

A Lifetime With You –

Chapter 33-64

Chapter 33 - Playing By The Beach -

After driving for a few more minutes, Neil Mo finally saw the beach in front of him and followed as per Edith's instruction to park under a shady tree. The three of them get off the vehicle and the sea breeze blew gently.

Neil started to scan the area and was momentarily stunned.

The sands were white and the beach was clean. Upon closer look, Neil began to see that that they were at a small bay. The sunlight reflected against the water, creating a dazzling glare. The seawater was sparkling.

Hazel Mo saw these scenes and was very excited that she could not help but to run forward. The little girl stopped just as she reached the water. The wave rolled to her feet and Hazel took a step back, with her eyes widened in surprise. Looking at her wet sandal, Hazel then turned around and ran to her teacher.

"What's the matter?" Edith raised a brow. "Are you scared of the seawater?"

Hazel hesitated. She was a bit scared when the wave rolled to her feet, but she did not want to admit it. What if her teacher did not want to play with her when she found out?

"You don't have to worry, the beach in this area isn't that deep. If you're still afraid, then stay close to me," Edith said. "I will be with you and make sure that you are safe."

Hazel's eyes brightened with joy and she nodded excitedly. "Teacher Qian, do you know how to swim?"

"Un," Edith nodded and laughed. She stretched her hand to touch Hazel's hair and spoke, "I grew up around here. Every day, after school, my friends and I would come to the beach and we would play in the water just before the sky turns dark. After a long time of practicing, I'm quite good at swimming."

Hazel shifted her gaze back at the seawater and wonder if she would be good at swimming after a lot of practice. Although her late mother had taken her to the swimming classes in the past, she was still not very good at it. The thought of being drowns scared her and Hazel was afraid of getting into water without a floater.

"What do you want to do? If you don't want to play in the water, we can just walk around or play with the sand," Edith suggested. She raised her head to look at the sky and a gentle sigh escaped. "The weather is so great. If we brought along some food and drinks, we can have a little picnic around."

"Teacher Qian, let's come here and have a picnic next time."

Edith looked at the little girl beside her and laughed. Looking at Hazel's big round eyes, she did not have the heart to say no to her. Although Edith was quite sure that there would not be another chance for her to come over to the beach with the little again, she did not hesitate to agree. "Alright. Sure. Let's come over again the next time."

Hazel Mo's smile widened upon hearing her teacher's words. The next time, when she comes again, she wanted to take her grandparents with her. She has to ask her grandmother to prepare some food so that they can have a picnic.

Those thoughts made Hazel very happy. She held her teacher's hand and pulled her towards the water. "Teacher Qian, let's just play by the water."

"Okay," Edith readily nodded before she led Hazel to the water again and the two of them were playing with waves. Soon, the hem of Hazel's dress was wet with seawater, but the little girl had ignored her wet dress and keep playing around.

Meanwhile, Neil Mo has been looking around the area ever since they arrived. Seeing that her niece had pulled her teacher to play, Neil took this chance to survey the area.

His eyes flashed brightly at the thought of the potential of what this place can be. He could almost imagine building a few villas around the location where his SUV was parked. Then they would have wonderful views of the small bay every day. The sunset would be so pretty to look at.

Neil Mo shifted his gaze towards the sun and paused as he saw the two girls playing by the water. Hazel was playing chase with waves and laughed happily as the waves crash to her feet.

Looking at the smile on the little girl's face, Neil was momentarily stunned. He could not remember when was the last time he had to see his niece laughing happily like this.

It seemed as if she had not laughed like this ever since her parents had passed away. Neil turned his gaze to the woman who was accompanying her niece and the conversation between him and his mother earlier today resurfaced in his mind.

His mother had told him that she wished for Hazel to spend more time with this teacher. Neil's gaze softened as he thought of how the kindergarten teacher had almost the same experience with Hazel. They both had lost their parents at an early age.

Neil and his parents often worry about how Hazel was going to grow up as she was very close to her parents. But as he continued to watch the kindergarten teacher, Neil had this thought that his niece, Hazel Mo was going to grow up just fine.

He hoped that this girl will continue to have the smile on her face and would continue to laugh freely just like she did at this moment.

Just as he was watching the two girls playing at the water, Neil saw that his niece had suddenly stopped and screamed.

Panicked, Neil ran towards the little girl with worry on his face. Although the two were playing where the water had only reached to Hazel's calf, there were a lot of other dangers.

What if Hazel had accidentally stepped on some sharp object like glasses and bleed? What if she was stung by jellyfish? A lot of scenarios appeared in his mind and Neil's face paled.

Neil went over to Hazel and knelt beside her. The water splashed around them as he gave her a proper look to check whether his niece was with an injury. "What's wrong? Are you injured?"

Hazel stared back at her uncle with a dazed expression. Then, she shifted her gaze towards the water and suddenly, there was a disappointment on her expression.

"Uncle! You scared those fishes away!"

"Huh?"

"There were a few small fishes around my legs just now. They were so tiny and cute!" Hazel spoke. "But once you come, they had swum away."

Neil turned his gaze towards the water and from where he stood, he saw a few tiny fishes swimming around. The water around the area was clear and therefore, he was able to see them.

"Did you scream because of the fishes?" Neil asked.

Hazel nodded. She suddenly realized at what was happening, and her big eyes were staring back at her uncle pitifully. "Sorry, uncle. Did I scare you?"

Neil put the girl back on the ground and let out a long sigh of relief. "It's fine.. As long as you are alright."

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When Neil Mo raised his head, he found that the kindergarten teacher was staring at him with an amused smile. He slowly shifted his gaze away and let out a dry cough.

He wondered if she might think of him as silly with the way he had behaved just now.

Actually, Edith was just relieved to see how the man was caring for his niece. Previously, when Madam Mo had looked for her in kindergarten, she had mentioned Neil's relationship with Hazel. The two were not close at all.

Knowing that Hazel will need a lot of support and care to go through her loss of her parents, Edith was certainly worried. She had seen the uncle and niece's interaction whenever Neil came at the kindergarten and the last time they ran into each other at the mall. Edith was able to tell that what Madam Mo said was the truth. The two were not close. However, seeing that President Mo of MH Group would run towards his niece once he found that she might be in danger, Edith was a bit relieved.

She was among the person who had watched the two's interaction almost everyday and she could see that the two's relationship was getting better.

Her lips tilted up into a slight smile as she watched him turning away. A helpless sigh escaped her when he saw that his clothes were wet after trying to 'rescue' her niece.

Edith ran towards the duffle bag that she had thrown on the sand earlier, took out a towel, and walked over to Neil. "Here, you should dry yourself or wrap yourself with this before you get cold."

Because she over to play by the beach often, Edith knew that bringing along towels and changes of clothes were necessary. When she was a lot younger, she would often go swimming at the beach with a few of her friends.

Her grandfather caught her when she came home with her clothes wet and had scolded her. For the whole month, she was not allowed to go to the sea. Afterward, it has become a habit for her to bring along some change.

Neil stared at the towel and hesitated for a few seconds before he took the towel and started drying his clothes. "Thank you."

He had not planned to play in the water and therefore, did not bring along a change of clothes. The only thing he could do was to wrap himself with the towel to warm himself. He turned to look at his niece who was busy looking at the small fishes in the water and let out a sigh.

The girl was playing happily and he did not have the heart to tell her that they need to return because his clothes were wet.

A thought crossed his mind just as he draped the towel on his shoulder. "What about you?"

"It's fine. I have spares."

Hearing her answer, Neil tightened the towel around his shoulder, and the smell of fresh linen filled in his nose. He glanced at the person beside him and spoke, "Teacher Qian, you are right. This place is very beautiful."

Edith smiled at his words. "This spot was a bit farther from the town. Therefore not many would come to this place even the locals."

Neil glanced at her. "No one tried to buy this piece of land?"

"I hope not. It wouldn't be good if someone decided to develop this area into a resort or something," Edith said. "Once the development started, it will disturb the nature and this place it will never look the same. This place is beautiful as it is and I hope that this place would remain the way it was."

Neil shifted his gaze away as she continued to list out the bad side of developing the area.

Suddenly, he was ashamed of his thought of developing this area and build a few villas just a few moments ago.

MH Group was business was mainly in property and development. Whenever he saw a good spot, he would think of developing the site and make a profit from it.

Edith sensed the silence from the man beside him and had suddenly recalled the business that MH Group was involved in.

President Mo would not think that she was nagging him, right?

Her mouth opened to apologize, but Edith could not utter a word. Anyway, if she chose to act like she did not realize his discomfort, he would probably not care about it, right?

Just as she was not able to withstand the awkwardness, Edith heard the sound of a familiar vehicle. She turned around and saw that her friend, Aaron Li was waving his hand at her.

Once he saw her, Aaron shut the door and ran over to her. His move was suddenly halted when Aaron began to notice the tall man beside his friend.

"Why are you here?" Edith asked as he approached.

Aaron scrutinized the man at the side and shifted his gaze back to Edith. "I thought that you were coming over to the beach. But your grandfather said that you have gone out. Since you did not come over to our beach, I thought you would come over here."

At this time, Hazel Mo stopped playing by the water and walked over to the adults. She stared at the newcomer with her curious eyes as she hid behind her teacher. One of her hands stretched out to hold her uncle's.

They looked exactly like a family of three.

Seeing this scene, Aaron inched closer to Edith and whispered, "Hey, we haven't seen each other for a few years, and you suddenly came back with a husband and a kid?"

Edith glanced at the tall man beside her and wondered if he overheard Aaron's words. Suddenly, her face flushed red in embarrassment.

What husband? What kid?

Edith lifted her feet and stepped on Aaron's. She gritted her teeth and hissed, "If you don't stop spewing nonsense, I swear to god that I will beat you to death."

Aaron Li let out a nervous laugh as he bore with the pain on his foot.

It has been a long time since this rough woman had stomped on his feet like this. He had started to forget how painful it can be. Edith had a thin figure, how did her stomping would be hurting like this.

Edith turned to Neil and flashed the smile that she had used whenever she was facing the kindergartners' parents. "President Mo, this is my friend, Aaron Li. Aaron, this is President Neil Mo and my student from L City, Hazel Mo."

"President Neil Mo?" Aaron stared at the man as he heard that familiar name. A few seconds later, he immediately figured out the identity of the man. "MH Group?"

"Hello," Neil stretched his hand for a handshake. "You know me?"

The two men shook their hand and Aaron smiled. "I often met with your parents. Chairman Mo and his wife live in the west part of the town. I often ran into them whenever I patrolled that area."

"Patrolled?"

Aaron let out a chuckle.. "I'm a police officer."

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Upon hearing that the man in front of him was an officer who patrolled around his parents' residence, Neil Mo began to thank him and the two were involved in small talk.

Meanwhile, Hazel Mo looked at the new adult as she hid behind her teacher. Once her gaze met with the adult's, Hazel stepped out from hiding and greeted him politely with her timid voice. "Hello."

Aaron crouched beside the little girl and smiled. "Hello. You are Edith Qian's student?"

Hazel glanced at her teacher before she nodded. "Teacher Qian is my classroom teacher."

"How is she as a teacher?" He glanced at Edith before he inched closer to the little girl and whispered, "Did she make a lot of problems at school?"

Hazel looked at the man in front of her and then to her teacher with a confused look on her face. This was the first time for her to hear such questions. Usually, wouldn't the adult be more concerned about whether children would create problems at school?

"Aaron." Edith gave him a warning.

Fearing that his foot would swell from her stomping, Aaron swiftly stood up and took a step back, away from his friend. His lips curled into a teasing smile as he turned to Edith again. "Anyway, since you were with a company, I don't have to worry about you."

Edith sent this man a death glare and a warning for him to stop talking. She had known Aaron for a long time, and this man was good at saying words that would make others misunderstand her.

Aaron Li chuckled, knowing that Edith would not dare to harm him in public.

"When will you head back to the city?" Aaron asked, in the hope to change the subject.

Edith tilted her head down for a few seconds. "Probably after lunch."

Aaron nodded. He knew that Edith and her grandfather was planning to head over to the cemetery in the morning but had expected that she was going to stay and return to the city on the last bus ride.

"I still have to work on the day after," Edith said. "I need to make a few preparations."

"Alright then," Aaron said with a sigh. "Come over to the B&B with your grandfather after you came back from the cemetery. My mom is going to prepare some extra breakfast for the guests. You should come and have your breakfast there."

Edith thought over his invitation and agreed. Anyway, she haven't seen Aaron's mother for a long time and was planning to visit her before she went back to the city.

Once Aaron's vehicle had disappeared from their eyesight, Edith turned around to Neil Mo and saw the strange look in his eyes. Before she was able to figure out what was it, the man had already shifted his gaze away.

Edith turned her head when Hazel tugged at her hand to ask her to accompany her to play.

Neil Mo walked over to the dry area and sat down on the white sand as he continued to watch the two girls playing by the water.

Earlier, he overheard the kindergarten teacher's conversation with her friend and knew that she was planning to visit the cemetery with her grandfather in the morning.

As the conversation with his mother appeared in his mind, Neil Mo furrowed his brow. His gaze was glued to Edith as he wondered if the person she was going to visit was her deceased mother.

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Neil Mo let his niece play around the beach and the two of them returned to his parents' residence before the sunset.

When the vehicle drove into the porch, Sophie Huang walked out of the residence to look at her granddaughter. The elder woman pulled Hazel into her embrace and kissed her a few times on her cheeks.

"Hazel, did you have fun at the beach?"

"Un," Hazel nodded enthusiastically. "Grandma, the place where Teacher Qian took us was very pretty. Next time, let's go and have a picnic there together. Grandma, you can make a lot of sandwiches and we can play in the water and look at the tiny fishes."

Sophie had a wide smile on her face as she continued to listen to her granddaughter's chatter voice. It has been a while for her to see the little girl being so talkative and naturally, Sophie was more than happy to listen to her every word.

After a while, Sophie asked the auntie to help Hazel change her clothes and the girl obediently listened to her grandmother to go to take a shower. When she turned to her

son, Sophie could not help but thought that there was something wrong with his appearance.

"Where did you get that towel?"

Sophie seemed to remember that she had prepared for a few clothes and a few necessities for her granddaughter. But the towel was not something that she had prepared.

Neil Mo looked up from his phone and glanced at the towel wrapped on his shoulder. His eyes widened upon recalling that the towel belonged to Hazel's kindergarten teacher.

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The next morning, Edith Qian drove her grandfather's car and the two of them head over to the cemetery. The drive took them for almost fifteen minutes. When they arrived, the grandfather and granddaughter stayed in the car for a few minutes in silence.

Both of them seemed as if they had something preoccupying their mind, and no one of them would want to share their thoughts.

"Let's go." Mike Qian spoke to break the silence. He stepped out of the vehicle and her granddaughter followed him.

Edith grabbed the bags in the backseat and the two of them walked up the slight slope until they reached the tomb. The two of them stood side by side as they watched the name and the faded photograph on the tomb. Then, as if she had snapped out of her thought, Edith put down the thing she had brought along with her beside her and started to clean up the area.

However, because the tomb was clean, there were not many things for her to do. Edith had known that her grandfather would come over to visit her mother's tomb almost every two weeks and he would clean the area.

The frequency of his visit to her mother was more than his visit to Edith's deceased grandmother.

Edith always knew that her grandfather loved his daughter very much and was devastated when she was involved in an accident and passed away.

Even though her grandfather was grieving, he had no choice but to toughen up and raise Edith until she was had graduated high school and university.

Edith knew that her grandfather was saddened that he had to bury his only child just after a few years after he had lost his wife.

Her mother's death back then was too sudden that it took them a long time to recover.

Growing up, Edith often heard the story about her mother through her grandfather. Her mother was a good and filial child to her parents.

Though Mike Qian always had a nonchalant look on his face, Edith had a feeling that his grandfather was still grieving over her death. Perhaps even to this day, her grandfather was still unable to accept the sudden news of her mother's passing.

"Hello mom," Edith crouched before the tomb. Her gaze softened as she looked at the familiar face of her mother. She pulled out the stuff from her bags and arranged them on the tomb. "It has been seventeen years since you left us." A small smile curved on her lips. "I hope you won't be angry at me for not coming over to visit you as often.. Grandfather was insistent to let me work in the big city and therefore, I could not come to visit you as often as I would like to."

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Edith Qian spent a long time updating her mother about her life in the city. She stared at the faded photograph, trying her best to imprint her mother's face in her mind. Her head tilted down for a few seconds as the memories of her and her mother appeared in her mind.

She never knew her father. It was her mother who had raised her. Before she died, Edith's world revolved around her mother. They do a lot of things together and her mother would love and pamper her.

That was why she was at a loss when her mother suddenly passed away. She was angry that her mother had left without taking her along. Not knowing what to do with her grief, she can only channel her anger and cause trouble for her grandfather and the adults around her.

It seemed that as she grew older, her mother's face in her memory has gone blurry. If she did not look at her picture every day, Edith was afraid that sooner or later, she might forget how her mother looked like.

Suddenly, Edith felt a warm and soft pat on her shoulder. She turned around and saw that her grandfather was looking at her with a helpless look on his face.

Mike Qian pulled out a handkerchief from his pocket and dabbed at his granddaughter's cheek. "Don't cry."

Edith blinked and felt something wet streamed down her cheek. She rubbed at her eyes with her sleeve furiously and said, "I'm not crying."

"Alright. You're not. It's just that some dust got into your eyes, right?"

Edith shot her grandfather an angry look, causing the man to chuckle.

The two of them stayed around for a while longer before Edith stood up and headed towards their car, leaving her grandfather behind. After a few steps, Edith turned her head in time to see her grandfather crouching beside her mother's tomb. His head tilted down and his hand was touching the tomb.

She did not know what her grandfather would tell her mother. But every time they visited the cemetery, her grandfather would always stay behind for at least ten minutes and he would never allow her to stay around.

There was that one time when she had sneaked around to listen to his conversation, but once Edith saw her grandfather's crying face, she found herself unable to step forward.

His face was full of sorrow. It was an expression that she had never seen before. Tears streamed down his eyes and he let out a heart-wrenching cry. In the end, Edith chose not to go over and turn around to wait for her grandfather in the car.

When he came back to her, his expression had turned normal and Edith was unable to detect the sadness from her grandfather. Later, he had taken her to grab some ice cream and she had forgotten about what she had seen at the cemetery.

Edith was reminiscing her past when she noticed that her grandfather was walking over to her. She stood up straight and smiled. As she was expecting, although there were some traces of tears on his face, he had hidden it well with the smile on his face.

"Let's go." Mike Qian said.

Edith nodded and shifted her gaze away as she went into the driver's seat. "Aaron invited us to come over to their B&B for breakfast. They have some guests over and Mrs. Li will be cooking extra food."

Mike Qian nodded. "Then, let's go."

Edith drove over to the B&B and once they arrived, Auntie Li greeted them at the door and ushered them in.

"Edith," Auntie Li's eyes sparkled with joy as she saw her walking in. "I haven't seen you for a long time." She turned to Mike Qian and nodded. "Come in. Just make yourself at home. It's not like this is your first time here."

"Auntie Li," Edith looked around and could not find her friend around. "Where's Aaron?"

"He got a call from his teammate this morning and they went away somewhere for work," Auntie Li said with a soft sigh. "How long will you be staying this time?"

"Auntie Li, I'm taking the bus to the City in the afternoon."

"Why are you going back so soon?" Auntie Li looked at her with a surprised expression.

"I still have to work tomorrow," Edith smiled. "Next time, I will definitely come back again during my next vacation."

Auntie Li let out another sigh. "Alright. Aaron's father had just come back from the jetty and brought along some seafood. Sit down and I'll make some seafood fried noodles for you, alright?"

"Auntie Li, I'll help you," Edith offered.

The old lady waved her hand. "You must be tired after waking up early in the morning. Just sit there for a while. I'll be back in a few minutes."

At this time, Aaron's father, James Li walked out of a room. He froze upon seeing Mike Qian at the waiting area but seconds later, he quickly walked over to the elderly man.

"Old Qian," James Li called. "We finally received new information. Someone from the city contacted me last night. That person was ready to—"

Mike Qian let out a loud, dry cough to stop his friend from talking.

James Li stared at his old friend and finally noticed that there was something wrong with his expression. "What's wrong with you? Why are you making that face?"

Mike Qian cleared his throat before he glanced towards where his granddaughter was sitting.

Soon, James followed his gaze and her body froze momentarily. A sharp gasp escaped him before he calmed down again. James Li forced a smile as he met Edith's gaze.

"Edith. Haha. I didn't see you here."

"Uncle Li," Edith greeted. She looked at the two old men alternately and asked, "What were you going to discuss with my grandfather? What are you two up to?"

"Nothing. Nothing." James waved his hand. A frown appeared on his face when he suddenly felt a sharp pain on his waist. Turning around, Mike Qian was sending him a warning gaze.

"What else can we discuss?" Mike Qian flashed an anxious smile as his granddaughter was giving him a suspicious gaze. "Of course, we are going to discuss our next fishing trip."

Hearing the word fishing was making the corner of Edith's lips twitched. "Grandpa!"

"Alright, alright. Don't be angry. Your Uncle Li was probably going to tell me about the fishing equipment in the city," Mike Qian said. He shifted his gaze away and pulled at James' hand. "Edith you stay here. I'm going to discuss it with your Uncle Li for a while. You won't be interested to listen. Just call us when the noodles are ready."

Before she was able to say a word, the two old men had walked out through the side door and headed towards the beach. Edith narrowed her eyes as she sensed that her grandfather was anxious about something.. She had a feeling that her grandfather was hiding something from her and it was not something related to fishing.

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After accompanying her grandparents with lunch, Hazel Mo packed her backpack and walked over to her uncle.

Sophie watched her granddaughter walking out with her backpack and her tears threatened to come out. As she grew up, Sophie began to notice that Hazel resembled her mother, Claire Fan, when she was her age.

The Mo and Fan family live closer and Sophie had seen the kids grew up together. Claire would frequently visit their house to play with her sons in the backyard before her mother would come over to pick her up.

Because the little girl would frequently come over, Sophie had thought of Claire as her daughter. Perhaps, she was the happiest when she heard that her son Adam was in a relationship with the girl.

"Grandma, what's wrong?"

Sophie snapped out of her trance and smiled as she watched the little girl in front of her.

"Don't be sad," Hazel continued. She gave her grandmother a tight hug and spoke again, "Next time when the school is on break, I will come over with Uncle and accompany you for a few days, alright?"

A soft laugh escaped her as she listened to Hazel's cute voice. "Alright." Sophie nodded. "Next time, you definitely have to come over and play. I'll make a lot of food and we can go picnic together."

Hazel's smile widened and she was looking forward to having a picnic together. She decided that when the time comes, she would have to ask Teacher Qian to come along.

After saying her goodbyes to her grandparents, Hazel entered the SUV and let her uncle help her with her seat belt. With the window rolled down, she stuck out a hand and waved to her grandparents. Once she can no longer see her grandmother, Hazel sat down properly and the window rolled up.

"It will take a few hours before we arrive in the city," Neil Mo spoke. "If you're tired, just close your eyes and sleep. I'll wake you up when we arrive."

"I'm not sleepy," Hazel said. She grabbed her backpack on her side and pulled out a book that her grandpa had given her earlier. Her eyes shone brightly as she looked at the colorful pages and pictures of the beautiful princess.

After browsing through those pictures, Hazel went back to the first page and start reading slowly. There were a few words that she did not know how to read, and Hazel decided that she should go and ask her uncle later.

Outside, the weather was too hot and it was expected that it was going to rain heavily in a few hours.

Neil Mo's SUV cruised smoothly from Z Town for about thirty minutes until the traffic suddenly moved at a crawl.

Neil frowned as he watched the road ahead. He glanced to check at the time and then to the navigation system. It seemed that a vehicle made a stop at the side. Because the road was a bit narrow, the car can only pass slowly. Once they passed through, the traffic will be moving again.

"What's wrong?" Hazel asked as she looked up from her book.

"A car probably broke down ahead," Neil answered. "It should be fine after this."

As they were approaching the scene, Neil saw a bus stopped at the side. White smoke came out of its hood.

On the side of the road, a few passengers of the bus were seen lining up. When the bus suddenly broke down, the driver had asked everyone to go out and wait until the next bus pick them up before they can continue their journey.

"Uncle!" Hazel Mo called out suddenly. "It's Teacher Qian! I saw Teacher Qian at the side of the road."

Neil looked from the rear mirror and saw that the kindergarten teacher was standing along with the other passenger with her head tilted down. After a quick judgment, Neil pulled his SUV to the side of the road and turned to his niece.

"I'm going over there for a while to check on the situation," Neil said. "When I leave, you must remember to lock the door and only open them when you see me, alright?"

"Oh," Hazel nodded. She took off her seat belt and watched as her uncle exited the car. Then, she took off her shoes and crawled over to the driver seat to lock the door.

Once he was sure that Hazel had locked the door, Neil walked over to the bus and approached the driver. "What's the matter?"

The middle-aged man turned around and spoke, "Something's wrong with the engine. Don't worry about it. The tow truck will be coming shortly."

"Then, what about the others?"

"The company has sent another bus to pick them up," the driver said. "It shouldn't take too long before they arrive."

Neil nodded. He shifted his gaze towards the passengers and stopped at Edith. At this time, the kindergarten teacher was typing something on her phone. He pondered for a few seconds and walked over.

The passengers looked up when they sensed that someone was approaching. The female passenger was suddenly excited upon seeing a handsome man walking over.

Just when they thought that this handsome man would take the initiative to talk to them, the man suddenly stopped in front of another woman. The women sighed with disappointment before they looked at the lucky woman with slight envy.

"Teacher Qian?"

Edith Qian was busy typing on her phone to report to her grandfather about her situation when she heard a familiar voice. When she looked up, President Mo's face suddenly appeared in front of her.

"President Mo, what are you doing here?"

"I saw you as I was passing by the road," Neil said. "The driver said that the next bus will be arriving soon, but since we're heading in the same direction, why don't you come with us? I will give you a lift to L City."

Edith was about to reject his invitation until she suddenly recalled that she has not finished preparing her teaching materials for tomorrow's class. When the bus suddenly broke down, Edith was worried that she might arrive in the city too late that she will have to stay up to prepare for her class.

Her eyes brightened up as she looked at the man in front of her as if she was looking at her savior.

Neil was momentarily stunned as he looked at her expression. He was only offering to give her a lift to the City, why does she have to look so happy?

However, her expression toned down again when she remembered that she was not living in L City.

"That." Edith paused. "My place is in A City."

"It's fine. We were going to pass through A City before we arrived in L City after all. It wouldn't be a trouble." He saw her hesitation and continued. "Let's go. Hazel is waiting in the car.. She will be happy to see you."

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Hazel Mo wore a happy expression on her face as she watched her uncle helped her teacher to put her luggage in the trunk.

"Teacher Qian, hello," Hazel greeted politely as the door to the back passenger seat swung open.

"Hello, Hazel."

"I saw you standing at the roadside."

"Hmm, the bus broke down and I was waiting for another bus to come over to pick me up," Edith said and smiled. "Fortunately, you saw me. Or else, I did not know how long do I have to wait before I can go home."

Hazel Mo had a shy smile on her face. It felt as if she had done a great thing and her favorite teacher was praising her. At the thought that this teacher will accompany her through the journey, Hazel felt happier.

At this time, Neil Mo slid into the driver seat and looked at the two girls through the rear mirror. Once he was sure that they have put on their seat belt, Neil shifted the gear and started to drive.

"President Mo, thank you for your help," Edith spoke as the vehicle entered the road. Their gaze met through the rear mirror and Edith flashed a smile.

"It's not a problem. We are an acquaintance."

Edith paused upon hearing his answer.

If her friend, Lily Zhao heard that President Mo had thought of her as his acquaintance, she was going to jump up and down with excitement. The aloof President Mo of MH Group had considered her, Edith Qian, a mere kindergarten teacher as his acquaintance! Was this not exciting news?

Edith shifted away from his gaze and turned to Hazel to hide her awkwardness.

With her teacher beside her, Hazel took out her book and used this opportunity to ask her a few words that she did not understand.

After a few minutes, Hazel passed the book to her teacher and had asked her to read for her. Soon, the vehicle was filled with Edith's voice who was reading the storybook with a lively voice and vivid expression. Her voice attracted both the niece and uncle to listen until the end.

When Edith shut the book, the little girl beside her had her eyes closed and she was leaning on her arms.

Edith helped to adjust Hazel into a comfortable sleeping position and took out a shawl from her backpack to cover the little girl's body. When she looked up, her gaze met with Neil's again through the rear mirror.

"I hope I was not too loud," Edith let out an embarrassed cough.

Earlier, she had read aloud the book to Hazel with too much enthusiasm. Now that Hazel was asleep and there was only Neil Mo, Edith was suddenly worried that he would think that her voice was too loud that it had disturbed his concentration in driving.

"It's fine."

Edith heaved a sigh. She did not know how to interact with a man who spoke so little words like Neil Mo. If the other party was a small child, Edith could try to find a way to initiate a conversation. But other than Hazel, Edith did not think that the two of them have anything in common to talk about.

"You have a nice voice and you're a good storyteller," Neil continued after a few seconds has passed. "I find myself enjoying it."

Edith looked up and smiled. "Thank you. It has become part of my job as a kindergarten teacher."

There was a brief silence before Neil speak again, "You are pretty good with Hazel. She was not someone talkative whenever she was with me."

Edith laughed. She had heard from Madam Mo that Hazel and her uncle were not familiar with each other before Hazel's parents passed away. Although the two were staying together, it will take some time for them to get used to each other and for Hazel to trust in her uncle.

"I babysit for the neighbors' kids sometimes when I was young," Edith said. "After interacting with the children for a long time, I got used to it. I guess that experience helped with my job as a kindergarten teacher."

"You... babysit?"

"Hmm," A faint smile appeared on her lips as she thought of her childhood. "I live with my grandfather when I was growing up. He often sent me over to a caretaker's house, but this caretaker had to look after a few kids at once. So sometimes, I have to help her to look after children younger than me."

Her expression softened as she remembered quarreling with her friend, Aaron Li while helping his mother to look after those kids. The two of them were the biggest than the others. Therefore, they would often have to look for the other kids. If any of those kids get into trouble, the two of them will have to take the blame.

"It will take sometimes for Hazel to warm up to you, President Mo," Edith said.

"I hope so."

As the two of them will be living together for a very long time, Neil wanted to improve his relationship with his niece. At least, he wanted Hazel to be able to talk with him freely.

Neil Mo had decided to look after Hazel until she graduated high school before he was going to let her choose her future. If Hazel wanted to come and work for the company, he will be more than happy to teach her. If Hazel wanted to do something else, he will be supporting her.

After an hour and a half of driving, the SUV stopped at an apartment block in A City.

Neil Mo get off the vehicle and tilted his head up as he looked at the old building. Soon, the kindergarten teacher appeared beside him with her luggage at her side.

"President Mo, thank you for your help," Edith said.

"This is where you live?" His gaze was still at the apartment building. "Isn't it too far from the kindergarten?"

"It was not that far," Edith said. "Anyway, I'm used to it."

Neil Mo wanted to speak again, but noticing the discomfort on Edith's face, he decided not to say his thought. He quickly figured out that the reason that Edith has been staying at the apartment was due to its rent.

However, a frown appeared on his face when he recalled how he had often shown up late to pick up Hazel from the kindergarten. Edith Qian would often be the last teacher who had to stay.

Suddenly, Neil felt a tinge of guilt.

"Then, I will go up first," Edith spoke again. "President Mo. Really. Thank you for your help today." She turned to the SUV and waved her hand.. "Hazel, bye-bye. I will see you tomorrow morning, alright?"

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"I wish that I can go and visit Z Town. It has been a long time since I went there," Lily Zhao spoke as she took the small paper bag from her friend, Edith.

The sun has begun to come out and at this time, Alex He was the first to arrive at the kindergarten.

As Edith had got back from her hometown yesterday, she had brought some local snacks for her friend. The Zhao's family had a villa in the west part of the Z Town and when she was younger, Lily would often visit the beach with her family. It was at this town that she became an acquaintance with Edith.

"How is your grandfather?"

Edith let out a loud sigh at the mention of her grandfather. "Don't mention him. This morning, he called to let me know that he will be heading to the sea with a few of his friends to test some new fishing rod he bought. It seemed that I will not be able to contact him for the next few weeks."

"Maybe he's just bored after retirement. It's good that he's indulging himself in a hobby. At least he was not wasting away money with drinking and gambling."

"But the fishing equipment was not that cheap!" Edith spoke with a hint of frustration.

During her grandfather's last birthday, Edith had thought about giving her grandfather fishing equipment and was surprised upon seeing the price tags. She did not expect the equipment to be so expensive. Some of them cost higher than her monthly salary!

Lily laughed as she looked at her friend's expression.

At this time, another teacher walked by to greet the students. Seeing that a few students had started to come and it was almost time for her friend to get busy, Lily waved his son goodbye and left. Her steps halted upon encountering President Mo near her car and the two exchanged a nod as a form of greetings.

"Alex's mother, hello!" Hazel's voice was heard.

Lily shifted her gaze to the little girl and her lips curled up to an amused smile upon seeing the girl's crooked pigtail hair. "Hello, Hazel. Alex has already entered the classroom not too long ago."

The little girl's eyes brightened. She had wanted to tell Alex how she had met their teacher in Z Town and thus, started to tug at her uncle's hand to hasten their move.

Once the two arrived at the gate, the teachers greeted the parents and students before they were ushered inside. Edith was watching a student and her mother at the side when Hazel's sweet voice greeted her.

"Hazel, hello!" Edith smiled at her student and lifted her head to meet her President Mo's gaze. "Good morning."

"Good morning," Neil replied to her with a nod and extended his arms as he handed her a bag. "Thank you for lending me the towel the last time."

His voice was low and therefore, the teachers around them were not able to eavesdrop. However, they were still able to see that President Mo was handing Edith something and suddenly, their heart was itching to gossip.

"I will let Grandpa Tang pick you up after school, alright?" Neil crouched down to Hazel's height spoke to her. He watched her nodded and smiled. "Nanny Ann won't be around to look after you, so Grandpa Tang will bring you over to my company after that."

"Un," Hazel nodded. "Uncle, you have told me these this morning. Don't worry, I know"

Neil patted at his niece's head with a helpless gaze upon noticing that his niece was too eager to enter her classroom and leave. After saying a few more words, the uncle and niece said their goodbyes.

Once Hazel had entered the door and Neil had turned around to head over to his car, the teachers began to surround Edith.

"Teacher Qian, what is that?" The short-haired Teacher Shen asked. "Did President Mo bestowed you a gift?"

Edith shot her friend a helpless look upon hearing her choice of words. "What bestowing gift?"

"Is it to thank you for looking after his niece?" Another teacher quipped.

Every one of them has heard how Edith had stayed behind in school until it was very late as President Mo often late to pick up his niece from the kindergarten. It was not impossible if President Mo had prepared a gift to thank her for staying at the kindergarten past her working hours.

Facing her co-workers' intense gaze, Edith started to flinch. "You guys are thinking too much," she said after a while. "Last week, I let Hazel borrowed my towel when she got wet and President Mo only returned my things today." Her lips curled into a tight smile as she told her co-workers a lie.

One of the teachers peeked into the bag and let out a sigh upon seeing that there was indeed a towel inside the bag. Although the towel was properly folded, one would be able to tell that it was not something that was recently bought and has been used a few times. As the mystery behind the gift was unveiled, the others began to disperse with disappointment on their faces.

...

As Neil Mo arrived at the headquarter, his assistant, Shawn Zhong greeted him at the lobby and the two of them head over to the elevator together. The phone in Assistant Shawn's hand vibrated and upon answering the short phone call, the assistant's face began to pale.

Neil glanced at his assistant as they entered the elevator and noticed the agitated look on his assistant's face.

"What's wrong? Speak."

Assistant Shawn shifted the weight on his feet and answered, "President Mo, there is a trouble. I received news from the construction manager. It seemed that there is a problem with the construction site on the north side of the city."

Neil frowned as he thought of the projects. "The north side, you mean the hospital construction?"

"Correct. I don't know what really happened, but the construction workers refused to continue to work and they were holding a demonstration asking MH Group to pay their salary. It seemed that a few reporters had received the news and they were heading over to the site to get their scoop."

Neil Mo's eyes darkened upon hearing the matter. "Call out the managers who were involved in this matter.. I wanted everyone to show up at the construction site within half an hour."

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When Director Feng and a few managers arrived at the site, their face paled and sweat beads appeared on their forehead as they saw the group of reporters snapping pictures of the construction workers protesting at the site.

Before they came over to the site, they were briefed by their man and had learned of the situation. Though they wanted to head over to those workers and tell them to stop creating a ruckus, they were unable to do anything with the presence of the reporters.

Just then, one of the reporters had noticed their presence and soon started to surround Director Feng and the managers. There were continuous flashlights and questions directed to them, but they knew better not to comment on anything before they learn about the matters thoroughly.

As they were thinking that they might not escape the reporters, Assistant Shawn appeared with a few guards to make way for Director Feng and the managers to enter the area.

They were brought into a small office and once they entered, President Mo turned around with an intense gaze.

Director Feng subconsciously took a step back, but the managers were blocking him.

"President Mo," Director Feng greeted. The sweat on his forehead trailed down to his cheek, but he did not dare to move to wipe it under the man's gaze.

Neil Mo shifted his gaze to the managers and shifted again to look at the union leader who sat in front of him. He stood up and patted at the man's shoulder. "Don't worry. I

promise that before the day is over, your salary will be deposited into your bank account."

The leader's stared at Neil with his eyes wide. Then, he stood up and bowed. "Thank you, President Mo!" The words were repeated a few times, and there was a hint of joy in his tone.

Neil spoke to the man briefly before the man walked out of the room with a happy face.

They have tried to contact the higher-ups for almost a month, but the managers would always treat them coldly and they were unable to meet the person in charge. It was after two days of demonstration, and until the reporters had learned about the matter that President Mo had come over to the site to meet him personally.

When the President came to meet him, the leader had thought that the man was going to cause him trouble. After all, they were commoners and could not afford to fight against people with money. He did not think that the President of MH Group will listen to their problem attentively and had promised for a solution soon.

At the thought that they would be receiving the two months' salary soon, the leader could not contain his smile and had wanted to spread the good news to his friends.

Meanwhile, Director Feng and the other managers were trembling as President Neil Mo continued to stare at them without saying anything.

"President Mo," Director Feng decided to break the silence. "I can explain."

Neil moved his gaze to the director and raised a brow. "Oh?" His lips tilted into a smile that did not reach his eyes. "Then, explain. Unless I am satisfied with your explanation on why didn't the construction workers had not received their salary for the past two months, then, none of you will be allowed to leave."

The managers turned to look at each other and swallowed to ease their nerves.

...

The pitter-patter sound of rain was heard outside the kindergarten.

At this time, there were only two students left in the kindergarten. Hazel Mo and Alex He sat down at the center of the room as they were playing with some blocks as Alex was telling the girl about some Gundam robot that his father had bought for him previously.

Just an hour ago, Alex's mother had called the kindergarten to inform her that she was going to be late because of the traffic. Meanwhile, Hazel was still waiting for the driver, Grandpa Tang to come over and pick her up.

Edith glanced at her wristwatch and frowned when she noticed the time. It was late and usually, if Neil Mo was going to be late to pick up Hazel from the kindergarten, he would let his assistant give a call to the school. But until now, there was no news from them.

Her gaze went to Hazel and Edith could not help but worry if something had happened to Neil. She took out a book from her desk and her phone from her bag.

Once she found the name on the book, Edith tapped her fingers on the screen and hesitated. After inhaling a deep breath, Edith finally pressed the call button and placed the phone to her ear.

The dial tone lasted for two seconds before someone picked it up.

In the small modified meeting room at the construction site, the directors and managers sitting was too scared to utter a word as they watched their president pick up the phone.

Currently, they were still discussing the matter about the construction worker as the president was not satisfied with their explanation. The discussion has gone for hours and it does not seem that it was going to end soon.

When the phone on the table vibrated, the managers held their breath as they were ready to hear Neil Mo scolding the other side as he was in a very bad mood at this time.

"Hello? Neil Mo speaking."

Edith let out a sigh upon hearing his voice. "Hello, President Mo, this is Edith Qian from Sunflower Kindergarten."

"Hazel." His tone changed upon realizing the reason for the phone call.

"Yes. Hazel is still at the school. I just wanted to know if you are going to be late to pick her up and when will you be able to come?"

Neil heaved a long sigh and rubbed his forehead upon realizing his mistake.

Usually, Old Tang should be going over to the kindergarten to pick up his niece. However, with the sudden problem that the company was facing, there were a few changes in his plan.

A few hours ago, he had sent his driver, Old Tang to head over the next town to deal with some matter for him. His driver had reminded him to pick up his niece from her kindergarten, but Neil was too preoccupied with the trouble at the company that he had forgotten to pick her up.

"Sorry. I forgot," Neil quickly admitted his mistake. He glanced at the time and frowned upon realizing that it was late. "I will come over to the kindergarten to pick her up now. Is Hazel alright?"

Edith smiled upon hearing that Neil's concern for his niece. "She's alright. Currently, there was another student at the kindergarten to accompany her."

Neil glanced at the time again.. "Teacher Qian, please tell Hazel that I will come over soon."

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After forgetting to pick up his niece for the second time, Neil knew that he will need to learn to be more attentive towards Hazel's matters. When his brother passed away, he had promised that he was going to look after Hazel and at this moment, Neil did not think that he had done a good job.

The last time when he came to pick up Hazel from the kindergarten, the little girl was the only one who left. Although he could sense the glum look from Hazel's expression, the little girl had not said a thing and smiled when he asked her a few questions.

Seeing this made Neil a bit guilty.

Because of his matter, he seemed to implicate the kindergarten teacher as well. As Edith Qian was Hazel's classroom teacher, she had to stay until he came over to fetch his niece. Only then will she be able to return home.

Neil still remembered that Edith stayed in an apartment in A City. Although the distance between the two cities was not that far, it would still require more than an hour if she commuted between the cities with public transport. After thinking about the matter for a while, Neil had insisted to send Edith home.

In the next following days, Neil Mo had instructed Old Tang to fetch Hazel from the kindergarten to his office. Other than that, the driver was not required to do anything else and therefore, these days, Neil would drive himself whenever he needed to visit a place.

Usually, after picking up Hazel from the kindergarten, Nanny Ann will look after his niece until he came back at night.

However, Nanny Ann was recuperating after her accident and was unable to look after Hazel. With no other alternative, Neil can only let Hazel come over the office and let her stay there until it was time for him to return home.

At this time, Neil walked out of his meeting room and head over his office. He pushed the door open and paused when his gaze stopped at the small figure on the sofa. He stretched his hand to stop his assistant from making a move. Turning his eyes to his niece again, his eyes began to soften as he saw that Hazel was curled into a fetal position and her body was shivering.

Neil turned to his assistant again and placed a finger on his lips, signaling the other to keep his voice down. Then, as he walked into the room, Neil took off his coat to cover Hazel's tiny body. His hand reached for the remote to adjust the temperature in the room.

"How was the matter about finding a caretaker for Hazel?" Neil asked in a low voice as the two walked over to his desk.

"I have made an arrangement and found a few candidates," Assistant Shawn replied. "They were just waiting to be interviewed by you."

Neil paused, then nodded. "Ask the candidates to come over tomorrow. It's not good for Hazel to stay at the office. At least if she was with a caretaker, Hazel will be able to rest properly."

"Yes, President Mo." Assistant Shawn tapped something into her phone and looked up again. "When should I schedule this interview?"

Neil thought for a while and glanced at his niece. "Just arrange them to come after Hazel came back from her kindergarten. It's best to have her along during the interview and find someone she can get along with."

...

The next day, Driver Tang came over to pick up Hazel from kindergarten just as a large group of students had left the premises with their parents.

In the past few days, Edith no longer has to stay at the school late to look over her student as the driver would pick up Hazel before everyone had left.

After announcing that someone had come to pick up Hazel, Edith spent a short time to exchange small talk with the driver. After waiting for about a minute, Hazel Mo finally came out and there was a weak smile on her face.

"Grandpa Tang," Hazel greeted.

Edith turned around and a slight frown appeared on her face when she looked at the little girl's face. Though Hazel was tilting her head down, Edith was able to sense that something does not seem right. "Hazel, are you alright?"

Hazel looked up as if she was startled upon hearing her teacher's voice. Then a smile bloomed on her face before she nodded. "Un. I'm alright."

Seeing the bright smile on her face, Edith let out a breath of relief and thought that perhaps she was thinking too much. After sending Hazel to the door, she then turned around to manage the other students.

Hazel Mo closed her eyes and leaned back on her seat as soon as she entered the vehicle.

Driver Tang looked at the rear mirror and was about to say something when he noticed that the girl had already closed her eyes. Knowing that Hazel was someone who did not like to talk to others much, Driver Tang chose to focus on his driving to MH Headquarters.

As soon as they arrived, Driver Tang called up Hazel's name softly and the girl opened her eyes and slid out of the vehicle.

Assistant Shawn was already waiting at the lobby when Driver Tang led Hazel into the lobby. Seeing the way Assistant Shawn was treating the girl, some of the employees who were at the lobby began to whisper among themselves.

Recently, they have started to notice that the little girl would show up at the company and as soon as she arrived, Assistant Shawn will be personally leading her to the President's office.

Very soon, the words that the young miss of MH Group came over to the company after school spread, and some curious staff would come out to peek at this little girl. After all, when her parents were still alive, both Adam Mo and Claire Fan had never brought her out for others to see.

Some had planned to approach Hazel just to get close to the president of MH Group, but with Assistant Shawn around her, the others did not dare to get close.

Assistant Shawn bent down to the girl's level as they waited for the elevator to arrive. "Little Miss, is there anything you would like to eat for snacks?"

Hazel bit on her lips and blinked slowly. "No." Her voice was a whisper.

Assistant Shawn frowned upon noticing that there was something not right with the little girl. Just as he was about to speak, a voice called out his name.

Turning around, the frown on his face deepened upon seeing that it was Manager Autumn Fang.

The Assistant's face twisted when he saw the manager approaching, but in a flash, the usual smile on his face returned.

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The high heel clacked as she stepped forward. "Assistant Shawn, I did not expect to see you here," Autumn Feng started.

The assistant's lips stretched into a smile that did not reach his eyes.

It was not a secret that Autumn Feng had wanted to get close to President Mo. As the assistant who had been working under Neil Mo for years, Assistant Shawn knew that his boss had no patience with this woman. If it was not for her father, who was one of the directors in the company, Neil Mo was not willing to give this woman a face at all.

"Manager Feng," Assistant Shawn chuckled. "Your words sounded a little bit strange. This is the company. Why wouldn't you expect to see me here?"

The smile in Autumn's face froze and she shifted her gaze quickly to the little girl at the side. Surprise flashed into her eyes and the smile on her face returned as she pretended as if she had just noticed Hazel's presence beside the assistant. "Assistant Shawn, this is... President Mo's niece?"

"Yes."

Autumn bent down and stretched her hand to touch the little girl's head, but Assistant Shawn was quick to block her.

"Manager Feng, President Mo had instructed that no one should get close to Young Miss."

A frown appeared on Autumn face, but she quickly composed herself. "Don't be too serious. I just wanted to say hello to the girl." Autumn quickly turned to the girl again and greeted, "Hello. You must be Hazel Mo."

Hazel watched the woman in front of her and greeted her politely.

"I am Autumn Feng. You can call me Sister Autumnn."

The little girl blinked but did not give her response. Previously, she had only greeted her because of her upbringing. Her late mother had taught her that whenever someone greeted her, she has to be polite. However, to continue a conversation with a stranger was something that Hazel could not do.

Hazel gripped at Assistant Shawn's hand tightly and spoke, "Uncle Shawn, can we go now? I'm tired."

Facing the little girl's indifferent attitude, Autumn felt a wave of anger surging, but she could not do anything about it. She was in public space and Assistant Shawn was around. It will not bring her any benefit to act recklessly and she did not want to be called petty for messing with a little girl. Earlier, Autumn had the intention to get close to Hazel and paved her way to Neil Mo, but this plan does not seem very easy.

However, since Neil Mo seemed to care about this girl. And to get closer to Neil in the quickest way should be through Hazel Mo. At this time, she can only coax herself and try to be patient. Perhaps after some time, Hazel would warm up to her.

Coincidentally, the elevator behind them opened, and Assistant Shawn quickly walked in with Hazel beside him and leave the woman behind.

When they arrived at the floor, there were a few women sat around the lounging area. They watched as Assistant Shawn walked over the hallway and disappeared into the President's office.

"You're back," Neil stood up and walked over to his niece. He watched as she shrugged off the backpack and asked, "How was school?"

Hazel lifted her head and mustered a weak smile. "It was fine." Then, she walked up to the sofa and grabbed the drinking water on the table.

A slight frown appeared on his face upon hearing her short answer. After spending their time together, Hazel had started to be more talkative with him. The thing that she liked to talk about the most was her teacher and classmates. As long as he asked her about her school, Hazel could talk to him for hours.

"President Mo, the candidates are waiting outside," Assistant Shawn reminded.

Neil lifted his gaze and spoke, "Send them in in five minutes." Then he looked at his niece and spoke, "Because Nanny Ann is still on a break, I am planning to hire a caretaker for you. Later I will be interviewing a few candidates as your new caretaker."

Hazel tilted her head. Hearing that her uncle was going to hire someone, Hazel could guess at something. "Nanny Ann is not returning?"

His gaze softened knowing that the little girl was still worried about her nanny. However, he did not tell her the truth about Nanny Ann's condition as he was afraid that the little girl would worry too much.

"When she returned to the city, Nanny Ann will come and see you," Neil said. "Until Nanny Ann returned, we will have to work with this caretaker. I cannot let you come over to the office every day after school. You would be able to rest at home comfortably."

Hazel stared at her uncle for a while and nodded. "I understand."

Neil Mo then proceeded to brief his niece about the interview. "I would like it if you stay and look at them. If you think that there is someone among them who you can get along to, you have to tell me."

Hazel paused for a while before she nodded. "Alright."

After a while, Assistant Shawn began to lead the candidates in, one by one.

As Neil Mo interviewed them, Hazel would sit quietly at the side while observing them. From the start to finish, Hazel watched the interview with a blank face and would only speak to greet them.

"What do you think of them?" Neil asked as soon as the last candidates had left.

Some of the candidates had a good education, some with experience and some with a good temperament.

He picked up the resume and glanced at the question paper that he had prepared for the candidates. He had asked them a few questions based on Hazel's condition and was satisfied with half of the candidates.

However, in the end, the one Neil was going to hire in the end was someone who Hazel would be comfortable with.

During the interview, Neil had looked at his niece's expression to guess at which candidate she liked best. However, he was unable to detect anything from her.

Previously, his mother had reminded him that Hazel was someone who could get warm to a new person. It will take time for her to get comfortable with someone.

It was the same with Neil. In the beginning, Hazel would not talk to him that much and they were still awkward together.

To find someone who Hazel could get along with would be difficult.

"They looked nice," Hazel answered. She shut her eyes briefly and turned to look at her uncle. "Uncle, I'm very tired. Can I take a nap for a while?"

Neil glanced at the time and nodded. "Alright. You should be tired after listening to that interview" He patted at her hair and said, "Take a rest.. I still have some matter to do and once I'm done, I will wake you up and we can go home."

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Edith glanced at the time as she walked along the street with a cup of milk tea in her hand. As she got to leave kindergarten on time, she decided to walk around the city to get her dinner before she took the bus and head over her home.

At this time, the phone in her bag started to ring. Edith took out her phone and a smile curved on her lips as she saw the caller ID. She swiped her finger on the screen and pressed the phone to her ear.

"Grandpa." Her voice contained her joy as she called his name. "You came back from your fishing trip?"

"Hmm, just came back with Old George and your uncle Li," Mike Qian answered.

"How was it? Did you caught a lot of fish this time?" She found an empty seat and sat down.

Mike Qian let out a scoff. "Of course. The place that they took us this time is quite good. I caught a lot of fish this time. If you don't believe me, later, I will send you some pictures."

Edith laughed upon hearing his words. "Alright. Alright. I will believe you."

There was a happy laugh on the other line.

"But Grandpa, just in case, you should send me the pictures."

"Edith, you!" Mike Qian paused and let out a helpless sigh. His lips curled into a happy smile as he listened to his granddaughter's laugh. "Where are you? Are you still at school?"

"I'm off work," Edith said. "Since it was still early, I walked around the city to get some stuff and had my dinner. Grandpa, have you eaten yet?"

"Hmm, your Uncle Li pulled me to the B&B and won't let me go until I ate something earlier," Mike Qian said. "His wife packed some leftover food for me to eat. You don't have to worry about me. Just worry about yourself."

A small smile appeared on her lips as Edith continued to listen to her grandfather's nagging. Gradually, his voice turned soft and Edith could only nod and answered him with an occasional 'hmm'.

"According to the weather forecast, the area you live in will be having rain. Edith, you don't forget to bring along an umbrella with you," Mike Qian continued.

"Grandpa, I always carry an umbrella with me."

"Don't forget to take your medicine if you get sick and tell me if you're not feeling well."

"Grandpa, did you just call to nag me?" Edith laughed. Her grandfather would always give her a call whenever the rainy season started to remind her to be careful. Though she was touched by his gesture, Edith could not help but to tease her grandfather a little bit.

"I raised you for years and knew that you are someone who would not tell me anything when you were having your difficulties." Mike Qian sighed as a memory came to his mind. "Back then, when you started to live with me, you did not want to say a word whenever you were feeling unwell. At one time, you were determined not to say anything to me because I was busy with a case. In the end, I found you unconscious with your body hot all over. If I did not take you to hospital in time, perhaps we won't be having this conversation right now."

The grandfather and granddaughter went silent for a while as they thought of that incident. At that time, her temperature was really hot that the doctor had scolded her grandfather for neglecting a child.

She had walked in the rain from school and when she was feeling unwell, Edith had not said anything to her grandfather as she was worried that she would irritate him. But because of that, her condition got worse.

Fortunately, she had recovered. If something bad happened to her back then, Edith was sure that her grandfather would not stop blaming himself. He had lost his daughter, and to lose his granddaughter soon after would break him.

However, she soon found out that her grandfather hated the rainy season. His daughter passed away in the rain, and his granddaughter almost gone in the same weather.

The two of them continued to chat for a few minutes.

Just as she was about to stand out, a droplet of water drop on her hand. Edith lifted her head and saw that it was raining lightly. She took out her umbrella from her bag and suddenly, a face came to her mind.

The conversation with her grandfather just now had reminded her of Hazel. Just then, when Hazel left the school with the driver, Edith was sure that the little girl's face did not look so good.

Edith was suddenly reminded of her younger self and started to worry.

The last time when Neil Mo had forgotten to pick up Hazel from the kindergarten again, she had saved his contact number to her phone. After going through her contact list, Edith pressed the phone to her ear again.

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Neil Mo had just come out from the meeting room with the people from the Accounting Department and spoke with his assistant briefly. After giving him some instructions, he then walked into his office.

His niece, Hazel was still sleeping on the sofa. Her body was covered with a blanket up to her shoulder, Neil peeked at her face and let out a sigh before he walked over to his desk.

The phone in his pocket vibrated and a frown appeared on his face upon seeing an unknown number. He slid his finger on the green button and spoke, "Hello, Neil Mo speaking."

"President Mo!" An anxious voice came through. "This is Hazel Mo's classroom teacher, Edith Qian."

Neil Mo was startled upon hearing the name. "Teacher Qian, what can I do for you?"

"President Mo, is Hazel with you?"

"She is. But right now, she's sleeping." He recalled her anxious tone and glanced at his niece who was still sleeping on the sofa. "Do you need to talk to her?" He walked over to the sofa and touched at Hazel's shoulder, but unlike the usual, Hazel did not wake up.

"President Mo, did Hazel said anything to you earlier? For example. she was feeling unwell?"

The crease between his brow deepened. "No." Suddenly, his heartbeat escalated.

Neil Mo moved his hand to touch the little girl's forehead and was shocked upon feeling her hot skin. Swiftly, he moved to crouch down beside her and pulled at the blanket that was covering her body.

His eyes widened upon seeing Hazel's flushed cheek and her heavy breathing. His hand reached to her forehead again and he started to panic. "Hazel!"

"President Mo, what happened?"

"Teacher Qian, Hazel is having a fever."

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Edith arrived at the hospital as soon as the call ended.

During the phone call, Edith had learned a bit about Hazel's fever and had suggested President Neil Mo bring the little girl to see a doctor.

Although Neil had told her that he was going to take his niece to the hospital, Edith just could not stop worrying.

After she guessed at which hospital that the man was going to take his niece, Edith took a bus and head over.

Fortunately, she had made the right guess and the nurse at the pediatrician station had confirmed that there was a child named Hazel Mo in the hospital.

Once she got the room number from the nurse, Edith walked through the corridor and stopped upon finding the room. She raised her hand and knocked on the door before she pushed the door open.

As soon as Edith stepped in, her gaze met with Neil's. The frown on his face eased the moment he saw her and soon was replaced by surprise.

"Teacher Qian. Why are you here?"

"I was worried about Hazel and came to see her," Edith said. She shifted her gaze and looked at the small figure on the bed. At this time, Hazel's body was covered with a blanket and an IV drip beside her bed. "How is Hazel?"

"The doctor has given her medicine. Her temperature had dropped. She should be alright after getting enough rest." Neil said. "Teacher Qian, please, come in."

Edith walked over to the bed to take a good look at the sleeping girl. Her hand stretched out to test her temperature and frowned upon finding that it was hotter than she had thought.

"The doctor said her temperature will go down after a while," Neil explained. "But, how did you know that Hazel was not feeling well?"

"I noticed that Hazel did not look very good when she was at school." She raised her head and their gazes met for a few seconds before Edith lowered her head to look at Hazel again. "But when I asked, Hazel smiled and told me that she's alright."

There was a flash of surprise in his eyes and Neil's gaze softened as he looked at his niece.

This little girl was feeling unwell but had chosen to bear with the pain and had not said a word to the adults.

"I almost missed the sign. But then, I was suddenly reminded of my younger self," Edith continued. "At that time, I chose not to say a word to my grandpa because I did not want to worry him. The expression that Hazel had just now was almost the same as mine and I thought that perhaps she was thinking the same."

Sometimes, kids like Hazel would choose not to say anything when they got hurt as they fear that they would only be a nuisance. They would choose to bear with their pain until they could no longer hold on. Therefore, as an adult, it was their job to be attentive towards how the child behaved.

Because she had been in the same position as Hazel in the past, Edith was able to guess at the little girl's thought.

Neil's gaze turned complicated as he looked at Hazel. A pang of guilt attacked him at the thought that she had not said a word to him because she did not want him to worry.

Previously, he had made Hazel join him in the interview. He had thought that Hazel was in a bad mood, but had not inquired further upon thinking that she was only tired after coming back from school.

Hazel had listened to his words and joined him in that interview without complaining. Suddenly, Neil felt as if he was very incompetent and negligent as Hazel's guardian.

"If it was not for your phone call, perhaps I won't notice her condition until much later." Neil took a deep breath and exhaled slowly. "The doctor said that Hazel might be too tired. Nanny Ann was unwell and had to stay home to recuperate. These days, Hazel had to go straight to my office and stay until I had finished my job."

Edith's gaze softened upon seeing that Neil was blaming himself.

However, this was not his fault.

President Neil Mo was always busy with his work. He had never had any experience in looking after Hazel and has not been close with her from her birth. But Edith could see that he cared and had wanted to look after his niece by himself.

To raise a child alone, and being a single parent was not an easy task. But Neil Mo had done his best to look over his niece.

The two adults continued to chat about Hazel.

At this time, Hazel suddenly stirred in her sleep and a low mewl escaped her.

The two grownups turned simultaneously to look at her and relaxed as she continued to sleep. Seeing the beads of sweat on Hazel's forehead, Edith swiftly took some tissue on the bedside table and dabbed to dry the sweat.

"Mama."

Edith's hand that was dabbing the little girl's forehead froze.

The little girl's voice was hoarse and there was a hint of grievance.

Edith continued to stare at Hazel in a daze. Suddenly, Hazel's face contorted, her lips pouted slightly and tears streamed down on her face.

The two adults looked at each other, surprised upon hearing Hazel's call and how she had reacted.

Edith retracted her hand and froze again when she heard her next words.

"Mama, please, don't go."

The room turned silent for a long time. Both Edith and Neil looked at Hazel, realizing that she was probably talking in her sleep because of her high fever. Suddenly, they did not know what they should do.

"Mama," Her voice was pleading and the tears on her face did not stop.

Edith instinctively moved forward and sat beside her bed. She dabbed at the little girl's tears and caressed her hair, coaxing Hazel to sleep.

Perhaps it was due to her soothing words and gentle tone, soon, Hazel's tears stopped and she continued to sleep.

Edith breathed a sigh in relief. She continued to watch the little girl for a while until Hazel's breathing stabilized. Just as she was about to retract her hand, Hazel tightened her grip around Edith's arms, as if refusing to let her go.

Not wanting to disturb Hazel in her sleep, Edith could only resign to her fate and let Hazel sleep while holding her hand.

"Let me help you," Neil said as he stepped forward to entangle Hazel's hand away.

"It's fine." Edith turned to the man and smiled. "Let her sleep like this."

Neil hesitated for a while, then nodded. He glanced at her wristwatch and frown upon noticing the time. "I will get Old Tang to send you home later."

"Don't worry. I can stay at a friend's place for the night," Edith said, as she made a mental note to text her friend, Lily, later. "Her place is rather close to the kindergarten. President Mo, don't worry about me."

"Then, I will have to trouble you."

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Hazel Mo woke up with a parched throat. The first thing she saw upon opening her eyes was the white ceiling. Her eyes blinked a few times when she saw the unfamiliar scene.

This place was not her bedroom or her uncle's office.

Hazel tried to move and winced upon feeling a slight pain in her throat. She looked around and panicked once she figured out where she was.

This was the hospital.

She could still remember sleeping on the sofa in her uncle's office. But why was she here?

Hurriedly, Hazel tried to get off her bed. However, someone tugged at her hand and when she turned around, Hazel was surprised upon seeing that it was her classroom teacher. Her eyes went wide and Hazel continued to stare at her and wonder if she was having a dream.

"You're awake," Edith smiled. She stood stretched her hand to touch the little girl's forehead and breathed in relief upon finding that Hazel's temperature had gone down.

"Fortunately, your fever has gone down." She then stood up to stretched her body before she helped Hazel to tidy her hair.

Last night, because she was having a high fever, Hazel had held on her teacher's hand and had refused to let her go. In the end, Edith had no choice but to accompany Hazel at the hospital for the night.

Though President Mo was worried that he would trouble her, Edith had convinced him that she did not mind to stay and look after Hazel.

Anyway, as a woman, it would be much convenient for Edith to look after Hazel.

"Teacher Qian," Hazel managed to spoke. "Why are you here?" Her eyes wandered around the room. "Why am I here?"

Edith turned to pour a glass of water for Hazel. She heard Hazel's slightly hoarse voice and figured that the little girl was having a sore throat. "You're in the hospital. You had a fever last night and your temperature was very high. Your uncle bought you here." She urged Hazel to drink the water. "I came here because I was worried."

Hazel took the glass from her teacher and drank the water with a dazed expression.

Edith waited until the girl had finished drinking her water. Then, she put the glass aside and leaned forward. "How are you feeling now? Any discomfort?"

"No." Hazel shook her head. She had a slight headache before she took a nap in her uncle's office, but after a long sleep, it had disappeared.

"Hazel, why don't you say anything if you're not feeling well?"

Hazel lowered her gaze and not saying anything.

"Your uncle was really worried and I was worried," Edith said.

"Sorry." Hazel bit at her lips.

Yesterday, she had realized that her body was feeling a little bit uncomfortable. She did not want to trouble her uncle knowing that he was busy with his work. She had thought that she would recover soon after she took a quick nap and had never thought that it was so bad that she had to come over to the hospital.

Edith stretched her hand again and this time, she ran her hand on the little girl's head. "Next time, when you are in pain, you have to let the adults know, understand? Hazel, you are only a five-years-old. You don't have to bear with everything in silence. If you don't let us know that you are hurting, then we will only worry about you."

Hazel listened to her teacher's words and nodded her head once in a while. "Teacher Qian," she called out after keeping in silence for a while. "I need to go to the restroom."

Edith froze for a few seconds. Then smiled. "Alright. Come over. I'll help you off the bed. Can you manage by yourself?"

Once her feet touched the ground, Hazel nodded. "I can."

"Then, I will wait for you here," Edith said as she flicked the bathroom light on. "If there is anything, you can call me."

Edith watched as Hazel entered the bathroom and heaved a long sigh. Then, she turned around and grabbed her phone to check for messages. A chuckle escaped her upon reading her friend, Lily's messages.

She had thought that she was going to spend a night at her friend, Lily's place, but after Hazel had refused to release her hand, Edith had to tell her friend that she had to stay around to accompany the little girl.

Of course, upon hearing that her friend was going to spend the night around President Mo, Lily was suddenly excited and her imagination started to run wild.

Fortunately, Edith had set her phone to silent mode and texted her friend that she will tell her everything later.

However, that did not stop Lily from attacking her with missed calls and messages.

A chuckle escaped her as Edith read the scenarios in Lily's text.

She had stayed in the hospital to look after her Hazel, how did this become a romance scenario in her friend's head? She was worried about Hazel and had woken up every few hours to check on the girl's temperature. Where would there be a scene where a budding romance would appear?

Besides, she had urged Neil Mo to go home and let her stay the night at the hospital. There was not much interaction between them.

Edith could not help but think that her friend was reading too much novel.

At this time, there was a knock on the door. When Edith turned around, Neil appeared at the door with a bag in his hand. He looked around the room and finally, his gaze stopped at Edith.

"Where is Hazel?"

"She's in the bathroom," Edith said. Her gaze shifted towards the bag he was carrying. "Did you bring Hazel's clothes with you?"

Neil nodded. "I brought everything you asked."

Edith had volunteered to look after Hazel in the hospital and had urged him to go home and rest. When he had declined to rest at home, Edith had reminded him that he needed to pack up Hazel's clothes. Due to her fever, Hazel's clothes were all wet from sweat and it would be uncomfortable for her to wear her dirty clothes again.

The bathroom door swung open and Hazel came out. She looked at her uncle and was surprised upon finding him there. Afraid that her uncle was going to scold her, Hazel lowered her head and shrunk her neck.

"Hazel," Neil walked over to her. He crouched beside her and put his hand on her forehead. "Are you feeling uncomfortable anywhere?"

The little girl blinked as she saw her uncle's concerned look. Her posture eased when her uncle did not scold her. "I'm fine."

Neil breathed with relief. "Fortunately, you're alright." He leaned to kiss the girl on her forehead and smiled.

"Uncle," Hazel called. "Can I leave this place? I don't like it here." Her voice weakened.

Neil paused and his expression grew softer as he guessed at his niece's thought.

The last time she came to the hospital, her grandparents had told her that her parents had passed away and she could not see them again. Ever since then, Hazel did not like the hospital or the smell of it. Hospital would always bring her a bad memory.

"Alright." He nodded.. "I will ask the doctor to let you leave the hospital."

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Once the doctor had cleared that Hazel was well enough to leave the hospital, the three of them leave the place with Hazel looking as if she could not wait to leave the place. Her face grew livelier as she stepped out of the hospital.

Seeing her expression, Neil then threatened that if she had kept her discomfort a secret from him again, he was going to take her to the hospital and in the end, Hazel had promised that she will tell her uncle immediately if something happened.

Because Edith had helped to look after Hazel in the hospital, Neil Mo had offered to drive her home. Knowing that he had wanted to show his gratitude, Edith had not rejected his offer. It was the weekend and she still had a place she needed to go to her extra classes afterward.

Neil Mo glanced at the rear mirror and looked at the two girls whispering among themselves.

His lips curled into a smile and soon it disappeared as the thought he had last night came back to his mind.

This incident made Neil realized how important he needed to hire a caretaker for Hazel. He could not let Hazel stay at his office and wait until he finished his work before the two of them will head home together.

Hazel was still a small kid and she will need a proper environment to grow up. Staying at his office until it was late night was not healthy for her. If he had to stay and work overtime, then, what will happen to Hazel?

Besides, with Nanny Ann recuperating after her accident, the little girl has been eating takeaway meals for the past few days. Although Hazel will not be deprived of food and clothing, the living environment that he can provide for her was not suitable at all.

When he had convinced his mother that he can look after Hazel while managing the company at the same time, Nanny Ann was still around and Neil had thought that looking after an obedient child as Hazel would be easy as he had his help. But now, Neil had to change his mind.

There were a lot of things that he needed to consider.

Neil realized that he needed help and that was how a thought had suddenly come to his mind.

Hazel was a sensitive kid and Neil wanted to hire the best caretaker for her. However, to find someone that Hazel could go along with would be difficult. It would take a long time before Hazel would be able to open up to someone.

His gaze went to the rear mirror again to look at the two girls on the backseat. Looking at how Hazel was leaning her head on her teacher's arms made his expression grew warmer.

Neil felt a tug in his heart and thought of his idea to hire the kindergarten teacher as Hazel's caretaker again.

It was just that... Neil was not sure how Edith was going to react when he proposed his idea.

The SUV entered a suburban area and stopped as it reached to Edith's apartment block.

Edith thanked Neil for the ride and bid her goodbye to her little student. However, as Edith stepped down from the SUV, she was surprised upon finding that Neil had stepped down from the vehicle as well.

"President Mo, is there something else?" Edith asked when she saw the conflicting look on the man's face.

Neil hesitated, then nodded. "Teacher Qian, I would like to hire you as Hazel's caretaker."

There was a long silence between them. The two grownups stared at each other for a full minute until Neil grew restless at the woman's gaze. Seeing that Edith had not answered him, Neil readied himself to hear her rejection.

Edith shifted her gaze towards Hazel who was sitting obediently in the vehicle. The little girl was staring at the adult with through the window, and wonder what was going on.

"A caretaker?"

Neil nodded again. "Nanny Ann had an accident and had to stay home and recuperate for at least two months. She is unable to look after Hazel."

A light flashed in Edith's eyes. She seemed to recall that there was one time that Neil had came over late to pick up Hazel from the kindergarten. He had explained that Nanny Ann was unwell, but she did not think that it was serious. "Then, who was looking after Hazel after school hour?"

"These days, I had Old Tang to sent Hazel to my office," Neil said before he explained his and Hazel's situation. "Teacher Qian, Hazel is someone who could not easily accept new people in her life. Even though I have been thinking about hiring a new caretaker for her, I still wanted her to be with someone who she can be comfortable with. Hazel had lost both parents recently and I am worried about her. Perhaps I was never close with Hazel when my brother was still alive, but seeing Hazel forcing herself to act grownup and not showing anything made my heart ached."

Edith turned to look at the little girl who was in the vehicle again. Their gaze met and Hazel shot her a happy smile.

"I see that you are quite close to her and this is why I am making this offer to you," Neil said.

After meeting the caretaker candidates and see the way Hazel behaved around her teacher, Neil would prefer to hire Edith instead. The kindergarten teacher had spent a

lot of her time around Hazel and perhaps, she would know Hazel better than he knew his niece.

"Teacher Qian, I am not asking you to resign your job as a kindergarten teacher," Neil continued. "You can continue your job while looking after Hazel. If you agree to this, I can give you double what you make as a teacher at Sunflower Kindergarten."

Edith inhaled a sharp breath at his generous offer.

Double! She would receive a lot of money if she agreed to take Neil Mo's offer! Even if she had to stay with Hazel as her caretaker for a few months before Nanny Ann would return and resume her job, the money she received would be enough to cover her living and tuition expenses for a few months!

"Of course, you can negotiate with me your terms and conditions," Neil added when Edith did not give him her reply.

Suddenly, Edith found herself unable to answer to his irresistible offer. "That," she spoke after a brief silence.. "President Mo, please give me some time to think of this offer."

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Once her class ended, Edith made her decision to head over to her friend's place. Lily was excited upon hearing that Edith will be coming over and had gone to the kitchen to prepare something.

Last night, Lily had heard that her friend has been staying at the hospital to accompany President Mo's niece, and could not stop the urge to gossip and tease Edith at the same time.

When Edith arrived at the door, the smell of something spicy wafted through her nose and Lily's son, Alex stood at the door. "Auntie Edith!" The little boy's voice contained his excitement.

Edith sniffed into the air and the smell turned her throat itch. She looked inside and shifted her gaze back to Alex. "What is your mom cooking?"

Alex replied with a shrug. "Mommy has been busy in the kitchen ever since she heard that you will be coming over. Auntie Edith, please, come inside." He grabbed a pair of slippers and placed it near her.

As soon as Edith took a step inside, Lily's head popped out from the kitchen. Her lips curled into a smile when she saw her friend. "You're here! I made something. You cannot leave until you finished everything."

Edith walked over to her friend and thought that the spicy smell was getting stronger. She let out a cough and frowned at her friend. "Why is it that every time I came over, you would always make spicy food? Lily, tell me the truth, are you trying to kill me?"

"This is the only time that I can eat something spicy," Lily said. She turned around and walked into the kitchen. "Other than you who else would accompany me to eat these?"

Edith trailed after her friend and saw that an auntie stood in front of the stove to help her friend with the cooking.

"That's right. How was Hazel? Is she better?" Lily asked

"Hmm," Edith nodded. "Fortunately, she was taken to the hospital on time. Seeing that her fever had gone down, the doctor allowed her to go home."

Lily heaved a breath of relief. "Are you staying over tonight?"

"No. I'll head home after this. I still have some matters to settle." Edith said. She watched as her friend pulled out a bowl and scooped a serving of spicy chicken into the plate.

"What are you doing here? Go outside and wait." Lily put both hands on Edith's shoulder, turned her around, and pushed her out the kitchen. "Go and play with Alex or something."

Edith laughed as her friend pushed her out of the kitchen. Just at the door, Alex was waiting for her with a box of their unfinished Gundam model. His eyes were staring at her with an expectant look. In the end, Edith resigned to her fate and followed Alex to his room to help him with assembling the model.

The meal was served almost ten minutes later.

Edith peeked at the dishes and the corner of her lips twitched upon seeing the Sichuan dishes. A smaller plate of non-spicy dishes for Alex was at the side.

As soon as Edith picked up her chopstick, Lily had clipped a red looking chicken wing into her bowl. Edith lifted her head and met Lily's excited gaze.

"Come on. Tell me everything that happened between you and President Mo last night," Lily said. "There's no one else here. You don't need to be shy."

Edith stared at the chicken wing helplessly. "What could happen? I only stayed a night to accompany Hazel at the hospital. Later, I asked President Mo to return home and rest and come back with fresh clothes for his niece."

Lily stared at her friend with a disappointed look on her face.

She let out a chuckle and continued, "Anyway, who am I? Who is President Mo? That guy always had a serious look on his face. It would be difficult for someone like me to be in a relationship with him."

Lily nodded her head as she thought further of what will happen if the two were dating. "That's true. President Mo is an iceblock and you are a ray of warm sunshine. If you got frozen by him, then I would lose a lively friend."

At the thought that her best friend might get infected by President Mo's cold, Lily started to rethink again about pairing the two together. If Edith was together with President Mo, wouldn't she had heartache and suffer being around someone who would treat her with his aloof attitude?

Of course, none of them expected that someday, the iceblock President Mo would melt under this warm sunshine.

"Auntie Edith, was Hazel unwell?" Alex He, who has been listening to the adult's conversation, suddenly asked. "How is she now? Is she alright?"

"She had a fever last night," Edith said. "Don't worry. Her fever was gone after the doctor gave her some medicine. After resting a bit at home, she should be able to return to kindergarten later."

Alex heaved a breath of relief. Hazel Mo and he had recently become close after he had made Hazel interested in Gundam models. Although there were a lot of things that the girl did not understand, Alex had patiently taught her a lot of things.

Previously, the other students would ignore him because he was too engrossed in playing with the robots. However, only his best friend, Tyler Lu and Hazel did not mind his hobby and would still talk to him.

Now that he had heard that Hazel was unwell, of course, as a friend, Alex was worried. But now that her Auntie Edith had told him that Hazel was better, Alex then continued to eat his meal quietly.

"That's right," Edith paused and looked at her friend. "Lily, I have something to consult you."

Lily tilted her head and gave her friend a questioning gaze. Her expression started to change the moment Edith told her about President Neil Mo's job offer as Hazel's caretaker.

The job was not that difficult, and Edith will only need to look after the girl after school ended until Neil returned home. Then, she will be paid handsomely.

"What do you think?" Edith asked cautiously.

"I think you should take it."

"Why?"

"First of all, he is offering a lot of money," Lily pointed out. "But most important of all, Hazel is a good kid. That girl is pitiful and the uncle and niece needed help." A long sigh escaped her. "I could not imagine what Hazel had gone through at her age. But, at this time, she needed someone she could trust, and you happen to be that person.. I just thought that since you had a somewhat similar experience with Hazel, you should be the person who understood her the most."

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Because of her fever, Hazel Mo took a few days off to stay at home for a few more days to recuperate, while her uncle, Neil Mo chose to work from home to look after her.

After staying with her uncle for a few days, Hazel had thought that her uncle was even more strict than her mother.

Her uncle had made her finished her meal and would stay by her side as she ate her medicine. Although Hazel did not like the taste of the medicine, she had no choice but to finish them under her uncle's strict observation. With the fierce look on her uncle's face, Hazel did not dare to trick him and throw away the medicine.

As she was feeling unwell and weak, Hazel found that she was missing her mother even more.

At least, her mother would always give her sweets after she had obediently eaten the bitter medicine.

Moreover, she was not allowed to move around too much and was asked to stay in bed to get enough rest.

In short, Hazel had thought that spending her time with her uncle while recuperating at home was torturous and she could not wait to return to school.

On the day that she was to return to school, Hazel had urged her uncle to send her earlier, and thus, she became the first to arrive.

Hazel arrived at the kindergarten, there was a joyful expression on her face. She greeted the teachers at the entrance as well as the old guard. Then, she walked happily inside.

"Teacher Qian!" Hazel greeted happily when she saw her at the door. She ran towards her teacher and stopped as she arrived. "Teacher Qian, good morning."

"Good morning, Hazel," Edith bent down to get on the little girl's height. "How are you feeling? Much better?"

"En," Hazel nodded enthusiastically. "My fever is all gone a few days ago, but my uncle wanted me to rest at home for a few more days."

Edith smiled upon seeing the way Hazel had pouted her lips.

"Well, your uncle is right," Edith said. "It is important for you to stay at home until you are well enough. Or else, you might accidentally pass your fever to your friends."

Hazel stared at her teacher with a grieved expression. "Teacher Qian, I miss you."

Edith laughed upon hearing her words. She patted her on her hair and said, "I miss you too. Now that you are well enough, we can play together with everyone else, alright?"

Hazel's expression brightened up immediately and there was a smile on her face.

After exchanging a few more words with Hazel, Edith then stood up and smiled towards the iceblock who was staring at her the moment he had arrived.

It has been a few days since the last time they met and Neil had offered her a job as Hazel's caretaker. Seeing the way he was looking at her, Edith knew that he was waiting for her answer.

"President Mo, good morning."

Neil replied to her with a nod, and his gaze did not move away from her. He was still anticipating a positive answer from her and hoped that now that it has been a few days, Edith had made her decision about his offer.

"Teacher Qian, have you consider my offer?" Neil spoke as he stepped forward.

"Yes," Edith nodded and saw a glint of surprise in the man's eyes. "President Mo, I will accept your offer. However, I do have a few conditions that I need to discuss with you before I can agree."

"Of course." Neil quickly agreed. At this time, he was relieved that Edith was willing to look after his niece. Although Neil had not said a word to Hazel regarding this matter, he knew that the little girl will be happy that she was able to spend more time with her favorite teacher.

"Well then, let's discuss the matter later," Edith suggested.

Neil took out a card from his pocket and handed it over to Edith. "Teacher Qian, if it is convenient for you, you can look after me at the office after your work is over. I will talk to my assistant about this."

Edith stared at the card and shoved it into her pocket. "Then, I will come over to the office later."

...

When Neil Mo arrived at his office, his assistant, Shawn Zhong immediately reported to him of his schedule of the day. He was in the middle of reporting when Neil suddenly lifted a hand to stop him.

"President Mo?" Assistant Shawn threw him a questioning glance.

"Clear my schedule for this evening," Neil spoke. "Hazel's teacher, Miss Edith Qian will be coming over to discuss a contract. Assistant Shawn, when she arrived, you should bring her to my office immediately."

"Yes, President Mo," Assistant Shawn nodded. He tapped something into his tablet and paused. He raised his head again with a perplexed expression. "Hazel's classroom teacher is coming over?"

"I decided to hire her as Hazel's caretaker and we will discuss a few terms and conditions before she can start," Neil said. "You know how it is with Hazel. I wanted Hazel to be with someone she can get comfortable with and her teacher seemed to fit this position."

Assistant Shawn thought for a while and nodded before he continued to tap his fingers on the tablet.

As Neil Mo's assistant, he was aware of the President and his niece's situation. Previously, he had met Hazel's classroom teacher when he was assigned to pick up Hazel from the kindergarten. Assistant Shawn had thought that the teacher had a pleasant attitude and Hazel seemed to like her very much.

He had seen Hazel as she grew up and was worried about her when President Mo announced that he was going to look after the little girl.

At the thought that Hazel would be under her teacher's care, Assistant Shawn let out a breath in relief, knowing that the little girl will be in a good hand.

The two of them continued to discuss a few important matters when the intercom on his table beeped and his secretary announced that Director Lance Feng was there to see him.

Neil gave his permission to enter and both Neil and Assistant Shawn turned their head to the door.

"President Mo," Director Feng greeted. He glanced at the assistant and nodded towards him before he walked forward with documents in his hand.

"You have something to report?" Neil raised a brow at the elderly man.

"President Mo, the report you ask is here," Director Feng handed the file to Neil and watched as the President browsed through the report with a calm expression. However, President Mo's calm expression only made him anxious.

Neil closed the documents in his hands and looked at Director Feng. "Since you have the result of the investigation, just do things according to the procedure."

Director Feng looked at him cautiously. "President Mo, you mean?"

Neil's expression darkened. "Manager Xiao needed to leave the company for embezzling the company's money.. Director Feng, since you already have enough evidence, you should call the police."

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When Edith arrived at the MH Headquarters, there was a little commotion going on in the lobby. A group of people gathered around, preventing her from entering the building.

Edith stood behind the group of people and tiptoed to get a clear view of what was going on. Shouting and cursing were heard coming from the direction of the entrance. Soon, a man dressed in a pale blue shirt and slacks was dragged out by two policemen at the side.

"It was not me!" The man continued to shout. "I'm telling you that I was wrongfully accused. Director Feng, you cannot do this to me! I demand to see President Mo!"

"Shut up! If you got something to say, you can say it once we arrived at the station," One of the police shouted back before he shoved the man into the car.

Edith turned her head and watched the man screamed angrily behind the window as the police vehicle drove away.

From the whispering voices around her, Edith was able to find out that the man had embezzled some money and altered the accounting book. Fortunately, the higher-ups were able to find out of his misdeed and had called the police to take him away for investigation.

The crowd in front of her slowly dispersed and Edith took her chance to walked into the building. Her eyes scanned around the lobby to find the receptionist and saw that they were blocked by a group of men in their suits and tie.

"Miss Qian?"

Edith turned around upon hearing her name. A man came out from the group and walked over to her with a smile on his face. As she had seen him a few times before, Edith was quick to recognize Assistant Shawn.

"It is you." Assistant Shawn's smile widened.

"Assistant Shawn," Edith greeted him politely.

Seeing their exchange, the other directors and managers who were still discussing the disturbance earlier immediately stopped to look at Edith with curious gazes.

"You are here to see President Mo, right?" Assistant Shawn spoke. "He had instructed me to take you to his floor once you arrived."

The others heard what Assistant Shawn had said and their interest towards Edith increased. After all, to be treated politely and received by Assistant Shawn to the President's office, the others immediately guessed that Edith was an important guest.

They began to look at Edith with their scrutinizing gaze but soon found that the way she dressed did not show that she was someone's daughter from a wealthy family and it does not look like she was at the headquarter to discuss important business.

Their interest in Edith deepened, but none of them knew who she was and why Assistant Shawn was treating her politely.

"Assistant Shawn, this is," Director Cui, who could no longer tolerate the mystery, asked.

Assistant Shawn turned towards the group of men and smiled without saying anything.

Right now, Edith's identity as Hazel's teacher was only known to President Mo, Driver Tang, and him. Assistant Shawn was afraid that once the others found out that Edith was going to be hired as Hazel's caretaker, the other would try to harass the kindergarten teacher and find a way to use her.

Assistant Shawn excused himself and led Edith towards the elevator.

"Is it alright to leave them just like that?" Edith asked as she peeked towards the group of men again. It was just as she had expected. They were still staring at her. Though she was a bit uncomfortable with their gazes, Edith was aware that the group of men were curious about her identity.

"Miss Qian, you don't have to worry. We were not discussing anything important."

Edith let out a breath of relief.

The two arrived at the top floor of the building and Assistant Shawn stopped just as they arrived at the door. He rapped his knuckle on the door and turned the doorknob to enter.

"President Mo, Miss Qian is here to see you," Assistant Shawn announced.

Neil lifted his gaze off the documents on his table and expression softened. "Teacher Qian, please, come inside." He gestured towards the empty seats across him. "Take a seat."

"Teacher Qian?" Hazel looked up from her drawings. Her eyes widened upon seeing her favorite teacher stood at the door. Hazel stood up quickly and rushed over to Edith. "Teacher Qian!" Her voice was full of joy. "Why are you here?"

Edith patted at the girl's shoulder. "I came to discuss something with your uncle."

"Miss Qian, would you like to have something to drink?" Assistant Shawn asked. "Coffee? Tea?"

"Just give me a glass of water," Edith answered and she walked over to President Mo and took a seat before him.

"Hazel, I have something to discuss with your teacher first," Neil said to his niece. "Why don't you continue your drawing first?"

"Oh," The little girl watched the two adults with a curious gaze, but then turned around to her corner in the office.

Edith followed Hazel with her eyes and watched as she sat down at a carpeted area. There was a small chair, table and some toys arranged neatly on the shelf. Seeing that Neil Mo had prepared a small play area for his niece in the office, Edith could not help but smile.

"I have mentioned and discussed your offer with Headmistress Fu," Edith spoke. "As long as this job you're offering was not going to interfere with my job as a kindergarten teacher, Headmistress Fu was alright with this arrangement."

Neil nodded and was grateful that Edith had spoken to the headmistress regarding the job. At least, Headmistress Fu would not think that he was thinking to poach her teacher.

At this time, Assistant Shawn walked in with a glass of lemon water. He placed the drink on the table and left again.

"Let's discuss your terms and conditions."

Edith took a sip from the drink and spoke. "I don't have many conditions. President Mo, I can agree to look after Hazel as long as it did not interrupt my working hours with the kindergarten."

"Of course," Neil nodded. "This job as Hazel's caretaker will not disturb your job as a kindergarten teacher. I only need someone to look after Hazel and taking her with me to the office every day was not convenient for her."

"Secondly, I won't be able to accompany her on Saturday as I still have to attend classes. Moreover, if the kindergarten arranged some activities that would require me to be away, I will not be able to look after Hazel," Edith continued. "President Mo, if you are alright with this arrangement, then I will agree to accept your offer."

Neil thought over her words and nodded without hesitation. "Then, we will arrange this to follow your schedule."

Edith looked at the man and was surprised that he had agreed quickly.

"Teacher Qian, I will pay you as according to what I have offered you earlier. However, I only have one request."

"What is it?"

"Teacher Qian, my only request is for you to move in to live with Hazel and me. We will be living together."

There was a long silence in Edith's part. "President Mo, what do you mean by living together?"

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Living together?

She was only going to look after Hazel, but why would this job require her to move in with them? No matter how she thought about it, Edith could not think of a reason.

Edith was aware that previously when Nanny Ann was looking after Hazel, the elder lady was not living together with them.

A few weeks ago, Nanny Ann will accompany Hazel and leave when the man came back from work.

"Teacher Qian, you are living in A City. It would be inconvenient for you to travel back and forth from your place to L City," Neil pointed out. "By staying together, it would be easier for you to look after Hazel. It will save both of us a lot of time."

It was then that Edith understood why the man had asked her to move in together.

According to the job requirement, Edith was supposed to do this job until Nanny Ann was well enough to return to her job. Auntie Ann was injured and it would require some time to recuperate. It was expected that Nanny Ann was going to return to her job as Hazel's caretaker in two months.

It would be inconvenient if she wanted to look for a place to live in. The rent in L City was very expensive for someone like her and finding a new place where she was going to stay for a short period was going to be a hassle.

Since it was the case, then, staying together under one roof would be very practical for both of them.

Neil Mo would not have to worry much about his niece when he had to entertain his clients for dinner or work overtime, while Edith would save a lot of time and money by staying together.

"Will this be inconvenient for you?" Neil Mo asked when he noticed that Edith has been staying in silence for a while.

Edith hesitated as she continued to weigh the pros and cons.

On one side, she was worried about Hazel and her living arrangement with her uncle.

She lived with her grandfather after her mother passed away. Her grandfather was a cop and he had to work overtime. Sometimes, she had to stay with Li's family at their B&B, and there were times when her grandfather would bring her along to the station. Edith was aware that living like that would be tiring for a child like Hazel.

On another side, she was still worried that she had to stay with Neil under one roof. If her grandfather knew that she was living with a man, wouldn't he come over and strangle her to death?

What if her co-workers knew of this matter and started to think of her as a loose woman?

Of course, there was an option where she can just keep this matter a secret from her grandfather and the others.

These days, her grandfather spent a lot of time going on a fishing trip with his friends and had no plan to come over to her place. Besides, this work and living arrangement will only last for a couple of months.

President Mo was someone who was always busy with his work. He left the house in the morning and only returned home at night. Although it was said that they will be living together, it was possible that she might not have the time to interact or meet him at all. Moreover, Hazel was going to be with them.

Regarding her co-workers... perhaps she should mention this matter to Headmistress Fu. If the others started to talk bad about her, at least Headmistress Fu will be able to back her up.

As she was deep in her thoughts, Edith turned slightly and her gaze was locked with Hazel, who was staring at her with an expectant look.

Because she was excited and curious to see her favorite teacher in her uncle's office, Hazel has been eavesdropping to the grownups' conversation. She did not know much about what they were talking about, but Hazel understood that her teacher was going to look after her when her uncle was at work and that they will be living together.

Her heart softened upon looking at Hazel's adorable face. Edith immediately made up her mind and spoke. "Alright. I agree to this arrangement."

Neil let out a breath of relief upon hearing her agreement. He saw the way she had hesitated and was ready to provide a place close by for her to live in, or increase her pay. But before he could say the words, Edith had agreed to his condition.

He was aware of how much his niece loved spending her time with the kindergarten teacher.

After consulting his mother regarding this matter, Neil had decided to ask Edith to move in with them for their convenience.

Later, he had let his friend, Henry Wu to investigate Edith and found that she had a clean background.

Rather than hiring a new caretaker to look after his niece, Neil had thought that Edith was the perfect candidate and he was ready to negotiate until she would agree to take this job offer.

Fortunately, it did not take her too long to agree.

The two of them continued to discuss their living arrangement and once they finished, Neil called Assistant Shawn into his office and instructed him to draft a contract.

Due to Assistant Shawn's work efficiency, the contract was printed, reviewed, and signed in less than fifteen minutes.

Edith stared at the contract in her hand with a dazed expression. It was still unbelievable that she was going to move in to live with both President Mo and Hazel at the weekend.

If Lily heard this news, perhaps she would squeal in excitement.

There were countless women who were willing to do anything to get the chance to sneak a peek at President Neil Mo's house. However, because she had agreed to look after Hazel, Edith was lucky enough to have the opportunities to live with him.

She had two days to pack up her stuff and settle everything in her end before she will move in with Neil and Hazel.

Next week, she was going to start a new job as Hazel's caretaker!

"Teacher Qian, is there anything else you would like to add?" Neil asked when he noticed that Edith has been staring at the contract for a long time.

"Nothing." Edith looked up and smiled.

"Then this weekend, I will come over to your place and pick you up," Neil said.

Seeing that the adults had stopped talking, Hazel walked over to them. She tried very hard to mask her excitement, but the glint of joy in her eyes was apparent. "Teacher Qian, you are going to stay with me?"

"Un," Edith nodded.

"Starting next week, you don't have to stay in my office after school," Neil spoke.
"Teacher Qian will replace Nanny Ann for a few months.. When I am not around, she will look after you."

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"I still could not believe that you agreed to stay with President Mo and his niece," Lily Zhao said from the other line.

A few days ago, when she was picking up her son from kindergarten, Edith had told her that she was going to move in with Neil Mo and Hazel so that it would be convenient for Edith to look after the little girl.

Lily was aware of Edith's intention to help the uncle and niece, but she did not expect that President Mo was going to suggest something like living together.

"If you snap a picture of the inside of President Mo and sell it, you could be a rich lady."

"Don't be ridiculous." Edith scoffed. She closed the luggage, zipped it, and took a deep breath. "I signed a confidentiality agreement. If I was caught, I might have to go to prison."

"I don't have many things to advise you, just that... Edith, you have to be careful with the way you behave. Don't let your gangster attitude out. Or else, President Mo and Hazel would be shocked and you might lose this babysitting job."

Edith narrowed her eyes as she listened to her friend's laughing voice.

As someone closed to Edith, Lily was fully aware that her friend might not be as gentle as she might seem.

Actually, Edith was worried about this matter as well. She has been staying alone for years and her small apartment has been the place where she can act and behaved in any way that she wanted.

Her job at the kindergarten paid well and she loved interacting with the children. However, she could not deny that dealing with kids can be very stressful as well. Especially as she had to look after the kids who came from a wealthy family. Not every one of them was well mannered like Hazel or Alex. There were some of them who were

naughty beyond words. Whenever those kids did something wrong, she could not scold them and had to bear with their rich kids' attitude.

She had trained to always keep the smile on her face as she dealt with those kids. It was only when she came back to her apartment that Edith was able to relax. Her small apartment was her heaven.

The gangster attitude that Lily had mentioned was something that she only dared to show to those people who were close to her and at this time, she was worried that she was going to subconsciously act that way in front of the uncle and niece.

"Whatever you do, don't drink," Lily reminded her. "At least not in front of the two of them."

Both of them knew how terrible Edith can be once she was drunk.

Edith massaged her forehead. "I can control myself," she said, though she was not sure if she would be able to do that for a long time. "I won't drink."

"Since we will be living in the same city, maybe we can hang out together often. Later, let's hang out together with Hazel and Alex. Like a playdate for the kids." She stopped herself and sigh. "But my son is only interested in building robots. Hazel is such a nice kid and she will probably get bored with Alex as her playdate."

"Maybe not," Edith looked around the room and was starting to miss living in her small apartment. "Alex and Hazel are pretty close in class."

Lily let out a gasp in surprise. "My son and President Mo's niece are close in class? When did this happen? Why didn't I know this? And here I am, still worrying how Alex is going to find a girlfriend later."

Edith rolled her eyes. The kids were still young and her friend had started to worry about her son finding a girlfriend. "I think Hazel had some interest in building robots as well," Edith said. "That is probably why the two were close in school."

"I didn't think that a girl like Hazel would have an interest in those things. Those from Mo's family are surely different," Lily spoke. She glanced towards her son's room and thought of asking him about his friendship with Hazel.

Of course, later, the two of them were speechless when they found out that the only reason Hazel was interested in robots was that Alex had told her that Edith liked them as well. By this time, Hazel had genuinely had an interest in building robots and was really good at it.

The two friends chatted for a while and hang up. Edith glanced at the time and quickly grabbed a clean outfit before she headed into the bathroom to take a shower.

After cleaning up the house for an hour and packing up, her body was sticky with sweat.

She had made an appointment with Neil Mo and she was not planning to let him wait when he came over to pick her up.

Edith Qian came out of the bathroom, with half an hour left. She was looking at her checklist one last time when the doorbell rang. When she looked at the door, Edith was surprised to see that Neil Mo and Hazel stood in front of her door.

"Why are you here?" Edith continued to stare at the uncle and niece alternately. "Didn't we agree that I am going to meet you downstairs?" She shifted slightly to let the two of them step in.

"You are going to move out, surely you must have a lot of stuff to carry," Neil said.

Earlier that morning, Hazel woke up with the excitement on her face. She knew that Edith was going to move in to live with them and was so looking forward to it. Later, she stared at him for a long time as if she wanted to say something, but was afraid to. When Neil finally asked, Hazel, told him that she wanted to help her teacher with moving.

Hazel seemed to remember that she had carried a lot of luggage and boxes when she started to move in with her uncle and thought that her teacher would have the same amount of stuff.

After considering this matter for a long time, Neil finally agreed with Hazel and the two of them head over to A City earlier. With the address that Edith had written last time, Neil then brought Hazel upstairs.

"Teacher Qian, I am here to help you to carry your stuff," Hazel added.

Her gaze softened upon learning the two's good intentions. Edith turned towards the luggage behind her and sighed. "I don't have that much stuff. Just one luggage."

Neil followed her gaze and frowned. "Will this be enough?"

"I can always come back if I need to pick up anything," Edith said.

She was going to move in with them for a couple of months and Edith was not planning to carry too much stuff. It would be troublesome for her when she needed to move back to her apartment.

"Is everything ready?"

Edith nodded. "Everything is all packed.. We can go now."

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Edith Qian sucked in a deep breath as she watched the building in front of her. Previously, she and Lily had walked past this area and Lily had mentioned that the pricing around this area was ridiculously high.

Although Lily and her husband both came from a good family, their wealth could not be compared to Mo's in L City.

MH Group business was too big. It started as with property development and construction and later on grow their business into leisure, entertainment, and hospitality. It was said that their group was planning to venture into other businesses as well.

"We're here," Neil announced as he parked his car in the parking area.

Edith helped Hazel to get out of the vehicle and watched as Neil took her luggage before he led her into the elevator. He pressed the button, and the three of them stayed in silence. Meanwhile, Edith continued to glance at her luggage with feeling a bit uneasy to let her boss carry her heavy luggage.

Although carrying that much weight should not be a problem to her, Neil had argued that such heavy things should be carried by a man. Seeing the expression on his face, Edith decided not to argue with him and held Hazel's hand instead.

Didn't Lily always call him an iceblock? However, after interacting with him within a short period, Edith found that President Mo can be courteous.

"This is my place," Neil announced as they stopped by a door. He pressed the passcode and let Edith remember them.

Edith walked into the house and swept her eyes around the duplex condo. The sunlight entered through the windows and brightened the room. From where she stood, Edith was able to see the city view.

The interior inside the house was very minimal with most of the furniture in a dark scheme color. Fortunately, there were some indoor plants in the room to add a splash of color.

It was clear that this place belonged to a single man. At once glance no one would be able to tell that a little girl was living in the house.

Just then, an elderly lady walked out of the kitchen and stopped when they saw the three of them at the door.

"This is Auntie Emma," Neil introduced. "She will come over everyday early morning to prepare breakfast for Hazel and clean up this place."

Previously, Auntie Emma only came over once every two days to clean up. However, after that one time when Neil had caught Hazel preparing her own breakfast, he started to realize that he could not neglect this little girl and had asked Auntie Emma to come over every morning to prepare breakfast for Hazel.

"If you needed anything, you can ask her," Neil continued. "Auntie Emma, this is Edith Qian. She will be staying here to look after Hazel until Auntie Ann returns."

Both Edith and Auntie Emma exchanged their greetings and chatted a little bit to break the ice.

"Uncle," Hazel called out with an excited voice. "Can I show Teacher Qian to her room?"

After her uncle had explained to her that her teacher was going to live together with them to look after her, Hazel has been ecstatic. She was looking forward to this day.

Her uncle might treat her nicely, but in the end, the two of them only got close after they agreed to live together. Meanwhile, her teacher was someone she was familiar with. Of course, with her teacher around, Hazel will have someone who will play with her.

Previously, when Nanny Ann was looking after her, the nanny was only in charge of her meal and supervised her as she played by herself. Nanny Ann was someone who was in her late fifty and there were lots of things that she could not do to accompany the little girl. Her uncle was someone who always busy with work. Although he had bought a lot of books and toys for her, he had never accompanied her to play.

Neil patted at her head and nodded. "Alright. Go ahead."

With his words, Hazel held Edith's hand and pulled her upstairs, leaving Neil to continue giving his instruction to Auntie Emma.

"Teacher Qian, this is my room," Hazel said as she stopped at a door. She turned the doorknob and revealed the pastel pink room.

Edith blinked as she adjusted her vision. Earlier, everything around her was in a dark scheme color, and this time, there was too much pink.

"Your room will be next to mine." Hazel pulled her towards the next door and turned the doorknob to enter. "Teacher Qian, this is your room."

Stepping into the room, Edith started to look around. Her eyes widened upon seeing the size of the room. It was massive as compared to her room in her small apartment.

Although the furniture was almost in the same dark color scheme, the wallpapers and bedsheets added more color and turned the room livelier. Most of all, the bed looked so comfortable that Edith started to wonder if she will be able to get up in the morning after sleeping on the bed.

"Teacher Qian, did you like it?" Hazel asked anxiously. The two of them had stepped into the room for a while, but her teacher had not said anything.

"Un," Edith nodded. "It's very pretty."

"I helped my uncle to choose some of the decoration," Hazel spoke before she pointed out at what she had chosen to decorate the room. "Teacher Qian, previously, you mentioned that you liked blue, therefore, I chose a blue bedsheet for you."

"It's a nice color." Edith laughed upon seeing the little girl's excitement. "You've got great taste."

Hearing her compliment, Hazel immediately stopped herself and lowered her head as her lips curled into a shy smile.

"How is it? Is everything alright with the room?"

Edith turned around at the voice and found Neil stood at the door with her luggage. She stepped towards him and took her luggage from him. "President Mo, thank you. This room is... massive."

"You can tell me if you need anything else," Neil said. He was someone who had never live with another person after he moved out of his parents' house until Hazel come along. Therefore, a little bit clueless about what a woman would need in their room.

Previously, he had to consult his mother and Hazel had volunteered as his adviser. He had Assistant Shawn to help him find some new furniture for this room in a day.

"Everything looks fine, but sure, I will tell you if there is anything I need," Edith said.

"You should unpack your stuff. I won't disturb you." Neil paused to look at the two girls in front of him and suddenly felt that the house was livelier as Hazel could not stop chattering since her teacher had arrived. "I still have something else to do. Later, let Hazel gave you a tour in the house."

Hazel accepted the job as a guide happily and made a plan to show her teacher around.

"Auntie Emma will prepare something for dinner," Neil said.. "Since it was the first day for you to move in, let's have dinner together to welcome you."

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Edith did not bring along a lot of things with her and therefore, it took her a short time to unpack her luggage. Then, she let Hazel took her on a tour around the house.

For convenience, her room was located just beside Hazel's. Neil's bedroom and office were at the end of the hallway.

Edith took note of everything made a note of where she can and where she cannot wander around.

Seeing that there were not many things for her to do, Edith went into the kitchen and chatted with Auntie Emma to learn a few things about Neil.

Still, there was not a lot of things that Edith was able to learn about her employer through Auntie Emma. According to Auntie Emma, she did not have a lot of contact with Neil and therefore did not know much about him.

The two women chatted for almost an hour as Hazel sat at the kitchen counter with her paper and color pencils. Once everything the dishes was prepared, Edith helped Auntie Emma to set the table.

Once everything was ready, Auntie Emma instructed Hazel to call out her uncle before she took off her apron and put on her brown colored jacket.

"Auntie Emma, you're not staying for dinner?"

The elderly lady smiled. "Miss Qian, I still have to go back and accompany my husband to eat."

Edith was stunned at this information. When Neil had told her that they will be having dinner together, she had expected that Auntie Emma will be joining them as well.

Since that was not the case, doesn't that means she will be having dinner with Neil and Hazel, just the three of them? She had shared a table with Neil and Hazel at a restaurant some times ago and thought that the atmosphere was awkward if it was not for Hazel's presence.

Now that she was about to have dinner together, Edith was starting to get anxious.

Her gaze shifted towards Hazel who walked down the stairs after she had called her uncle. Edith took a deep breath and calmed down.

Forget it. In the past, she even accompanied her grandfather at the police station and had a meal with a few thugs. Just having a meal with an iceblock like Neil Mo shouldn't be too bad.

"President Mo," Auntie Emma called as she saw the man walked down the stair.

"Auntie, you're going home?" Neil watched the elderly woman nodded and continued, "Old Tang is waiting for you downstairs. Since it is already this late, let him send you home."

"Thank you." Auntie Emma grabbed her purse and exchanged a few words with her employer before she walked out.

Neil returned to the dining area as soon as the elderly woman had left. He looked at the dishes on the table and flashed a casual smile. "Let's eat."

Edith pulled a chair and sat down next to Hazel. The three of them had a quiet meal together and Edith tried to dismiss the uncomfortable feeling by looking after Hazel and picking up some of the dishes for her.

Meanwhile, Neil was observing the two girls in front of him with the same awkwardness.

Although he was the one who offered Edith to move in for both his and Hazel's sake, it does not mean that he was comfortable with it. He was used to living alone before Hazel came along and now, there were two girls in his house. The two of them looked like they were enjoying their meals together and Neil suddenly felt like an outcast.

His eyes shifted to his niece and suddenly, Neil had a mixed feeling.

He was glad to see Hazel's happy expression but was not too happy upon realizing that his niece had not shown the same expression when she ate a meal with him. He could not deny that he was a bit jealous that his own family was closer to someone else.

But that too was his fault. He did not want to get close to Hazel when she was a baby as she was very small and he was afraid that he might accidentally hurt her. As she grew up, Hazel would always hide behind her mother every time she saw him.

At this time, Neil was silently regretting that he had not tried to get close to his niece from the very beginning. If he had shown his attention to her, then wouldn't Hazel be close to him as well?

He stood up abruptly, and the sound of the chair moving turned the two girls towards him. Neil froze and was suddenly aware that his movement had startled the two of them. He moved his gaze to Edith and spoke to ease the sudden tension in the room. "Teacher Qian, would you like to drink?"

"No," Edith immediately declined. "I still have to work tomorrow."

She had promised herself that she will never drink in the presence of Neil and Hazel lest she started to get very honest with her words and started to do something she would regret. It was her first day at work and she had no intention to get fired merely after a few hours.

Neil nodded before he walked over to the kitchen counter and poured himself a drink. After a sip, Neil began to feel himself more at ease. He went back to his seat and picked up his chopsticks. A thought crossed his mind and lifted his head to look at Edith.

"Teacher Qian, tomorrow morning, Old Tang will send both you and Hazel to the kindergarten," Neil said. "He is mainly responsible to send Hazel to school and pick her up. Later, I will give you his number and you can discuss your schedule with him."

Edith started to relax upon realizing that Neil wanted to discuss their living arrangement. "I have to arrive at school early to receive the children. I was planning to grab a taxi to the kindergarten earlier and later, you can let Old Tang send Hazel at the usual time." She turned to Hazel when the little girl pulled at her shirt.

"Teacher Qian, I wake up very early in the morning," Hazel said. "I can go with you. Let Grandpa Tang send both of us to school."

Edith laughed upon hearing her words. "Really? If you want to go with me, you have to wake up very early, you know?"

"I know." Hazel nodded. She stared back at her teacher with a serious expression. "Teacher Qian, don't worry. I'm an early riser."

"Then, it's settled," Neil said. "I will let Old Tang come over earlier and send you both to school.. Unless if you have another matter to attend to, let's just stay with this arrangement."

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Edith did not think that Hazel was telling her the truth when she told her that she was an early riser.

According to Auntie Emma, Hazel would usually arrive downstairs to have her breakfast earlier than her uncle. President Mo was someone who would rather skip his breakfast and spend his time reading the business section as soon as he woke up.

Because she needed to hurry and arrive at the kindergarten, Edith and Hazel went out early in the morning before Neil even emerged from his room. Due to this new arrangement, Hazel became the first student to arrive at the kindergarten.

Hazel accompanied her teacher at the entrance until the first student showed up. Her eyes brightened upon seeing that Alex He had arrived with his mother.

The four of them exchanged greetings before Alex waved his hand to his mother and pulled Hazel into the classroom.

"You were not joking when you told me that the two of them were close," Lily said as she watched the two kids disappeared into the class. "When did this happen?"

Edith laughed and shrugged. "But this is good. Previously, Alex would choose to play alone. Other than his best friend, Tyler Lu, he did not like to mingle with the others."

Lily started to frown and a long sigh escaped her. The first time she heard that her son did not have a lot of friends at the kindergarten, Lily could not stop worrying. Later, she came over to the kindergarten to spy on her son and found out that he was someone who did not gather in a large group.

"You're here early," Edith tried to change the topic and swiftly regretting her decision when she saw the bright look on her friend's expression.

"I came to get those juicy gossips from you." A wide smile curved on her lips. "Come on. Tell me. How's the first night together?"

"Ugh." Edith pulled a face. "What first night together? Don't make it sound too dirty."

"How was that dirty. It was literally your first night at President Mo's place," Lily whispered. "I think, you are the one with those dirty thoughts."

Edith rolled her eyes. She met Lily's gaze and knew that her friend will not go away until she gave her some good story. "It was fine. We had dinner last night as President Mo wanted to welcome me." She watched Lily's teasing smile and continued, "Sitting across him made me all jittery and I had indigestion. It was stressful."

Lily laughed out loud as she imagined her friend's face as she had to keep her manner in check while facing President Mo.

"You're enjoying this." Edith narrowed her eyes at her and saw the teasing smile widened.

Lily stayed and teased her friend a while longer and left once she got what she wanted. Soon, the other parents came to sent their kids over to the school.

When Edith walked into the classroom, the kids were running around and making a lot of noise. Her eyes wandered around the room and saw that Hazel and Alex were still together. Moreover, three other kids were surrounding the two of them as well.

A sigh escaped her as she watched the five kids together, knowing that most of them never get along well. However, at this time, the five of them were playing together because of Hazel and Alex were together.

Edith walked over to her table and clapped once before she asked the others to disperse. The class quietened down in two minutes and Edith began her lesson.

It was only when the children were taking their afternoon nap that Edith was able to relax. She stretched out her body and took out her phone on routine. She saw a message from her grandfather and clicked it.

A picture of a mackerel almost the size of her arms appeared on the screen along with her grandfather's bragging that he had caught them on his fishing trip.

Edith snickered and replied to her grandfather's message.

This time, Mike Qian replied as soon as he got her reply. Edith glanced at the kids before she walked out of the classroom silently to call her grandfather. Her phone call was connected after a few seconds.

"Grandfather, you're back from your fishing trip?" Edith asked the moment the phone call was connected.

"Just arrived home an hour ago," Mike Qian said. He glanced at his friend, George Bei, and placed a finger on his lips, signaling his friend not to make a noise. "Did you see the picture I send you? How was it? It was a big fish, right?"

"Grandfather, are you sure it wasn't just luck?"

"You!" Mike Qian gritted his teeth in anger. He closed his eyes and took a few deep breaths to calm down as her granddaughter laughed happily. "Anyway, Aaron had a matter to attend to in L City. I asked him to send over a box of fresh fish to you. He should arrive at your place around the time you get off work."

"What?" Edith's eyes widened in surprise and she started to panic. It has been only one night that she had moved out to President Mo's place. If Aaron came over to her apartment and found out that she was not around, wouldn't her grandfather get suspicious?

"I sent over a box of food to you. Why are you so anxious?"

Edith took a few deep breaths upon noticing the hint of suspicion in her grandfather's tone. "Of course I'm anxious," Her mind whirled to think of an excuse. "I have something at the kindergarten and am planning to stay at Lily's place for a few nights. If Aaron came to my place and found that I'm not around, wouldn't he have to take those fresh produces back?" Her hands clenched into a fist, knowing that she was lying to her grandfather.

Mike Qian thought of her granddaughter's explanation and thought that it was very logical. "Then, I will call him and tell him to send it over to Lily's place. What is her address again?"

"Grandfather," Edith called out. "Don't worry. I'll call him. Anyway, he was not that familiar with Lily. It's best if I arrange a meeting time with him."

Once the phone call ended, Edith quickly browsed through her phone book to find Aaron's number.

Meanwhile, in Z Town, Mike Qian placed his phone on the table after the phone call with his granddaughter. His gaze shifted towards the scattered papers on the table and he picked up one of them to study the information on it.

"Old Qian, was that Edith?" George Bei glanced at his friend and heaved a long sigh when his friend did not give him another response other than a curt nod. "How long do you think you're going to keep telling your granddaughter that you went out on a fishing trip?"

"For as long as I can," Mike answered quickly and shot his friend a warning gaze.

"You're not planning to tell her about Rachel?"

Mike's movement halted as he thought of his daughter who passed away years ago.

"No. And you.... you should know better that you should never say a word to Edith about her Rachel."

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After school ended, Edith texted Neil about her plan to head over to the He's residence and received a green light. She discussed the matter with Old Tang, and the older man drove her over to the He's residence to wait for Aaron to arrive with the packaging that her grandfather had prepared for her.

Hazel stepped into the house and was surprised to see that her friend, Alex He was inside. "Alex, why are you here?"

Alex stared at the girl with the same surprised look. "This is my house. Why are you here?" He shifted his gaze to Edith and smiled brightly. "Auntie Edith!" His expression then changed upon realizing that the two were together. "Hazel, you're with Auntie Edith?"

The little girl frowned slightly at hearing the way Alex was addressing her favorite teacher. She moved closer to Edith and held her hand tightly as if claiming her territory.

Lily, who stood at the side saw this exchanged and the corner of her lips twitched slightly. She nudged her friend at her waist and said, "It seemed that Hazel really liked you, huh?"

"Of course." Edith looked at her friend with a proud expression. "I was voted as the children's favorite teacher in the kindergarten last year."

Lily rolled her eyes. She glanced at Hazel and whispered to her friend, "Will it be alright for you to take President Mo's niece to my place?"

"Don't worry. I told him I had a place to stop by, and he was alright with it," Edith said. "As long as I looked after Hazel, it should be alright. Moreover, his driver came along with us."

Lily led her friend into the living area and Hazel trailed closely after her. After a while, Hazel began to notice that Alex was around and there was a box of Gundam in his hands.

Previously, Alex had told her that their teacher liked to build the model as well, and seeing the box in his hand piqued her curiosity.

"Auntie Edith, are you here to help me build with my Gundam model?"

"Teacher Qian, you know how to build them as well?" Hazel asked.

"Your teacher is pretty good at it," Lily said. A smile curled on her lips as she looked at the little girl. "She helped Alex to build a few models previously. If you wanted to see them, let Alex show them to you." She turned to her son and raised a brow. "Why don't you show those models to your friend?"

Alex alternated his gaze at the three of them and finally stopped at Hazel.

Although his relationship with Hazel was pretty good recently, it was the first time that a classmate came to his house. He had never shown his Gundam to anyone before. But,

seeing the expectant look on everyone's face, Alex then turned to Hazel. "You... would you like to see the models that I built with Auntie Edith?"

Hazel's glanced at her teacher as if asking for her opinion before she nodded.

"Then, you should come with me," Alex said after a while. "My father let me store those models on the shelf. It wouldn't be convenient for me to bring them out."

"Go," Edith urged the little girl. "I will call you over when it's time to go home."

Hazel nodded obediently before she followed Alex into the playroom."

Once the kids were away, Lily turned to Edith and the corner of her lips tilted into a mischievous smile. "I didn't think that you would get yourself into trouble on the first day you're on your job."

Edith massaged her forehead. "I didn't think that my grandfather would send Aaron to come here."

"Things would get pretty interesting if your grandfather finds out that you were living with another man."

"You just want to see me get into trouble." Edith narrowed her eyes at her friend.

Lily laughed out loud. Then, the two friends chatted for a while until the doorbell rang and an auntie came over and reported that a man was coming to meet Edith.

When Edith came out, her friend, Aaron Li was holding an icebox cooler in his hand. He placed the box on the table and took a deep breath. "I thought I would have the chance to ask you out for dinner. It was not easy for me to come over to the city and find you."

Edith laughed. "Sorry. But, I really have something to do. You should tell me earlier the next time when you're coming to the city."

"The next time I come, it will be your treat." Aaron flashed her a lopsided smile.

"Alright. It's a deal." Edith walked over to the icebox cooler and peered into it.

There were a few types of fishes and other shellfish. Her eyes stopped at the mackerel in the icebox, but she soon noticed that this fish was not the same as the one in the picture that her grandfather showed her earlier.

"I heard that your grandfather caught some mackerel this time. As for the other products," Aaron paused and smiled. "He bought them at the jetty this morning."

A soft smile curled on her lips as a warm feeling spread throughout her heart.

Perhaps her grandfather managed to catch just one fish during his last fishing trip and had wanted to share with her his prize. However, because he was a proud man, her grandfather had added some other fishes and shellfish as well.

"Well, since I have completed the mission that your grandfather send me to do, I should go. I still have some places to go and people to meet," " Aaron said. He turned to Lily and nodded briefly at her before he turned around and left.

Edith let out a breath in relief seeing that her friend was leaving. She really did not know what she was going to do if Aaron decided to stay around for a while longer.

Anyway, she needed to go home with Hazel before her boss got home and realized that her niece was not at home.

Edith watched as Aaron's vehicle leave the area and heaved another breath of relief. However, before she was able to relax, a familiar SUV slowed on the road and stopped just in front of her residence.

The door opened and someone stepped out of the SUV. Edith found her breathing hitched upon finding that the person was no other than Neil Mo. "President Mo. How come you're here?"

"I finished my work early and heard from Old Tang that you and Hazel were still outside," Neil said. "I send Old Tang back and came to pick you both."

Lily poked at her friend's waist a few times. At this time she was unable to utter a word as she was shocked to find President Mo of MH Group was right in front of her house. Her hair stood when Neil turned to her and nodded.

"Teacher Qian, is your matter here done?" Neil asked.

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After saying their goodbyes to Lily and Alex, both Edith and Hazel hopped into Neil's SUV and let him drive them home.

Their journey back to the condo was silence and the situation was making Edith uncomfortable. At this time, she wished that Hazel would talk to her and liven the atmosphere, but the little girl was too tired after playing with Alex and she was now taking a nap beside her.

Edith was not expecting that Neil would come over to fetch them from Lily's place. Somehow, Edith was feeling as if her boss was checking up on her and it was making her slightly uncomfortable.

Neil had hired her to allow his niece to have enough rest after school. Instead of doing that, she had dragged the little girl to Lily's house. If it was not for her grandfather's parcel, Edith would not have to head over to Lily's place. Hazel could head home earlier and rest.

Edith glanced at the rear mirror and saw a portion of Neil's head.

The man was still quiet as he continued to concentrate on his driving. He lifted his head to look at the rear mirror and was surprised to see to meet Edith's gaze.

Previously, Neil had this feeling as if he was being watched. He didn't think that once he looked up, he would meet Edith's gaze, and the woman made no move to look away.

"Teacher Qian, what's wrong?"

"President Mo, are you checking on me?"

She was curious. Instead of letting this uneasy feeling haunting her, it was best if she asked for his honest answer. At least, the next time, she would not repeat the same thing.

Neil was startled by her question. It took him a few seconds before he could speak again, "Why would you think that I am checking on you?"

"Why else would you appear at my friend's place to pick us up?" Edith said.

It was then that Neil was able to grasp what Edith was thinking. "It was not as you think. You have mentioned that you have a matter to settle and you were taking Hazel along as you. Teacher Qian, I have seen you with Hazel trust you with how you are planning to look after her. Or else, I won't convince you to accept this job with such a high salary."

Edith heard his explanation and felt the corner of her lips twitched upon seeing his iceblock expression through the rear mirror. She should be touched that President Mo had that much trust in her. But... President Mo! Can you please not say those heartwarming words with such expression?

"I was not planning to come over," Neil Mo spoke after a brief silence in the vehicle. He hesitated and continued, "I was planning to stay at the office for a while longer, but my mother reminded me that as Hazel's guardian, I need to be close to her. Since I have told everyone that I will look after Hazel, I have to do my part well."

Neil thought of her mother's phone call an hour ago and pointed out that he should not relax just because he knew that Hazel will be well taken of under Edith. He was Hazel's uncle, her relative, while Edith was only the little girl's teacher.

"You will have your chance. Hazel is a small child and at this age, it would be easier for you to get close to her." Edith turned to the little girl who napped beside her and heaved a soft sigh.

As her teacher, Edith was able to see that Hazel was forced to mature after her parents' death. As compared to her, Hazel's condition and mental state were better. At least she did not cause trouble for her grandparents and uncle.

However, this matter was making Edith worry about her as well. No matter what, Hazel will need to vent her feelings as keeping her emotion to herself will slowly eat her as she grew up.

Neil's SUV continued to cruise past the road and Edith was suddenly reminded that there was a supermarket near Neil's place.

"President Mo, can you stop by the supermarket for a while?"

Neil glanced at the signage not far away from them and slowed down. "You have something to buy?"

"Hmm," Edith nodded. "If it was too inconvenient, you can drop me and head home with Hazel first. I will grab a cab later."

At this time, Hazel stirred up from her nap after listening to the adults' conversation. She looked out the window and back at Edith. "Are we going to buy something from the supermarket?"

"I'm going out to get a few things." Edith patted at the little girl's head and smiled. "You should go home with your uncle first."

Hazel blinked a few times and found that her sleepiness had disappeared. She turned to her uncle and said, "Can I go along with Teacher Qian? It has been a while since the last time I come here."

Neil was about to tell the little girl that they needed to go home when he recalled that Hazel's mother, Claire, would often take her along whenever she needed to get some groceries.

In the end, Neil pulled his car into the parking lot and looked at Edith. "We will go with you."

Edith hesitated for a brief second and nodded. "Alright."

Just like that, the three of them walked into the supermarket, looking like a family of three. Hazel quickly volunteered to help Edith to push the trolley and Neil trailed after them without saying anything.

Hazel has been keeping her eyes on the fresh produce that her teacher had put in the trolley for a while and her eyes were staring at those items with a curious gaze. "Teacher Qian," she whispered. "Are you going to cook something?"

"Un," Edith nodded. "My grandfather sent me a box of seafood. They are still fresh. It would be a waste if I did not cook them quickly."

"Your grandfather?"

"You met him previously at the noodle stall in Z Town, remember?" Edith explained. "He was that grandfather with the fierce look on his face."

Hazel frowned as she tried to recall her teacher's grandfather, but she could not recall anyone with a fierce look. In Hazel's eyes, those grandfathers who were at the noodle stall that day were all very kind. One of them had complimented that she was very well behaved.

"Hazel, what do you like to eat?" Edith asked. "Let's see if I can prepare something that you would like?"

The little girl thought for a while and answered, "Noodle. I like noodles."

"Then, let's find some ingredients to make them? How about fried noodles?"

"You don't have to cook." Neil, who was at the side was listening to the two girls conversation finally decided to speak. "Let's just get some takeaways."

He was planning to order takeaways food for their dinner, anyway.

After Hazel had come to live with him, Neil would often order for takeaways from a good restaurant for their dinner. It was only yesterday that he managed to convince Auntie Emma to stay longer and prepare some dinner for them.

It was a special occasion and he wanted to make Edith feel welcome and therefore will be more at ease to stay at his place to look after his niece.

"It's fine." Edith stared at Neil's cool expression and decided to joke around with him. "President Mo, could it be that you are worried that my cooking would be unpalatable?"

"That is not what I meant." The iceblock expression disappeared momentarily and Neil was worried that Edith would misunderstand his intention.

Edith laughed upon seeing the man's expression changed slightly. "I can tell you that I'm really good at cooking seafood."

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Once they arrived home, Edith took everything she bought to the kitchen. She turned around, watched Neil placed the icebox on the table, and thanked him. She opened the box and the three of them peered into the box.

"Teacher Qian, that's a lot of fishes!" Hazel stared into the box with her eyes wide.

Edith heaved a sigh as she checked on the amount of seafood that her grandfather had sent to her. Fortunately, she had let Lily have half of them, or else, Edith did not know what she was going to do with them.

If she was living alone in her apartment, she would not be able to finish the amount of food.

"Hmm," Edith nodded. "I guess this amount of seafood would be enough for a week." She turned to Neil and smiled. "President Mo, you should go and do what you need to do. When everything is ready, I will let Hazel call you for dinner."

Hazel raised her hand high. "Teacher Qian, I want to stay and help!"

"Alright. You shall be my little helper for today."

Neil stayed at the kitchen to watch the two interactions for a while longer and felt the same tad of jealousy that his niece was closer to Edith than she was with him. The smile on Hazel's face right now was too dazzling.

Hazel inherited her good look from both her mother and father. Her smiling face was the cutest and Neil recalled seeing the same smile whenever she was around her mother. However, this smile quickly disappeared as soon as her parents passed away.

The first few weeks after her parents passed away, Hazel almost had no expression on her face. Neil had thought that his niece would never show the same smile again.

It was after returning to school that Hazel started to show various expressions again.

Neil was relieved, but he still wished that Hazel would have the same smile when she was with him. Looking at her now, Neil had wanted to stay in the kitchen and continue to

look at his niece. However, the two of them were acting as if he was not present and Neil was starting to feel like an outsider.

In the end, he shifted out of the kitchen quietly and head over into his office to deal with his work matters.

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Edith stepped backward to look at the little girl in front of her. "We don't have a child-size apron at this home, so you have to make do with that," she said as she adjusted the apron on Hazel's body. "Next time when we go out, we should get an apron that is suitable for you."

"Un," Hazel nodded enthusiastically. She went to her teacher's side and listened to her instruction as she was teaching her to wash vegetables. Then, she stood at the side and admired Edith's skill in cleaning the seafood with ease.

The sizzling sound caught Hazel's attention, and the aromatic smell of garlic and other seasoning wafted through her nose. Hazel watched Edith stirred in the seafood into the pan and was amazed at how the prawn turned pink.

Growing up, there was always an auntie who would cook at the house and her mother would always tell her not to enter the kitchen as it was dangerous for her. Therefore, to watch her teacher cooking up close was a new experience for her.

To see the ingredients turned into something delicious in the pan made Hazel fascinated with cooking.

At the end of it, Hazel looked at the seafood with pitiful eyes. The squid and crabs looked so different than they were at the beginning. Hazel poked her hand at Mr. Crab and whispered, "Poor Mister Crab." She stared at the crab for a while longer and continued, "But you're very delicious."

Edith stood at the side and smiled when caught the little girl's mutterings to the crab. "Hazel, would you like to visit the aquarium with me?"

"You're going to take me to the aquarium?"

"Un," Edith nodded. "I haven't been to the aquarium for a long time. If you would like to go with me, then I will ask your uncle to let us go. What do you think?"

The little girl's eyes brightened. "I'd love to."

"Then, we'll talk to your uncle and convince him to let us go, alright?"

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Neil Mo walked down the stairs and was surprised to see the amount of food on the table. He lifted his gaze to Edith and spoke, "You made all these?"

"I helped!" Hazel raised her hand enthusiastically. "I helped Teacher Qian to wash the vegetables and stir the ingredients in the wok."

Seeing the excited look on Hazel's face as she talked to him startled Neil for a few seconds. He recovered quickly and patted the girl on her hair. "You did a good job. The noodles look delicious."

Hazel pulled her uncle's hand and made him sit down. "Then, you have to finish everything, alright?"

"Alright." A helpless sigh escaped from him as he saw Hazel's rare enthusiasm towards him.

Neil picked up the chopsticks and took a small bite at the noodle and was surprised at the fresh taste of the noodles and seafood. Though the noodle did not look very fancy, he was able to taste the sweetness and freshness of the seafood. It seemed that Edith was not lying when she told him that she was good at cooking seafood.

Edith watched as the uncle and niece ate the noodles quietly and recalled her conversation with Hazel in the kitchen. "President Mo?"

"Hmm?" Neil lifted his head and the chopstick in his hand stopped in midair.

"I was planning to take Hazel to the aquarium this Sunday if it is alright with you?"

Hazel put her chopstick down as she heard the word 'aquarium'. she looked at her uncle with an expectant gaze and spoke, "Uncle! I want to go! I've never been to an aquarium before."

The little girl's puppy dog eyes melted his heart and Neil nodded. "Alright."

Once dinner ended, Edith sent Hazel to shower while she went back to the kitchen to tidy up. She was storing the dry plates back into the cupboard when she noticed the tall man, leaning on the wall, watching her.

"President Mo, is there something wrong?" Edith asked as she wiped her hand on a clean towel.

"About your trip to the aquarium," Neil hesitated. "I-I want to come along."

The two adults stared at each other for a while before Edith broke the silence. "You... want to come along?"

Neil nodded. "Teacher Qian, you know that my relationship with Hazel is not very good.. Therefore, I hope that you can help me to mend my relationship with my niece."

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MH Group.

As Neil Mo stepped out of his office with his assistant, Manager Autumn Feng, who was trying to strike a conversation with the secretaries turned around and smiled.

"President Mo," Autumn greeted enthusiastically.

A deep frown appeared on Neil's face when he saw the way Autumn's hair was swaying around.

Although he had never cared about the way his employee was dressed, Neil found that the way this manager was behaving was too annoying. It was not hard for him to figure out that Autumn Feng was trying to seduce him with the way she dressed, but after trying so long to attract his attention, shouldn't she know when it was time to give up? Since he had never reciprocated her move, she should know that he was not interested.

Meanwhile, the group of secretaries shot an annoyed look towards Autumn as they were worried that their boss would misunderstand that they spent their time gossiping during office hours.

There were a lot of sensitive documents around President Mo's floor and as President Mo's secretary, they had to deal with a lot of important matters. Therefore getting caught gossiping would not be a good thing for them.

Neil glanced at Autumn and his with indifference, but the woman was still smiling brightly at him.

"Manager Feng, how can I help you?" Assistant Shawn stepped forward and stopped Autumn from taking another step towards their employer.

Autumn shot a disapproving gaze towards Assistant Shawn, and the look on her face was quickly replaced with a smile when she turned to Neil again.

"President Mo, I heard that you are going to attend the banquet to welcome Mister Han to MH City." The smile on her face stretched up. "You should know that I am very fluent in Korean. If you don't mind, I can accompany you to this banquet."

"Manager Feng, is the Business Development Department is very idle recently?" Neil said, causing the girl's face to change slightly. "You are so free that you are willing to work extra hours and accompany me to a banquet?"

"President Mo, I only wanted to help you."

"Then, you should focus on your job and don't make any mistake." Neil narrowed his eyes dangerously. "The last time you submitted a report to me, there were too many mistakes that even a rookie would not make. Manager Feng, don't make the others think that the company only hired you because of your father."

Autumn gritted her teeth as she watched both Neil and Assistant Shawn walked away. Her ears caught the snickering from the secretaries and she turned around angrily. However, the secretaries swiftly lowered their heads to look at the documents.

Autumn Feng was not content with how Neil had treated her.

She had known Neil for almost ten years when they were still teenagers. Her father was one of the directors in MH Group and the two had a lot of chances to meet. Autumn had always known that as compared to his younger brother, Neil was a bit cold to everyone else. He was someone who would not talk to other girls unless if it was for an important matter. But despite his cold attitude to people, Autumn had always known that Neil was a capable man.

She worked hard to enter MH Group and rose to a managerial position at her age.

However, why was it that now they have grown up, and she had come to work at MH Group, Neil would not spare another glance at her?

Neil Mo entered the elevator and glanced at his assistant. "Next time, don't let anyone unrelated to come to this floor."

Assistant Shawn nodded. "Yes, sir."

The elevator finally stopped at the ground floor and walked out. As they walked into the lobby, the two men stopped once they noticed the little commotion. There was a little bit of shouting, and the crowds were gathering to look at whatever was going on.

Assistant Shawn frowned before he took out his phone to call the guards and instructed them to do their job properly. A deep sigh escaped him. They just got rid of one troublesome person, but now, another person was trying to make trouble at the company.

It was the time where the employees clock off work and there was a lot of passerby around the area. No matter what reason it was for someone to cause a commotion, it would not be a good thing if someone recorded this and posted it on the internet.

"Let me go!" A voice belonged to a male shouted out loud. "I will not go out until I see President Mo!"

Assistant Shawn's expression changed upon hearing the man's words. He glanced at Neil's face and was relieved upon finding that the man did not show a hint of anger.

"President Mo, I will go over and see what is going on," Assistant Shawn spoke. He watched his boss nodded curtly and went over to the crowd to see the commotion. However, his steps halted upon hearing the man's shouting again.

"I was wrongfully accused! President Mo! You cannot do this to me! I have worked for this company for years. You cannot fire me just like this," the man continued to shout.

Assistant Shawn glanced at his boss and found that his expression did not change much. He hurriedly walked into the crowd to check at what was going on and his face changed once he recognized Edward Xiao.

Recently, the company found that he had embezzled a sum of money and with enough evidence, the man had to leave his job.

Although Manager Xiao had voiced out that he was not guilty, the evidence pointed out that he was indeed guilty. No matter how many times they checked, everything was pointing towards Edward Xiao.

Assistant Shawn glanced at a guard who stood at the side and frowned. "What are you doing? Why would you allow someone to make a mess here?"

The guards immediately stepped forward to hold the man and drag him out of the building. Earlier, they have recognised Manager Xiao and did not want to treat him harshly. However, now that Assistant Shawn had arrived at the scene, the guards had no other choice but to prevent Manager Xiao from creating more disturbance.

"The next time you see him, don't let him enter the building," Assistant Shawn reminded the guards. Then, he went to President Mo's side.

"President Mo, it was Edward Xiao, the manager who was responsible for the misappropriation of salary for the construction worker," Assistant Shawn reported. "The guards have taken him away now."

Neil stared at the direction where Manager Xiao was taken, and his eyes narrowed.

Recently, there were too many incident happening at the company.

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After the banquet ended, Assistant Shawn drove Neil back to his condo. The sky has long turned dark, and the surroundings were quiet as at this time, many of the people in the city had entered the dreamland.

When Neil entered the house, he was surprised to see that the living area was brightly lit and there was a delicious smell coming from the kitchen. Neil walked quietly towards the kitchen and found Edith.

The woman was slurping her noodle eagerly with one leg on a chair and her arm resting on the knee. Her hands moved swiftly and once in a while, she would sigh as she chewed.

As if she could sense that someone was watching her, Edith lifted her gaze and the chopstick in her hand paused midair. The noodle in her mouth fell back in the bowl and Edith started to cough loudly as the spicy soup got into her throat.

Edith put her legs down, grabbed the glass of water on the table, and drank quickly. Her throat felt better, although slightly burning from the spicy soup. She took a deep breath and looked at the man before her.

"President Mo, you're back."

Neil snapped out of his trance when he heard her voice. His lips tilted slightly as he recalled the way Edith had reacted when she saw him a few seconds earlier. "Sorry. I did not mean to startle you."

Edith wiped her mouth with a paper towel and tried to calm down. At this time, her head was whirling with various thoughts. She did not think that Neil would return home at this time.

She was counting that she would hear it when he entered the house, but Neil had walked in silently and appeared like a ghost.

Neil shifted his gaze away lest Edith would be embarrassed. He looked around the area and could not find his niece. "Hazel?"

"She went to bed a few hours ago," Edith reported. Seeing that Neil was not commenting on the way she ate, Edith planned to pretend that the incident did not happen.

"Why are you not asleep?"

"I was studying for my class. I got hungry and decided to make something to eat." She stared into her half-eaten bowl of noodles and found that she no longer has the appetite.

Neil followed her gaze and saw that there Edith had not finished her meal. "You should continue and finish your noodles."

Edith sat down on the chair and poked at the noodles. But with Neil's presence around, Edith thought that everything was awkward. Nevertheless, Edith picked up a strand of noodles and chewed it slowly. Her gaze followed Neil's movement as he walked over to the living area, took off his coat, and sat down on the sofa.

Slowly, Neil raised his hands and massaged his painful head.

Previously, when her brother, Adam Mo was still alive, he would often attend any banquet of any form of entertainment for the company. Now that he was no longer around, Neil had to take the job and attend those gatherings.

Because he was not good at socializing as his brother, Neil thought that this gathering was somewhat strenuous. Every time he came back from those gatherings, he would often felt uncomfortable.

"Here, drink this."

Neil looked up and saw that Edith was holding a mug in her hand. The sweet smell of honey wafted to his nose.

"I made you some honey water." She confirmed his suspicion. "It might help."

"Thank you." He took the mug from her and took a few sips. The warm liquid went to his stomach and he felt slightly better and he emptied the mug.

"Have you eaten? If you haven't, I can help you to prepare something." Edith said. "Your stomach might feel a little better after eating something."

Living with her grandfather, she would often look after him when he came back home after having too many drinks with his team. Usually, her grandfather would request her to make him some noodles.

"President Mo, you don't have to be too courteous. You paid me a high salary to look after your niece. Just making you a bowl of noodle would not be too difficult," Edith said when she noticed his hesitation. "Since we are living together, we should look after each other. Besides, I still have to attend the class tomorrow. I wouldn't be at ease if I have to leave Hazel when you were unwell."

Hearing her words, Neil could no longer find a reason to decline her offer. "Alright. Please, help me prepare something to eat."

Edith walked into the kitchen, took out the ingredients, and in ten minutes, a bowl of piping hot noodles were served. Neil took a seat at the kitchen counter and found that the smell of the noodles was making him hungry. He picked up the spoon and took a sip at the soup.

Noticing that she was looking at him, Neil lifted his head. "It's good." He moved his gaze towards the bowl in front of her and said, "You should eat too."

Edith picked up her chopstick again and picked at a strand of noodle and chewed slowly.

"Why are you eating slowly? That is not how you eat your noodles just now."

Hearing his words, Edith accidentally slurped on the noodle too quickly and she started to cough again. She thumped her fist on her chest and looked at Neil begrudgingly.

Edith knew that Neil had seen the way she was eating her noodle earlier and thought that he was not going to say a word about it.

Another cough escaped her when she noticed the slight smile on the corner of his lips.

What is this? Was he teasing her? The iceblock President Mo was teasing her!?

Edith whispered a few cursing words, but after pondering for a while, she decided not to care about his words.

So what if she had seen the way she ate her noodles? If he started to complain about her manners, then she can only be mindful of her manners for as long as she was staying at his condo.

"The noodles were a bit soggy and cold. It doesn't taste good to eat it quickly," Edith came up with an excuse to ease the awkwardness.

Neil saw that Edith was not lifting her head to look at him and decided not to say anything more about this matter.

There was a long silence between them as they continued to eat their noodles.

"About the trip to the aquarium," Neil spoke and broke the silence. "My assistant had booked tickets for us."

"Oh." Edith nodded before she lowered her head again. "Right." She cleared her throat a few times and spoke, "President Mo, since you're here, there is something that I need to tell you."

Neil raised a brow and waited for her to continue.

"Early next month, the kindergarten will be holding a parent and child activity day," Edith spoke. "President Mo, it would be good if you could free your time and come over.. Hazel would be happy to see you."

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It was Saturday morning and Edith was preparing herself to go over to her class. When she went downstairs, Hazel was having her breakfast in the dining area and Auntie Emma was preparing some breakfast.

Hazel stared at her teacher with her bright eyes and saw that she was dressed and ready to go out. "Teacher Qian, you have class this morning?"

Last night, Edith had reminded the little girl that she will not be around as she had to attend a class.

"Hmm," Edith nodded. "Today your uncle will be looking after you."

"When will you get back?"

Edith stared at the girl and a chuckle escaped her when she saw Hazel's expectant gaze. She had been staying with the uncle and niece in the house for almost a week and Hazel has become really sticky towards her recently.

Suddenly, Edith did not know how will this little girl react once the two-month contract ended.

Edith sighed and pulled Hazel into a hug before she kissed the top of her head. This little girl was too obedient and cute. Edith was sure that she too will have a hard time to part with Hazel later. Fortunately, they can still see each other at kindergarten.

"I will be back in the evening," Edith said. Her class should end around lunch hour, but she had planned to visit Lily later.

"Oh," Hazel dropped her gaze back to the bowl of porridge. She had thought that Edith's class would end sooner than that and she was planning to ask her to play with her.

Hazel was very close to her mother and having Edith around the house made her feel more at ease.

After living with Edith for a few days, Hazel was happy that she gets to learn a lot of interesting things—those things that she would never learn at her kindergarten. Edith would always fill her time with interesting activities and they both had a lot of fun.

Edith's smile curled into a helpless smile at Hazel's disappointed expression. "Tomorrow, we will visit the aquarium together and we will have a lot of fun, alright?"

The little girl's expression changed again and this time, her happiness was apparent. Watching the cute expression, Edith could not help but kiss her on the head again.

At this time, a sound of movement was heard and Edith lifted her head and saw that Neil was walking down the stairs.

"President Mo, good morning," Edith greeted.

"Good morning," Neil replied coolly. He gave Edith a look over and asked, "You are going to your class?"

"Yes," Edith nodded.

Seeing the indifferent look on his face, Edith subconsciously let out a sigh. She had thought that the President Mo who teased her with the way she was eating noodles was too strange. Perhaps, last night he was tipsy and therefore had acted differently.

"Let me give you a lift," Neil said.

"That's alright. I can walk over to the main street and grab a cab."

"It would be hard to grab a cab around this area," Neil pointed out. "Besides, I am taking Hazel out later." He walked over to Hazel and bent to her level. "Let's go and see your parents later."

"Un," Hazel quickly nodded.

A rare smile curled on Neil's face. He patted at the little girl's hair and said, "Eat your breakfast."

Once they had their breakfast, Neil drove Edith to her class before he drove to the cemetery.

Neil helped his niece off the vehicle and watched as the girl stepped carefully with two small size flower bouquet in her hand. The two of them had made a quick stop at the florist earlier and Hazel had chosen some flowers for her parents.

Hazel placed the bouquet on the grave, took a step back, and stared at the tomb in a daze. Whenever she came over to visit her parents at the weekend, Hazel would always stare at the tomb for a long time. It was as if she was afraid that she was going to forget her parents and had wanted to record how they look like in her brain.

"Don't you want to say something to them?" Neil spoke when the little girl stayed in silence for a long time. When Hazel turned to look at him, Neil pointed his hand to the corner and said, "I will head over there to call your grandmother. You can take your time to tell everything to them."

"Un," Hazel nodded obediently. She watched as her uncle walked away and turned to the tomb. The little girl took a deep breath and flashed a smile. "Mama, Papa, it's me, Hazel."

Neil turned around to glance at the little girl and a heavy sigh escaped him. His heart tugged as he listened to the girl's voice. Every time Hazel came to visit the cemetery, she would often have this expression; a smile on her face as if she was forcing herself not to cry.

Hazel was only a child and seeing her suppressing her emotion to this extent was worrying him. She was a child and should be having fun in her childhood. However, after her parents passed away, the cheerful girl was never the same again.

Although she was now able to smile and laugh happily, it was still worrying that she had tried so hard to suppress her feelings.

Neil took out his phone and dialed his mother's number. After two rings, Sophie Huang picked up the phone as if she was waiting for his call.

"You are at the cemetery?" Sophie asked.

"Hmm," Neil nodded. "Hazel is talking to her parents."

Sophie let out a long sigh. "How is Hazel?"

"She is doing well," Neil said. He thought of the recent change in the little girl and smiled. "Mom, perhaps hiring Teacher Qian and letting her live with Hazel was the right thing decision. Recently, Hazel has been showing a lot more expression and has been smiling and laughing a lot more. It seemed that she really liked having Teacher Qian around the house."

Hearing his words, Sophie felt a bit at ease. "That is good. However, you must remember not to rely too much on Teacher Qian. She will not stay by your side and help you forever. You are Hazel's uncle. Since you have volunteered to look after Hazel, you have to do it properly. Don't forget to bond more with her."

This was the weekly routine for the two of them. Hazel would talk to her parents and report everything about what was going on with her life, while Neil would stand at the side to report of his new living arrangement with Hazel to his mother.

"Mom, I have asked Teacher Qian to help me with bonding with Hazel and she had agreed," Neil reported. "Tomorrow, I will take Hazel to the aquarium and spend more time with her..."

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Hazel woke up early in the morning and was unable to conceal the excitement on her face. Last night she was unable to fall asleep at the thought of visiting the aquarium. The last time she went to an aquarium, she was still a toddler and had no recollection about it.

After taking a shower and getting dressed up, Hazel went downstairs and waited for the grownups to come down. The moment she saw Auntie Emma in the kitchen, Hazel greeted her enthusiastically before she sat down at the dining area to eat her breakfast.

Her gaze darted towards the stairs when she heard a movement.

"Teacher Qian, good morning," Hazel greeted.

Edith smiled upon noticing the bright smile on the girl's face and knew how much Hazel has been looking forward to this trip ever since she mentioned it for the first time.

"After you had your breakfast, let me help you to comb your hair, alright? Which style do you like?"

"Teacher Qian, please help me and do twin tails."

When Neil Mo walked down the stairs, the little girl ran to his side, moved her head left to right, and smiled brightly. He stared at the little girl and noticed that there was something different from her.

"Uncle, look at this," Hazel said. "Teacher Qian helped me to do twin tails." Her hair was styled into high twin tails with soft curls. Then, her teacher had helped her to put on her cute starfish hair clip at the side. She had looked into the mirror and was very satisfied with her look.

The three of them hopped into the vehicle and Neil drove over to the aquarium. Although this aquarium was one of the projects that the MH Group was involved in, this was actually Neil's first time to step into the building.

Assistant Shawn was already waiting for them at the car park. With his qualification and experiences, Assistant Shawn was someone who was charged with a lot of important documents and decisions for the President. However, he was forced to come over and accompany his boss to walk around the aquarium on his off day.

Putting on the best smile on his face, Assistant Shawn greeted his boss and looked at Hazel. "Young Miss, you're looking especially cute today."

Beaming, Hazel then hid behind Edith and looked at the Assistant shyly. "Thank you."

Sensing that someone was staring at him, Assistant Shawn turned around and saw that his boss was staring at him as if warning not to get close to his niece. Assistant Shawn cleared his throat and took out the tickets that he had kept in his pocket. "President Mo, your tickets. You can use the express lane and the VVIP area."

Edith turned to look at the ticketing counter and was surprised to see the long queue.

It was then that she recalled that the aquarium would be crowded with people during the weekend. She turned to Neil and sighed. "Fortunately, you have booked our tickets. Or else, we will have to join in the long queue."

A thought crossed her mind, and Edith bent to Hazel's level and spoke, "Later when we're inside there will be a lot of people, so you have to hold on to your uncle's hand tightly, alright?"

"Un," Hazel nodded, although she wondered if she could hold on to her teacher's hand instead.

Edith smiled upon noticing the girl's hesitant look. "Your uncle is taller and you would be able to walk around easily with him around. You will be much safer with him."

Neil heard her words and wondered if this was her way to help him get close to Hazel. He had asked for her help a few days ago and she had agreed to help him.

"If you need to visit the restroom, you have to tell us, understand?"

Hazel nodded again. "Understand."

"Don't run around and stay close. If you see something that might interest you, you have to tell your uncle before you head over to the place."

"I know."

Edith patted at the little girl's shoulder and smiled. "Alright. Let's go."

Hazel walked over to her uncle and held his hand tightly before the three of them followed Assistant Shawn towards the express lane.

There were ten minutes left before the aquarium will be opened to the public, but because of his identity, Neil was granted an early entry.

A few employees who recognized Neil and his assistant did a double-take. Their eyes went to the little girl who was holding on to Neil's hand tightly and finally stopped at Edith. Their curiosity peaked and they started to whisper to each other. However, this curiosity was quickly killed once they noticed their manager's warning gaze.

They were working at the express lane and should know to keep their mouth shut with the VVIP around.

An employee finally snapped out of her trance and stepped forward to hand them some brochures from the aquarium. Edith studied the map and the time table.

"There will be an animal show in an hour," Edith spoke absentmindedly.

Hazel turned around. "What animal show?"

"Sea lions." Edith looked at Hazel and asked, "Would you like to go and see? If you're lucky you might be able to touch them."

Hazel turned to her uncle and gave him a pleading look. "Can we go?"

"Of course we can," Neil answered before he turned to his assistant again.

"President Mo, I have reserved a special seat for the three of you." Assistant Shawn smiled. "I recommend you to have lunch at the aquarium cafe," Assistant Shawn continued. "Young Miss Hazel will enjoy having her lunch surrounded by those colorful fish."

Neil glanced at Edith as if asking for her opinion and nodded. "We'll follow your arrangement."

Assistant Shawn let out a breath of relief. Fortunately, he had asked around and talked to the manager that President Mo will be coming over and the manager had recommended to Assistant Shawn about the activities they can do in the aquarium.

The four of them walked into a humongous shark mouth at the entrance of the aquarium.

"Hold on," Edith spoke out quickly, causing the three others to look at her inquiringly.

Edith looked at Neil and continued, "Since there is no one else, how about if I help you to snap a few pictures together. Usually, there will be too many people gathering at the entrance to take pictures. This is a rare occasion."

Assistant Shawn turned to his boss. "President Mo, I will take a few pictures together. I'm sure the Chairman and Mrs. Mo would love to see pictures of Hazel."

Neil thought over their suggestion and nodded. "Alright." He looked at Hazel and spoke, "Let's take a few pictures first."

Just like that, Hazel was staring at the camera with an adorable look, however, the iceblock beside her was ruining this portrait.

Edith looked at her phone screen and let out a small sigh. "President Mo," She waved her hand and instructed, "Get down."

Hearing her instruction, Assistant Shawn turned to Edith with horror. Although he understood Edith's intention to let them the uncle and niece have a nice picture together, it was the first time that he had seen anyone giving an instruction this way to President Mo.

Suddenly, Assistant Shawn was scared that Neil might be upset and spoke a few harsh words towards this fearless teacher.

However, what Assistant Shawn was expecting did not happen. His mouth gaped open as he watched his boss crouched down beside his niece.

"Like this?" Neil asked.

"Un. Un," Edith nodded as she lifted her phone again. "Hold Hazel closer.. And smile."

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Both Edith and Assistant Shawn felt their lips twitched upon seeing the awkward smile on President Mo's face.

His niece, Hazel had a big bright smile, while Neil...

It was better to say that this was not a smile at all.

For this reason, both Edith and Assistant Shawn hesitated to press the button, knowing that this would not turn into a good photo.

Assistant Shawn glanced at Edith as if asking her if she could come up with a way to resolve this situation.

Of course, Edith did not disappoint him. She lowered her phone and came up with another instruction. "Hazel, how about you put your right hand on your uncle's shoulder?"

Hazel obediently lifted her hand and followed her instruction. "Like this?"

"Right. Right." Edith nodded.

Just then, the uncle and niece turned to look at each other, and gradually, the iceblock expression on Neil's face disappeared and his gaze on Hazel turned into something warmer.

Seeing this picture, Edith took the opportunity to shot a few pictures.

Neil and Hazel turned around to look at the same time when Edith did not give them further instruction and Edith managed to snap a few more acceptable photos of the uncle and niece.

"Alright, it's done."

"It's done?" Neil frowned, apparently, he did not believe in Edith's words that she had taken their pictures. Shouldn't she count one, two, three, and let them be ready before she snapped the photo?

Edith smiled. She walked over to both Neil and Hazel and showed the pictures that she had taken.

Neil froze the moment he looked at the photos and was surprised that he had such an expression on his face. He might be unprepared while Edith snapped the photos, but Neil could not deny that the photos looked good.

"Send those photos to me later," Neil said.

"Alright." Edith nodded and quickly transferred the best-looking pictures to Neil's number. Just then, Hazel tugged at her shirt and looked at her with her big eyes. "What's wrong?"

"Teacher Qian, let's take some photos together," Hazel said.

Edith giggled at the little girl's request. Assistant Shawn stepped up at this time and offered to be the photographer snapped a few pictures. When he handed her phone back, there were a few adorable shots of Hazel and Edith together.

Neil stood at the back to peek at the photos and his expression softened upon seeing Hazel's bright smile on those photos. A hint of jealousy tugged at his heart. Although his photographs with Hazel were lovely, they were not as good as the photo of his niece and her teacher together.

He wanted a picture of Hazel with a bright smile with him too...

"Alright. Let's not waste our time," Edith said. "We should go and look around while there was still no one around and catch up with the show later."

Hazel nodded enthusiastically. She held her uncle's hand tightly and the four of them walk further into the aquarium.

"Teacher Qian," Assistant Shawn called as the two were walking behind President Mo and his niece.

"Hmm?"

"You were good back there," Assistant Shawn raised his thumb, and whispered, "I wouldn't know what do if I have to snap those pictures."

Edith chuckled. "Thank you. But I picked up this skill after going out with my girlfriends a few times. One of us would ask to snap a few pictures and giving instructions on how to pose has become something that I'm used to."

"I did not think that President Mo will listen to your instruction." He saw her puzzled look and continued. "Teacher Qian, don't you think that President Mo is a scary person? In the office, most employees did not have the courage to say a word to him."

Edith quickly understood his meaning.

Neil Mo always had that expressionless look on his face and people would usually get frightened by it.

"It was awkward at first," Edith admitted. "But I worked with him. If I did not talk to him, then how am I supposed to discuss anything regarding Hazel. Moreover," she smiled. "I met a few scary-looking people than President Mo."

Assistant Shawn blinked. "Ah?" There were people scarier than President Neil Mo?

Edith laughed and left the dumbfounded assistant behind.

As they were the first few guests in the aquarium, Neil let Hazel run around the place to look around.

Hazel looked at her surroundings and took a step back when a big shark passed by. Her grip on her uncle's hand subconsciously tightened.

"What's the matter? Are you scared?" Neil asked.

Hazel tilted her head up and shook her head. "I'm not afraid." She then approached the large tank again and took a deep breath to gather her courage. Her gaze wandered around to look at the various fishes inside and soon, she was hypnotized by the view.

A while later, the other patron entered the area, and the sounds of kids laughing voice filled the area.

Edith glanced at the man beside her and asked, "President Mo, do you find this kind of activity boring?"

Neil heaved a soft sigh. "Hazel looked happy."

President Mo was someone who managed MH Group and under this company, there were a lot of other businesses. To visit the aquarium to look at the fishes were of course, not something that he would enjoy to do. Even so, as long as it was something that will make Hazel happy, Neil thought that it was worth it.

"If you wanted to get closer to Hazel, now would be a good chance," Edith said. "Stay by her side and try to talk to her about those various fishes in there."

Neil turned to look at his niece and hesitated. "I don't know how." A helpless sigh escaped him. "What do I talk to her about?"

A small smile appeared on her lips and at this time, Edith thought that a helpless Neil was kind of cute. "For instance, you could ask her what she was looking at and what she is interested in. Then, you can continue your conversation from there."

Neil thought over her suggestion and took a step towards Hazel. Then, he stopped and turned to Edith again. "What if Hazel did not want to talk to me?"

"Hazel is a child who might be quiet, but once she was familiar with that person, she will become talkative," Edith said. "President Mo, you have to try. Perhaps she will not talk too much with you this time. But after a while, when she was more comfortable and closer to you, she will talk to you more."

Neil stood in silence for a few seconds before he stepped towards Hazel again. Then, he crouched down beside his niece and the two of them turned to look at each other. A few seconds passed and Neil opened his mouth to ask, "Hazel, what are you looking at?"

The little girl pointed in a direction. "Uncle, look.. It's Nemo."

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After Neil had taken the initiative to have a chat with Hazel, the little girl would turn to him and pointed at everything that she found interesting to him. Having this rare chance where Hazel had talked to him with a bright smile on her face, of course, Neil was happy.

Seeing the expression on their face while they were together, Edith took this chance to snap a few more candid photos and had edited some of them to make them appear cuter. A soft sigh escaped her as she continued to stare at the photos.

The photos with Hazel and Neil both with cat whiskers were too adorable. She wanted to post it to her moments and share it with others, but this will only bring her a lot of trouble. Hazel might be able to appreciate this editing skill, but if her boss, Neil found out about this photo, Edith was sure that he would be furious.

In the end, Edith could only appreciate her photographing and editing skills by herself.

More patron filled in the aquarium as they stayed longer. As the announcer announced that the animal show will be starting soon, Assistant Shawn led them to the auditorium. The three of them were taken to the VVIP seat and he soon left.

Seeing that their Assistant Shawn was not joining them, Edith turned to Neil and looked at him inquiringly. "Assistant Shawn is not joining us?"

"Assistant Shawn had another matter to look after," Neil said.

Edith nodded and turned to chat with Hazel and asked her about her experience earlier.

It has been a while since Hazel had come out to visit a place like this and Hazel became very chatty as she talked to Edith.

Meanwhile, Neil was watching their interaction with a hint of jealousy. Though he had his chance with his niece earlier, this girl did not talk too much as she did with his teacher. As Neil was wondering when will the two of them became closer, a trainer walked on the stage and three sea lion swam in the water.

The crowd, especially the kids started to cheer out loud as the trainer and the sea lion did a little trick.

Because of where they were seated, some water splashed towards them as the sea lion did its trick. Although Hazel was happy about it, Neil's expression was very different than his niece. After all, because of his height, he had received most of the splash and protected Hazel from most of it.

As the show ended, Edith glanced at the man and laughed a little bit. She pulled out a small towel from her knapsack and handed it over to her boss. "President Mo, please, use this and help yourself."

Neil took a deep breath, accepted the towel, and started to wipe his face and some wet spot on his body. "Teacher Qian, do you always carrying a towel with you?"

"That's right," Edith nodded. "After being around kids for a long time, I feel that taking a small towel with me all the time was actually helpful."

Neil's movement paused.

Was her words implying that he was a small kid. After all, this was not the first time he was splashed with water and had to borrow her towel.

"You missed a spot," Edith said. She stretched her hand, took the towel from him, and helped to dab at a few spots just around his ear and hair. "You're done." She turned to Hazel who sat between them and asked, "Are you ready to leave now?"

"Un," Hazel nodded. She looked at her uncle and said, "I'm hungry."

Neil, who had turned stiff after Edith had wiped some water off his face snapped out of his trance. He looked at his niece and nodded. "Let's go and eat then."

Just as the three of them were about to leave, a young girl with a pink polaroid camera in her hand stopped them.

"Hello." The young girl shot a wary glance at Neil and smiled at both Edith and Hazel. "Just now, I was taking some pictures and saw your family's interaction." She paused and handed over a polaroid photograph and said. "It was a very cute moment and I could not resist pressing the button. The photo turned out good. Here, you can have this."

Edith stared at the photo where she was holding the small towel to dry Neil's face. Because she had thought that the situation was rather funny, there was a hint of a smile on her lips. Neil was looking at her with a slightly surprised look and Hazel, who was in the middle were looking at her happily.

It was a really nice photograph, except that... they were not a family ah!

Edith turned towards the young girl and saw that she had walked away. "Young girl!"

The girl turned around and smiled. "Don't worry. I won't charge you anything. Madam, you can have that photo."

Her breath hitched at the way the girl had addressed her. What madam? This was a misunderstanding! She was still unmarried! Edith raised her head to look at Neil's expression and was relieved to see that he was staring at his phone to avoid the awkwardness.

"Come on," Neil said as he glanced at the polaroid in Edith's hand. "Assistant Shawn is waiting for us outside."

"Oh," Edith nodded. She scratched at her head and finally decided to throw the polaroid picture into her knapsack before she went after Neil and Hazel.

Assistant Shawn was already waiting for them outside the auditorium. He exchanged a few words with Neil and led them to the cafe. He had booked a table for three just beside the large aquarium and Hazel was staring at the fishes in the large tank in excitement.

"Assistant Shawn, you will not be joining us?" Edith asked upon noticing the seating arrangement.

"Teacher Qian, I have had my meal earlier," Assistant Shawn admitted.

Just before Edith could say something else, the little girl beside her had already caught her attention and when she turned again, Assistant Shawn had left, and a waitress was standing beside her with a menu in her hand.

"Teacher Qian, just order for anything that you like," Neil said.

Edith browsed through the menu and called Hazel to look at them together. After a while, Edith had chosen a pan-fried fish and Hazel had chosen something from the kids' menu. She accompanied Hazel to look at the fishes in the aquarium.

Their food arrived and the grownups ate while continue to listen to Hazel's chattering about the fishes and sea creatures that she had seen.

"Don't just talk, eat your food," Neil said to Hazel. He watched her took a bite at her pasta and asked, "How was it? Good?"

Hazel raised her head and smiled at Edith. "It's good, but Teacher Qian made a better pasta."

Edith laughed. She patted at the little girl's hair and kissed her hair. "Then, next time, I'll make that seafood pasta for you again, alright?"

Hazel nodded happily and turned to her uncle. "Uncle, can we come here again? With you, Teacher Qian and me?"

Neil exchanged a glance with Edith and nodded to Hazel. "Alright. Next time, let's come again."

The little girl's eyes brightened. "Promise?"

Neil nodded.. "I promise."

Chapter 64

In the western part of Z Town.

Sophie Huang and her husband Lucas Mo was looking at the picture that their son had sent them earlier. As they browsed through them, the smile on their face widened and there was gentleness on their expression.

Hazel Mo was their only grandchild that they doted on her very much. They had wanted to let her stay by their side to raise her, but the little girl had chosen to live with her uncle who she was never close with.

These days, they can only look at their precious grandchild through her photos.

Although they were initially worried about the living arrangement with the uncle and niece, it looked like everything was going on smoothly for the two of them.

"You look here," Sophie pointed at her husband. "This photo of Hazel with the turtles looks especially cute." She could only pray that her son, Adam, and her daughter-in-law, Claire would see that their daughter was living well under Neil's care.

"Hmm," Lucas nodded. They continued to browse through the photos and he looked up upon hearing his wife's long sigh.

"I'm glad that we gave both of them a chance to live together," Sophie said. "You look at your son. Did you not notice? Neil's expression became gentler when he was with Hazel. How long have we have not seen this kind of expression from him."

Lucas stared at the photo and sighed. "Well, our son had suffered a lot under the old master's teaching. In the end, one of them became expressionless, and another one always put on a smile to hide their emotion."

Sophie let out another long sigh as she recalled how her father-in-law had raised her two sons under his strict guidance. Her sons might be successful, respected, and became influential in L City despite their young age, however, as their mother, she hoped that her sons will be able to enjoy their life like others.

Fortunately, her second son, Adam found someone he liked at a very young age, married her, and had a daughter. However, regarding her older son, Sophie was still worried about it.

A lot of madame had approached her to introduce their daughter to enter Mo's family through marriage, however, Sophie was determined to let her two sons chose the woman they were going to marry themselves. Growing up, her sons were not given the chance to make their choice. Therefore, regarding their marriage, Sophie wanted to let them decide.

Just that... looking at her Neil's personality, Sophie was wondering if there would be any woman who could get along with him well.

Lucas stared at his wife's longing face and spoke, "The next time we went back to L City for my routine check-up, let's stay at the city a while longer and accompany Hazel, alright?"

...

After playing around in the aquarium with her uncle and teacher, Hazel was too tired and had gone back to her room and had fallen asleep earlier. Her eyes closed and she was holding tightly at the bunny plushy that her late mother had gifted her. At the head of her bed, there was the new dolphin and octopus plushy that Neil had bought for her.

Edith looked at the girl's steady breathing and closed the door before she headed downstairs to drink some water before going to bed. The moment she walked into the kitchen, her gaze met with Neil's Mo. She froze momentarily and quickly regained her composure.

"President Mo," she greeted. She saw that he replied to her with a nod and her eyes shifted towards his hands that was handling the coffee machine.

It was nighttime. The only reason why he would need a cup of coffee was that he was planning to stay up and work.

Her lips tilted into a smile at the thought that Neil had wanted to spend his time with his niece despite having a pile of work waiting for him.

Edith went to a side, pick up a glass, and pour herself some water. Just as she was about to bring the glass to her lips, Edith heard the man called out her name. She turned to Neil and gave him an inquiring gaze.

Neil had noticed her presence the moment she descended the stairs and had wanted to speak to her for a while. He continued to look at the person in front of him and noticed that the end of her hair was slightly wet.

"Thank you for today," Neil said and looked away.

"You're welcome," she nodded and smiled. She watched as he turned away to press some button on the coffee machine and weigh her decision whether to initiate a conversation with him or not. After a few seconds, Edith spoke, "I hope that you are making some progress with Hazel today."

Recently, Neil began to notice that the two of them would always have their chat in the kitchen.

"Hmm," Neil nodded. He was reminded of Hazel's happy face and a gentle smile curled on his lips. "I sent those photos you took to Hazel's grandparents. They were very happy to see that Hazel is very happy here."

The coffee he prepared poured out from the machine into his cup and the smell of coffee wafted in the room.

"Well accompanying her and doing some activities with her together will help you get close to Hazel," Edith said. She thought for a while and spoke again, "Well, this is merely a suggestion, but President Mo, if you are not too busy, you should come home early and have dinner with Hazel. Didn't they say that a family that eats together stays together? Besides, eating together as a family will help in Hazel's growth as well."

Neil stared at her for a long without saying a word. Then slowly, he nodded. "I will try."

Hearing his answer, Edith smiled again.

"Teacher Qian?" he called again.

"Hmm?"

"It has been a week since you moved in with us. I hope you're adjusting yourself well," Neil said.

"I am," Edith smiled.

In fact, she was not the only one who had to adjust to this living arrangement. Neil had never shared his place with another woman before. The only reason why Edith was able to enter his place was that she was good with Hazel.

Neil was grateful that Edith was someone who was not frightened to speak to him or someone who wanted to get close to him because of who he was. Although she might have some side that she wanted to hide from him, Neil thought that it was good that she was lively and would try to be herself.

He had thought that the only reason he was able to adjust to this living arrangement quickly was that... the person was Edith. If it was switched to someone else, perhaps he would not be able to adjust this quick.

"That's good to hear," Neil retract his gaze, picked up the freshly brewed coffee mug, and took a sip. The bitterness spread through his mouth but his expression did not show that he was despising the taste.

Edith waited for him to say something else, but when he stood silently with his coffee mug Edith turned to walk out. Her step halted as she reached the end. "President Mo?" She waited for him to turn to her and spoke, "Don't stay up too late.. Good night."