

Chapter 581 - Leaving (3)

"Please tell me that part is a joke." Luna looked like she wanted to explode. She glared at Cedric who was having fun talking to the guys across the room and was a step away from bursting over with a weapon.

"Luna." Lanni chuckled and grabbed her hand, then turned back to Cheng Yu.

"Did he really not know what was happening, or was that his way of getting out of trouble? Pretend he knows nothing until you give up and drop it?" Lanni asked, equally mad at Cedric.

She nearly couldn't believe it either. "He was serious. He thought I was kidding. That was why he was looking at me like a deer caught in the headlights. He was waiting for me to burst into laughter and drop the prank. That didn't happen, obviously, because it was not a prank."

"What does he have to say for himself?" Luna cracked her knuckles, itching for violence.

"If he admitted to cheating and you forgave him, then he is yet to see the last of me. I don't care what you think, I'm going to break his teeth out." She swore.

Cheng Yu burst into laughter. "Well, lucky him. That was not the case. He really didn't know. He was almost convinced I was accusing him randomly or hallucinating. I had to retrieve the security footage. Luckily, she was caught on camera picking his lock. That was enough to prove to him that someone had

been to his house and to me that she was not his girlfriend. He would have given her a key or opened the door if he knew her."

The ladies let out a sigh of relief, but Lanni couldn't help being concerned.

"Are you sure that place is safe enough for you? Someone picked a lock and was caught on camera but was not found out until you and your boyfriend got into a fight? Yet nothing was done about her?"

"It's not safe enough, after all. Well, at least I'm certain of one thing. The girl only realized she had been caught on the surveillance camera much later. She tried to pay her way into having it deleted but it was retained in case Cedric had a complaint. I'd say that's something." Cheng Yu shrugged. "And, you guessed it. She was sent there by his mother. Obviously, I was meant to see her. That's why she snuck in at around the time when we usually meet up. I'm sure she would have found a way to pop out of the closet, naked, if he was awake."

"That's scandalous." Luna squeezed her eyes shut. Cedric would never have managed to explain that even if he had ten mouths.

"Why didn't he feel her presence? It's not every day a woman climbs into your bed like that, right?" Lanni was creeped out at the thought.

Cheng Yu slapped her forehead, making a mental note to install alarms at their next apartment. "He can sleep through the apocalypse. It's only funny when you play pranks on him. Apparently, it's not funny all the time."

She let out a sigh, feeling better now that she had talked about it and got it off her chest. She wasn't going to wait for Cedric's psycho family to try to kill her before she could leave him. At the same time, she didn't want to leave him. It was selfish but she couldn't help wanting to do something for herself this once. He wanted the same thing so being selfish wasn't all that bad, right?

"What about your family?" Luna asked, concerned about her brother.

"My mother, meh. I can forget I have one. The only thing she has ever done for me is ruin my life anyway." It still hurt her to say that about her own mother but there was no possible way of mending a relationship that had been broken too many times to find any of the pieces.

"My brother will come with us. I spoke to him about it and asked if he wanted us to stay until he finished school or go with us and study online but to our surprise, he can't wait to get out of here either."

Lanni pulled her into a hug. "Hey, we will miss you so much."

"I will miss you too." She wrapped one arm around Lanni and another around Luna, feeling the latter's bump as she pulled away. "I will be back in time to meet him. Or her. There's no way I'm going to miss the arrival of my godchild." She teased.

"Then you have many trips to make." Lanni reminded her with a raise of her brow.

"Right? And they will both be worth it." She remembered what they were discussing earlier and lowered her voice shyly. "Hey, you're not mad at me, right? Can I still be your maid of honor?"

"Are you kidding me? No way. I'm mad at you." She joked dramatically and laughed when Cheng Yu looked like the world was crumbling down on her. "Of course, silly. If you will stay for the wedding, that is."

"We will leave a day after you two leave for your honeymoon. Oh, and Luna? Don't worry about Moonlight Studios. I will continue to work online and if there is anything that requires my presence, I will be there." She explained. The three of them shared a last hug before they got back to wedding business.

Meanwhile, Cedric was being teased mercilessly by the guys.

"So, what country will you go to?" Han Xichen asked.

"France. Yu has always wanted to live in Paris. Took me long enough to realize it."

"She sure knows how to choose them." Han Xichen winked, before throwing a jab at him. "Are you sure you guys are not just eloping because you don't want a wedding?"

"We would have three weddings if Yu wanted them." He bit back, making them roar in laughter. He didn't know what they were laughing at and they didn't look like they were going to explain, so he gave up.

"Why don't the two of you stay the night? I'm sure Lanni wants her friend to accompany her for a while." Xiehan suggested.

"That's okay. She can stay and I'll pick her up tomorrow."

When the guys burst into laughter, Cedric was confused. What were they plotting?

"I wouldn't hear the end of it if I made Cheng Yu stay away from her boyfriend. It's really alright to stay in one of the guestrooms and our room is far enough from. them."

Cedric facepalmed. He would never have pegged Xiehan to be the kind to make fun of anyone.

He grinned. "Since you are so eager to make the offer, I will accept it."

But none of the laughing would have prepared him for the "parting gift" that they had prepared for him. This was definitely Lin Jian's idea. There was no mistaking what the playboy was capable of.

The room that Xiehan had shown him into was decorated with red roses and scented candles, and sheer curtains that fluttered slightly against the windows. The king sized bed was well spread with white and red bedding and a heart made of roses on it. When he caught sight of the small packages at the centre of the heart, a chuckle escaped his lips.

"What's wrong?" Cheng Yu asked behind him. She had followed him when Lanni hinted that he wanted to have a word in private.

"Nothing. I think our friends just got more creative." He led the way in. Her mouth hung open when she saw the decorations that made it look like it was their wedding night.

"They do realize that they don't need to do this, right? We are in a relationship." She chuckled.

When the door swung and shut them in, she was somewhat confused. This was...unexpected.

"We are not going to waste their efforts, are we?" He spoke near her ear, making her body shiver with need.

"I would like to take a shower first." She walked past him to the ensuite bathroom and he let her. When she opened the closet to pick out a nightgown she was certain Lanni would have prepared for her, she was baffled. The closet was occupied with a row of sexy lingerie and nothing else. She felt the silky material of a blue piece and chuckled. If this was their way of ensuring the guests were satisfied, they had won.. And there was no way she was wasting the chance to seduce the hell out of him.

## Chapter 582 - Parting Gift

She changed into it and checked herself out in the mirror. The bra didn't cover a lot more than her hardened nipples and the little triangular fabric at her crotch area may as well not be there. She was nearly naked except for the tiny pieces of silky fabric and her cheeks flushed. This was probably the most daring thing she had ever worn. There was no doubt what his reaction would be, seeing her like this. Lanni went all out this time.

She threw on a bathrobe and made her way back to the room. Cedric was playing a game on his phone as he waited for her. She stood against the wall, in his line of sight and made sure he was looking at her before she slowly loosened the belt around her bathrobe and flirtatiously shrugged it off.

He inhaled sharply and swallowed hard. His game was ditched in a heartbeat and he suddenly couldn't get to her fast enough. When he wrapped an arm around her waist, she gently pulled it off.

"Slow down, handsome." She smiled, his reaction turning her on all the more. Seeing him want her so badly made her want him even more. She turned him over and pushed him against the wall instead, running her fingers down the side of his face. She pulled away when he reached to hold her.

"Don't move." She whispered and continued to tease and touch him, eliciting a groan from him. He was already so hard that he throbbed in her palm when she grabbed him through his pants.

"Yu," He pleaded through a throaty voice. He had tried his best to stay still and not move but she was not making it easy for him in the slightest. He treaded a finger down her neck and she couldn't stop herself from moaning.

He pressed her against his body and traced hers, cupping her boobs in his hands. Her skin was hot under his touch and so were her lips when he finally kissed them. He rubbed her nipples between his thumbs and forefingers, squeezing ever so slightly. A gasp left her lips as a shudder went down her body.

She had intended to tease and seduce him but she couldn't stop her body from burning in need. Her core throbbed, begging to be touched by him. And when he did, she melted into his arms and let herself go. His lips crashed against hers again as her body floated. She closed her eyes and let her body respond to his touch. She barely registered him moving and felt herself sinking onto the soft mattress soon after. Rose petals caressed her skin as his hands moved along her body, touching her in places that craved his touch the most.

He kissed and sucked her skin, each stroke of his tongue leaving her breathless and wanting more.

He got rid of their clothes at a ridiculous speed and when he finally sunk into her, she moaned out his name in pleasure. He wasn't gentle and she didn't need him to be. Each hard thrust sent her closer and closer to the edge and all she could do was cling to his back. Her nails dug into his shoulder blades as she parted her legs as far as she could. When he suddenly slowed down, she opened her eyes to meet his panic-stricken face.

"What's wrong?" Worry flooded her entire being.

"I forgot all about protection in the heat of the moment." He admitted.

"Screw protection. I would never say no to a little Cedric." She hugged his shoulders and moved her hips invitingly, and he rewarded her with hard, deep thrusts until they both reached their climax.

Her legs were wrapped tightly around his waist for a moment they wished could last forever. He pulled out after a while, kissing her the whole time, and lay on his side next to her. He stroked her bare skin, regretfully eyeing the red marks on her thighs. Had he been too rough?

"It doesn't hurt. I just scar too fast." She caressed his face, knowing what he was thinking.

He was relieved. Hurting her was the last thing he ever wanted to do. "Do you think we will really be parents?" He asked, knowing how irregular her cycle was lately. Not that he would ever say no to having a baby with her but...

She let the possibility play out on his face but not long enough for him to be misled, before wrapping her arm around him. "That's not happening any time soon. I'm on birth control."

"You are?" He frowned.

"I didn't have the chance to tell you." She drew circles on his skin. "I meant it when I said I wouldn't mind having a child with you. Just... not now. I would like to enjoy my life a little longer."

"That's alright. We are still young anyway." He agreed. "That, and I would like to pamper you for a while before all our attention is stolen away by a little cutie."

She smiled and jabbed him. Maybe that was one of the reasons why they ended up dating despite being so different. They shared the same opinion on more things than they would have ever expected.

He was yet to take a shower so he bribed her with kisses until she agreed to join him in the shower. When she took a glance at the lingerie she was wearing earlier, her jaw dropped.

"You tore it. No, the point is, it's made of silk, but you still managed to tear it?"

"It was in the way." He slapped her bare butt playfully. Her face flushed as she disappeared into the shower before he followed her in.

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Meanwhile, Lanni went through the guest list for the umpteenth time. She kept having a feeling that she was forgetting an important guest even though she didn't have many friends.

In the end, she showed the list to Xiehan. "Honey, do you think we are forgetting something?"

He eyed the list on her tablet and grunted in agreement. Sliding her stylus out of her hand, he crossed out Ji Huifen, Ji Meiling and Wen Lin and they were automatically deleted from the list.

"Xiehan..." Her heart sank.

"I have no desire to invite people who have no respect for my wife." He didn't flinch, but she placed a hand on his shoulder.

"I'm sorry. It shouldn't have come to this." Having a wedding without one's family was definitely heartbreaking. No one should have to choose between their spouse and their family.

"It did. And you can make it up to me." He grabbed her teasingly.

"I will use the rest of my life to make it up." She winked, but she was serious. If there was really no way for the Ji family to reunite, she would do her best to fill the void.

"Oh, I remember now." She grabbed back the tablet and stylus and added a name. Veruschka would be glad to come to her wedding. She couldn't help wondering how her nephew was doing. Luckily, she had delayed sending out the final batch of invitations or she would have left her out.



Xiehan grabbed her and pulled her onto his lap. "Is the wedding more attractive than your husband?"

She wrapped her arms around him, letting the tablet fall onto the bed. "You mean, the day when the whole world gets to know that you are mine? Of course it's attractive."

"Then I'll have to work harder." He fell back on the bed and pulled her along.

His phone rang on the nightstand.

"You should answer that." She pulled away to let him. It was not every day that he got calls late at night so it must be urgent.

He thought about it and grabbed his phone from the nightstand, dreading all possibilities when he realized that the caller was Wen Lin.

"Hello?" He answered, his body a bundle of nerves. Wen Lin's sob made him sit up in fear. "Is Ruby home?"

"Yes. Lin Jian dropped her off safely." She cried. "Xiehan, your father had a heart attack. The doctor said he might not make it."

He gripped the phone tightly.

"Hello, Xiehan? Are you there?"

"Brother?" Ruby's voice was the last thing he heard before the call ended.

## Chapter 583 - Final Wish

"I have to go." He cupped her face. "Stay here." He ordered before she could suggest tagging along.

"But..."

"Not now, Lanni."

Realizing immediately that he sounded harsh, he kissed her lips briefly. "It's late. Go to bed first, okay? I'll brief you on the situation and you can come tomorrow."

She rose onto her knees as he grabbed a coat in a rush. "Be careful, okay? Don't drive on your own. Let the chauffeur drive you there." She insisted on the last part. Heaven knew he might just floor the accelerator and arrive in twenty minutes if he could. That would be dangerous.

He nodded and left the room. She pressed a hand on her chest as she stared at the door. She could only hope that Ji Huifen would be alright, for the sake of Xiehan and Ruby.

Her phone rang after what felt like forever. She shuffled to grab it and frowned at the unknown number. Who would call her so late at night? It was definitely not Xiehan since he had carried his phone with him. Her heart skipped a beat as she answered it, remaining silent for the other party to speak first.

"Lanni?"

She sighed in relief. "Ruby? I was scared out of my skin."

Ruby sounded worried. "I'm sorry. My phone went off. Is my brother there?"

"He left a while ago." She answered, moments before she heard Xiehan's voice in the background as he called out. Ruby had heard it too, because she sighed.

"Oh. He's here."

Lanni frowned when Ruby suddenly ended the call. That was weird.

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"Where's he?" Xiehan asked worriedly as soon as he got home.

"Sir was rushed to B City Hospital." The butler informed him, and he immediately made a beeline for the garage once again.

"Brother, can I come?" Ruby asked behind him. He had noticed her tailing him but he let her into the car.

"Of course. Why not?"

He figured Wen Lin must have made her stay at home but he couldn't understand why she would.

When they got to the hospital, he was shown to the emergency room where Ji Huifen was, but no one was allowed to go in yet.

"Mother?" He caught sight of Wen Lin waiting outside and rushed over to her. When he pulled her into his embrace, she pushed him away like he was a plague.

"You finally know your way back. Are you trying to drive your father to the grave?"

He ignored her accusation. "What happened?"

"I already told you, he had a heart attack." She dabbed at her tearful eyes. "He's had a lot to deal with lately, especially with you leaving the city like that."

He was certain his leaving couldn't cause such an impact on its own. However, it was not the time to play blame games and start pointing fingers at each other. He remained silent and let her cry it out.

"Xiehan, your father may have done some awful things but he is still your father, ok?"

"I know." He placed a hand on her shoulder. He didn't want it to come to this either.

It was only hours later that Ji Huifen was wheeled into the recovery ward and they were allowed to see him briefly. Before Xiehan could go in, Wen Lin grabbed his hand.

"Don't pick a fight with him." She warned.

"I know better than to do that." He ran a hand down his face.

She forced a smile before letting him go first.

He walked into the ward, looking down at his bedridden father and suddenly not knowing what to say. He had an oxygen tube on his nose and while his eyes were open, he looked unfocused.

"Father." He called out softly.

A small smile crossed Ji Huifen's lips as if he was relieved. "When I felt that stab of pain, I couldn't stop myself from wondering whether you would be at my funeral."

"Don't say such things." His gaze trailed to the monitors.

"Why not? It's nothing but the truth." His chest rose and fell faster and Xiehan squinted his eyes in worry. It was only a while later that Ji Huifen softly spoke again. "At least the company will be in good hands. He sighed."

"Nothing is going to happen to you." Xiehan balled his fists at the sides.

"Yet." Ji Huifen interjected. "Did Lanni come with you?"

"No."

"Okay. I will talk to her later. For now, let's talk about other things, okay?" He placed a shaky hand on Xiehan's which had reached out to tuck him in.

"I always wanted to see you settle down and have a family of your own." He started, making Xiehan's brows furrow.

"I'm married. And my wife is pregnant. If this is not considered as settling down, I don't see what is." He countered, his face expressionless.

"The wedding is a major part of it, right?" Ji Huifen looked deep in thought before asking, "Can I ask you for a favor, from a father to a son?"

When Xiehan nodded, he continued, "If anything happens to me..." He paused and shut his eyes for moments. "If I don't make it, could you let Meiling take my place at your wedding?"

"And let her stab my wife at the altar? Not happening." He bit back without flinching.

Before Ji Huifen could respond, he inched closer to his face. "Since you so badly hope for something to happen to you, I will help you with that."

Then he pulled the oxygen tube off Ji Huifen's nose.

"Xiehan!" Wen Lin let out a shrill cry and burst into the room. The entire door was made of glass and she had been studying them. Panic washed all over her face.

"Don't you dare come closer." Xiehan shot her a warning glare.