latter chuckled and crossed her arms leisurely. "Ming, do you know what happens to people who don't keep their noses where they belong? You wouldn't want to be the next one to be squashed, would you?"

"I'm sorry, I'll keep to myself." Ms. Ming said, even though she was not sorry in the slightest. She could only resign to her fate, knowing that she would need effort and a lot of time to convince the young woman.

"Prepare yourself for tomorrow." Qiao Linyou reminded her after completely calming down.

"I'm ready." Responded the agent, earning a smile of satisfaction from that face that looked innocent yet could calmly make a heartless order like it meant nothing.

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Lanni sent the agent's cell phone number to Luna and when she received a call two minutes later, she became worried. "Did some emergency happen?"

"Prepare yourself for tomorrow." Luna stated, having managed to get Qiao Linyou's schedule from the agent's tablet.

"Tomorrow?" Lanni was slightly taken aback before she finally understood what must be going on.

"Yes. At 11am, both the agent and the actress will leave B City. They are going to the outskirts." Luna explained all she knew. "However, there isn't a specific location. I only managed to find out this much."

"That's already adequate. Thank you, sis." Lanni had not expected too much information, which is why she had prepared a team beforehand. "I will get to my team now. Thanks, sis."

"Thank me by taking good care of yourself. And if you need anything..." Luna started.

"I'll bug the hell out of you. You won't need to ask." Lanni chuckled, knowing that her sister was going to say that if she needed any help, she should not hesitate to contact her.

When she hung up, she reviewed all the information she had and smiled to herself. She was even closer to her goal now.

Keying in the cell phone number of one of the journalists, she gave him a call.

"Lanni? Is the schedule out?" The man asked as though he had been waiting.

"It's tomorrow." Lanni stated. "I'm sorry that the notice came too soon."

"It's alright. We all expected it to be right now. Don't worry, we can do it, and we will do our best." the man assured her, and Lanni could finally heave a sigh of relief.

"Shall I inform the rest?" He suggested, and Lanni agreed.

"Please do.. Thank you."

Chapter 480 - Trap(2)

In the Old Jiang Mansion, Xingyu reclined on the headboard of his bed as he spoke to Han Xichen, while Luna rested her head on his abdomen. She was not listening to his call but noticed that when he finished speaking, he looked distressed.

"Honey, is something wrong?" She tilted her head to ask as she looked up at him.

"Han Xichen asked me to be careful and especially put more security measures around you." Xingyu sounded confused as he explained.

"Do you know what could be wrong? He was too busy to tell me." He explained, not being able to comprehend why his friend would suddenly alert him. Was there someone following Luna perhaps? He still couldn't get over the fact that she was almost shot by the people hired by her father not too long ago.

"Perhaps it has something to do with Xiaoshi." Luna couldn't think of anything else. The people who were against her were already dead, and Xiaoshi's father was the only remaining one who still disliked her for 'stealing away his precious daughter's man.'

When Xingyu heard her hypothesis, he frowned. "Why am I starting to feel that she is quite troublesome?"

"She is not trying to come between us." Luna shrugged, though she couldn't deny that Old Yun's hatred did indeed start because of Xiaoshi's feelings towards Xingyu. However, she also couldn't neglect the fact that Xiaoshi knew her place and had been avoiding starting a scuffle with them.

Xingyu knew this too, but he was still displeased. "Perhaps she isn't trying to bother us but her father is. And that's the worst kind of bother. We don't need anyone meddling in our lives, do we?"

"Actually, we don't." She snuggled onto his chest as he slid his hand to rub over her belly.

"I don't want anyone disrupting our family. I will give him a piece of my mind the next time I see him."

"But for now, we can only be careful." He added as he poked her belly as though trying to find out how the babies were doing.

"Why do you look tense?" He asked when he realized that she was no longer reacting to his words and seemed to be lost in her own world.

"It's my sister." She sighed.

"What about her?" Xingyu so badly wanted to beat Lanni up for making his fiancée worried again.

"She is once again doing what she is best at—putting her life in danger. She is following someone dangerous." Luna explained while looking up at him.

"Now, that is dangerous. I bet Xiehan doesn't know, or else he would never allow it." He stated conclusively, since he knew that his friend was too protective of his little beauty.

"I bet Lin Jian gave her the task." Luna guessed, knowing that Lanni had stopped doing such dangerous things and would only do it if she was under someone else's instructions.

"He is asking for a good beating." Xingyu laughed, imagining how hard Xiehan would beat Lin Jian if he found out what his girlfriend was being instructed to do.

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Lin Jian was having dinner with Ruby when he sneezed thrice in a row. He frowned. "Someone's cursing me."

Ruby, who was sitting opposite him, rolled her eyes at him. "You believe that? Who would want to curse you? It's such a waste of curses." She then went back to cutting her steak.

"Do you have something against me?" Asked Lin Jian, realizing that Ruby had not been particularly happy this evening.

As soon as he finished speaking, his heart sank as he suddenly thought of a possibility. "Love, did I do something to upset you?"

"No, you didn't." She shook her head exhaustedly.

He was relieved for a moment, but he couldn't stand the thought that someone might have upset his girlfriend so he asked, "Then why are you so mad?"

"I'm just mad at my brother." She explained with a frown as she looked up from her plate.

"Trouble in paradise?" He asked with a tease then realized that something was wrong with his words. "Wait. That's for couples. No. No one said trouble in marital or dating paradise. Trouble in sibling paradise?"

Ruby rolled her eyes at his dramatics then massaged her forehead as she rested it on her left hand. "He will soon leave the country and go to Claudron Island for an awfully long time."

Lin Jian realized what was happening and remembered that it was almost time for Xiehan to take over Feng Ji International. It was inevitable. "That's okay." He took her hand and caressed it comfortingly. "He will be back in no time. Not just CEOs from the Ji family have to do that, it's common for Jiang and Lin family's CEOs too."

She pulled her hand out of his in shock. "Wait. You don't mean what I think you mean!"

"Of course not." He laughed at her huge reaction and deep in his heart, he was happy that she was reluctant for him to leave. "Don't worry, my love. I will be right here with you." He had already gone to Claudron Island when it was his turn, and there wasn't any huge difference for him since he didn't have a girlfriend at the time—and there were female CEOs in training on the island. Of course he couldn't breathe a word of his stay at the island or that would wreck his relationship with Ruby, which was only starting to bloom.

"Thank you. At least you are not leaving." She breathed out an audible sigh. It would have been awful for both him and Xiehan to leave at the same time.

...

The next day, the team gathered in Lanni's office.

"Are you ready?" Lanni asked them as she sighed away her nervousness.

"Readier than ever." Stated the long-haired woman.

Lanni ran her gaze over them and they looked ready for action. "Okay. Is it okay to change into casual attire? Because we...." She was in the middle of explaining her request when the long haired woman shrugged off her work coat to reveal a casual blouse, and the others followed suit. It was only then that Lanni noticed that they were wearing casual clothes and had only draped their work coats on.

"Okay. You're good to go." She readied herself and grabbed a wig to slide over her head after tying her hair up.

"You already know what to do. After every switch, report your locations to the rest of us." She instructed.

"You are going too?" Asked a young man.

"Yes. I will be the last one to follow her." She explained as she gave them a sheet of paper each, with a picture and car plate number of the car they would be following.

"If it is someone you know, I would advise you against that." A man with brown hair advised.

"Don't worry. There are different kinds of magic and one of them is this..." Lanni smiled as she took out her makeup tools. She then asked them to wait for her at the underground parking lot and went to the bathroom.

When she joined them, one of the young women was doubtful. "You are Lanni?" If she had not known that Lanni was going to disguise herself, she would never have guessed that it was her.

"Thanks for the compliment." Lanni smiled. The young lady's remark only proved how proficient she was when doing her makeup.

The young men were full of shock too. Was this voluptuous, seductive woman really Lanni?

"What's with the boobs?" Asked the long-haired woman. She was certain that Lanni's boobs weren't this big. Not to mention, she now had makeup on and her face looked a bit chubbier than it really was, her gray eyes were now blue and her bottom was also much bigger than it was a moment ago.

"You are so good with disguises." She laughed.

"Let's go." Lanni smiled.

"So, what are you?" Asked a young man as they entered their cars, because he saw Lanni sling a camera on.

"A tourist." She slid a cap over her brown wig.

"What if you disguised yourself as a paparazzi? That's easier since you know how to act like one." He suggested, to which she shook her head.

"It is, but they will look out for bugs."

"You are so smart. Actually, I have always admired you." He confessed.

"Thank you. I appreciate your hard work. Let's go."

...

"I took a detour into Dragon Road. They continued on to Falcon Road." The first person to follow Qiao Linyou reported into her phone that was connected to a conference call.

"Is Qiao Linyou in the car?" Lanni asked and sent over a photo for comparison.

"Yes she is." The young woman responded, much to Lanni's relief.

"Tang, catch up." Lanni instructed, and the man named Tang proceeded to Falcon Road while the others kept their distance and secretly followed using different routes.

"I caught up." He announced within a few seconds, but about three minutes later, he cursed.

"I lost them."

"You did what?" Lanni's heart sank.

"I'm sorry boss. I think they suspected me.. They suddenly sped up and disappeared."