

A Lifetime With You –

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Chapter 129 - Nagging Feeling -

Edith returned to her room after catching up with her grandfather to rest. Her lips tilted into a slight smile as her gaze swept around the room where she had grown up.

Everything stayed the same as the last time she had left them. Knowing that she was going to return home, her grandfather had cleaned up the room leaving no speck of dust lying around.

She dropped her luggage beside the wardrobe and slammed her body on the bed. The smell of fresh and clean linen entered her nose as she rolled around the bed. After a while, Edith finally stopped. She let out a long sigh and stared at the ceiling above.

Her grandfather told her to take a nap after traveling in a car for hours, but she had taken a nap in the car and was not feeling sleepy at all.

Usually, she was not someone who would fall asleep while traveling in a car. However, recently, Edith was having a problem sleeping and could not fight the sleepiness upon entering the car.

It was all due to Neil's proposal to extend the contract. Because of Hazel's trauma after experiencing the almost kidnapping, the little girl was scared of going out without Edith or Neil beside her. The little girl was worried if neither of them was with her, someone was going to snatch her away and she won't be seeing her family again.

After living with Hazel and spending most of her time with her, they have built a certain trust and the little girl has been relying on her.

The almost kidnapping incident happened just not too long ago and until Hazel started to forget it or got over her trauma, it would be too cruel for Edith to leave the little girl's side.

She understood Neil's concern and Hazel's situation. However, his question was too sudden that she thought that she will need some time to consider it. Although Neil's attitude was driving her crazy recently, just the sight of him would make her heartbeat increased and the butterflies would dance around in her stomach.

Whether he stood still and do nothing or say something that infuriates her, this man would still drive her crazy.

It made her wonder if she really liked him very much. Although she had been in a relationship previously, this was the first time someone would make her feel like this.

A long sigh escaped her as she tried to figure out what she wanted to do.

She wanted to agree for Hazel's sake, but at the same time, there were other things that she needed to consider. For example, her feelings towards Neil Mo. She had planned to give him a confession on the final day that she was staying with both Neil and Hazel.

If she agreed to continue the contract, Edith was afraid that she will not have the courage to tell Neil that she liked him. After all, she needed an escape route just in case if her confession did not go as well as she had planned.

What if Neil rejected her? Then, she would be too ashamed to face both Neil and Hazel.

In the end, Edith told Neil that she needed to consider this matter before she can give him her answer. Just that... between her love and concern towards Hazel and her blossoming feeling towards Neil, which one was more important to her?

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Edith walked out of her room and found that her grandfather was not at home. There was only a sticky note on the refrigerator, informing her that he was going out to the market, but Edith knew better. Her grandfather probably went away to look for his friends.

The sky was going to turn dark in a couple of hours. At this time, there was no way that the market would still be open.

Seeing that there was still time, Edith grabbed her keys and walked out. Riding on her scooter, she started to ride around the town for sightseeing. After a while, she stopped at Auntie Li's B&B and parked her scooter outside. Without entering the building, Edith went straight to the beach and sat down to enjoy the scene. After giving it some thought, she pulled out her phone and send a text message.

It did not take a long time for her friend, Aaron to appear by her side.

The man pressed the cold bottle of orange juice to her cheek and stepped back immediately as a punch flew towards him.

"I bought you a drink, is this how you thank me?" Aaron clicked his tongue while eyeing her fist warily. He has been friends with Edith for a long time to know that the woman did not play around when she beat someone.

"Try to do that again and I'm afraid that I won't be able to hold back and beat you." Edith raised her fist to threaten him

"Don't get mad." Aaron chuckled. He stretched his hand and spoke, "Here. Have something cold to calm down."

Edith narrowed her eyes dangerously at him. Then, she walked over and took the cold bottle from Aaron. She uncapped the bottle and took a few sips. The sweetness from the juice turned her temper down.

"You didn't tell me that you are coming back," Aaron spoke. "If I did not get your message, I wouldn't know that you are here. How long are you going to stay this time?"

"A week," Edith answered. "The kindergarten is on a break."

"Should I go and contact everyone? Let's have a mini gathering tonight," Aaron suggested.

"I'm spending my time with my grandfather tonight. Let's go out and meet up with the others another day," Edith said. She tilted her head and raised a brow. "Speaking of my grandfather, have you check on what I asked you to check?"

Aaron heaved a long sigh. "I already told you that your grandfather really went on a fishing trip with my father last week. As for the other dates you mentioned, well... I can confirm that he took the boat and head to the sea. Sometimes, he went with my father. Sometimes he goes with Grandpa George. However, what they do while they were on the sea was something that I know nothing about."

Edith was relieved to know that her grandfather really went to the sea as he had informed her. However, there was a nagging feeling that everything was not that simple.

The two friends spent their time catching up and Edith left before the sky turned dark. When she arrived, her grandfather was in the kitchen, steaming some fishes.

"Where did you go to?" Mike asked the moment he saw his granddaughter.

"Just looking around. It has been a while since I came back." Edith peeked into the pan and noted that her grandfather had stewed some chicken soup as well. "I saw your note," Edith spoke. "Is the market still open at this time?"

"I didn't go to the market," Mike confessed. He saw his granddaughter raised a brow at him and chuckled. "I wrote that note the last time you visited and stick it up again. We need to save paper and trees. As long as you know that I went out, that is what matters, right?"

Edith felt the corner of her lips twitched at her grandfather's answer. She helped him with the cutlery and went back to the kitchen. "Grandfather, you remember that little girl you saw this morning, right?"

Mike replied with a light hum. "What about her?"

"I was thinking..." Edith paused as kept her eyes on her grandfather's expression. "If you could take us on the boat to experience fishing? You said I should show her around and let her experience things in this town.. Moreover, Grandfather, you always complained that I nagged too much when you go out on the sea. How about bringing me along so that I can see what you do out there?"

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At this moment, Edith was silently regretting her decision to follow her grandfather to the sea. When she suggested the idea, she did not think that they will have to wake up very early.

The sky was still dark and the temperature was too cold.

All she wanted was to continue sleeping on her bed with the warmth of a blanket.

This was definitely not a good idea.

Edith closed her eyes and leaned her head on the pole lazily, trying to get some sleep while standing up while waiting for her grandfather and a few of his friends to get ready.

A bright light suddenly shone over, irritating her. A few cursing words escaped her lips and Edith had the thought to beat the person who was disturbing her sleep to death.

The lack of sleep has definitely turned her cranky.

Edith raised a hand to block the light and the light suddenly died. Her eyes narrowed as she turned to where the light came from.

The sound of a vehicle door open and close could be heard.

Edith adjusted her vision in the dark and was surprised upon seeing both Neil and Hazel walking over to them.

"Teacher Qian!" The little girl called out excitedly as she approached. The look on Hazel's face showed that she wanted to run to Edith's side, but the little girl still held on to her uncle's hand tightly.

Once she was closer, Hazel released her grip from her uncle and held on to her teacher's hand tightly.

Edith tilted her head down in a daze and met with Hazel's excited gaze. The little girl was wearing a thick coat to stay warm.

The sounds of footsteps approached and Neil Mo's handsome face appeared before her. For a few seconds, Edith was convinced that she was still asleep on her bed and Neil had appeared in her dream.

"Teacher Qian, good morning," Neil smiled.

Hearing his voice snapped her back into reality. It was then that she recalled inviting the uncle and niece to join her to experience deep sea fishing. Edith was prepared that the two were not going to show up, but clearly, she had thought wrong.

"President Mo, why are you... here?"

Neil replied with a soft hum. "Didn't you said your grandfather invited me and Hazel to go fishing?"

Edith glanced at the adorable girl beside her again. Her brain finally woke up and Edith stood up straight. "President Mo! Good morning!"

Neil grinned as he watched the silly woman in front of him. He saw the way she was leaning on the lamp pole with her eyes closed earlier. He could see from the look on her face that she was having a hard time waking up.

How can she sleep while standing up? This woman was indeed a silly woman.

The temperature in Z Town was slightly hotter than L City, however, this woman was still dressed thickly in her coat.

"Teacher Qian, good morning!" Little Hazel greeted. Her expression was lively and excited. "I slept early and woke up early today. Teacher Qian, I have never been on a boat to fish. I'm a little excited today."

Edith laughed at the little girl's enthusiasm and patted on the little girl's head. "Are you cold?"

"Not cold. Grandmother put on a thick coat on me."

Edith turned around when she heard footsteps behind her. She adjusted her expression quickly and called, "Grandpa."

"Get ready, we are leaving in a few minutes," Mike spoke to his granddaughter. He raised his head and smiled amiably, meeting Neil's gaze. "Mr. Mo, good morning."

"Great grandfather, good morning," Hazel greeted.

Mike turned to the little girl and his expression turned gentler. "Hello. Little girl, you made it. You are so good at waking up early in the morning." He glanced at his granddaughter and shook his head slightly. "Unlike my granddaughter."

"Grandpa!" Edith stared back at him, warning him not to talk nonsense in front of the two guests around.

"Mr. Mo, let's go. We will depart soon. Let me introduce you to the others," Mike said. A thought crossed his mind and he continued, "Have you been on a boat before? Right. If you started to feel a bit unwell, just tell me. We have medicine to help with seasickness."

"Thank you." Neil followed after Mike and was introduced to his friends and fishing partners, George Bei and James Li. After a briefing, they all went on board and departed from the jetty.

The little girl quickly won the grandfathers' affection with her adorable face. For a while, Edith was speechless upon seeing how the bunch of elder men vying for Hazel's attention. Every one of them wanted to show that they know more about fishing and the little girl excitedly play along, pleasing the bunch of old people with her compliments and sweet words.

Edith heaved a sigh as she watched how her grandfather excitedly showed the little girl how to fish.

Though she did not know much about fishing, she at least knew that her grandfather knew what he was talking about. Looking at his enthusiasm while talking about this hobby, Edith wondered whether she had been thinking too much.

Perhaps her grandfather was telling her the truth about his fishing trip and was just too embarrassed about the fishes he caught that he decided to send a few photos he found on the internet to assure her that he was doing fine.

At the thought that her grandfather wanted to do whatever he can to assure her that he was doing fine, Edith let out another sigh.

"What's with the sighing?"

Edith turned towards the direction of the voice and saw Neil with a teasing smile on his face. The man stretched his hand and handed her a hot mug of coffee.

The smell of coffee woke her up a little bit. Edith grabbed the mug with both hands and felt the temperature warming her hands. "Thank you." She took a few sips and felt the warmth spread through her body.

"Finally wake up?"

Edith nodded, but then stopped herself when she caught the man's playful tone. Sure enough, when she looked at Neil again, the man had a teasing smile on his face.

Neil let out a chuckle upon seeing her expression. At this time, Edith was wearing a thick coat with a hoodie covering her head. Though the surrounding was still dark, Neil was able to see the tinge of pink on her cheek. It gave off the feeling of wanting to pinch them.

Edith narrowed her eyes as she stared at the man in anger. Just then, the wind died down and she could feel the boat gradually slowing down.

"We're arriving at the location in a few seconds," Uncle Li shouted.

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After more than an hour on the boat, they finally reached the fishing spot. Because the elders were worried that a little girl was tagging along with them this time, they purposely steered the boat slower and did not go as far as they usually go.

Once they arrived, the three old men immediately chose their spot, before they went to help and teach the newbies.

The wind and waves were not big and the sky was beginning to turn bright. The weather was perfect for them to go out on the sea and fish.

Edith wrapped her arms around her body in her attempt to stay warm as she watched her grandfather taught Hazel how to reel the fish. The little girl has been in a good mood ever since she arrived and won the grandpa's heart almost immediately.

"Why are you standing around? Didn't you say you were going to try this?" Mike said as he looked at his granddaughter.

"Grandpa, I only said I was going to come and watch you in action. I am doing exactly what I said I would do, right?" Edith flashed a cheeky smile and laughed when her grandfather gave her an annoyed look.

Mike shifted his gaze back at the little girl who sat obediently beside him. The little girl was watching the fishing rod with a serious look on her face. It was as if she was afraid that she would miss one second and the fish would snatch the bait and run away.

His granddaughter used to be this cute when she was little. When did she grow up to be this annoying?

"Alright, don't start arguing lest the two of you would scare the fishes," George Bei spoke.

As Mike's closest friend, George has gotten used to watching the grandfather and granddaughter's bantering. Once they start their bantering, it would be hard to stop them. It was best to stop them before they have gone further.

"This time your granddaughter is here to observe you," George continued. "Make sure you catch something this time. Don't embarrass yourself. I am not going to give mine if you failed to catch anything."

Both George and James started to laugh happily as they watched their friend's face turned darker.

"I won't talk to you guys anymore," Mike looked away. His gaze went to Hazel again and he heaved a soft sigh. "Little princess, don't listen to them. Today, I will definitely catch something for you. Then, I will let you try my cooking. Although Great-grandpa isn't very lucky with fishing, I am a very good cook. My granddaughter learned cooking seafood from me."

Hazel looked at the old man with her round eyes. "Teacher Qian is very good at cooking seafood. Great-grandpa, it turns out that it was you who taught her."

A strange feeling crept into his heart. "You... tasted my granddaughter's cooking before?"

"Un." Hazel nodded. "Teacher Qian's ginger and garlic crabs is Hazel's favorite."

Edith, who was listening to their conversation suddenly panicked. She would be in deep trouble if her grandfather learned that she was now living with both Neil and Hazel.

"Grandpa! Look at that!" Edith pointed to the fishing rod in her attempt to divert her grandfather's attention. "It looks like there's a fish on your hook!"

Mike forgot what he had wanted to ask the little girl and turned his attention to the fishing rod. His eyes went wide upon seeing a slight movement. He picked up the fishing rod and was excited to feel that something really caught his hook.

Seeing the man's mood started to change; everyone's attention turned to Mike as they all watched as he tried to reel in the fish.

Seeing the excitement, the old men began to provoke that it would be impossible for Mike to catch anything.

None of them had caught anything on their fishing rod. It would be impossible for their friend to be the first to catch anything.

However, soon, their gaze started to change. Mike exerted more strength and a big fish jumped around on the floor. For a while, the situation turned lively.

Mike was busy looking at the fish he had caught and the little girl beside him clapped and praised that he was the best. Hearing the little girl's praise, Mike began to laugh happily and glanced at his friends mockingly.

All this time, he was someone who had very bad luck at fishing. But today, his luck was pretty good. He was the first to have a fish on his hook and he had managed to reel in a fish as big as his arms.

"Grandpa, you really caught a fish ah?" Edith spoke as she eyed the fish in disbelief.

Mike clicked his tongue. "I keep telling you that I am pretty good at this, but you would not believe me."

Seeing that Mike had successfully reeled in a big fish, his friends were envious. George eyed the little girl beside his friend and a thought crossed his mind.

"Little girl," George called. He waved his hand and smiled amiably. "Come here and sit with grandpa."

Mike's instinct kicked in and he held the little girl tightly. "No. Little princess, you stay with Great-grandpa, alright? Don't go and play with others. They were mocking that we would not catch a thing earlier." He then shot his friend a dagger look. "You are not allowed to steal my lucky charm."

"This old man," George chuckled. "Why are you so stingy? She's not even your great-granddaughter."

"The little princess is my granddaughter's student, so that makes her my great-granddaughter. What's wrong with it?" Mike looked at the little girl adoringly and smile. "Little girl, I am telling them the truth, right?"

Hazel stared at the two old men and blinked. "Great-grandpa, don't fight. Teacher Qian taught us that friends should not be fighting. Even if you disagree on something, you have to sit down and discuss them properly."

Mike shot his granddaughter and thought that this situation was pretty funny. Back then, it was this granddaughter who would often get into a fight until the principal had given him a call.

Of course, Edith did not miss the look on her grandfather's face. She narrowed her eyes and called Hazel over to her. "Hazel, come and sit with me. Have something to eat first."

The little girl obediently walked over to her teacher and Edith wrapped her arms around the little girl, to warm her up.

Mike watched as the little girl walked away and returned to his position. He cleared his throat and spoke to the man beside him. "Mr. Mo, you are really good at educating your niece. Hazel is adorable and obedient."

"Grandpa, just call me Neil," he said and smile. "It is said that fishing could turn strangers into friends. Since we have spent a few hours on this boat together, let's not be a stranger to each other."

Mike thought over his words and found that there was some truth in it.. He laughed happily and called, "Alright, Neil."

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Mike Qian glanced at the two girls who sat not farther away from them. At this time, Edith was holding the little girl in her arms as they were drinking some hot soup to stay warm.

A helpless sigh escaped him as he watched how gentle his granddaughter was with the little girl. Edith was someone who liked kids and that was one of the reasons she chose to work as a kindergarten teacher.

A few seconds later, the look in his eyes changed.

Mike was reminded of the reason they went on a fishing trip and his heart jumped at the thought of his granddaughter was suspecting something. When Edith had asked to go on this trip, Mike had a feeling that his granddaughter might know something. He had to ask his friends to come and play pretend so that Edith would stop worrying.

When did his granddaughter become so sharp?

Fortunately, Mike and his friends were not clueless about fishing. Or else, it would be troublesome for them to pull off this play.

Sensing someone was watching him, Mike turned around and noticed that the man beside him was watching him.

Mike found that it was awkward that this man had come along with them on this fishing trip. Although he had such an adorable niece, Mike was aware that he was Neil Mo, the President of MH Group. He had thought that it would be hard for him to hold a proper

conversation with such a man, but this young man beside him did not have such high air around him that would make him uncomfortable.

He had seen how good this young man had treated his niece. At the thought that this man came over to join them on this fishing trip to make his niece happy, Mike had a good impression of this man. Mike knew very well that it was not easy for someone like him to volunteer to look after his niece. Looking at Neil and Hazel would remind him of his granddaughter after his daughter had passed away.

"I heard from my granddaughter that you were looking after your niece after her parents passed away," Mike spoke as he turned to Neil.

Neil replied with a soft hum. His gaze was at the fishing rod, but his mind was probably somewhere else.

"How is the little girl doing?"

Neil turned to the elderly man and answered, "She's doing pretty well"

"She did not throw any tantrum?"

"In the first few months after her parents passed away, Hazel would not talk to anyone." A soft smile graced his lips as he was reminded of that period. "But, Hazel is a good girl. She did not throw any tantrum or make things hard for us."

Mike heaved a long sigh. "The little princess is definitely a good girl. Totally the opposite of my granddaughter." He looked at Neil again and realized that the man probably did not know of his granddaughter's past. "My granddaughter, Edith shared a similar experience as your niece. She too has lost her parents from a very young age."

"I've heard," Neil said. "I guess it was the reason why your granddaughter was able to understand my niece and get along with her well. To tell you the truth, I am someone who had no experience with raising a small kid. It was with Teacher Qian's help that I was able to get close to Hazel. Your granddaughter has helped us a lot with her advice. If it was not for your granddaughter, Hazel might not turn to be a cheerful girl as she is now."

A laugh escaped him. Initially, Mike had a feeling that it was strange how his granddaughter seemed very close to this young man. He had seen this young man's interaction with Edith and thought that they were a bit too familiar.

Mike lowered his guard down upon knowing that her granddaughter was only helping this man to look after the little girl. "I am glad that my granddaughter helped you."

There was a brief silence between them until Neil spoke again. "Forgive me for asking, but how was Teacher Qian when she lost her parents?"

"Edith's father passed away when she was still in her mother's belly. Edith perhaps did not have much thought about her late father. But when she lost her mother, she was a bit older than your niece. She was very close to her mother and losing her suddenly was too hard. My granddaughter used to throw tantrums every day to express her anger. She was sad and angry that her mother had suddenly left her." Mike heaved a long sigh. "Raising Edith on my own was tough."

Neil glanced at the woman who was accompanying his niece and find it hard to imagine how she would throw tantrum.

"That granddaughter would often get into a fight at school," Mike continued. "I would get a call by the school's headmaster at least twice in a month because that girl had injured her friend."

For a second, Neil had thought that they were probably talking about two different people.

"My Edith used to be a gangster at school," Mike whispered. "Her teacher would still have headaches if anyone mentioned her name."

Neil stared at the old man's face and found that the elder man was not joking with him. Suddenly, Neil recalled how Edith had taken down Edward Xiao and that robber.

So... that was why the silly woman seemed as if she was experienced in fighting.

"Fortunately, Edith was better as she grew up," Mike said. He raised his hand and gave a pat on Neil's shoulder. "Young man, your niece might be in her adorable phase at this moment, but I would like to give you a heads-up."

"A heads-up?"

Mike nodded. "Things would get harder for you when your niece entered her teenage years. It was around that year when they started to show their temper and entered their rebellious phase."

Neil blinked as he tried to imagine his niece in her rebellious phase.

Mike was busy giving his advice to Neil that he did not notice the shadow looming over them. When he finally noticed it, it was too late for him. Turning around, his granddaughter stood behind him with both hands on her waist with a dangerous look on her eyes.

"What did you two talk about?" Edith asked.

"Nothing." Mike quickly responded. "I was giving this young man some advice on raising a daughter."

Edith narrowed her eyes at her grandfather, but quickly pulled herself together when she noticed that Neil was looking at her with a slight smile.

Under the man's intent gaze, Edith found that a heat crept up to her face. She let out a cough and handed over a thermos flask and a bag of snacks.

"Here. Grandpa, President Mo, have something to eat as well."

Mike stared at the bag of snacks and then back at his granddaughter.

Fortunately, President Mo was still around and his granddaughter had to drop off her gangster attitude. Or else, Mike was sure that he would get himself into trouble!

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The group finally returned after spending around five hours on the sea. When the boat docked on the jetty, Edith found that Hazel was sleeping in her arms.

Perhaps the little girl was finally exhausted after waking up early in the morning and accompanying the grandpas to fish. Looking at the little girl's adorable sleeping face, everyone tacitly agreed not to wake her up.

Edith watched as her grandfather and everyone else hopped off the boat and carried their stuff ashore. Only when she saw that Neil had properly put all his belonging into the boot that she stood up while carrying Hazel in her arms.

Before she was able to leave the boat, Neil had already stepped forward and stretched his hand to pick his niece from Edith. "Here. Let me hold her." He had only touched the little girl's hand and Hazel shifted her position and held on to her teacher's neck tightly. A deep frown appeared on her face as if she was displeased that someone was trying to disturb her sleep.

Edith laughed at the situation. "President Mo. It's alright. I will carry her. You go and wait by the car. I'll carry her there and help you to put her in the car seat."

Neil glanced at the girl's sleeping face and quickly agreed.

However, the moment Edith was about to put her down and entangled the little girl's arms from her neck, Hazel only held on to her tightly, refusing to move an inch.

Edith raised her head and looked at Neil with a helpless gaze. "What should we do?" Edith mouthed quietly.

"Teacher Qian, can I trouble you to stay with Hazel a little longer?" Neil suggested. "I will send you back later."

"Edith, you go with him." Mike, who was watching the situation suggested. "The little princess is too exhausted. It's not nice to wake her up now. Just come back home when you have settled everything."

Neil turned to the old man and shot him a grateful smile. "Grandpa, don't worry. I will send your granddaughter home right away."

Mike waved his hand as he watched his granddaughter entered the SUV. Once the vehicle left the area, the expression on his face changed and it looked as if he was in deep thought.

"How was it?" George Bei spoke as he walked over to his friend. "Edith did not suspect anything, right?"

"I hope not." The frown on Mike's face gradually disappeared. He was secretly relieved that his granddaughter had left with Neil and the little girl. Since his granddaughter was no longer around, he did not have to keep on pretending.

It has been a few days since his granddaughter came back. Though Mike was aching to continue his investigation, he had no way to contact his men. Edith has been keeping her eyes on him and he was unable to escape the girl's eyes without arousing her suspicion.

"We have done our best. Let's hope that she will buy our act," Mike said.

Though he was able to deceive his granddaughter now, Mike was still pondering what did he do to trigger Edith's suspicion.

Mike turned to George again and raised a brow. "Have we heard any news from those guys?"

"Don't worry. I have checked on them last night. Those guys were still keeping their eyes on that person," George said. "But, how long will Edith stay this time? Mike, you do know that we cannot stall this investigation for too long. It took us a long time to finally find a lead."

"Three more days. Edith said she will leave for L City in three more days. In the meantime, we have to continue and be on our guard." Mike turned to James and narrowed his eyes. "You should be careful too. Don't let your son figure out what we are up to. We all know that the two were close. If Aaron knew what we were up to, he will tell Edith."

"You don't have to worry," James said. "My boy and wife knew nothing about what we do. These days, Aaron was too busy with his own investigation that he did not have time to keep his eyes on me."

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The luxurious villa in the west part of the town...

When Neil pulled into the parking spot, the little girl was still holding on to Edith's neck tightly and refused to let go.

With difficulties, Edith was able to slide off the vehicle without waking Hazel up.

"Are you sure you can carry Hazel like this?" A helpless sigh escaped him when he tried to separate his niece from Edith again and failed. Hazel whimpered at the sudden movement and continued to bury her face in Edith's neck.

"It's fine. Just show me where is her bedroom." Edith patted the girl softly on her back to coax her to sleep. "Maybe when she is lying on the bed comfortably, Hazel will let me go."

Neil frowned as he looked at his niece who was beginning to resemble a koala. At this time, he had no choice but to listen to Edith's suggestion.

However, Edith was definitely not ready to run into Sophie the moment she walked into the house. The two women looked at each other in surprise before Sophie snapped out of her trance and smiled.

"Teacher Qian, why are you here?" Sophie asked. Her gaze went to the little girl in Edith's embrace and she finally figured out what was going on. A soft gasp escaped her and Sophie walked around to look at her sleeping granddaughter. "She's sleeping?"

"Un." Edith nodded. "She should be too exhausted after waking up too early today and play around. She refused to wake up and I have no choice but to come along. Mrs. Mo, pardon my intrusion."

"No. No. You are not intruding. Teacher Qian, you are always welcome to our house," Sophie said quickly. "Just treat this place like your own house. If you need anything, you can tell me." She glanced at her son and a satisfied smile curled on her lips. "Teacher Qian, how about staying here for lunch. I will ask the auntie to prepare something for you. Right. What do you like to eat?"

"You don't need to prepare anything. Mrs. Mo, I will leave after putting Hazel to bed."

"Ah? You're leaving so soon?"

Edith replied with a soft hum. "My grandfather is still waiting for me at home."

"Then... you go and put Hazel to her room. Let Neil send you back home." Sophie turned around and instructed one of the aunties to lead her to Hazel's bedroom.

However, Edith's attempt to put the little girl on the bed failed as Hazel continued to hold on to her tightly. Edith let out a helpless laugh and tried to coax Hazel to let her go. "Hazel, be obedient. I still need to go back to my place."

"No. Don't go," Hazel mumbled. She let out a whimper and did not make any move.

After failing a few times, Edith resigned to her fate and laid beside Hazel on the bed. She tried to substitute herself with Hazel's favorite bunny plushy, but Hazel did not care for her bunny.

When Neil appeared in Hazel's room, he was surprised to see that Edith was lying down in the bed. His gaze moved to Hazel's arms and he spoke, "Hazel still would not let you go?"

Edith replied with a helpless nod.

"Then, why don't you stay here for a while?" Neil suggested. "Just until Hazel let you go. I promise that I will send you back home after that."

Edith pondered over his suggestion and relented. "Alright.. But I will have to inform my grandfather first."

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"Where is Teacher Qian?" Sophie asked when her son walked down the stairs alone.

She had already prepared a pot of tea and some snacks and was planning to detain the kindergarten teacher in the house a while longer until lunch hour. It was rare for her son to bring home a girl and Sophie was determined not to let Edith go back home so soon.

"Hazel won't let her go," Neil said. "Teacher Qian said she will stay over and come down when Hazel has let her go."

A slight smile curled on Sophie's lips before she quickly looked away. "That little girl, just what was she thinking?" Sophie heaved a sigh, pretending that she was complaining about the little girl's act. "Then, just let Teacher Qian stay a while longer."

Alright, I am going to the kitchen to prepare for lunch. Tell me when Teacher Qian is ready to leave."

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Hazel woke up feeling a bit warm. She opened her eyes to a slit and blinked, feeling that her eyes were deceiving her. A few minutes have passed but the scene in front of her did not change. In front of her was her favorite teacher and she was sleeping soundly beside her. Hazel tried to move back and realized that she had her arms around her teacher.

Slowly, Hazel retracted her arms and continued to stare at the person beside her.

Her brain whirled as she tried to figure out what was happening and how did her teacher appeared beside her.

Hazel began to look around and realized that she was back in her bedroom in her grandparents' house. It was strange. The last thing she remembered was that they were still on the boat.

She had spent her days watching the grandpas fishing and they have taught her a few things. Hazel seemed to remember that she had helped Teacher Qian's grandfather to catch two big fishes.

But, how did she get home and why was Teacher Qian sleeping beside her?

Hazel moved again and this time, the slight movement made Edith stirred from her sleep.

The two girls looked at each other and Edith flashed a smile upon noticing the little girl's confused look. "You're awake?"

Hazel nodded slowly. "Teacher Qian, why are you sleeping in my bedroom?"

"You don't remember? You fall asleep while we were on our way back. Then, you refused to let me go. I have no other choice but to follow your uncle home and stay with you."

Hazel recalled how she had fallen asleep in her teacher's arms while they were on their way back. "Sorry."

"Don't apologize." Edith stretched her hand to bop Hazel's cute nose. "I have fun looking after you." She pulled the little girl closer and planted a kiss on her forehead. Then, Edith reached for her phone on the side table and looked at the time. Her head throbbed a little bit upon noticing that it was past after lunch hour.

"If you are awake, let's go downstairs," Edith said. "You should be hungry by now."

Hazel touched her belly and felt a low rumble. She got out of bed and waited as her teacher went into the bathroom to freshen up.

Sophie looked up when she heard their footsteps and smiled upon seeing the two head down the stairs holding hands. "Hazel, you're awake."

"Grandmother," Hazel called sweetly.

"You should be hungry." Sophie patted at her granddaughter's head. Then, she turned to Edith. "Teacher Qian, you should go and have lunch too. It's late. I will ask Auntie May to prepare something for you to eat."

Edith declined her invitation for lunch in the beginning but finally relented after Hazel had asked her to stay and accompany her for lunch. She took her chance to look around the luxurious villa and frowned when she did not see Neil.

It was only after she had finished her lunch did Neil showed up in the kitchen. He had already taken a shower and changed into a clean outfit.

Fortunately, she had spent a few minutes to freshen up, or else she might look like a disaster in front of the man she fancied.

Seeing that the person she was waiting for had arrived, Edith did not want to waste more time to leave. After she made a promise with Hazel that they will be going on a camping trip the next day, Edith was finally allowed to leave.

A few seconds after they have left the luxurious villa, Edith finally thought that it was a bit awkward without Hazel around them. Usually, with Hazel around, Edith would seat in the back with the little girl.

Now that Haze was not present, Neil had insisted for her to ride shotgun. According to Neil, since he will need her to show the direction to her house, it would be better if she took the front seat.

But sitting beside Neil made her feel happy and anxious at the same time. Her heart was beating fast as his scent filled the air. Her face grew slightly red and Edith lowered her head as shameful thoughts get into her head.

These thoughts broke as her phone started to chime.

Edith glanced at her phone and shivered upon noticing that it was a text message from her grandfather. Just the thought that her grandfather probably knew what was on her mind made her scared.

The anxiety died down when she read the message. After a brief hesitation, Edith turned to Neil and spoke, "President Mo, can you drop me off at a place? My grandfather asked me to run a few errands for him."

Neil glanced at the person beside him and nodded.

She gave him the direction and a few minutes later, Neil pulled over into a parking spot. Edith gave a puzzled look as Neil hopped off the vehicle right after her.

"What's wrong? Didn't you say you are running a few errands for your grandfather?"

"President Mo, why did you get off as well?"

"I promised your grandfather that I would send you home. I am not going to leave you here."

Edith got muddleheaded for a few seconds before she finally responded to him. "Oh."

Soon, she led him into a small alley and stopped at a small store. An old man greeted them at the entrance and smiled when he saw Edith.

"Uncle Xiong." Edith greeted the man politely. "My grandfather asked me to come and retrieve something from you."

The old man shot her a troubled look. "Can you come back in half an hour? It will be done soon."

Edith looked at the time and glanced at Neil. "President Mo, I still have to wait for a while. If you're in a hurry you can leave me here. I can get a cab home."

"It's fine. I will wait for you."

"Right, why don't you go and walk around first?" Uncle Xiong spoke when he heard their conversation. "There's a new cafe in the main street." Uncle Xiong pointed towards a direction.. "Have a drink or something and come back later."

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At this time, the cafe was almost empty with only two patrons occupying the seat beside the glass window.

Edith tilted her head to look at the cup of coffee in her hand while stealing a few glances at the man across from her. The said man had a casual look on his face as he browsed through his phone, while Edith thought that she might die from too much anxiety.

The situation made her thoughts go wild.

They have shared a meal a few times, but this would be the first time that they were having a meal outside without Hazel around. Her mind was screaming that this was a date, and Edith wished for her brain to shut up for a while.

For a few seconds, Edith was regretting her decision to listen to Uncle Xiong's suggestion to hang around the cafe.

The surrounding was pretty, the atmosphere was right. The man in front of her was looking as handsome as ever and Edith thought that she probably looked like a sack of potato beside him.

She did not even have the chance to change her clothes after going on a fishing trip with her grandfather!

"Why are you not drinking? The coffee isn't up to your taste?"

"No," Edith shook her head. "I am just waiting for the coffee to cool down." She hastily raised the cup, took a sip, and flashed him a nervous smile.

Her expression changed hastily as the man across her suddenly stretched out his hand and touched the corner of her lips. She backed to her chair and blinked. Her gaze fell at the paper towel in his hand and understood what he had done.

Edith was screaming internally and her heart was beating hard against her ribcage.

"Have you give a thought about my suggestion?"

"What?"

Edith continued to stare at the man in front of her in a daze. Her mind was not functioning properly at the moment, probably because she did not have a good sleep the night before. Then, this man pulled a move on her, throwing her off her guard before he asked the question.

Seeing that Edith did not answer his question right away, Neil was agitated. The first time he raised this idea to her, Neil was so sure that Edith was going to accept the offer. But looking at her attitude at this moment, Neil was not so sure anymore.

"I thought about it."

His grip on his coffee mug tightened a little bit.

Neil thought of what will happen if Edith was no longer living with them. Surely, he would not be having any problem with Hazel's arrangement as Nanny Ann will be back to look after her.

However, the thought that he will no longer have the chance to catch her eating noodles as a midnight snack and tease her until she was rendered speechless made him uncomfortable.

Just the mere thought of not being able to see her again in his house upset him. He did not realize when was it that he was starting to get used to her presence.

"But I haven't made my decision."

Neil thought that he really wanted to pinch the woman on both cheeks. He was eagerly waiting for her answer, and what he gave her was neither a positive nor a negative answer.

"Can you tell me what can I do to make you agree?" Neil asked. "What if I give you an increment than the last time? Will you agree?"

"It's not about the money," Edith said. "President Mo, I know that you are worried about Hazel. But, there is something that I have to figure out before I can give you the answer. Until I have sorted out this matter, I cannot give you an answer."

Neil lowered his gaze and nodded. "I understand."

Perhaps he should really listen to Hazel's advice and let her deal with the matter.

His reaction tugged at her heart and Edith was tempted to give him a positive answer right away. "I will try to give you an answer before my last day with Hazel."

Suddenly, there was a long silence between them. Edith heaved a sigh and turned to look out the window. Her body froze upon noticing a familiar person staring back at her and Edith quickly looked away, hoping that the person would not recognize her.

The cafe's door swung open and the person stood beside her table.

Edith raised her head and muttered a silent curse, knowing that it was too late.

"Yo, Edith Qian, I did not expect to see you here," the woman said.

"Vivian." Edith forced a smile. She could feel a headache coming when the loud woman came over to her table.

"Aaron said that you are in town. Why don't you come out and play with us? The guys are going to hang out at the Li's B&B tonight. Come and join us."

"Next time. I promised my grandpa that I will accompany him tonight."

Vivian clicked her tongue and flicked her hair. Clearly, she was not happy with Edith's answer. He turned to Neil and raised her brow. She flashed a charming smile and poked at Edith. "Who is your friend here?"

"Neil Mo." He took the initiative to stand up and stretched his hand.

"Vivian Zhou." She smiled. "You are not from this town, are you?"

"No. Are you a friend of Edith?"

Vivian glanced at her friend and shrugged. "We grow up together." A thought crossed her mind and she leaned forward. "Handsome man, how about you join us and hang out together tonight? I can take you sightseeing in the best spot in Z Town. If you're up for a few drinks, I can take you around the club in the west part of the town. The stuff over there might be a bit pricey, but the ambiance is pretty good."

Neil smiled apologetically. "Sorry, but I have something planned."

"Too bad." Vivian heaved a sigh.

The phone in his pocket chimed and Neil glanced at the two women before he stepped out of the cafe.

Once the door closed, Vivian slid into Neil's seat and turned to Edith with her bright eyes. "Who is that man? Why do I feel like I have seen him before?"

"You do?" Edith feigned ignorance.

Vivian narrowed her eyes. Then her bright smile resurfaced. "He seemed like a cool guy. Why don't you introduce him to me?"

"I can't."

"Why not?"

"He's mine."

Vivian gave her a look over and chuckled. "You two don't look like you're dating."

Edith raised her brow provocatively. "Why do you think we're here? Clearly, you were intruding on our date."

Meanwhile, Neil halted as he continued to listen to the women's conversation. His phone conversation with his assistant ended shortly and he was about to return to his seat when he overheard Edith rejecting her friend's request.

He retracted his hand and decided to wait for a while before he went back in.

Neil leaned back on the wall and thought of her proclamation over him.. Slowly, his lips tilted up slightly and a chuckle escaped him.

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Neil Mo thought that he really could not understand the mind of a girl.

He was aware that Edith liked him after her drunk confession, and had begun to pay a lot more attention to the girl since then. Though she would sometimes do things that made him wonder if the drunk confessor and Edith were the same person, Neil thought that he at least knew how to read a person.

Her starry eyes and the slight pink flush on her cheek, whenever she stole a glance at him, told him that the drunk Edith was not lying.

She liked him. Or else, she would not declare him as hers to her friend the other day, right?

When Neil recalled the way Edith had said the words 'He's mine', his lips would turn up into a smile. He recalled that Edith had the same domineering and imposing look on her face, just like the time he beat Edward Xiao in front of MH headquarters. Edith had bragged that she can beat up a person, and he had seen the way she does that with his eyes a few times.

Previously, he had thought that Edith was a composed and a gentlewoman. He watched the way she had treated his niece and saw how gentle and patient she can be. But that other side of her was slowly leaked out after he continued to watch her. Neil realized that he was attracted to this gangster.

However, he still could not understand why she did not agree to his offer to extend the contract. What matter did she have to figure out for her to hold back from staying with him and Hazel?

Last night, he had asked his assistant to look up and investigate if Edith was running into some problems, but his assistant could not find anything. Neil thought to ask his

friend, Henry to help and investigate. However, when he thought of how Henry had shown his interest in Edith before, Neil was hesitant.

In the end, he can only suffer for a while longer and wait for the day Edith will be able to tell him her answer.

The sound of knocking on his door snapped him out of his thought. Neil lifted his head and told the person to come in. Seconds later, Hazel's head appeared at the door and she was peeking inside the room with a curious gaze.

"Uncle, can I come in?"

Neil waved his hand. "Un. Come in."

The little girl happily hopped to his side and looked at him with her pair of adorable eyes. "Uncle, I have finished packing everything we need for camping."

Neil patted the girl on his head. "Good job. Then, I will come down and see what you have packed. Did grandma helped you with packing?"

"Un." Hazel nodded. "Grandma had prepared a lot of food and snacks for us as well. I asked them to come over and join us as well, but Grandfather's health is not good enough to go camping."

A laugh escaped him as he saw the slight pout on the little girl's face. He paused for a while and looked at the little girl with a complicated look. "Hazel, let's talk for a while."

Hazel put on a serious look on her face.

"Teacher Qian said she hasn't made up her mind about staying with us," Neil spoke in a low voice.

This matter was a secret between him and Hazel. He did not want to risk having his mother or anyone else overhearing this conversation or he would be embarrassed.

"Then, do you need my help? Should I ask Teacher Qian instead?"

"No. I want you to continue and pretend that you did not know about this matter," Neil said. He saw the puzzled look on Hazel's face and smiled. "What you need to do is to be on your best behavior and continue to be adorable in front of Teacher Qian."

Hazel huffed. "Uncle, I am always on my best behavior and adorable."

Neil froze for a few seconds before a chuckle escaped him. He patted at her hair and spoke, "Alright. You are always the best and the most adorable."

These days Neil started to realize that his niece could be narcissistic sometimes. He wondered where did she get this trait from?

"Then, just be yourself and stick closer to your teacher so that she would be hesitant to leave you," Neil suggested. "When Teacher Qian realized that she likes you so much, she would not bear to leave your side. In the end, she can only agree to continue and live with us."

"I always know that Teacher Qian likes me very much. If I acted cutely, Teacher Qian will definitely stay." Hazel said.

Neil raised a brow. "Oh? Why are you so sure?"

"Teacher Qian said so. Last time I found her sleeping beside me, after we came back from the fishing trip, right?"

Neil replied with a soft hum. The little girl had stuck to her teacher like a koala and refused to let go. They were hesitant to wake the little girl up and let her release her tight grip.

"Teacher Qian said she did not have the heart to wake me up because I was too adorable. Didn't she stayed because I am too adorable?"

Neil laughed at her words.

"But Uncle, what about you?"

"What about me?"

"Teacher Qian likes me very much, but did she liked you?"

His heart skipped a beat at Hazel's sudden question. Neil was not expecting his niece to ask such a question.

"Of course she did," Neil said. "What is it not to like about me? I am good looking and was very popular among other girls."

"But Uncle, you always make Teacher Qian upset."

Neil felt the corner of his lips twitched. Though he would like to refute the little girl's accusation, Neil found that he could not do it. These days, he found that teasing the kindergarten teacher could be fun, and therefore he was unable to hold himself from teasing her a few times. The look on her face was amusing.

"Uncle, the way I see it, it is you who should be on your best behavior," Hazel spoke after pondering over the matter for a while. "Uncle you need to try and be adorable so

that Teacher Qian would not bear to leave our side." Her eyes brightened up and Hazel spoke up in excitement. "If you did not know how to do it, I can teach you how to be adorable."

The expression on her face changed again. This time, there was a slight frown on her face as Hazel tilted her head down. "Wait. I am born adorable. Can this thing be taught?" Hazel's voice was a whisper. She then looked at her uncle again with an unmasked worry.

Though Hazel was mumbling to herself, Neil was still able to hear it well. He suppressed his impulse to pinch her cheek and took a few deep breaths to calm down.

This little girl can really talk!

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"Great-grandfather!" Hazel called out endearingly when the old man came out of the house.

Mike turned to the sweet, milky voice and smiled. "Oh, it's our little princess."

The little girl laughed happily. After spending a few hours with her teacher's grandfather, Hazel has grown close to him. The old man would often spoil her and Hazel especially loved the way this great-grandfather called her a little princess.

Which girl did not like to be spoiled and be called a little princess?

"Little princess, you are going camping today?"

"Un." Hazel nodded. "Great-grandfather, are you coming with us?"

"Great-grandfather is too old to go camping. You go and have fun," Mike said. "I have already prepared some snacks for you. Later, you go and ask them from your teacher, alright?"

"Thank you. Great-grandfather, you are so nice to me."

Mike laughed happily. "Isn't it because our little princess is too adorable?"

Hazel smiled happily when the old man called her adorable. She did not have to act adorably and the elderly would always call her adorable. It was her greatest charm and weapon.

Realizing that she really could not rely on her uncle, Hazel was already planning to go all out and win her teacher's heart during this camping trip!

"Little princess, when you arrived at the beach, you must listen to your teacher, alright?" Mike reminded. "Teacher Qian has been going camping on the site many times, she should know which part you should go or should not go. Most important thing is to stay close to her and don't get too far."

"Great-grandfather, I will listen to you."

As the old and young were chatting outside, Edith finally walked out from the house carrying a small bag and an icebox cooler. Seeing her approaching, Neil, who was in the middle of arranging some stuff on the bonnet, walked over and helped Edith with her stuff.

Edith stared at the uncle and niece alternately and heaved a sigh. They were going to the beach and camp, but the two of them were dressed fashionably.

"Grandpa, I'm off," Edith said as she turned to the old man.

"I know. Pay attention to safety. Look after that child and don't let her off your eyes for a second," Mike reminded. "If you run into trouble, just let Uncle James or Aaron know."

Edith was about to nod when she noticed something about her grandfather's words.

"What about you?" Edith asked. "Grandpa, where are you going?"

Mike paused when he realized that he almost shot himself in the foot. He coughed and said, "I'm going to Old Bei's place. He invited me and a few others for a drink and we're going to play mahjong."

"Teacher Qian, can we go now?"

Seeing the little girl beside her, Edith was distracted and no longer think about what her grandfather was up to. Holding on to Hazel's hand, Edith pulled her over to the SUV and the three of them left to the camping site.

The smile on Mike's face disappeared as the SUV was out of his sight. He took out his phone and began to dial a number.

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The three of them arrived at the camping site and quickly unloaded their stuff.

Neil looked around the area and marveled at the beautiful scenery. The last time, Edith had taken him and Hazel to another beach. This time, because they were planning camp, Edith had taken them to another spot.

Z Town was located by the sea and there were a lot of beautiful beaches. The first time Neil arrived at the west part of the town, he had thought that the beach at the side was very pretty. He did not think that there would be another place that would have an amazing scene.

The sand was white, the water was blue and transparent. On the left side was a rocky area.

Though this place was breathtaking, there were only two groups of campers around the area.

It seemed to him that this beautiful place was mostly known to the locals as the tourist or visitors would frequently visit the beach in the west part of the town.

"How was it, very pretty, right?"

Neil turned to the voice and saw Edith's gloating smile. "Un. It's very pretty. There isn't a lot of people over here."

"Of course, we don't usually let outsiders know about this place," Edith said. "Have you seen the beach in the west part? It was mostly dirty. Tourist, when they come over to the beach, they would litter everywhere, dirtying the beach. Though there were trash cans provided along the beach, they would still throw away their waste everywhere."

Neil smiled. He was reminded of the last time Edith had taken him to the beach and she had given him a short lecture on how developing the area would destroy the scenery and ecosystem.

"Uncle, Teacher Qian, can I go and play in the water later?" Hazel spoke. Her eyes were watching the view in front of her with dazzling eyes.

"Of course you can." Edith nodded. "We will go together. First, let's set up our tent."

"Oh!" Hazel looked at the set of equipment and thought of something. "Teacher Qian, tonight you are going to sleep with me, right?"

"Un. I'll accompany you tonight." Edith grabbed a set of a tent and passed it over to Neil. "President Mo, you set up a tent, and Hazel and I will set up another. Can you do it?"

Suddenly, Edith was worrying that this man would not be able to sleep soundly at night. As someone with high status, Neil should be someone who was used to a comfortable

place to sleep. Sleeping in a tent with only a sleeping bag would not be comfortable for him.

Neil felt his lips twitched as he looked at the girl's doubtful gaze. "Of course I can."

He was someone who had been on a few camping trips when he was in his teenage age. Her question made him feel the need to prove himself.

A few minutes have passed and Hazel stood at a side while cheering for them both to set up the tent. Suddenly, this activity had turned into a competition.

When she was done, Edith looked at her tent proudly and glanced at Neil with a smug smile on her face. "President Mo, I won."

Neil inspected his tent and stepped back once he was convinced that he will be able to live in it for a night. "This isn't a competition."

"You agreed when Hazel suggested turning this into a competition," Edith pointed out. "Since you have lost, of course... you will be in charge of our dinner."

"I don't know how to cook."

"How hard it is to grill some fish and other ingredients? You don't need to bother with preparation. Everything has been cleaned and seasoned." Edith smiled. "President Mo, work hard. As long as the food is not burnt, it will still be edible."

Just as Neil wanted to say something, the little girl stared at him with her eyes wide and mouthed, "Uncle, don't forget to act adorable."

at or

1. [Home](#)
2. [A Lifetime With You](#)
3. Chapter 138 - So, What If He Was Not As Adorable As Hazel?



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Not long after Edith and Hazel entered their tent, a vehicle was seen parked just beside Neil's SUV. A while later, both Sophie and Lucas walked over to their location.

Hazel walked out of the tent in her swimsuit and run over to her grandparents in excitement.

"Chairman Mo, Mrs. Mo, Hello," Edith greeted.

"Teacher Qian, don't be so polite. We only come to look around," Sophie said. "Hazel said the last time, you took her to a beautiful beach so we were curious." Sophie looked around and smiled. "This place is really beautiful."

"It is," Lucas admitted. "Even prettier than our backyard."

Mo's villa was located near the beach and had a beautiful sea view. Lucas had visited a few of their neighbor's villas and thought that this beach that Edith had taken them to is the prettiest in town.

"Is it safe here?" Lucas asked.

"Chairman Mo, this area is very safe and very suitable for camping. The water is not too deep. An uncle who owns the land nearby had provided some amenities for the campers. We only needed to pay a small fee to use them."

"This weather is indeed good for camping," Sophie said.

Lucas nodded. "It will not rain later, right?"

"I have checked the weather. It won't rain," Neil said.

Sophie turned to Auntie May who came along with them and instructed her to serve some food. Soon, a variety of food and snacks were served on the picnic blanket.

"I thought that you might be hungry after playing in the water later. That's why I prepared a little something," Sophie said.

"Grandmother, grandfather, you are staying for a while right," Hazel said. "You said you're coming to have a picnic with me."

Sophie laughed and patted at the little girl dotingly. "Right. Grandfather and grandmother will stay for a while to keep you company." She looked at the cute swimsuit on Hazel and nodded approvingly. "Are you going to play in the water?"

"Un." Hazel nodded. "Teacher Qian said that she was going to set up a trap later. If we are lucky, we might catch some crab in the morning." Hazel started to drool as she was reminded of the last time her teacher had cooked some crab.

Hazel was looking forward to eating some crab, but she could not help but wonder about the size of the crabs. Earlier, she had seen a few small crabs on the sand and thought that it would be too pitiful if they caught some to be cooked.

"Go ahead," Lucas spoke. "We will be sitting over here to look around. Once you get tired after playing in the water, come back and have some snacks."

Lucas watched as the little girl run off to the water with her teacher and turned to his son. "Aren't you going?"

"I'm in charge of cooking dinner."

Lucas and Sophie turned to their son with a skeptical look on their face.

Neil let out a helpless sigh upon seeing his parents' reaction. "As long as I don't burn anything, it should be fine right?"

The two elders watched as their son set up a small portable grill and Sophie immediately asked the auntie to help with the preparation.

Meanwhile, the two girls run were playing around in the water. Once in a while, Hazel's excited scream could be heard as the waves came and splashed over her.

After letting Hazel get used to the seawater, Edith tried to teach Hazel how to swim. The little girl stood at the side and watched as her teacher demonstrated a few strokes.

Soon, Edith led the girl into the sea and Hazel laughed excitedly. Hazel held on to Edith's hands tightly and was afraid to let go.

Neil watched these scenes from a distance away and smiled upon hearing his niece's laughing happily. Now that the two have entered the water, it looked like they were not going to come out anytime soon.

"Why don't you go along and join them?" Sophie said. "Anyway, Auntie May and I are here to look after your food. We'll make sure we will not burn anything."

Neil glanced at a plate of grilled fish that he had successfully cooked and nodded. Anyway, as long as he has some proof that he did cook something, that should be enough, right?

After washing his hands from the residue of food, Neil walked over to the girls. Hazel turned around when she heard the movement and turned around. A bright smile appeared on her lips when she saw her uncle.

"Uncle, Teacher Qian is teaching me to swim," Hazel reported. "After a lot of practice, I should be able to swim well."

Meanwhile, Edith almost staggered backward when she saw the man suddenly appeared in front of her. Just now, she was too preoccupied with teaching Hazel to swim that she did not look up and notice Neil's presence.

Therefore, to see him standing in front of her at this moment was a great shock. Moreover... he was currently shirtless with only blue and white swimming trunks.

Edith has been living with Neil for more than a month, but this was the first time she had seen his body, and it was at such a close distance. She had always thought that Neil was someone who spent most of his time in the office room, therefore, she was not expecting that he would have such a good... body.

Though Neil did not have an obvious six-pack that most women would talk about, his abs still looked good. It made her wanted to walk over and touch them.

As the shameful thought came to her mind, Edith lowered her head. She did not want to get caught staring. It would be embarrassing. She needed to show some restraint and be on her best behavior before her confession.

Of course, Edith did not know that the man in front of her had long noticed her expression.

Although Neil had his gaze on his niece, he was watching the silly woman's movement with the corner of his eyes.

His lips tilted into a smirk, knowing that this trick had worked. The silly woman liked what she had seen.

So, what if he was not as adorable as Hazel? At this time, it was better to tempt her with his body. Perhaps, by giving her this chance to peek, Edith would be tempted to stay around.

"Uncle, can you swim?"

Neil shot a glance at his niece and chuckled. "Of course I do. Knowing how to swim is very beneficial. I learned how to swim from an early age."

"Then, you should have a race and see who can swim the fastest."

Neil raised a brow. "Why do you always try to make us compete?"

At this time, Neil turned his head to the woman beside him. His mouth opened as if he wanted to say something, but froze at the sight before him.

Earlier, this silly woman was wearing her oversized T-shirt on her body when she entered the water, but now that she had entered the water, the shirt was sticking close to her body, showing off her figure.

His gaze trailed down and stopped at a spot. The memories of how that softness felt against his body resurfaced and Neil felt his throat tightened.

He muttered a silent cursing and turned his head back to his niece. "You stay here and continue to learn from Teacher Qian." He forced a smile. I'm going to swim around for a while."

With a splash, Neil entered the water and swam away to cool down.

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The old Mo's couple was enjoying the beach view while they sit around the camping area when they suddenly noticed the little girl running in their direction. They noticed the anxious look on the little girl's face and stood up swiftly.

"Grandfather, grandmother!"

Sophie went over to her granddaughter and a sigh of relief escaped her when she saw that the girl was without injury. "What's wrong? Why are you looking so anxious?"

Hazel pointed her finger towards a direction. "It's Uncle."

The couple followed the little girl's gaze and saw that their son was heading over with his head tilted up to the sky. Meanwhile, Edith was trailing behind him with a worried look on her face.

"Uncle got a nosebleed!"

The two paused in shock and then looked again at their son. When Neil approached, the couple noticed that the blood was still dripping out his nose and the hand that was covering his nose was bloody. Sophie quickly pulled his son and instructed him to lay down.

Seeing that the man was well taken care of, Edith grabbed her towel to dry herself and put on her covering dress before she went to check on Neil.

"You're already this old, how did you get a nosebleed?" Sophie nagged with her voice full of concern.

"Mom, it does not have anything to do with age," Neil replied with a sigh. He laid blanket with his head up and thought of how he came to have this nosebleed. He went into the water and dived in for a short while in hope that he could cool down after seeing an exciting view.

However, Neil was unable to cool down. His head was replaying that dream where he was pressing down a certain someone appeared and he kept on thinking of how the softness would feel in his hand.

The woman was someone who would always wear a big or oversize shirt in front of him. Surprisingly, she had a great figure...

Shocked with where his mind was heading, Neil immediately resurfaced on the water to take a few deep breaths to clear his mind. He did not think that that certain someone would be standing in his line of gaze. His eyes stayed on her chest again and suddenly, the blood trickled down his nose.

He could only tell his family that it was the sudden pressure of air that caused this nosebleed. Anyway, Neil thought that this reason was also possible.

Edith stood at the side and watched Neil with a concerned look in her eyes. Seeing the pitiful look on his face, she could not stop herself and a giggle escaped. The man has always had a cold look on his face and to see him like this was definitely something that she will not forget.

The laugh stopped abruptly when Edith noticed that Neil was staring back at her with a dangerous look in his eyes. Sensing the danger, Edith retreat slowly until she was no longer in Neil's line of gaze.

Fortunately, there was not another exciting incident afterward.

The family hang around and ate the grilled fish and other barbecued food and left before the sunset. Because they have made a bit too much food, Edith had shared some of the food with their fellow campers and saved some for breakfast.

Once the nightfall, they had set up a bonfire at the site and Edith took out some sparklers and played around with Hazel. A few of the campers' children joined them for fun while President Mo was in charge of guarding their tent.

When they ran out of sparklers, the three of them sat around the fire and looked up at the starry sky. Because the place was farther than the city, the starry night looked especially beautiful.

After playing around for half of the day, Hazel was finally tired and Edith went into the tent to accompany the little girl to sleep.

As the night was getting darker, the surrounding was quiet. The only sound they could hear was the music of ocean waves from afar.

Edith woke up from her sleep with a parched throat. Her eyes narrowed as she looked around her surrounding. It took her a few seconds to recall that she was taking her little

student to go camping. Reaching for her cellphone at the site, Edith then looked at the time.

It was half-past midnight.

She turned to the sleeping girl beside her and smiled at the little girl's serene expression. It was just as she had thought. Children are the cutest when they were asleep.

After tucking in the little girl, Edith unzipped her tent and walked out. Her step halted when her gaze met with Neil who was sitting near the fire.

"Awake?"

Edith snapped out of her trance upon hearing the man's voice. His voice sounded a bit deeper in the silent night.

"Hmm." Edith nodded. She adjusted the tent flap to ensure that the mosquitoes would not get in. Edith cleared her throat and spoke, "I just woke up to have some water. President Mo, why are you not sleeping?"

"Someone has to keep on guard."

Edith felt a little guilty upon hearing his words. "Then, do you want to get some sleep? I can be on guard."

"It's fine. I could not fall asleep anyway."

Edith turned towards the area where they were keeping the food and drinks and grabbed a bottle of drinking water. She drank a few mouthfuls of water and glanced at the man who was sitting alone. After a brief hesitation, Edith walked over with an unopened bottle and sat beside him. She stretched out her hand and said, "For you."

Neil glanced at the bottle, accepted them, and muttered his thanks.

The two grownups then sat beside each other in silence, enjoying the night view. Suddenly, Edith noticed that the moon looked exceptionally bright.

"You're not going back to sleep?"

"Seeing that you are staying on guard like this... My heart would not feel comfortable if I went back to sleep."

Neil chuckled. "Then, let's talk a little bit. Teacher Qian," he paused and turned to look at her. "Tell me stories about how you grow up in this town."

Edith brought her knees close to her chest as she pondered over his question. "Stories about me growing up in this town is pretty normal. There is nothing to tell. You already know that I came to live with my grandfather after my mother left me."

Neil looked at the woman with a teasing smile. "How can there be nothing to tell. Teacher Qian, I heard that you were pretty popular among the people in the town."

Edith had a foreboding upon hearing his words.

"According to your grandfather, you were once a," he paused and chuckle, "gangster."

Her eyes went wide and Edith muttered a few cursing words.

Grandpa! Your granddaughter had painstakingly tried to keep a good image in front of this man! Why do you go around and tell that your granddaughter used to beat up people? How do you expect to get yourself a good grandson-in-law like this?

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2. [A Lifetime With You](#)
3. [Chapter 140 - I Dare You To Call Me Iceblock Mo Again](#)



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Edith did not know whether she wanted to laugh or cry.

Unable to look properly at the man beside her, she can only choose to bury her face under her hand. Edith lamented at her future confession. With the information that her grandfather had provided to him, there was a fat chance that her confession will not be successful.

The gentle and demure kindergarten teacher turned out to be a high school gangster... this was not something that Edith hoped the man she fancied to know about.

Edith narrowed her eyes at the man. "What else did my grandfather tell you?"

Neil stared at the woman's face and thought that her reaction was too amusing. The look on her face was amusing and adorable.

"How he had to rush out of his office because your headmaster called him to school," Neil said and smiled.

Edith took a deep breath and quickly made up her mind about what she was going to do next.

Forget it. If this man knew about her past, then be it. It was already too late to try and save her reputation at this phase.

Although the grownup Edith thought that her younger self was a little silly, whatever she did in the past had shaped her to become who she was today. Anyway, everyone has done something silly when they were young and hot-blooded, right?

If he thought that she was not a good person because of her past, then it was his loss.

"It is true that I was once very rebellious and had caused too much trouble for my grandfather." Edith heaved a long sigh. "Back then, I was too angry at my mother for leaving me suddenly. Causing trouble for everyone around me was my way to channel my anger. Though, it does nothing to bring my mother back to my side."

The smile on Neil's face slowly faded. He intended to tease her. He did not think that this subject would trigger something else. Neil's gaze turned gentler as he was regretting his decision.

"How was it? When you were growing up?" Neil asked in an unhurried tone.

"Hmm? Well, it would be a lie if I didn't say that it was not bad. I was often bullied and teased by the people around me. Whenever I did not do something well, people would bring up that I am an orphan. Those words they said were hurtful. I couldn't bear it when they insulted my parents, so I beat them up." Edith flashed him a carefree smile.

Neil coughed and silently made a vow not to do something that would make her angry.

"My grandpa treated me and raised me well." Edith took a deep breath and let out a long sigh. "Sometimes I do regret causing him too much trouble."

Neil was reminded of his conversation with Edith's grandfather where the old man had shared with him stories about raising a child alone. The old man had reminded him that raising a child alone would need a lot of patience.

"Fortunately, your grandfather is around."

"Hmm... I was lucky to have my grandpa around," Edith admitted. "And Hazel is lucky to have you and your parents around."

"And we are lucky to have you around."

Edith turned to Neil and was surprised to see the gentleness in his eyes. She quickly looked away and propped her chin on her knees. "When I look at Hazel, I only hope that

she would not do stupid things that I had done. That little girl is too cute to turn out to be a little gangster."

His laugh reverberated in the night. Neil could not imagine how it would be if his Hazel turned into a gangster.

"I guess I don't have to be so worried. Hazel is a lot more mature than I thought. I hope she would continue to act her age and don't grow up so fast. She should enjoy her childhood to the fullest." Her lips tilted up into a slight smile. "Hazel is too adorable."

"Of course Hazel is adorable. You have to look at her uncle. We are blood-related after all."

Edith turned her head quickly and was dumbfounded when he gave her a teasing smile.

"What? You don't think that I'm adorable?" Neil seemed to remember the little girl's expression whenever she tried to convince them to go her way and tried to imitate her face.

Edith stared at the man with her mouth gaped.

His imitation of his niece was too scary! President Mo! How can you scare people like this?

She saw that he had started to laugh and knew that he was only teasing her.

A mischievous thought came to her mind and Edith decided to retaliate. "President Mo, you always have that cold look on your face. I heard that the name 'Iceblock Mo' is popular among your staff as well as the people in your social circle. How can an iceblock be adorable?"

Edith laughed happily, but the laugh died down quickly when she noticed the look on his face.

Sensing the danger, Edith shifted in her seat and backed away. Her eyes were watching him warily.

"Ice block... Mo?" Neil repeated the name with a dangerous tone. "I always have a cold look on my face, huh?"

The realization that she had called him with the name that he did not like came to her mind and Edith scolded herself at her stupidity.

Edith Qian! What gave you the courage to call him an iceblock right on his face? You're not even drunk this time!

"President Mo, I'm sorry. It was my mistake." Edith stood up quickly, thinking that it would be better to escape. Perhaps she should return to her tent and use Hazel as her shield. This man wouldn't dare to do anything in front of his niece, right?

"Oh?" Neil approached her whenever the person took another step back. "I dare you to call me Iceblock Mo again."

"No. No. I wouldn't dare. I promise that was the last time. I won't mention that name again."

"Now, where are you going? Why are you backing away?" He chuckled. Then, he crooked his finger at her. "Come here. I promise I wouldn't hurt you."

How would she dare to come over! Though Edith was sure that this man would not do anything to hurt her, the look on his face was just too scary!

Instinctively, Edith tried to run, but before she was able to get too far, the man had already caught her by her waist. The sudden impact caused them to fall and roll around the white sand.

Her mouth opened, but before she was able to let out a shriek, his large hand was already covering her mouth. Her legs raised to retaliate, but Edith stopped herself when she heard him speak again.

"Shut up. Do you want the other campers to wake up?"

Edith took a few deep breaths to calm down and the hand on her mouth slowly slipped away. She looked at the man in front of her and gradually let down her guard, knowing that Neil had no intention to continue playing around with her.

However, Edith soon realized that there was something wrong with their position. She was lying on the sand with a man almost on top of her.

Edith was about to ask him to help her to stand up when she noticed the way Neil was looking at her with a dazed expression.

"President... Mo?"

"Hmm?"

Edith swallowed as she continued to look into his piercing gaze. "Help me get up, will you?"

"Hold on."

His answer elicited a laugh from her. "Hold on?"

"Just a while longer." Neil frowned. At this time, he was struggling in his mind. Although he reminded himself that he needed to get up, his body seemed as if they would not listen to him.

Neil thought that looking at Edith this close was enjoyable. Her bright eyes were looking back at him curiously and her lips were slightly parted as she tried to catch up her breath.

Various thoughts came up to his mind and Neil was not sure which should he listen to. After going back and forth in his mind, Neil decided to follow his instinct.

Slowly, he lowered his head before his lips met with hers.

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Neil was not aware of what was going on in his mind.

He only knew that he enjoyed teasing this silly woman and watching her reaction. The way she would look whenever she was suppressing her anger on him was too cute and he could not resist finding any chance to tease her and scare her with his look.

It was not long ago that he had overheard how his cold look can be scary. Therefore, when he had heard her call him Iceblock Mo, he wanted to scare her by giving her that cold look.

As to what he had predicted, her expression turned as obedient as a little rabbit. She looked so scared that she was going to run away.

Fortunately, he caught her before she could escape. He was about to explain that he was joking around when he noticed that his hand was on her warm, moist lips. When he shifted his hand away, Neil began to realized that they were in a certain... strange... position.

The woman was lying on the sand and her doe eyes that were staring back at him looked as bright as the stars on the night sky. Her black hair scattered on the white sand and at the moment, he was on top of her.

Suddenly, the great President Mo found that his mind went blank. He did not know what he should do.

For a few seconds, Neil was able to regain his senses. He was going to look away, but instead, his gaze trailed down and stopped at her moist lips.

Perhaps because of the sudden excitement, her lips were slightly parted as she breathed in through them. But all he could think of was how tempting and inviting they looked like.

Then, she opened her mouth to call his name. She spoke something and he replied, but he was unaware of what she was asking him to do. All he knew was that he wanted to continue and look at this scenery before him. Therefore, he told her to wait.

Although he was aware that as a gentleman, he should move away and pretend that nothing had happened, his body had refused to listen to him.

Something powerful and unfathomable rose from his chest and spread throughout his body and it made his body grow hot. Neil knew that if he did not release this feeling, it was going to torture him for a long time.

All he could think of was how her lips going to feel against his. Last time, she had given him a peck while she was drunk. The kiss was very short, but he was able to remember the taste of her lips. It was soft, moist, a little bit sweet, and hot like fire.

Neil kept on staring at those red petals and was yearning to taste them again. His throat rolled. Following his heart, Neil lowered down to capture her lips in his.

At the moment their lips met, Neil found the relief he was looking for. It was as if he has been thirsty for a long time and had finally had something to quench his thirst. It was pure bliss.

His kiss was hesitant at the beginning.

Neil was aware that this woman was someone who would be capable enough to push him aside.

He had seen the way she had fought against men who appeared stronger than her. Therefore, he tried to restrain himself, giving her the chance to push him without too much force and perhaps slap him across the face for his inappropriate behavior, but Edith continued to stay still.

Neil pulled away a few seconds later to look at her expression and a heave of relief escaped him when he saw that she was not furious. Her eyes were staring straight at him in astonishment. Her cheek was slightly flushed as she was holding her breath.

For a while, Neil wondered if he should laugh.

The expression on her face was both funny and adorable. The corner of his lips tilted up slightly. "Edith Qian?"

Her eyes flickered upon hearing the hoarse voice calling out her name. "Ah?"

"Breathe."

"Oh."

A chuckle escaped him as he watched her take a few breaths. Then his gaze fell to her lips again before he leaned in for another kiss. He had tasted the sweetness and found that he was craving for more.

Edith sucked in a deep breath as their lips met again. Her mind goes blank and her CPU overheated at the sudden development. The data in her brain was still processing the first kiss and suddenly this man had come and kissed her again.

Her heart thumped loudly against her ribcage. Her hand that was resting on her stomach clenched against her t-shirt as Neil continued to massage her lips with his and sending a wave of emotion to her body.

This time, the kiss was no longer as hesitant.

His lips were moving with such want and desire for her. His tongue moved to lick her lips, prodding, and silently begging for her to return his kiss.

Edith was still at a loss and uncertain at what she should do.

The man she had secretly fancied had kissed her and the information was too much for her to process. Her heart raced as she tried to think of why was this man kissing her. She wondered if this was another of his way of teasing her. Or perhaps... it was something else.

Edith stopped trying to figure out the answer. His kisses were distracting and she was unable to think straight.

Her hand raised and paused at his chest. Her mind was weighing the decision of whether she should push him away. But the person who was kissing her was slowly taking away her sanity and strength as he deepened the kiss.

Soon, her thoughts crumbled and Edith decided to give in to her emotion. This was the man she had fancied. Since he had presented himself to her, it would be stupid for her not to take the chance to kiss him back.

Her hand on his chest moved and curled to grasp his shirt, forcing him to lean closer to her. Then, her lips parted to give him the chance to deepened and taking the kiss further. She was responding to him, kissing him the way he had kissed her.

His throat made a low grunt as their tongue met briefly, parted, then met again as they continued to lose themselves in the kiss.

They did not know how long they have been kissing, but after moments that felt like an eternity, Neil finally pulled away from her lips.

At this time, her cheek has gone rosy and her lips were slightly swollen from his kisses. Her misty eyes were staring back at him as she tried to catch up with her breath.

A strong wave of emotion was raging inside of him as he looked at the beautiful woman before him. His mind was telling him to go on and kiss her again, but this time, he held back. Neil knew that he had something urgent to tell her.

Looking into her slightly questioning gaze, Neil then opened his lips. "Edith Qian."

Edith opened her mouth to answer him but found that she was unable to speak at the moment. A soft hum came out and Edith was embarrassed at the strangeness of the sound.

She did not think that she was able to produce such a coquettish sound.

Neil moved his hand to touch her cheek and pushing a few strands of hair off her face. "Edith Qian, I like you."

Her eyes were staring back at him in disbelief at his sudden confession. However, his next question gave her a mixed feeling.

"Can you.... stay with me? Don't move out, alright?"

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Various thoughts came into her mind all at once.

Just a moment ago, Edith was happy beyond words when the person she had fancied had taken the initiative to kiss her. His kiss was gentle at first and later turned fierce. Thousands of colorful fireworks suddenly appeared. His kiss made her breathless, senseless and hot. It turned her giddy.

The moment Neil said that he liked her, Edith had thought that perhaps, she had a good dream. She was planning to confess to him after they returned from this trip, but this man had said the words before her.

Then, he asked a question that shook something inside of her.

Edith knew that Neil wanted her to stay and continue to look after Hazel. Her relationship with Hazel was good, and she loved the little girl dearly. She was always worried about the little girl and would not mind staying longer with her.

The only reason she did not give Neil her answer was because she was still looking for that opportunity to escape. Edith realized that after living together with Neil for almost two months, she started to bore a romantic feeling towards him. She wanted to confess to him about her feeling and was preparing for a way out so that she would not embarrass herself later.

Neil's question right after puzzled her and Edith started to wonder if the only reason he had kissed her and say the words that shook her was that he wanted her to stay around for Hazel.

"No." Neil's expression turned anxious when he heard what Edith had thought about him. He looked at her with a serious look on his face and said, "I did not kiss you nor say that I like you because I wanted you to stay around and look after Hazel. Edith Qian, I really like you. If you want to say it like that, then it should be that I like you enough that I wanted you to stay by my side."

Her breath stuck in her throat and a wave of emotion shot from the core of her body to her brain, making her dizzy.

Edith was not expecting that Neil would say something like that.

His brow furrowed as Neil tried to think of the right words to convince her that he did not do any of those things to make her stay and look after Hazel.

"I like you," Neil repeated. "You could say that after living together for a while, I was starting to get used to your presence around me. Just the thought of not being able to see you again when I was at home made me feel at loss. I like the feeling of seeing you the moment I step into the house. I like having dinner together and was looking forward to it every day. I like having a conversation about Hazel or anything at all when we were sharing a midnight snack."

The woman in front of him continued to stare back at him with a dazed expression.

Neil thought of the words he said and thought that perhaps he did not make it clear enough for her. He was someone who had never had to spare his time to sweet talk even in his previous relationship.

When he needed to coax a woman, all he needed to do was to spend his money on expensive brands. But if he had done the same trick on this silly woman, Neil knew that she will only throw those expensive things right on his face before she beat him up. Neil could almost imagine the scene vividly. Just the thought of how painful her punches will be scared him a little bit.

"I like you well enough that I wanted to tease you whenever you were around." His eyes continued to lock with hers, not allowing her to look away. "I like you well enough that there are times that I just wanted to kiss you. In fact... right now... I think I want to kiss you again."

Her eyes widened and Edith raised a hand to block his mouth. She could not allow him to kiss her again. She needed to think straight and his kisses would only turn her head blank.

"President Mo." Edith licked her lips. "You talk too much."

He was usually a man of a few words. When did he start to talk so much?

Neil held her wrist and removed her hand that was covering his mouth. "I can continue to talk until you are convinced that I am not doing this to trick you into staying for Hazel. I can talk until you believe my words. I like you."

Her face turned scarlet. He had said the words multiple times in just one night. Initially, Edith was surprised. But after hearing it again a few times, the words sunk into her brain and she was embarrassed.

Edith raised both hands to cover her face and hide away from him.

"Why... are you covering your face like this?" He put his hand on her wrist to remove her hands away. "Edith?"

"I'm embarrassed!" Edith muffled under her hands. "Give me a few seconds to process everything."

His deep chuckle reverberated, but Neil continued to stay in his position. His eyes were watching her every movement, waiting for her to calm down and finally look at him again.

Slowly, her fingers parted and her eyes were visible for a few seconds before she closed them again.

Edith took a few deep breaths to calm down. Neil's gentle smile just a few seconds ago made her heart leaped. She wanted to scream out loud and tone down her excitement, but it was still in the middle of the night. If she started to scream, the other campers would come over and she did not want to explain what was going on.

"What should I do?"

Her voice was a whisper, but because of their proximity, Neil was able to hear it very well. He did not speak a word and waited for her to look at him again.

He did not have to wait for so long to see her fingers parted again. This time, Edith slowly shifted her hands down from her eyes and stopped just around her nose. Neil was unable to see her lips, but he could tell from the look on her eyes that she was smiling.

"You like me."

Edith thought that his words and tone did not sound like a question, but a statement.

Why was this man so sure?

"Since we both liked each other, why don't... we start dating?"

Edith thought that she would perhaps suffer from a heart attack. Everything that has been going on today was too much for her to process.

But as she continued to look into his eyes, Edith felt something bloomed in her heart into something sweet. Her answer came to her mind and suddenly, her quivering heart was at peace.

Edith moved her hands away from her face and looked at the man in front of her properly. A smile tilted at her lips.. "Alright."

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Edith took her time to wake up. Her eyes blinked a few times as she tried to get used to her surroundings. The sky was still dark, but Edith was able to see the waves, rolling to the beach.

Confusion appeared on her face for a while as she wondered why was she seeing the scene in front of her. Suddenly, Edith found that her body was warm even though the wind was blowing. Her gaze lowered towards the blanket around her body.

Last night's event came to her mind and a tinge of pink appeared on her cheek.

Last night... she and President Mo was kissing around on the white sand. Then, he had told her that he liked her, and asked her to be his girlfriend.

Her head dropped as the shade of pink on her cheek turned darker.

She had agreed.

Oh god! She had agreed!

Edith screamed internally. Her hand under the blanket moved up to her thigh and she gave herself a hard pinch. Her face contorted from the pain, but Edith was still not convinced whether everything was just a dream. Everything was just too unreal.

"You're awake?"

The voice made her jump slightly.

It was at this time that she began to realize that she was leaning into something, or rather someone. Her head tilted up slowly and her throat tightened upon seeing Neil Mo's face so close to her. Just a slight move and he would be kissing her forehead.

It turned out that she was leaning on his body... Then... she was sleeping in his embrace the whole night?

"Edith?" He smiled brightly at her. His hand moved to push away a few strands of hair from her face.

"Ah?"

Before Edith was able to think properly, Neil had leaned forward to kiss her forehead. He flashed her a teasing smile and spoke, "Good morning."

Her eyes widened and Edith quickly hid her head under the blanket.

"Good morning." Her voice muffled under the blanket.

A deep chuckle reverberated. Feeling the slight tremor, Edith began to realize that her head was resting on Neil Mo's chest. At the thought of how close they were at the moment, Edith was suddenly embarrassed.

Last night, after some kissing and such, the two decided to spend the rest of the night just sitting at the beach, talking about some stuff while enjoying the night ocean view. She did not even realize when did she fell asleep in his embrace.

But to let him see her face the moment she woke up was too embarrassing.

It hasn't been twenty-four hours since they agreed to date each other, but she had let him see her dazed look upon waking up. She did not even have time to comb her hair, remove the dirt from her eyes, and make herself presentable. She had wanted to look her best in front of the person she liked...

Edith touched the corner of her lips and sighed in relief upon finding that she did not have any drools.

"This is really surprising. I really did not expect that you would easily be this embarrassed."

Edith looked up and frowned, knowing that he was teasing her. Her neck shrank when the man touched the tip of her nose.

"Really cute." His hand could not resist giving her cheek a slight pinch. Then he leaned to kiss the top of her nose.

Something inside her blew up and Edith was unable to react for a few seconds.

She did not think that Neil was able to tease her so much that her face would turn scarlet and hot.

Wasn't he supposed to be an iceblock? Showing off a cold face all the time? When did he know how to say these words?

"You're not going to look at me?" Neil tightened his grip around her waist when Edith continued to look down. "What is it? Are you going to pretend that last night did not happen?"

Noticing that there was something off from his tone, Edith quickly turned to Neil. Her eyes widened as if she was panicking. "No. That's not it."

"Then what?"

"I just thought that everything was like a dream," Edith said. "I haven't woke up properly. My mind is still fuzzy. I think... I need some moment to process everything."

Everything was moving too fast. She was still planning to confess to this man after they came back from this short break in Z Town. Edith did not think that this man would act before her and she woke up in the morning as Neil Mo's girlfriend.

Neil touched her chin lightly and tilted her face up. Suddenly, his lips captured hers into a gentle kiss, stirring her heart and turning her mind chaotic.

The two parted after a while and Edith bit at her lower lips, trying to numb the taste of his lips.

"Still feel like last night was a dream?" Neil asked. His lips stretched up into a teasing smile.

Edith shook her head quickly. Her doe eyes were looking at him innocently. "No. I have woken up completely."

Neil continued to study Edith's expression and thought that it was both adorable and funny.

"So it is true," Neil spoke.

"What is true?"

His thumb caressed the bottom of her lips. "That a kiss could wake a sleeping beauty from a deep sleep. You see? You are now completely awakened."

Edith watched him speechlessly.

President Mo! How old are you? Have you been reading Hazel's storybooks too much that you started to believe in fairy tales?

Her expression changed as Edith thought of something else from his words.

Did this man just call her beautiful?

How did he know how to tease her like this?

Suddenly, Edith found that she could not bear to look at his teasing smile for too long.

This iceblock was usually too cold. But his smile was too dazzling. It gave her butterflies in her stomach.

Quickly, Edith thought it would be best if she walked away and calm down. "The sun will rise soon. I should go and check on Hazel. She would be scared if she woke up and find that I was not around."

Neil looked at the sky and saw that the sun was going to rise soon. He let the girl in his embrace go reluctantly, but the smile on his face stayed.

"President Mo..."

Neil raised a brow. "Still call me President Mo?"

"N-Neil." Her breath shook slightly as she spoke his name.

"Un." The smile on his face widened. "What is it?"

"Let's not tell Hazel about us at this moment alright?"

A dissatisfied frown appeared on his face. "Why not? Hazel adored you so much. She would be happy when she knew that we are dating."

"I know." Edith moved to touch his arms and pulled off a cute face. "I am her teacher. I just need a while to adjust myself to this change. Then, I will tell her, alright?"

Neil stared at the woman and heaved a sigh, finding himself losing against her pleading gaze.. "Alright."

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After Hazel woke up, Edith brought the girl to and checked on the crab trap they set up last evening. Seeing the fierce crabs caught inside the trap, Hazel was both excited and frightened at the same time.

Then, Edith and Neil accompanied the little girl to play around in the water for a little while.

Now that the two of them were in a relationship, Neil no longer headed off to swim around alone and instead stayed by the two girl's side.

Hazel was the most excited to be accompanied by the two grownups to play.

Since Edith did not want Hazel to know about them at the early stage, Neil could only sneakily touch her hand and stole a few kisses whenever the little girl was not looking.

Seeing the way this man was behaving, Edith was speechless.

Those people who called him an ice block would be very surprised if they take a look at Neil at this moment as the man no longer had a cold look on his face.

But that slight smile on his face was driving her crazy. His sneaky touches and kisses almost gave her a heart attack due to worry that the little girl might see something.

Once they had their breakfast, packed up everything, and cleaned up the area, the three of them finally left the camping site.

Hazel looked at the site with longing and turned to look at both her uncle and teacher. "Can we come over again?"

Edith patted at the little girl's hair. "Of course we can. Later, when your uncle was not busy with his works, you can ask him to bring you here again."

The little girl's gaze stopped at Edith. "Then, Teacher Qian, will you come along?"

"As long as you want me around, of course, I will come along."

A bright smile appeared on her face. Hearing Edith's words, Hazel knew that there was a big chance for her teacher to stay around with them a bit longer. Now, all she had to do was to wait for her uncle to give her good news.

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When Edith entered the house, her grandfather was nowhere to be seen. She took out her phone and sent a text to him that she was at home. Recalling that she had brought home a bag of wet clothes after playing in the water, Edith decided to settle with her laundry first before she took a rest.

Exhausted, Edith then went into her room and slammed her body on the mattress. Her eyes were looking up the ceiling and the scene of what happened in the night came to her mind.

Now that Neil was not around her, Edith thought that it was a good chance for her to calm down and process the information in her head.

Her gaze turned calmer as she continued to stare into space.

Although she was still in disbelief at how everything had happened, she had finally accepted that what happened last night was not a dream. She was now in a romantic relationship with Neil Mo.

The sudden chime from her phone broke her off her thoughts. A smile tilted on her lips upon seeing a text message from her boyfriend, urging her to rest well before he will come over and pick her up tomorrow morning and head back to L City together.

Her boyfriend.

Just the thought alone made her giggle.

She was preparing herself that Neil was going to reject her confession later, but who would have thought that he would be the first to confess. Whenever Edith thought of the way Neil had kissed her senselessly that night, her cheek would turn red.

She really did not think that the cold man was really good at kissing.

Edith raised her hand to touch her lips. The taste of his lips still lingered. The kisses from last night turned her lips swollen.

Fortunately, Hazel was not aware of it and her grandfather was not at home to see it. Or else, with her grandfather's background as a detective, Edith knew that she could not escape his interrogation.

After going through too much excitement, Edith finally fell asleep.

When she opened her eyes again, it was way past lunch hour. Her grandfather was sitting in the living room, watching some documentaries.

The old man turned his head and raised his brow. "You're awake?"

"Un." Edith nodded. "Grandpa, when did you get home?"

"In the afternoon," Mike answered. "How was camping? Seeing how you have slept all afternoon, I guess she must have enjoyed playing around a lot?"

Edith lowered her head and nodded. She could not let her grandfather see her expression at this time, or he might figure out something."

"Are you hungry? I bought lunch for you. There is that egg tart that you liked as well."

Her eyes brightened at the mention of her favorite pastry. Edith walked over to her grandfather and kissed his cheek. "Grandfather, you are so good to me."

Mike chuckled. "You are my granddaughter. If I'm not good to you, then who should I be good at?" He watched as her granddaughter sat down around the dining table and took a bite at the egg tart. "You are going back to the city tomorrow?"

Edith hummed. "President Mo and Hazel will come over and pick me up after breakfast. Then we'll go back together."

Mike stared at her for a few seconds longer. "The family really treated you good."

Her movement paused briefly and Edith continued to chew on her egg tart. "Hazel liked me and I spent a lot of time with her. Previously, Mrs. Mo had come over to meet me and asked me to look after her granddaughter."

Mike's expression grew softer when he thought of that little girl. Knowing that the girl had lost her parents at such a young age, Mike found that his heart would ache for her. Hazel's cheery and bubbly attitude would always remind him of Edith before she lost her mother.

"That little girl is too pitiful. You have to look after the girl well and protect her," Mike reminded.

A soft sigh escaped her as she understood his meaning. "Grandpa, I know."

Just as she finished her meal, the phone on the table chimed. Her eyes widened, seeing Neil's name on the screen.

Edith tried her best to conceal the look on her face and took a deep breath to calm down. Then went back into her bedroom with her phone tightly in her hand. Once the door was closed, Edith slid a finger on the screen and pressed the phone to her ear.

"Hello?" Edith greeted. "Sorry. I was chatting with my grandfather earlier."

Neil's deep chuckle greeted her. "Edith, I miss you."

Her cheek turned a shade pink at his words. Her lips tilted up into a sheepish smile.

"Come out," Neil said.. "I'm waiting for you outside. Come out, alright?"

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Checking on her reflection in the mirror again, Edith was finally satisfied with how she looked like. Her hand that was about to reach the lipstick paused and Edith bit at her lips, wondering if she should go ahead and put them on.

Her grandfather was still watching some program in the living room. She did not want her grandfather to notice the bright color she was wearing and started to get suspicious.

Her relationship with Neil had just begun and it would be too cruel if her grandfather chopped his body into several parts and used them as fishing bait...

She still wanted to date this man and fall in love with him.

Edith opened the door to a slit and peeked outside. A breath of relief escaped her once she noticed that her grandfather was sleeping. She tiptoed towards the door and paused when she heard a movement.

"Where are you going?"

Though she knew that her grandfather had awakened, Edith still jolted upon hearing his voice.

She took a deep breath, turned around, and flashed a smile to her grandfather. "Town. I'm going back to L City tomorrow morning. I going to get a few things for Lily as a souvenir."

Mike nodded. "Then, go ahead. Help me buy a bottle of soy sauce before you come back."

"Oh!" Edith turned around and put her hand on her chest. She always knew that mentioning Lily's name would be useful. Her grandfather was grateful that Lily had helped her to get the job at the kindergarten and always had a soft spot for that girl.

Her lips tilted into a smile knowing that she was able to go out without arousing her grandfather's suspicion.

Of course, what Edith did not know that her grandfather had something preoccupying his mind and therefore was unable to notice the slight difference in her granddaughter. At the same time, Edith was still worried about her grandfather finding out that she was in a relationship that she had missed to notice the slight difference in her grandfather.

Just like that, the grandfather and granddaughter had missed something important about each other...

It did not take too long for Edith to notice Neil's SUV parked a certain distance away from her grandfather's place. Neil walked out of the vehicle and helped her to open the passenger's door.

Edith peeked into the SUV and turned to Neil with a puzzled look. "Hazel did not come along?"

A deep chuckle escaped him. "Silly woman, this is our first date." He tilted his head sideways and smiled. "Why would I bring my niece along?"

Edith narrowed her eyes. "Who did you just call a silly woman?"

Neil tucked a strand of her hair behind her ears. "Alright, let's get in first." Neil motioned her to sit in the car in his attempt to change the subject.

At the thought that her grandfather might suddenly come out and see her, Edith quickly went in. She turned to grab the safety belt, but Neil was quicker and Edith could only watch as Neil fastened her seat belt with a dazed look in her eyes. She opened her mouth to thank him, but at the same time, Neil leaned down to kiss her lips, catching her off her guard.

Once he pulled away, Edith covered her lips and stared at the man with her eyes wide. "What are you doing?" She muffled.

It was a rare occasion and she had put on her lipstick...

Edith glanced at his lips and was relieved that her lipstick was not smudging his lips.

"Exercising my right as your boyfriend."

Edith stared at the man in a daze. His words triggered something in her heart, and the slight smile on his lips was dazzling. When he said it like that, she really could not do anything to him.

Seeing the stunned look on her face, Neil shut her door and slipped into the driver's seat. The car drove away and after a few seconds of silence, Edith suddenly burst into a laugh.

"What are you laughing about?" Neil glanced at the silly woman with an unhappy expression. He had a feeling that this woman was laughing at him.

"It's you." Edith propped her chin up on her elbows and looked at Neil. Her eyes sparkled with laughter. "It was surprising to hear those words coming out of your mouth. Weren't you a man of a few words?"

Neil raised a brow at her. "What? Are you going to call me Iceblock Mo again?"

Edith did not answer and instead continued to stare at him as he drove. Even though he had guessed what was on her mind, Edith did not say a thing.

At this time, Edith knew that he would not dare to do anything to her as he was driving. However, she was afraid that this man would come and look for revenge afterward.

Neil chuckled. "Isn't it because I am comfortable around you? I would indeed prefer silence over talking. But, rather than saying a few more words to irrelevant people, it was better not to say too much. However, I am also someone who would turn talkative with the people I am comfortable with. Towards the people I cared about, I would not mind saying a few more words." He glanced at her again and smiled. "Edith Qian, right now, I am telling you that I feel comfortable around you."

Her heart skipped a beat and something warm surge throughout her body. Those might not be the most romantic words she heard, but it was powerful enough to tug something in her heart.

His words made her feel special.

Ever since she was aware of her feelings towards him, Edith would sometimes wonder how it was going to be in a relationship with him. Their characters were very different.

No matter how much she liked him, a relationship would not work with someone who could not communicate properly.

At this time, their relationship had just begun.

Edith was not sure how much he liked her or how much she liked him. But as long as they were comfortable with each other, as long as they could communicate properly, they could make this relationship work.

"Now." Neil tapped his fingers on the steering. "Where should we head to?"

"You asked me out. Why are you asking me this question?"

As a man, shouldn't he plan and decide on where they were going to and what they were going to do on the first date?

"Aren't you a local here? You know this town best.. Show me where is your favorite place in this town."

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As their vacation ended, the three of them finally said their goodbyes to Z Town and returned to L City. Although there were a few more days until the school break ended, Neil could not leave the company for too long, or else, Assistant Shawn would have a mental breakdown, dealing with important matters in Neil's stead.

Edith spent her time accompanying Hazel doing various interesting activities to fill in the girl's time.

After coming back to Neil's place for a few days, Edith was beginning to think that Neil's speech about him being able to talk a little more because he was comfortable with her was total bull crap.

Every word was just nonsense he spouted so that he can get away with kissing her.

This man would find a way to steal a kiss whenever possible whenever little Hazel was not looking.

In the beginning, Edith found that his action was cute and she kind of enjoyed his attention and the thrill of kissing with the risk of being caught by little Hazel. However, after a few days, Edith began to think that perhaps, this man was just a wolf in sheep clothing! A total flirt!

This man was so good with his honeyed words that later on, she would be persuaded and seduced. Even if she wanted to get mad at him for stealing kisses, she would then change her mind.

What comfortable? He was just saying those to trick an innocent lady!

Edith was beginning to worry about whether her decision to continue living with Neil and Hazel was the right one.

Fortunately, Neil was someone who knew his limit. Though he loved to steal kisses, he had never touched her inappropriately.

Anyway, it was not that she was going to let him pass if he had ever initiated anything funny. She could always twist his hand and throw him over her shoulders.

Edith had decided that before he began to understand him a bit more, and fall deeper in love with him, there was no way that she was going to let him do anything else. A relationship should be built slowly and carefully for it to grow sturdy.

On the last day of the school break, Edith decided to bring Hazel to Lily's place. The two have long discussed Hazel and Alex's play date but was rarely had the chance to organize one.

Edith still had to tell her best friend of what happened during her vacation in Z Town and it would be better to speak with her friend in relaxed surroundings.

Knowing her friend, Edith knew that she was going to ask her about her confession plan when they see each other in school. Then, Lily will not let her go until she was done with her interrogation and find out everything she needed to know.

Therefore, to avoid her colleagues' curious gaze, Edith decided to come clean to her friend.

As they arrived at Lily's place, Alex immediately took his friend to his playroom to show the new Gundam model that his father had bought for him last week.

These days, the two kids' relationship had gotten closer due to their interest in those models. Alex found that Hazel was very meticulous with the way she was assembling the models and soon came to like dragging the little girl to help him with the model.

As long as Edith brought Hazel along with her, Alex would not disturb her with his model, allowing her more chance to chat with Lily. By now, there are two models that the two have worked on together.

As the kids were in the playroom, Edith followed Lily into the kitchen. Her gaze fell on the basket of chilies and knew that Lily was going to make her accompany her to eat spicy food again.

"How is your confession plan?"

Sure thing, those were the first question that Lily would ask.

Lily was aware of her friend's feelings towards the cold president and knew this friend was going to confess her feeling before her days of living together with the uncle and niece ended.

However, recently, Edith had rarely mentioned this plan again and Lily was wondering if Edith had a change of mind.

"I'm not going through with it," Edith said.

Lily's hand that was cutting some onions paused and Edith took a step back upon seeing the knife in her friend's hand. Aware that she was holding a dangerous weapon, Lily put the knife on the chopping board and frowned. "Why? What's wrong?"

"Well." Edith shrugged. "It's pointless."

The frown on Lily's face deepened. "You really changed your mind? You don't like that ice block anymore? What is it? Why is it pointless?"

Edith chuckled at her friend's anxious face.

Most people would tell her to forget those feelings towards someone like Neil Mo as the two of them were from a different background and status. Although Neil might agree to date her, they would be convinced that Neil was only hooking up with her for some reason and the relationship would not last long.

However, Lily was very positive when she had mentioned her feelings for Neil. Instead of discouraging her, Lily had fully supported her idea to confess. If Neil accepted the confession, then, that would be good news. If he did not, well, it was his loss.

Lily had always admired Edith after she had rescued her from those bad guys in Z Town. After spending a long time with this friend, Lily came to like this friend a lot and knew that anyone would be lucky to be with her friend.

Edith shifted her weight between her feet and made an escape plan just in case if Lily would pounce on her after she broke the news.

"It's pointless because I don't have a reason to confess."

"You don't like him anymore?"

"No." Edith laughed. "It's not that." She glanced around to ensure that there was no one else around. Then, Edith took a deep breath and said, "We are already in a relationship, so continuing that confession plan would be pointless."

Lily stared at her friend with wide eyes and thought that perhaps her ears were playing tricks on her.

"You did not hear wrongly. I am in a relationship with Neil Mo. Hmm." Edith tapped her fingers on her chin. "Right now, we are dating. He is my boyfriend."

"Dating!" Lily raised both hands to put them on Edith's shoulders but was stopped before she had the chance to do so.

"Wash your hand before you touch me," Edith reminded.

"Oh!" Lily walked over to the sink and turned to her friend. A cursing word escaped her lips as she thought of what she had just heard. "Dating! How did that happen? Don't tell me that you were unable to resist that man's charm that you decided to push the plan forward?"

"It was Neil who confessed to me."

Lily gasped. Then, cursed again.. "Edith Qian, if you did not tell me what is going on, I am not letting you leave this place. If you dare to escape any details, I won't let you go!"

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Back in MH Headquarters...

Neil Mo was browsing through a few documents with his assistant stood beside him.

The past few days, Neil was not at his office as he was accompanying his niece to see her grandparents. Although he was physically absent from the office, Neil had given a few instructions to Assistant Shawn and let him handle a few matters for him.

Now that he had returned to his office, several managers and directors were looking over for him in urgency. Suddenly, there was a pile of documents on his desk waiting to be check and signed.

From the moment he arrived in his office, it was as if he was glued to his seat, unable to stand up. If he made a sudden move, Assistant Shawn would flinch as if he was going to step forward and beg him to stay. It was such an amusing scene.

Fortunately, the company had hired a bunch of capable staff and Assistant Shawn was meticulous enough to check on every document he had left on his table. This way, Neil did not have to spend too much time with the documents.

It was past lunch hour and Assistant Shawn was still guarding him to discuss some work matters.

The phone on his desk started to chime and Neil's eyes brightened up upon seeing the name. He swiftly picked it up and waited for the other person to speak first.

"Neil?"

His gaze softened and Neil lowered his gaze so that his Assistant would not be able to detect anything. "Hmm."

Edith stiffened for a few seconds, finding that his silence was a bit too strange. After a few days of being together, Edith had started to accept that this man could speak a little bit more than usual, and sometimes, they were just honeyed words.

It took her a while to get used to it, but eventually, Edith thought that their relationship had just started and it was not strange if Neil wanted to be a little bit flirty.

"Why aren't you speaking?" Edith asked. "Are you alright?"

"Hold on." Neil turned at the assistant and saw the anxious look on his face. He seemed to recall that the assistant had mentioned that he needed him to check and sign a few documents so that they could pass deliver them to their business partner before the end of the day.

However, his girlfriend was on the line. After looking at those documents for a long time, Neil thought that he deserved a quick break.

He was about to ask Assistant Shawn to leave the room for a while when he heard the woman's voice again.

"Is there someone else around you?"

His brow shot up, wondering what was in the silly woman's mind. "I was working in my office with Assistant Shawn all day."

Edith laughed.

Why does it sound like he was explaining himself to her?

"Have you had lunch yet?"

Neil glanced at the time and noticed for the first time that it has past lunch hours. "Not yet."

"I thought so." There was a helplessness in her tone. "I was showing Hazel how to make some dishes and we accidentally cook a little more. If you still haven't had your lunch, then we can send you something to eat."

His eyes darkened and his face brightened up. "Are you coming to deliver them personally?"

He heard the woman's laugh from the other side and suddenly, Neil thought that his ear was a bit ticklish. Then, he heard her speak in a teasing tone.

"I was planning to ask Driver Tang to send it over to you. But, you... Do you want me to come?"

"You should come. I will be waiting for you. Tell me when you arrive. I will ask someone to bring you up."

Edith chuckled at his concise words.

Assistant Shawn, who was busy organizing the documents on the side looked up at his boss and wondered who was he on the phone with. From the way he talked and the tone he used, Assistant Shawn was sure that this call was not work-related.

Without warning, the voice on the phone changed to a childish tone.

"Uncle, are you still at your office?"

His expression softened upon hearing the little girl's voice. "Un. I'm still at the office."

"Teacher Qian said we can come over and visit you at your office," Hazel spoke. "Just now, we made some crab cake. Uncle, they tasted really good."

Neil chuckled. After living together, Neil started to pay attention to Hazel and noticed that the little girl especially loved crabs.

"When you come over with Teacher Qian, you have to remember to stay close to her and don't talk to strangers, alright?" Neil reminded. "Listen to her words well."

"Un. I know. Uncle, I will hold on to Teacher Qian tightly."

Assistant Shawn, who was still at the side immediately guessed that President Mo was talking to the little miss. Sure enough, after the call ended, his boss immediately gave him an instruction to come down and personally receive the little miss and her teacher downstairs.

"Right," Neil spoke, stopping Assistant Shawn who was about to head out the door. "When you go downstairs, arrange it with the security personnel so that both of them will be allowed to come up anytime they come over,"

"Certainly," Assistant Shawn nodded. As if realizing that something was not right, Assistant Shawn stopped again and turned to his boss. "President Mo, if I was not mistaken, the contract with Teacher Qian should end next week."

"We are planning to resume the contract with Teacher Qian," Neil said. "Hazel was still traumatized over the incident from last time and I did not want to separate her with Teacher Qian at the moment."

"Then, do you need me to draft a new contract?"

"No need," Neil said quickly. "I will arrange this matter myself."

Anyway, once the contract ended, Edith was planning to continue and stay with him and Hazel. This time, not as Hazel's caretaker, but as his girlfriend.

As Neil thought of the woman again, his lips turned up into a smile. Teasing the silly woman was always amusing. He did not mind uttering a few more words with her just so he could see the exasperated look on her face.

The slightly pout on her lips whenever he said something that made her speechless was just too cute and Neil could not resist teasing her again.

Neil thought that perhaps he was bewitched by that silly woman. It all began with that drunken kiss and confession. But he was unable to stop thinking about her from time to time.

He always wanted to be near her, tasting her lips over and over again while feeling the warmth of her skin on his fingertips.

However, kissing her was no longer enough. He would always be reminded of that dream that turned his body hot. But at this stage, he could only choose to hold back.. Edith wanted their relationship to go slow and steady and he did not want to scare her.

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Edith helped Hazel off the vehicle, and the little girl swiftly held tightly onto her hand. The little girl looked around her surroundings and suddenly inched closer to her teacher.

As they stood outside the company, Hazel's head began to replay the situation where a man grabbed her before she reached her teacher's side not too long ago. Now that she was at the same place again, Hazel was worried. She imagined that the bad man would suddenly appear again and took her away.

Sensing the little girl's anxiety, Edith heaved a helpless sigh. She took the bag of packed lunch from Driver Tang and swung the little girl's hand. "Let's go."

"Oh." Hazel nodded. Her eyes grew stern as she followed her teacher into the building. It was only when they reached the lobby did Hazel started to relax a little bit.

Edith took Hazel towards the sofa in the waiting area and the two of them sat down side by side. "Hazel?"

"Hmm?" She turned and saw that her teacher was looking at her with a slight smile on her face.

"Just now... Were you scared?" Edith had felt the way Hazel's body turned stiff until they entered the building. Although she knew that Hazel was still traumatized by that incident, she was not aware of how frightened the little girl was.

Hazel would always hold on to both her and Neil whenever they were at a foreign place and especially a crowded place. Just now, her grip on her hand was firmer, showing how frightened Hazel was as she had returned to the scene.

Edith had thought that she would definitely turn around and leave if Hazel was unable to take a step forward, but the little girl was brave.

Earlier, Edith could sense the little girl's hesitation when she had suggested coming over to MH Headquarters and delivered lunch for her uncle. The little girl had was quiet for a long time before she agreed with a serious look on her face.

Hazel was still afraid but wanted to take this step to overcome her fears. As long as she held on to her teacher's hand firmly, she was convinced that no one can take her away. Their walk from the vehicle until they reached inside the building was suddenly too long for her. But fortunately, she had arrived safely.

"Un. I was scared," Hazel answered. Initially, she wanted to show that she was brave and tell her teacher that she was not scared. However, Hazel thought that she should tell the truth. "Teacher Qian was by my side and I held on to your hand tightly. I did not run around."

Edith looked at the little girl's bright eyes and her heart melted at Hazel's cuteness. She pulled Hazel into a hug and kissed the little girl's forehead.

"You were scared, but you were brave enough to come over and we get into the building safely. I am so proud of you."

A shy smile appeared on her lips and a wave of happiness burst in her heart as Hazel heard her teacher's praise.

This was the place where her uncle worked. In the past, her father came to this very same building to work. In the past, Hazel had come over to this building with her mother to find her father. This place had certain memories of her parents and Hazel wanted to be brave and step into the building because of it.

"Right." Edith jumped as she recalled that she had not informed Neil that they were waiting in the lobby. After receiving a confirmation that Assistant Shawn was on his way to see her.

The sound of high heels was heard heading over to their direction as both Edith and Hazel were waiting in the lobby.

Soon, a woman in her pink office suit pants approached.

"Hazel?"

Edith looked up upon hearing someone called out the little girl's name. In front of her was a pretty woman with light makeup. Her long hair was tied into a neat ponytail. The woman had a bright smile on her face as she looked at Hazel.

"What are you doing here? Are you waiting for your uncle?" Autumn Feng asked.

She had noticed the little girl's presence as she stepped out of the elevator. Seeing that the girl was left alone and Assistant Shawn was not around, Autumn decided to use this chance to get close to the little girl. Perhaps, later on, she can get close to the little girl's uncle as well.

The smile on her face stayed even though the little girl seemed as if she was ignoring her. "Do you want to go upstairs and find your uncle? I can take you to him." Autumn stretched her hand to grab on Hazel's. Her movement halted when Hazel suddenly pushed her hand away.

"Teacher Qian, I am scared," Hazel spoke as she held on to her teacher's arms tightly and tried to hide behind her.

Autumn's expression changed again. Her eyes flickered to the woman beside Hazel and she finally realized that they were together. Seeing the suspicious look on the woman's face made Autumn unhappy, but once she recalled the way Hazel had addressed the woman and the smile on her face widened.

"Hello, I am Manager Autumn Feng who was working with MH Group. Are you here to drop Hazel? I saw Hazel here and thought that I could bring her upstairs to find her uncle. I work close to President Mo and I can help you."

"No. I don't know you." Hazel tightened her grip on her teacher. "My uncle said I should not go and talk to strangers."

Autumn's expression stiffened upon hearing Hazel's words. "Hazel, I am not a stranger. We have met a few times before, don't you remember?"

The little girl did not answer and continued to peek from behind her teacher's arms.

"I'm sorry, but Miss, I have to ask you to leave," Edith spoke after observing the situation for a while. "Hazel said she did not know you and you frightened her."

Though Edith was aware that Hazel knew the woman in front of them, she could also sense Hazel's strong dislike towards this woman. Seeing that the little girl was uncomfortable with the woman's presence, of course, Edith should protect her little student.

Autumn's face turned red with embarrassment, but she could not leave with such humiliation. She tilted her head up slightly and arrogantly looked at Edith. "Who are you?"

Edith flashed a smile. "I am Hazel's caretaker."

"Hazel's caretaker? Wasn't Hazel's caretaker an old woman?" Autumn gave her a look over and sneered at the way Edith was dressed in unknown brand clothing. "Anyway, that's good too. Miss, you can let hand over Hazel to me and I will personally send her to President Mo's office."

"I'm sorry. Hazel is not a thing for me to hand her over. If something happened to Hazel, it will be my responsibility," Edith said. Her gaze suddenly shifted from Autumn and an amiable smile appeared on her lips. "Assistant Shawn."

Autumn stiffened upon hearing the name. She turned around slowly and saw the man's angry expression.

"Manager Feng, I have reminded you not to try and approach Little Miss Hazel. President Mo would not like it," Assistant Shawn said. "Moreover." He lifted his arms to look at his wristwatch. "It's still working hours."

"No." Autumn forced a smile. "I just saw Hazel here and thought I should say hi. I'm going back to my office now."

Once the woman was gone, Assistant Shawn turned to both Edith and Hazel with a smile. "Teacher Qian, Miss Hazel, sorry to let you wait."

"It's fine."

"President Mo instructed me to bring you over to the security room and set up an identification.. Later, when you come again, you can go straight to President Mo's office anytime you want."

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The procedure at the security room went smoothly. Edith and Hazel only needed to write in their details and the security moved to prepare an access card for them. The next time they came over to the headquarters, they could use the cards and go straight to President Mo's office without making any appointments.

As Assistant Shawn went to check on the access card, Edith sat beside Hazel in the waiting area. She thought about their exchange with that pretty manager in the lobby and decided to talk to the little girl. "Hazel?"

"Hmm?" The little girl looked up at her.

"Earlier, that woman who talked to you in the lobby..." Edith paused when she saw a slight fluctuation in her eyes. "You know her right? She was not a stranger to you, am I right?"

Little Hazel was about to deny it, but once her gaze met her teacher's, Hazel found that he could not tell a lie. Her head nodded slowly. "Un. I have met her a few times. She worked with my father and my uncle."

Edith heaved a helpless sigh and touched the little girl's cheek. "Then, why did you say that you did not know her?"

Hazel lowered her gaze and bit at her lower lips, refusing to speak.

"Can you tell me why you don't seem to like that person?"

Hazel lifted her head slowly. Her gaze showed that she was hesitant to speak. "My mama did not like that auntie. She said I should not get too close to that auntie. If that auntie tried to talk to me, I should ignore her."

Edith finally understood why Hazel had shown a strong dislike towards that woman. Suddenly, she was curious to know why Hazel's mother did not like that person.

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Assistant Shawn quickly taught Edith how to use the access card and brought her over to the President's office. When the three of them entered the office, there was a slight annoyance on Neil's face.

"What took you so long?" Neil asked.

"President Mo." Assistant Shawn coughed. "I was helping Teacher Qian to register with the security office downstairs. They have prepared an access card for her."

The annoyed look disappeared as Neil thought of his instruction. If he had known that it would take them a long time to settle with the security office, he would have asked Assistant Shawn to settle the matters afterward.

"Uncle, are you hungry?" Hazel asked. She tugged at her teacher's hand towards the sofa set and let her placed the bag on the table. Then, she turned to her uncle and waved her hand. "Uncle, come. You should eat first."

Assistant Shawn touched at his nose in embarrassment as he watched the exchange.

They were too busy to look at the piling documents that as an assistant, he had forgotten to remind his boss to take a break and eat. If Little Miss Hazel did not appear with the lunch box, Assistant Shawn would not remember them at all. Suddenly, Assistant Shawn heard the low grunt, coming from his stomach.

It seemed that he had not eaten anything after his light breakfast, which consisted of a bagel and hot coffee that he bought from the local cafe.

"Uncle Shawn, I prepared a portion for you too." Hazel took a blue lunch box on top of the bag and brought it over to him.

His eyes shone brightly upon seeing the lunch box. "This is for me?" He glanced at his boss and finally took the lunch box.

"Un." Hazel nodded. "Uncle Shawn, thank you for looking over my uncle." The little girl's voice was very soft and sweet, and her bright eyes were staring at the man, beaming her cuteness.

A laugh escaped him as he heard Hazel's words. He really wanted to stretch his hand and pinched at the little girl's soft cheek.

Seeing that the little girl had turned into the bubbly little girl she once was made him feel a lot relieved.

Assistant Shawn could still remember the first time President Mo brought the little girl to his office. At that time, Hazel would prefer to sit alone at the corner while doodling some pictures on her papers. Even when he tried to speak to her, Hazel would only stare back at him expressionlessly.

Right now, Hazel was beginning to speak a bit more and smiled a lot more. She even knew how to care for people. As one of the people who was watching after her, Assistant Shawn was naturally happy to see this change.

After thanking both Hazel and Edith, Assistant Shawn exited the office to let his boss have his break and spend his time with his niece.

Once the door closed, Hazel immediately took her spot and sat down between her teacher and uncle. A gleam of happiness radiated from her sensing that the two people who were very close to her were right beside her.

However, Neil was very unhappy with this seating arrangement.

He had a girlfriend, but he had to keep them a secret from his niece. Right now, the little girl was sitting happily between him and Edith and he had no way to steal his kisses!

Neil shifted his glance to Edith and saw the laughter in her eyes. He could guess that the silly woman was secretly enjoying his situation, and his mind quickly calculated how he was going to get back at her.

"Uncle, why aren't you eating?" Hazel asked as she saw her uncle staring at the lunch boxes without making any move. "I made them along with Teacher Qian. It tasted really delicious. Quickly eat them before they turned cold. Then, tell me what you think."

Earlier, Hazel had made almost eighty percent of the preparation and only let her teacher give her instruction and handled the frying process. Of course, Hazel was excited to let her uncle taste her craft.

Neil heaved a sigh and peeked into the lunch boxes. A delicious aroma of food wafted in his office and his stomach made a slow rumble. He grabbed his chopsticks and sampled one of the crab cakes. When he looked at Hazel again, the little girl was staring back at her with expectation.

"It's delicious."

Hazel's lips stretched into a wide smile until her eyes turned crescent.

"Why don't you eat as well? The food would not taste good if I have to eat alone."

A while later, Hazel took out a small lunch box from the bag where there was a portion of mixed fruits that they have prepared earlier. Seeing that the little girl had grabbed her crayon and paper to draw, Edith decided to help feed the girl.

Just as Edith poked at a chunk of cantaloupe, a strong hand grabbed at her wrist and the fruit suddenly disappeared.

Hazel stared at the fruit pick and then back at the man beside her. "Uncle, that's mine!"

"Let's share," Neil said. "I wanted to eat some fruits too."

The uncle and niece continued to argue and Edith looked at the childish man in disbelief.

President Mo, why were you stealing food from your niece?

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Seeing that it was a rare occasion for his girlfriend to make a trip to see him at work, the thought of wanting her to stay longer with him crossed his mind.

"Why don't you two stay around? I'll finish my work quickly, and later, let's go out and have early dinner together."

Edith glanced at the piling documents on the desk, and then back at the man's expecting gaze. "It seemed that you have a lot of documents to look at. Hazel and I should go back first. Lest we were disturbing you."

Neil walked over to Edith, standing close enough that he could smell the scent of her shampoo. His throat rolled up and down, thinking that this woman was like a fragrant cake and he really wanted to take a bite. However, his niece was still in the office and he needed to hold back.

"That's more reason for you to stay." Neil bend down slightly and spoke in a low voice, "They said that women find a hard-working man very attractive."

Her head tilted sideways, pondering the meaning of his words. "What are you implying?"

"That's why you have to stay and watch me at work."

Edith found herself dumbstruck for a few seconds. The corner of her lips twitched as soon as she understood his meaning. "President Mo, why are you so childish today? If any of your staff heard this, they would think that someone had changed you with an impostor."

"Stay?"

Looking at the face that was trying to imitate Hazel's puppy dog eyes, Edith could not help to laugh. "Let's ask Hazel first. If she's not too tired, then we will stay."

Neil turned around to the little girl who was immersed in her drawing. "Hazel?" He watched the girl lifted her head and asked, "Do you want to stay at my office with Teacher Qian until I finished my work and head back together?"

Hazel blinked. "Will it take a long time?" She seemed to remember that these few days, her uncle would arrive home later than usual and missed dinner together.

Before Teacher Qian came to live with them, she would often accompany her uncle at his office until he finished his work. Hazel could still remember how long it would take her uncle to finish his work. In the end, she even fell sick because she was too tired of waiting.

"No. If you're around, your Uncle Shawn will let me go home on time."

Edith, who heard those words suddenly wondered whether Assistant Shawn was the boss instead.

"Later, let's have your favorite chicken wings for dinner," Neil continued.

The little girl frowned slightly as she thought over the generous offer seriously. "What's the occasion?" She still remembered that her mother had told her eating fast food is not that good and she should only eat them on a certain occasion.

"A compensation," Neil said. "Because I ate your fruits earlier."

The frown on Hazel's face disappeared and was replaced with a very bright smile. "Alright." She turned to her teacher and said, "Teacher Qian, let's stay and accompany my uncle."

Edith snorted as she watched the proud smile on Neil's face.

President Mo, do you think it's good to bribe a child like this?

A few minutes later, Neil went back to his desk to settle his work while Edith walked over to Hazel's corner and accompanied her to draw. Looking at the colorful drawings, Edith seemed to find that recently, Hazel's drawing had started to change.

Hazel loved to draw her favorite bunny plush going on an adventure. In the past, this bunny in the drawing would be accompanied by a small cat. However, these days, that bunny plush would be accompanied by a robot... It was quite strange.

One creature was soft and fluffy, and another one was hard and steely. They were both fighting monsters in the forest.

Edith immediately thought of Alex, who seemed to love dragging this little girl to help him with his Gundam model each time Edith took her to Lily's place.

Seeing how this robot had made its way into Hazel's drawing showed how much Hazel liked them.

After drawing for a while longer, Hazel finally grew sleepy.

Edith carried the little girl to the sofa and covered her with a blanket. Seeing that the girl was sleeping beside her, Edith turned her head towards the hardworking man. His gaze was on his computer and his fingers danced as he typed something.

Looking at the man's serious face, her heart skipped a beat. Un. Definitely attractive.

The cold air from the AC was blowing gently, and the clacking sound of Neil's typing on the keyboard slowly lulled her to sleep. Soon, Edith fell asleep with her head rested on the backrest.

Feeling something on her body, Edith jolted from her sleep. Checking at her surrounding, Edith found a thick blanket was covering her body. She tilted her head up and her gaze met with Neil's.

"Sorry, did I wake you up?" Neil touched the tip of his nose. He was too focused on his work, wanting to finish everything soon so that he could accompany his girlfriend and niece soon. He realized that the surrounding was too quiet and look out to find that both girls were sleeping on the sofa.

Suddenly, he felt a bit guilty for his selfishness. He wanted to be able to look at his girlfriend whenever he looked up from the numbers and words in the documents and therefore, decided to hold them both in his office. Looking at how the two girls were sleeping, Neil was regretting his decision.

"Are you done with your work?" Edith asked.

"Just a little bit more." Neil flashed a helpless smile. "Are you tired?"

"I'm fine." Edith flashed him a smile. "Get back to work so I can continue to admire an attractive man at work."

Neil chuckled at her words. Just as he was about to turn to his desk again, Neil heard Edith called his name in a soft voice. Turning around, he found that the woman stood behind him. Before he figured out what she was about to do, Edith had tugged at his necktie, pulling him forward before her lips met his in a short kiss.

The kiss ended before he was able to savor them, but there was still a smile in Neil's eyes as he looked at his girlfriend.

"An encouragement. So that you will finish your work faster."

A playful smile curved on his lips before Neil bent down to recapture that lips again. Seconds later, the kiss broke again. This time, they were interrupted by the sound of something heavy fall down on the floor.

Turning around, they both saw the surprised look on Assistant Shawn's face as he stared at them.. A few documents scattered at his feet.

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Edith swallowed as she saw the surprised look on Assistant Shawn's face.

Because of the sound of the documents falling, Hazel, who was sleeping on the sofa woke up from her sleep. The little girl looked at her surroundings with a puzzled look and went back to sleep.

"P-president Mo." Assistant Shawn was at loss at what to do.

After two years of working under President Mo, Assistant Shawn was permitted to enter the office without knocking. Therefore, Assistant Mo was ready to enter the room to deliver some documents to him. Anyway, he had a few urgent documents with him and was in a hurry. Who would have thought that the moment he stepped into the room, he would see his boss lowering his head to kiss the kindergarten teacher?

The documents in his hands fell and Assistant Shawn could see the cold look on his boss's face. It was too scary and the temperature around him had dropped.

Suddenly, Assistant Shawn wished that he could turn back to a few minutes ago and knock on the door before entering.

Assistant Shawn snapped out of his trance and bent down to pick up the documents. "Sorry. You... carry on with—" He paused to take a deep breath to calm down. "I should go now."

Edith turned to Neil and saw that the ice block expression on his face had returned. She poked at his arms and blinked her eyes, asking him what they should do.

Neil heaved a sigh and rubbed his forehead. After a quick think, Neil walked over to Assistant Shawn. "Follow me."

Assistant Shawn took another deep breath. He picked up the documents in his hand and followed his boss to the meeting room. His face paled and his steps weakened.

The secretaries and staff who saw the look on Assistant Shawn's face were curious to know what had happened. Although Assistant Shawn could be strict, he was someone who always had a bright smile on his face.

Entering the meeting room, Assistant Shawn quickly closed the door behind him. He watched his boss walked around the room and finally stopped in front of him.

Seeing that his boss continued to stare at him without saying a word, Assistant Shawn grew anxious. Various thoughts came to his mind and he was worried that he might end up being killed now that he had seen something that he should not have.

Unable to bear the silence, Assistant Shawn finally spoke, "President Mo, you and Teacher Qian..."

"We are dating."

Assistant Shawn continued to stare at his boss in a daze, expecting his boss to say more, but after announcing the news. It took Assistant Shawn a few seconds to respond with an, "Ah?"

How could he have forgotten that his boss would not care to explain more after giving out the crucial information?

Neil narrowed his eyes at his assistant, wondering when did his assistant get so slow. If this were how he reacted every time he announced a project, they would lose millions, and he would have to fire him.

"Sorry." Assistant Shawn cleared his throat. "I was just surprised."

His expression darkened. "Why are you so surprised?"

"I was not expecting this sudden news," Assistant Shawn admitted. He suddenly recalled their conversation earlier that day. He suddenly understood why President Mo had asked him to set up an access card and had rejected him when he mentioned drafting a new contract.

It turned out that they don't need the contract at all.

Nanny Ann was going to return next week and Teacher Qian was going to continue and stay with the family. This time, not as the little miss's caretaker, but as President Mo's girlfriend!!

However, Assistant Shawn really could not figure out when did the two began their relationship. The last time he saw them together, President Mo still had that cold expression on his face.

If someone told him that his boss would be dating the little miss's kindergarten teacher, Assistant Shawn would have a hard time believing it. The two's characters were very different. Assistant Shawn could not imagine how a cheery person such as Teacher Qian was going to survive President Mo's coldness.

But just now... he could swear that he saw the smile on President Mo's face. This smile was not the same as that scary smile he had flashed to him a while ago. This smile... was very warm and full of gentleness.

Assistant Shawn was not only surprised to caught his boss kissing his niece's caretaker. He was also shocked as he watched how the gentle look on President Mo's face turned cold within seconds just because he had barged in and caught them... kissing.

Seeing that the look on his boss's face continued to stay the same, Assistant Shawn quickly tried to figure out a way to appease his boss. "President Mo, congratulation."

Suddenly, the coldness on Neil's face decreased a little bit. The corner of his lips tilted up into a rare smile. He had worked for Neil Mo for years and this was the first time he had seen this smile up close.

"I will be careful from now on," Assistant Shawn continued. "The next time Teacher Qian came over, I'll make sure not to disturb you."

The smile on Neil's face stretched up further, giving Assistant Shawn a heart attack.

"Assistant Shawn, you should know not to say a word to anyone about this. Not even to my parents."

"President Mo, you can be assured. You can trust me."

...

Neil finally returned to his office after discussing the important matters with Assistant Shawn in the meeting room. The little girl was still sleeping on the sofa, and Edith was browsing something on her phone.

Edith looked up from her phone and stood up to walk over to him. "How was it? What did you tell Assistant Shawn?"

"What else should I tell him?" Neil raised a brow. "Of course, I told him that we are dating."

Edith looked at the man who had a bragging expression on his face.

"Speaking about that, there is something that I have to ask you," Neil said. "Previously, you wanted to keep our relationship a secret from Hazel because you need time to adjust to it. Are you not adjusting well to this relationship yet? Have you not sort out your mind yet?"

Edith smiled as she saw the slight frown appearing on his face. However, the smile only made the man impatient.

"Just now, Assistant Shawn had seen us kissing.. Then, what are we supposed to do if Hazel stumbled into the same situation? Wouldn't she be upset that we have kept this a secret from her?" Neil asked. "Edith, I wanted to be able to act like a proper boyfriend in front of my niece, can't I?"

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Little Hazel was especially happy.

Her uncle had bought her to the fast-food restaurant to eat her favorite fried chicken wings. In the beginning, Hazel was hesitant to eat them. She could still remember that her mother had told her that eating that kind of food was unhealthy and therefore, she can only eat them on special occasions. Hazel had no intention of going against her mother's teaching.

Her uncle had explained that the chicken wings were his way to compensate for her fruits. However, as she looked at the chicken wings in front of her, Hazel felt a little bit guilty. It was only when her teacher explained that eating them once a month should be fine, that she finally took a bite at the chicken wings again.

When they arrived home, Hazel spent her time watching some of her favorite cartoons and caught her uncle and her teacher discussing something in the kitchen with a serious look on their face.

Hazel, who was sitting in the living room, was anxious and could not focus on her cartoon.

She seemed to remember that her uncle was supposed to convince her teacher to stay with them even after Nanny Ann returned. However, to this day, her uncle had not brought up that matter again.

The thought that her uncle had failed to convince her teacher made Hazel felt down.

She had reminded her uncle, again and again, to be adorable, but he won't listen to her and thus, failed on his mission to convince her teacher. Although her uncle had told her not to worry about this matter, Hazel thought that this was the time that she should interfere.

If she acted cutely in front of her teacher, perhaps she will give in to her and agreed to stay.

Just as the little girl was worrying over, the two grownups walked over to the sofa to her.

"Hazel, we have something to tell you," Neil announced. "Can we turn off the TV for a while?"

The little girl looked at her uncle's serious face and knew that he was going to tell her that he was going to announce that the living arrangement with Teacher Qian has ended and they will no longer have the chance to live together.

At the thought that she could no longer see her teacher every day, Hazel grew sad. There was a little pout on her lips and she lowered her head. "Oh."

Following her uncle's instruction, Hazel switched off the television and sat face to face with both her uncle and her teacher. Since she was expecting that her uncle was going to deliver bad news, Hazel was not in the mood to listen.

With the television turned off, the atmosphere in the room grew silent.

Hazel tilted up her head suddenly and blinked her eyes as she looked at her teacher. This was her final chance to entice her teacher to stay and she was not going to give up until the last moment.

Meanwhile, Edith thought that there was something wrong with Hazel. The little girl was beaming with cuteness and all she wanted was to pull the little girl into a hug and rained her soft face with kisses.

"Hazel, Nanny Ann will return next week," Neil said. His eyes were studying the little girl's expression.

Her eyes grew wide with excitement. "Really? When will Nanny Ann returned?"

She had not seen her nanny for months and was starting to miss the elder lady very much. Nanny Ann had stayed with her for years and would always spoil her. Back then, when she was a little bit naughty, Nanny Ann will always defend her whenever her mother grew angry.

However, at the thought that she will not be able to see Teacher Qian once her nanny returned, Hazel had a mixed feeling about it. She wanted Nanny Ann and Teacher Qian both around her and could not make a choice. Suddenly, Hazel did not know what she should do.

"Nanny Ann will return in two days," Neil said.

The little girl's gaze went to her teacher again.

Then... Teacher Qian will be leaving the house in two days? She will not be able to see her teacher again unless if she was at school?

Little Hazel grew sad at those thoughts.

"You don't look like you're happy," Neil said.

"I am happy that Nanny Ann will return," Hazel said. She lowered her head again. "But I am also a little bit unhappy."

"Why are you unhappy?" Edith asked.

Hazel turned to her teacher with an aggrieved look. "Teacher Qian, my uncle said that when Nanny Ann returned, you will no longer stay with me in this house."

Suddenly, Hazel's heart grew heavy and her eyes grew sour. Her lips trembled slightly.

"Teacher Qian, I know that I can see you again at school, but I really like having you around. Can't you stay with us?"

Edith gasped when she saw tears streamed down the little girl's face. She was not expecting that the little girl would cry. Edith was aware that Hazel liked her a lot, but she did not think that the girl would grow attached to her after living together for two months.

At that moment, Edith's heart grew soft. She walked over to the little girl and pulled her into her embrace. However, the moment Edith held the little girl tightly, Hazel's tears started to fall even more. "Don't cry. Why are you crying?"

"Teacher Qian, don't leave alright?" Hazel said between her sobs. "You said you were going to stay with me until I graduated from kindergarten."

Edith grew speechless.

She did remember saying those words when Neil's friend, Henry Wu offered a job at his security firm. But when she said she was going to stay, she meant as Hazel's kindergarten teacher, ah!

"Okay, don't cry." Edith wiped her tears with her fingers. "I am not going to leave. I already told your uncle that I am staying with you. Don't cry, alright?"

Hazel sniffled. Her gaze shifted between her teacher and her uncle before she spoke in a hoarse voice, "Really?"

"Un." Edith nodded. "I'm not lying to you."

Hazel turned to her uncle as if looking for confirmation. Once she saw him nodded, Hazel held on to her teacher tightly and buried her face in her embrace, turning that childish man who was watching the exchange, upset.

"We have another matter to tell you," Neil said once Hazel had calmed down.

Hazel looked up at her uncle with a puzzled look on her face. She had thought that this matter was settled and could not figure out what else her uncle was going to tell.

"This time, Teacher Qian will not stay in this house as your caretaker, but as my girlfriend," Neil spoke with a straight face. "Do you understand what that means?"

It took Hazel a while to process her uncle's words. Then, she turned to look at the two grownups with her wide eyes. Finally, her gaze stopped at her uncle, and she nodded. "Un. I know. It means you are dating."

Seeing that Hazel was accepting the news calmly, both Neil and Edith were at ease.

These days, it was not strange for children in Hazel's age to understand matters about dating and such.

A thought suddenly came to her mind and Hazel went to her uncle's side. Her tear-stained eyes grew wide with excitement. "Uncle, does that mean that later, when you married Teacher Qian, I can call her my auntie?"

Edith froze and wondered whether she had heard the wrong thing.

A glint of amusement flashed through Neil's eyes. "You want Teacher Qian to be your auntie?"

"Un." Hazel nodded again. "Alex always called Teacher Qian as Auntie Edith. He said he was allowed to call her that because his mom was a good friend to Teacher Qian. If

Teacher Qian became my auntie, then I can call her that too. I will be closer to Teacher Qian more than Alex."

Suddenly, Edith could guess that her friend, Lily might have something to do with this.

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With Nanny Ann returning to the city and their new living arrangement, Hazel no longer need to stay at the kindergarten until Edith clocked out. Instead, Driver Tang would pick her up at school and sent her back to Nanny Ann. With this new arrangement, Edith no longer needed to rush on her work to get back.

Edith was staying in the classroom to check on her lesson plan after the school session ended when someone knocked on the door. A while late, the door swung open and Headmistress Fu walked into the classroom.

"Headmistress Fu," Edith stood up and greeted.

The elderly lady smiled as she looked around. "Hazel Mo went back?"

"Hmm..." Edith nodded. "Hazel's previous caretaker, Nanny Ann had returned two days ago. Hazel doesn't have to wait until I finished my job before she can go back home."

"This is good." Headmistress Fu nodded. Her head lowered and her eyes were unfocused. It seemed as if she had something in her mind but was hesitant to say it out loud.

Edith continued to wait for Headmistress Fu to say a word and suddenly recalled that she had not updated the headmistress of her new living arrangement.

"Headmistress Fu, there is something else that I have forgotten to tell you."

The elder lady looked up with a puzzled look on her face.

"Although Nanny Ann has returned to look after Hazel, President Mo had asked me to continue and stay with them." Edith coughed in embarrassment. "You know about how Hazel was almost kidnapped recently. That girl was still traumatized by it and we thought that it would be best if I stay around with Hazel for a while longer. After all, that little girl has been attached to me after that incident."

Her gaze shifted away, knowing that she was not telling Headmistress Fu the whole truth.

However, to announce that she was living together with them because she was seeing Neil Mo was too embarrassing. Headmistress Fu was a good friend to Neil's mother, Sophie Huang. There was no doubt that once Edith announced that she was dating Neil, Headmistress Fu was going to let her friend know.

Although they have decided to let Hazel know about this matter, Edith was not in a hurry to let Neil's parents or her grandfather know of her relationship. After all, the relationship was still a baby. Just the thought of Neil's parents summoning them to see her make her scared. She was not ready to reach that stage yet.

"This is what I wanted to talk to you as well." Headmistress Fu had a smile on her face. "I was worried about Hazel's well being and was going to talk to you about this matter as well. Fortunately, you have discussed with President Mo and decided to continue to stay by the little girl's side."

Previously, her friend, Sophie Huang had asked her to look over for her son, Neil Mo. It seemed that Sophie had taken a liking to Edith and wanted to set up Neil and Edith together.

According to Sophie, her elder son, Neil Mo was someone who would not warm up to a person easily. Seeing that her son got along with Edith very well, Sophie had wanted to try her luck.

Headmistress Fu was still thinking of how she could help her friend with her request. But now that Headmistress Fu had heard that Edith will continue to stay with the Mo's, she was relieved. At least, she will know what to tell her friend when she called to ask for progress the next time.

Moreover, as the headmistress of Sunflower Kindergarten, Headmistress Fu was genuinely worried about Hazel. That little girl has been going through a lot after she suddenly lost her parents.

Headmistress Fu could see how Hazel liked Edith and had slowly begun to change. During the parents' child activity day a while ago, Headmistress Fu had witnessed how Hazel was slowly getting closer to her uncle. It was all due to Teacher Qian's help. Since Edith brought positive results for the uncle and niece, it would be good if she continued to interact with them more.

After spending almost ten minutes talking with Edith about Hazel, Headmistress Fu then left the classroom.

Edith was packing her bag and head home when her phone chimed. A smile curled on her lips upon seeing the name on the screen. Edith swiped her fingers on the screen and pressed the phone to her ears.

"Driver Tang said you are still at the kindergarten," Neil said as soon as he heard his girlfriend's voice. "Why are you not at home yet?"

"After a long school break, of course, there would be a pile of work waiting for me," Edith said with a sigh. "The kindergarten is planning to organize another activity soon and I have to look at them as well."

"It sounds like you are very busy as well."

Edith laughed. "It was only after the students had returned home that I can do other jobs. But recently, without Hazel accompanying me at the kindergarten, it was a little quiet."

"Then, would you like me to accompany you?"

Although Edith could not see his face, she could almost imagine the teasing look on Neil's face. "It's fine. I'm about to head back home as well."

"Then, come out quickly. I'm waiting for you outside."

"Ah?" Her movement paused. She checked at the time and saw that it was still early for Neil to clock out. "Aren't you supposed to be at work?"

"I'm the President of the company. If I can't end work early to pick up my girlfriend, then, what is the point of hiring those people? As long as I delegate the job well, everything should be fine."

Edith laughed upon hearing his words.

After she packed up her bag, Edith walked outside and found Neil's SUV parked not too far away from the entrance. The man stepped out from the driver's seat and helped her with the door. His hand stretched out to hold her just before Edith entered the vehicle.

His lips curled into a smile when he saw the puzzled look on his girlfriend's face. He lowered his head and whispered, "What do you think about going on a date with me?"

Edith raised a brow at him. "Have you forgotten that Hazel is at home, waiting for us?"

The smile on his lips stretched up, liking the way she had said those words. "It's fine. Nanny Ann will be looking after her. Besides, it was Hazel who thinks that I should spend more time with her auntie."

Edith chuckled as she recalled how the little girl was excited to find out that she was dating her uncle. To think that Hazel would be jealous of Alex because he got to address her as Auntie Edith...

Hazel was really, such an adorable child.

Seeing the dazed look on his girlfriend's face, Neil bent down to kiss her lips. "Come on.. I'll take you to a good place."

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As Neil's SUV drove away, a figure walked out of the shadow. It was Headmistress Fu and she was watching the direction where the vehicle had disappeared to with her eyes wide and her mouth slightly ajar.

The elderly lady stood at the same spot for almost two minutes before her knee finally grew tired and she finally snapped out of her thoughts. Headmistress Fu turned to her office and wondered if her eyes were playing tricks on her.

Just now, she did see that Neil Mo was kissing with her teacher, Edith.

From the way the two interacted, it does look like their relationship was more than she had thought.

Headmistress Fu continued to ponder about what she had seen until she concluded. She had seen the world long enough to know what was going on between Edith and Neil.

Since the two were obviously in a romantic relationship, then, what was the point of her friend asking her help to watch over the two and help them to develop a relationship?

Headmistress Fu sat on her chair and reached for her phone. She dialed the number and someone picked it up after a few rings.

"Why did you call me at this time," Sophie asked after exchanging a few pleasantries with her friend.

Headmistress Fu smiled before she spoke. "Sophie, I don't think you need me to look after your son and Teacher Qian. It seemed that we didn't have to intervene."

Sophie was surprised upon hearing that her friend had changed her mind about helping her. "What's wrong? What happened?"

"Do you know what did I just saw in front of the kindergarten?"

"What did you see?"

"It was your son, ah. I think he was here to pick up Teacher Qian after work. But that was not the most surprising thing at all."

Hearing that her son came to pick up Edith from work made Sophie a little bit excited. At least, she knew that her son was not totally hopeless at wooing a girl. However, her friend's tone and voice still made her worry and Sophie was unable to calm down.

"What is it?" Sophie asked.

"Just now, I saw them kissing." Headmistress Fu's voice grew softer as if she was embarrassed to say it aloud.

Because of her friend's soft voice, Sophie had thought that perhaps she had misheard things. "What did you say? I did not hear it clearly."

"Kissing. Your son and Teacher Qian were kissing at the entrance, ah."

Sophie let out a loud gasp, shocked upon hearing the news. "You sure it was my son?"

"Of course I'm sure. I might be old, but my eyesight is very good. It was definitely your son. I have seen his vehicle a few times and even memorized his plate number."

Sophie grew excited. Various thoughts came to her mind and she could not wait to call her son and verify the news with him. Then maybe she could ask them to come over to Z Town this weekend. Or perhaps she should drag her husband to L City to see those two.

Kissing. Her son was kissing a girl! Suddenly, Sophie was very proud of her son. A while later, the wedding firecrackers in her mind were lit up and Sophie started to plan a wedding...

"The way I see it, I think they should be in a relationship," Headmistress Fu continued. "Since they already progress this much, then you definitely don't need me to meddle in with their affair."

Sophie Huang was all smiles after she hangs up the phone call with her friend. With that joyous news, she went to find her husband to gossip about their son.

But just as Sophie told her husband about her idea about going over to L City to meet their future daughter-in-law, her husband, Lucas had quickly rejected her proposal.

Lucas Mo has been married to his wife for more than thirty years and knew well that his wife was excited.

"You have seen the way the two interacted during our last time in L City," Lucas said. "From the way I see it, their relationship had just begun. If we come over to see them,

Teacher Qian would be embarrassed. Then, how do you expect their relationship to progress?"

"Then... should we ask them to come here?"

Lucas heaved a long sigh. "If you ask them to come back and ask about their relationship, do you think Teacher Qian would not be scared? It was hard for your son to have a girlfriend. Do you want her to run away? The best thing we can do is to let them be. When it's time, your son will bring back the person he wanted to marry back home. What are you worrying about?"

After giving her husband's words of advice a long thought, Sophie finally decided not to interfere with her son's affair. She was still hoping to see her son coming back with a daughter-in-law for her. Hazel would need younger siblings to accompany her.

...

Meanwhile, the couple that the elders were worried about was having their dinner date. As they stepped arrived, Edith held on to Neil's arms as he led her inside the building.

Her eyes swept around the unfamiliar surroundings until the waiter showed them to their table. Once they were seated, Edith propped her chin with her elbow and looked at the man seated in front of her.

"Is this place expensive?"

Neil chuckled at her question. "Don't worry. I won't let my girlfriend starve and end up hunting for instant noodles in the kitchen cabinet in the middle of the night. This place should be to your liking. The atmosphere is good and their food is pretty good."

"President Mo, you take me out to this place to eat delicious food." Her lips curled into a teasing smile. "Aren't you afraid that your niece would be upset when she finds out?"

"She won't be upset. Earlier, Hazel told me that Nanny Ann was going to make her favorite food. Moreover..." His brow furrowed in displeasure. "Why are you still call me President Mo?"

"Why not? I think this name is cute."

"You don't work for me. Why do you want to call me that? Change it."

"Then, what do you like?" A mischievous smile curved on her lips. "Iceblock Mo?"

His eyes flashed with a dangerous glint. "What do you say?" He really wanted to bite this girl and see if she dared to call him Iceblock Mo again.

Edith subconsciously leaned back on her seat. Seconds later, she leaned closer to him and smiled again. "Then..." her voice was a whisper.. Edith tilted her head sideways and blinked. "Should I call you darling?"

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There was a long silence between them.

Seeing that the man was not answering but continued to stare at her, Edith started to wonder if he did not like that endearing term. Her lips parted to say something, but Edith stopped herself when she noticed the slight red on his neck that spread to his ear.

Suddenly, Edith was shocked at these findings.

It turned out that this man was embarrassed!

This man often had a cool expression on his face and it was only recently that he would show different expressions when he was with her. However, this expression was something she did not expect to see.

She did not think that this man would be this adorable! At this time, Edith suddenly had the urge to pinch him on both cheeks and planted a kiss on his lips.

A sense of déjà vu came over as she pictured that scene. Why does it feel as if she had done those things to him previously?

Just then, a waiter walked over to the table and handed over a menu.

Neil cleared his throat and the redness on his skins disappeared as he turned to look at the menu, pretending that nothing was wrong.

A soft laugh escaped her before Edith turned to look at the menu as well. A few seconds later, her gaze grew softer.

The last time he had brought her to that expensive restaurant, Edith had complained about the price and portion. So this time, Neil had decided to pick a place that would not make her uncomfortable. The price of the food was not ridiculously expensive and Edith hoped that the portion would be generous too.

Once the waiter left with their food order, the couple spent their time chatting about various things. However, their conversation soon changed its direction to Hazel.

Putting down the cutlery in his hand, Neil stared at the woman in front of him with a slightly displeased look on his expression. "Aren't we on a date? Why are we talking about Hazel?"

Edith laughed. "Darling, if Hazel heard those words, she would definitely be upset." The corner of her lips turned up slightly upon noticing how he froze when she used that endearing term. "You don't like this name?"

"No. It's fine," Neil said quickly. He lifted his fist to his mouth and coughed. "I'll get used to it."

The redness on his neck returned and Edith decided to restrain herself from teasing him lest he would choke on his meal. She watched as he picked up his cutlery again and stared at him for a long time.

"I still find this unusual," Edith said.

"What is?"

"Us. Dating."

Neil cocked a brow. "What's so unusual about it?"

Edith took a sip from her drink. "To tell you the truth, I was preparing myself to give you a confession. The last time you asked me to stay until Hazel is a lot better, I could not give you an answer right away because of this."

His eyes flashed, and Neil stared at Edith, waiting for her to continue.

After her drunken confession, he was aware that Edith had liked him. Therefore, when she did not give him an answer after he asked her to stay, Neil has been puzzled over this matter.

Edith was now his girlfriend and she had chosen to stay and continued to live with them. Although that matter about living together was resolved, Neil would sometimes wonder why she did hesitate at the beginning.

"I wanted to prepare an escape route," Edith continued. "If you rejected me, then, of course, I will reject that offer. I would not be able to face you if you rejected my confession. Surprisingly, you confessed to me first." She blinked her eyes at him and her lips stretched up into a wide smile. "Darling, when do you start to like me?"

Neil chuckled. He was planning to keep her drunken confession a secret and naturally, he did not want to mention that it was after that drunken confession and kiss that made him realized that his gaze would often follow her.

"But why do you think that us, dating was unusual?" Neil decided to steer the conversation somewhere else.

There was a brief silence between them. Edith heaved a long sigh and spoke, "Of course, it was because of our differences. This matter will definitely rise later anyway, so I am going to bring it out now."

A slight scrunch appeared in the space between his brow as he guessed at where this conversation was heading to.

"Although I really like you, there are some things that I worry about as well. For example, our social status is different," Edith said. "You... don't think that us, dating will not be a problem later?"

Neil was amused by her question. "What sort of problem?"

"For example, what if your parents did not like me? For someone like you, isn't it preferable to be with someone who can help with your company's growth or such? Don't you mind what others are going to say if they knew that you are dating a kindergarten teacher?"

"Edith Qian, have you been watching too much drama?"

Edith laughed. "No. They are serious questions."

"If I am incapable to build up the company without having a political marriage or such, then I don't deserve to be in this position, don't you think?" Neil raised a brow.

Edith thought of his words and thought that his words do make sense.

"You don't have to worry about my parents either," Neil continued. "The scene where my mother would come to you and offer you money to leave me would not happen. My parents trusted my judgment enough to know that I will not date just anyone. As long as I like that person, my parents will agree. After all, if I am marrying, I will be the one who will spend a lifetime with that person. Not my parents."

Edith lowered her gaze and was suddenly embarrassed for asking such questions.

Was she such a superficial person?

"You have spent a week with my parents when they stayed in L City previously. You should figure out what kind of person they are," Neil said. He pushed his plate aside and leaned forward to look into her eyes. "Edith Qian, I don't need you to match me. I just need you to be by my side. As long as you can be the place where I can return to, that is enough. What others say or think about us isn't important to me.. What's important is what you think about us. Do you understand what I am saying?"

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Edith thought that after talking with Neil during dinner, she had liked him a little bit more.

This man might be a man of a few words to others, but he would say more than he usually does to convince her. Last time, he had convinced her that the reason he had kissed her had nothing to do with him wanting her to stay for Hazel. This time, he had convinced her that he did not mind her background and she should not be insecure when they are together.

She did not need to match him and he did not need her to help him to boost his career.

If he wanted to talk about business, he can always do that with the directors, managers, or his business partner. What he needed was for her to stay by his side and be the person where he could return to whenever he was tired. The person he needed was someone who can accompany him in life. As long as they love each other, everything else would not matter.

Whenever Edith recalled his words again, she had the urge to swoon.

Her boyfriend was good looking, rich, and knew the right thing to say to her. At the thought that she was currently dating him, Edith had a sense that she had won a huge jackpot.

"What are you spacing out about?" Neil asked.

The two of them went back to their place after their meal as Edith was worried that Hazel would be upset if they stayed out for a long time. He had pulled his vehicle into the parking lot a minute ago when he noticed that the person beside him was staring at the scenery with a silly smile on her face.

Edith snapped out of her trance and turned to Neil. "Nothing." She beamed with a smile. "Just thought that you are so good to me."

Neil chuckled at her answer. He stared at her face for a while and thought of her question earlier that he had evaded. "In fact, I do like it when you acted a little bit like a little gangster."

Her brow raised questioningly. "Why? Because you haven't met a female gangster before?"

His hand suddenly moved to pinch her cheek. "No. I've met a few female gangsters before, but none of them are as cute as you."

Her heart skipped a beat and Edith thought that this man was getting better with his sweet words. Perhaps, she should find a new nickname for him. It seemed that Iceblock Mo was no longer suitable for him.

"Just that, I like it when you can act freely and just be yourself." He considered for a while, and continued, "Being together with me would not be easy for you. There will always be others who are going to say that we are not compatible. Whatever happened, I just wanted you to continue to be yourself."

Unable to hold on against the temptation, Edith took off the seat belt, held his face in both her hands, and kissed his lips. After a while, she pulled away and rested her forehead against his.

"What are you doing?" His gaze stared at her moist lips.

"Playing hooligan." Her lips stretched up into a smile.

Seeing the smile, Neil shifted his gaze to meet hers. His throat rolled upon meeting her intent gaze. Her bright eyes pulled his into hers, not letting him look away for a second. The atmosphere in the car was very quiet and the only sound that could be heard was their breathing.

Her hand that was resting on both his cheek slowly moved down until they encircled his neck. A while later, Edith shifted her gaze to his lips. Then, she leaned forward to kiss him again. Her kisses were slow and unhurried. She was taking her time to taste his lips, trying to tell him exactly what she felt towards him at this time.

And the man obediently reciprocated her kisses. His right arms wrapped around her waist, holding her in place. And a while later, his hands grew restless and he started to caress the area around her waist and her back.

Neil wanted to feel more of her, but at this time, he could only swallow to suppress his feelings, knowing that the timing was not right.

"Neil Mo," Edith whispered against his lips. "I think I like you even more now."

A low, reverberating laugh escaped him. "Are you trying to seduce me?"

Her gaze flickered to meet his. Seeing the black pool staring back at her, Edith suddenly sensed an incoming danger. When his hands moved away from her waist, Edith heaved a breath of relief. Slowly, she backed away from him, creating a distance between them.

"We should go up," Edith said. "Hazel is still waiting for us and Nanny Ann will need to head back to her place."

His eyes narrowed dangerously, but there was a hint of playfulness on his expression. "Trying to escape after having your way with me?"

"Darling, you are the one who tried to seduce me first." Edith blinked her eyes innocently at him. "You said those sweet words to seduce me, isn't that it?" She tilted her head sideways and swiftly slipped out of the vehicle before the man in could do anything to her.

Seeing the helpless look in his eyes, Edith started to laugh. Then, she stood at the side of his vehicle as she waited for the man to calm down.

When the couple returned to the house, Hazel sat up from the sofa and greeted them at the door cheerily.

A strange feeling seeped into her heart and Edith suddenly thought this situation was almost the same as if having a child excitedly greet her at the door as she came back from work!

After exchanging a few words with Nanny Ann, the elderly woman went downstairs and Driver Tang sent her back to her place.

Edith accompanied Hazel to play around for a little bit and read her a book to sleep. When she walked out of Hazel's bedroom, Edith found Neil stood in front of the door.

He was holding a mug of warm milk in one hand, and her water bottle in another hand. The empty bottle was now refilled.

"Drink this first," Neil said, handing over the mug to her. He watched her drink her milk and retrieved the empty mug from her. Then, he stretched his hand to pass her bottle. "I have them refilled for you."

Edith smiled. She always had this habit to enter the kitchen in the middle of the night to refill her bottle, but after they started dating, her nice boyfriend had taken this task over. "Thank you."

"Alright. Go in." Neil held the door for her and kissed her cheek. "Good night."

Closing the door, Edith leaned on the door with a smile on her face. Although they were living together, she still got to experience the feeling of having her boyfriend sending her to her door after a date.

Edith thought that this feeling was pretty good.

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The secretaries who were stationed outside President Mo's office noticed the recent change in their boss.

At a certain fixed hour, Assistant Shawn will step out of the President's office and reminded the secretaries to not let anyone disturb President Mo for about half an hour.

No one knew why Assistant Shawn gave that order, or why President Mo needed a half an hour break when he used to be a workaholic. However, the secretaries noticed something.

After that thirty minutes break, President Mo's mood would improve greatly.

For example, a week ago, a manager had made some mistakes on a very important proposal, causing President Mo to be in a very bad mood. Anyone who entered his room would be sent out crying. Even Assistant Shawn suggested everyone be on their best behavior if they did not want to provoke their boss's anger.

However, his bad mood miraculously disappeared after that half-hour break.

As the secretaries were almost all female, they were naturally very interested in gossip. Their department was usually quiet as they shared the same floor with President Mo, and gossiping about their boss was very thrilling and entertaining at the same time.

Some rumors circulated among the secretaries, but none of them dared to spread it out to others and risk losing their job. Whatever was said in President Mo's secretary department stayed within the department.

Curious at what was going on behind the closed door, a brave secretary decided to inquire Assistant Shawn about this matter before the others' imagination run wild.

Assistant Shawn merely told them that during this short break, President Mo was on a call with someone important.

Suddenly, everyone was curious to know who was this important person. One of the secretaries deduced that President Mo was on the phone with Little Miss Hazel.

Every one of them had seen the little girl coming over to the office a few times and knew how President Mo doted on the little girl.

However, this phone call happened while Hazel was still in school, and therefore, this assumption was rejected. Then, someone came out with another guess: President Mo was on the phone with his girlfriend.

None of them had heard any rumors or news that President Neil Mo was seeing anyone. However, they soon noticed that slight change in their boss. For example, his expression was screaming that he was in love.

Soon, the group of secretaries concluded that their guess this time should be right. But of course, until the day President Mo's girlfriend showed up at his office, none of the secretaries dared to spread anything to others.

Of course, both Neil and his assistant were unaware of what was going on in the president's secretary department.

At this time, Neil was on his thirty minutes break. It might seem as if he was browsing through a few documents on his desk, but if one looked closer, they would notice that his Bluetooth headset was on and that his phone was facing him.

Rather than saying that Neil was on a phone call, it would be accurate to say that he was on a video call with his girlfriend. During this time, his girlfriend was on a break and this was the only time he could give her a call.

On the screen, Edith was seen having her lunch with her ears plugged with earphones.

Although the two might not be speaking at this time, they were indeed on a video call. They were at two different places doing their own thing, but this was their way of spending time with each other.

Edith took a final bite at her lunch and looked up at the camera. "I'm done with my lunch." She lifted her lunchbox to show it to him as proof.

"Already?" A deep frown appeared on his face.

"Darling, it's almost time." Edith picked up her lunch box and smiled. "I still need to meet the other teachers and discuss the kids upcoming activities. We'll see each other at home, alright? What do you want to eat for dinner?"

Neil opened his mouth to answer, but suddenly recalled something important. "I won't be able to have dinner with you and Hazel tonight. An important client comes over and I have to accompany them for dinner. Please inform Hazel that I will not be able to come back."

"Alright." Edith nodded. A thought crossed her mind and Edith narrowed her eyes as she looked at him. "Are you going alone? Or with a companion?"

Neil chuckled, knowing that her girlfriend was checking whether he will bring one of his secretaries with him. "Assistant Shawn will accompany me. I don't usually take a female companion with me unless necessary. If I have to take someone, I will let you know. Or else... you can always come with me."

"What am I going to do while you were on a business discussion with others?"

"Just stay around where I can see you."

Edith laughed at his answer. "I'd better stay home and accompany Hazel. Remember not to drink too much. Don't drive by yourself. Have Driver Tang send you back instead."

"Un. I know." Neil nodded obediently.

After exchanging a few more sweet words, Neil finally ended the phone call and let his girlfriend return to her job. A few minutes later, there was a knock on the door and Assistant Shawn walked in with a few documents in his hand.

Seeing that his boss' mood had improved tremendously after that phone call, Assistant Shawn let out a long sigh in relief. Assistant Shawn still found that it was hard to believe that his boss was dating the kindergarten teacher. But seeing his boss's good mood after his phone call, Assistant Shawn thought that Teacher Qian's influence on President Mo was not that small.

Although the days were getting colder, the temperature surrounding President Mo was not as cold.

"President Mo, these are the documents that you asked me to fetch," Assistant Shawn spoke as he placed the documents on the desk.

"Thank you." Neil reached for the documents and scanned through the contents. Sensing that his Assistant was still in front of him, Neil raised his head and cocked a brow. "Is there anything else?"

"Yes." Assistant Shawn hesitated, knowing that he was going to deliver news that his boss was not going to like. His boss was in such a good mood after his routine phone call and he hated to be that person who was going to ruin his mood.

"President Mo, I received news that Jamie Xu is returning to L City in two weeks," Assistant Shawn said.

Neil's expression darkened after hearing that name.

"Last time, you asked Jamie to conclude the project in Country N and returned immediately," Assistant Shawn reminded him.

"I know." A deep frown appeared on Neil's face.. "But for that person to return at this time... I'm afraid there will be trouble."

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Neil entered the private hall with his assistant trailing closely to him. The lively atmosphere suddenly halted with his presence. It was not until Neil had stopped and swept his gaze on the room did the lively atmosphere returned.

A few of his close acquaintances walked over to greet him and exchanged a few words. Knowing that it was rare for Neil Mo to come over and joined a gathering like this, a few of them tried to take this chance to talk to him and casually mentioned business cooperation.

At this time, a man in his early forty walked over to him with a smile. He had salt and pepper hair and an amiable smile. Although this man was slightly older than most of the party attendees, his handsome look could still steal a few young girls' hearts.

Neil walked over to him and stretched his hand. "Mr. Wang, thank you for your invitation."

"Mr. Mo." Mark Wang gave the man in front of him a look over before he flashed him an amiable smile. "In the past, it was always your little brother who came over to my party. This is the first time you're here." He coughed and his smile turned apologetic. "I'm sorry about the passing of Adam."

Neil could still remember how his brother had talked about Mark Wang in the past. According to Adam, he did not like Mark Wang very much simply because the two of them had similar characters. Both Adam Mo and Mark Wang were people who liked to hide their feelings and thinking behind their smiles.

However, Adam's relationship with Mark was considered good. When Adam and Claire passed away, this man had attended his funeral to send him off.

If it was not for this man's invitation, Neil would definitely send Assistant Shawn or any of his directors to attend this party in his stead.

The two of them exchanged a few words and discussed their business collaboration. At this time, a waiter walked over with a tray of drinks. Mark picked up a wine glass and handed it over to Neil. Then, he picked another one for himself. "I hope you will have a good time at this party."

Seeing that the man still have other guests that he needed to entertain, Neil then turned around and find a quiet place to sit down.

Assistant Shawn took the wine glass from his boss and put it aside. Then, he started to walk around and mingle with the others in his boss's stead. Knowing that Assistant Shawn was someone that Neil had trusted a lot, they did not waste their time to get close to him. After all, to get an appointment with Neil Mo, one must go through his strict assistant first.

Neil sat down quietly as he observed everything around him. Though his stance might look as if he was not paying attention to his surroundings, Neil was actually observing the people who were presented at this dinner party.

A lot of them were someone very close to his brother, Adam Mo.

And his other intention of coming over to this business party was to investigate Adam's circle of friends and see if any of them would know anything about whatever Adam was working on before the accident.

His gaze turned disappointed when he could not find the person he was looking for.

The phone in his pocket vibrated and a smile appeared on his face upon seeing a message from his girlfriend, reminding him not to drink too much.

Suddenly, Neil sensed a movement and found that a strong smell of perfume assaulted his nose. Turning to his left, the frown on his face deepened when Neil met Amanda's pitiful gaze. He immediately stood up to leave, but that person had grabbed at his wrist, preventing him from leaving.

"Miss Shen, what are you doing?" His gaze moved towards the hand that was on his wrist. "Let me go."

Earlier today, Assistant Shawn had announced that Jamie was going to return to L City in two weeks. Although Jamie's return was indeed good news for his company, Neil was not very happy. And now that his ex-girlfriend had appeared in front of him, all he could recall was the way how the two had betrayed him.

Jamie took it as a challenge to seduce Neil's girlfriend, and Amanda had taken the hook. In the end, it was Amanda who took the initiative to find Jamie that night.

If it was not because they had known each other from a young age, Neil would not hesitate to treat his friend as a stranger, just like how he had treated Amanda.

"No. I just need to talk to you for a while." Amanda Shen spoke. She bit at her lips and stood up next to Neil. "I-I just returned from Country T a couple of months ago, so I did not know. Neil, I'm sorry about Adam. My condolences."

Previously, when the two were still dating, Amanda was lucky to meet with Adam a few times and knew how close the two brothers were. She did not expect that Adam and his wife had lost their lives in an accident.

"The small girl that I saw at the private kitchen last time... is she Hazel? Adam and Claire's daughter?"

His expression darkened. "Miss Shen, if I found out that you were trying to get close to my niece, I will not hesitate to harm you."

Amanda laughed, but there was sadness in her eyes. "Do you think I am that kind of person?"

"We might have known each other in the past, but now, I don't know what kind of person you are, Miss Shen."

His words stabbed her in the heart, but Amanda knew that she was the one who had hurt this man first. Seeing that he was about to leave again, Amanda grabbed at his wrist one more time.

"Neil, wait." There was a trace of anxiousness in her tone. "I came here knowing that you are going to attend this business party. Neil, I need your help."

Neil flung her hand away from his. "I heard that Jamie will return to L City in two weeks? Why don't you go and find that person? I'm sure Jamie will not hesitate to help you."

Her face paled as if blood was drained from it. Amanda watched as Neil disappeared into the crowd with her eyes and nose stung. The wetness behind her eyes was threatening to fall.

In the past, this man had treated her the best, but she had made a mistake and now her life was in a mess. She did not know who she could turn to and can only hope that Neil would be willing to help her because of their previous relationship. But it seemed that she was wrong. This man will no longer treat her warmly like he did in the past.

Amanda swept her gaze around the room and suddenly paused when she saw a familiar face. Seeing the man smiled back at her, Amanda started to tremble in fear.

She was doomed.

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The living room was dimly brightened by the light from the kitchen when Neil entered the house. His gaze swept around the room and he immediately found his girlfriend sitting on the sofa, looking back at him with a smile on her face.

"You're home."

"Why are you not sleeping yet?"

Both of them spoke at the same time.

Edith laughed and stood up to approach him. "I couldn't sleep anyway, so I waited for you. You should be tired. Go have a shower and rest early." A frown appeared on her face. "Have you eaten?"

She seemed to remember that Sophie had mentioned that this man would sometimes skip his meal. Since he went to a business party, Edith was worried that this man would forget to have a proper meal when he was socializing and discussing business.

"I can whip up something quick for you if you haven't."

Neil stared at her for a while and slowly nodded.

"How's a bowl of noodle? Are you okay with that?"

Neil nodded again and watched as the woman turned around to head over to the kitchen. Just then, he stretched his hand and grabbed her shoulder. He turned her body around to face him and held her in his embrace.

A giggle escaped her. "What are you doing?"

"Recharging," Neil said.

"Darling, are you drunk? No. You don't seem drunk."

"I don't drink that much," Neil admitted. "Edith, just let me hug you for a while, alright?"

Edith let him buried his face in her hair before her hands moved to return his embrace. Her hand on his back moved slowly, gently soothing him. If she did not notice it by now, she would be an idiot. Her boyfriend came home in a bad mood and this was what she can do to pacify him.

After a couple of minutes, Neil released her and planted a kiss on her forehead. "I'm hungry."

Edith let out a helpless smile and turned around to the kitchen. She took out a few ingredients in the refrigerator, took out a pot, and began to make him a bowl of noodles.

Neil sat down at the bar counter and watched as she cooked. His lips tilted up into a smile as he continued to watch her prepare the noodles silently. Neil thought that he was getting used to watching this scene and was enjoying how peaceful it was. Suddenly, he felt a lot better.

He had indeed returned home in a bad mood. Neil was not someone who would frequently go to a business party as he did not like the crowd and how some people would come and pester him. In the past, he always let Adam attend these occasions for the company. Now that Adam was no longer around, Neil had no choice but to show up and give a face to their business partners.

However, he had run into Amanda Shen and the thought of what happened in the past disgusted him. Earlier that day, Assistant Shawn had informed him that his friend, Jamie Xu was going to return soon.

As Neil continued to look at the woman who was concentrating on her cooking, Neil was suddenly worried about what will happen if Edith ran into his friend later. After all, Jamie was really good with words and that was how Amanda was attracted to that person.

Neil snapped out of his thought when a hot bowl of noodles appeared in front of him. Edith handed him his chopsticks and urged him to eat. The delicious aroma of the noodle wafted to his nose and Neil suddenly found that he was hungry. He took a bite of the chicken noodles and ate slowly.

When he looked up again, Edith had slipped into the stool across him. She propped her chin with both hands and stared at him with her bright eyes. Neil swallowed at the way she was staring at him.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Admiring your looks." Edith pointed at the bowl. "Don't mind me. Go on and eat more."

Neil felt the corner of his lips twitched. How was he supposed to eat with the way she was staring intently at him?

His gaze shifted between the person in front of him and the bowl of noodles. "Would you like some?"

"Darling, don't tempt me. I'm trying to restrain myself from eating past dinner time."

His brow shot up. "Why?"

Previously, he had caught her eating noodles in the kitchen past midnight a few times and knew that she loved eating them.

Edith let out a long sigh. "Mister, I am now in a relationship. Therefore, I need to keep my body fit and watch my weight. The world is full of temptation. What am I supposed to do if my boyfriend runs away with someone else?"

Her dramatic tone and expression made him laugh. "What nonsense are you sprouting?"

Edith went back to stare at him and smiled, knowing that his mood had slightly turned better.

"Then what about me?" Neil asked.

"What about you?"

"You let me have this bowl of noodle past midnight. What if I get fat instead?"

"Then, mission accomplished!" Edith spoke happily. She watched the puzzled look on his face and continued, "You are too good looking. Of course, if you gained a little bit of weight, the girls would stop looking at you. Right. But you are still very rich and those girls will still look at you even if you're a little fat. Darling, trying to keep you away from others will be very difficult."

"Can't you just beat them with your martial arts skills?" Neil decided to play along.

Her eyes sparkled. "That's true. Darling, you're a genius!"

His eyes narrowed, but Neil could not help but laugh at her words. "Edith Qian, sometimes I wonder what was inside your head."

Edith stared at him for a few seconds and spoke, "Feeling better yet?"

The smile on his face froze as he finally understood that Edith was only trying to cheer him up by speaking nonsense.

"Why are you in a bad mood?" Her tone turned gentle. "You ran into something difficult? Although I might not understand your business, I can always listen if you need someone to talk to."

"It's not that." He let out a sigh. "I ran into some people I don't wish to run into."

Edith tilted her head sideways and made a wild guess. "Your ex-girlfriend?"

Neil was surprised, but then, his head moved to nod. "Hmm."

"Is she pretty?"

A chuckle escaped him. Amanda was indeed very pretty, but these days, he would only feel disgusted whenever he saw her.

"No." Neil shook his head. "You're prettier."

Just then, Neil felt her lips touching his in brief seconds. He looked at the woman in front of him with a dazed expression as he was not expecting the kiss to come.

"A reward." Edith smiled happily.. "For giving me the correct answer."

Chapter 160 – Past Relationships

Neil was momentarily dumbfounded at what just happened that it took him a few seconds to recover. He was rewarded with a kiss because he had said that she was prettier than his ex-girlfriend.

Looking at the satisfied smile on the woman across from him, Neil let out a chuckle.

That's right. When your girlfriend asked you who was prettier, you should always tell your girlfriend that she was prettier. It was common knowledge. But in the past, her darling had teased her and said things that make her want to beat him. Therefore, Edith was not expecting that he would say right away that she was prettier.

Perhaps it was because Edith was slightly younger than him, or perhaps it was because she spent a lot of time surrounded by kindergartners, but Neil found that Edith can be quite playful. The two of them had different personalities but Neil thought that this difference made him very comfortable around her.

Neil continued to eat his noodle when he heard her voice again.

"Tell me the truth," Edith paused and waited until he lifted his head to meet her gaze. "How many times have you been in a relationship?"

Neil stared back at her curious gaze and answered. "Twice before you."

"Twice is a lot," Edith commented. "It turns out that you were not exactly an ice block after all."

Neil shot her an angry look, but the woman merely laughed at him. Now that they are in a relationship, this silly woman was no longer afraid of him when he gave her this look.

"The first one was during high school. We are in the same club. The members started to pair us together and we just go along with it. In the end, we broke up a few weeks before we graduated. According to her, I have never treated her like how a boyfriend should have."

Edith heaved a sigh. "I don't know whether I should be jealous that this girl was your first love or pity her for having a teenage Neil Mo as her boyfriend."

His movement paused. Neil thought that his high school romance could not be considered a romance and that girl was not his first love. Just because they spent a lot of time together and everyone had said that they were compatible, he had decided to go along with that play.

Now that he thought about it, their usual 'date' was only when they met together to discuss their club activities. On the surface, she was his girlfriend, but they were not really in a relationship.

"Then, what about the second?" Edith asked.

Neil raised a brow at her. "Are you sure you wanted to hear me talking about other girls?"

"What other girls? It's not them that I'm interested in. I am interested in knowing your past." She hesitated for a while and continued, "But if you did not want to say it, then, that's alright. I won't ask."

"The second one was three years ago," Neil spoke after a brief hesitation. "She was a friend of Adam and Claire."

"Then, who did the chasing?"

He glanced at the woman in front of him and was slightly disappointed that she was not a little bit upset.

Neil fought against the temptation to lean forward and take a bite at her cheek to vent his frustration. In the end, he lowered his gaze to the noodle bowl.

"She said she liked me." He stirred at his now soggy noodles and continued, "Seeing that she was very close to my brother and sister-in-law and that she had a good character, I agreed to go out with her. But in the end, we broke up because she had a change of heart."

When he looked up again, Neil was surprised to see that his silly woman was looking at him with an excited expression on her face. He had just mentioned to her about his past relationship, why was she excited?

Moreover, from the words he used, anyone could sense that it was the girl who had left him. His silly woman did not show her pity and instead, was very happy about it.

Neil soon found his answer when Edith spoke again.

"Darling, does that mean that I am the first person you've chased?"

Neil was startled at first. He thought over her words and his lips tilted into a smile. "I guess you could say it like that."

Seeing how the smile on her face stretched up until her eyes resembled a crescent, Neil wondered if his silly woman would be disappointed if he mentioned her drunk confession.

On second thought, Neil decided that a drunk confession could not be considered a proper confession. Under the influence of alcohol, one's mind was not in the best condition. Therefore, he should not count that as a confession.

"Then what about you?" Neil pushed the bowl aside and propped his elbows on the table. As he leaned forward, the space between them decreased. "How many times have you been in a relationship?"

"Just once," Edith admitted.

"Was he good looking?"

Edith laughed at his question. "Darling, can anyone be compared to you?"

A satisfied smile curled on his lips.

Edith let out a long sigh and spoke again, "At that time, I was slightly drunk, so I told him that if I can beat him in a fight, he should be my boyfriend." A smug smile appeared on her lips. "I took him down in ten seconds and he had no other choice since I won the bet. After being in a relationship for half a year, we decided that we were both suitable as friends. We just did not like each other that way."

A slight frown appeared on her face when she sensed that something was wrong. Neil's sharp eyes told her that he was upset. "Darling, what's wrong?"

They were casually mentioning each other's past relationship, and Edith could not figure out which part of her words had made him upset.

Could it be that her darling was upset that it was she who took the initiative to chase after someone else?

"Edith Qian, you are not allowed to drink without my presence," Neil said after a long silence.

He was upset at hearing that she had once confessed to another boy while she was drunk. Not too long ago, she had told him that she liked him due to the influence of alcohol. He did not think that she had done the same to another man.

"Why not?"

"I'm afraid that you would confess your love to another man when you're drunk."

Edith stared at him in a puzzled. "But, I don't have a habit to give out a confession when I'm drunk."

Edith Qian, are you sure?

Neil felt the corner of his lips twitched. "Just don't drink without my presence." He patted at her hair and sighed. "Listen to me.. Be good."