

A Shotgun Marriage

Chapter 31

Because Lewis and Tia had both drunk wine, the two found a driver who took them home in their own car.

Frankly, Lewis really did drink quite a lot today. He seemed sleepy on the way back, and as soon as he got into the back seat, he looked up and leaned into the seat. When Tia saw him frowning, she couldn't help but get concerned as she reached out to nudge him. "Are you okay?"

Lewis opened his eyes and tilted his head to glance at her. He shook his head, then closed his eyes again as he said, "Just a slight headache."

"Is it bad?" He drank so much tonight, and it wasn't just some beer but wine. Geez, the sight of so much alcohol makes me shiver.

Without answering, the man leaned against her shoulder, and even his eyes were closed. "Let me lean on your shoulder for a bit," he mumbled.

Tia nodded, then sat straight up so that he could position his head comfortably on her shoulder. Throughout the whole journey, she didn't move in fear that he might wake from the movement. After staying still for only a little over 20 minutes, she felt detached from her right shoulder when they reached home. It had gotten so numb that she couldn't move it.

The car was parked in the parking lot of the residential area before the driver turned around to ask for his fares. Naturally, Tia reached out to grab her bag, but she accidentally dropped it on the floor. The movement startled Lewis, who was leaning on Tia's shoulder, and he soon woke up with a slight frown between his brows.

He peered outside, still a little dazed. "We're here?"

"Yes." Tia nodded, then she bent over to pick up her bag. Taking out the cash, she passed the money to the driver.

As she waited for the driver to get out of the car, she massaged her shoulder for a long while before the soreness receded. Then, when she turned to look at Lewis, the latter was completely awake now and was staring right at her.

A little embarrassed by his stare, Tia asked, "What's wrong?"

Lewis shook his head, then reached out and massaged her shoulder for a while, asking, "Is it still sore?"

Tia shook her head, showing a smile so faint that even she herself hadn't noticed it.

Still, Lewis massaged it a while longer, then retracted his hand.

When the two got back home, Elizabeth was already asleep. Cynthia was worried, so she waited until the two returned before she got up and prepared to leave.

Tia felt a little bad for her. When Cynthia left, she told them that tomorrow was a Saturday, so she would be at home and didn't mind coming over earlier.

Still worried, Tia opened the door to the bedroom to check in on Elizabeth. She pulled up the covers before getting out again.

When she went back to her own room, she saw Lewis leaning against the headboard. He hadn't changed out of his clothes, and he reeked of alcohol.

Despite the smell, Tia went up to him and patted him gently before he slowly opened his

eyes to see her. He massaged his throbbing temples and asked, "Is Grandma asleep?" Tia nodded but was a little worried about his condition. "Is it unbearable?"

Lewis smiled at her, trying to comfort her as he said, "It's been a while since I last drank so much. I'm feeling a bit lightheaded, but I'll be fine after a good night's rest."

The two were very close to each other, and Tia could smell the alcohol in his mouth when he spoke. It was strong, and she felt a bit dizzy when she caught the scent.

"Then hurry up and take a shower, then have some proper rest after that. You might feel better," said Tia.

Lewis nodded and supported himself as he got up, ready to grab some clothes to change into. However, his footsteps were wobbly, and he walked shakily.

Tia watched him, worried that he might fall. Hastily, she went up to him and supported him, placing her hand on his lean waist so that he put his entire weight on her. As she did so, she said, "I'll help you to the bathroom."

Actually, Lewis only felt a little lightheaded from getting up after sitting for so long. He wasn't really so drunk that he couldn't walk properly. However, when he saw this little woman supporting him with all her might, he willingly allowed her to help him. It wasn't a bad feeling.

With Lewis' 6-foot body and the long years of training it endured, his muscles were firm and hard. On the other hand, though Tia was tired from helping him to the bathroom, she finished what she had started. She put him in the bathtub, then gasped for breath as she said, "I... I'll go get your clothes." With that, she turned around and was about to leave when Lewis grabbed her hand.

Losing her balance, Tia fell into Lewis' arms, and she sat right on his lap.

Tia looked up at him to see a sort of hazy film in his eyes. As he stared at her, the look in his eyes was a little lit-up and hot.

Tia gulped. "Are you—"

Halfway through her words, a certain someone had blocked her mouth with his own, so she couldn't make another sound.

Lewis wrapped an arm around her waist while another hand held her tightly behind the head. Because of the alcohol, he kissed her passionately, as if he wanted to devour her in one go right then and there:

Tightly, Tia gripped his clothes as she felt his arms wrap around her firmly. She wanted to struggle, but she couldn't find the energy to. She could only feel the unfamiliar air in her mouth, his unique breath, along with the strong alcohol fumes.

Lewis kissed her deeply and passionately, and he parted her teeth to entangle her tongue with his own, forcing her into a playful dance with him.

Tia slowly recovered herself from the initial shock, and then she gradually let go of his shirt as she returned his hug, placing her hands on his back. To be honest, she didn't hate his kiss at all, just like how she didn't hate him as a person.

Lewis had only intended to kiss her for a bit, but her compliance caused him to feel dissatisfied with only a simple kiss.

His hand, which was on her waist, slowly traveled downward and poked under her clothes. Then, it slowly moved upward and traced circles on her back.

Tia didn't know if she was dizzy from his kiss or if she had lost her sense of sobriety from the alcohol in his mouth. She really wasn't too experienced in this area, for her only experience was when he kissed her in the room last time.

Because of this kiss, the atmosphere in the bathroom slowly began to heat up and boil. Even the skin exposed to the air could flare up and burn someone. Lewis' hand -lightly calloused from all the training-traveled upward, caressing Tia. She couldn't help but shiver and tremble.

Slender fingers undid the clasps of Tia's bra, and she could only feel her chest loosen as she immediately came to her senses. She widened her eyes and grabbed the man's hand under her clothes, turning away to avoid his kiss. Her chest was still heaving from the kiss just now as she panted, shaking her head as she edged away from his embrace. "I-I... I'm not ready yet!"

Lewis was a little out of breath as well, but he slowly recovered his senses. The flames of desire in his eyes also slowly dimmed out as he retracted his hand from under his clothes, holding her as he placed his head on her shoulder.

Tia pushed him away and was about to leave his embrace when he held her tighter. She could only hear him mumble hoarsely in her ear, saying, "Let me hug you like this for a while."

Hearing that, Tia finally settled inside his embrace, silent.

Chapter 32

Lewis held Tia for a long while before letting her go, but she didn't even dare to look back at him as she got off his lap. She said something about getting his clothes for him before escaping the scene.

As Lewis stared at her leaving figure, he couldn't help but shake his head. Chuckling, he mumbled to himself in a self-deprecating manner, "She probably thinks I'm a pervert now."

Tia ran back to the room and leaned against the door, gasping for breaths. Her heart was beating so fast that she thought it would leap out at any second, and only after a long while of leaning on the door did she calm down.

Sighing lightly, she retrieved from the closet the T-shirt and shorts Lewis prepared for his stay, then walked back to the entrance of the bathroom.

As she stood at the door, she couldn't help but think of that scene just now in the bathroom. If she hadn't recovered her senses in time, perhaps by now, she would...

She slapped her head lightly to stop her wandering thoughts, then took a deep breath at the bathroom door before mustering up the courage to knock.

Lewis opened the door. He was naked from the waist up, and a huge pile of bubbling foam sat on his head.

At the fastest speed she could manage, she passed him his T-shirt and shorts. She didn't dare look at him as she said, "Here, your pajamas." With that, she turned around to leave.

Lewis looked down at the pajamas in his hand, then chuckled as he shook his head. He noticed something was missing, so he called toward her retreating figure, "Wait."

Tia stopped in her tracks, feeling a little awkward. She didn't even turn around as she asked, "W-What's wrong?"

Noticing that she was blushing all the way up to her ears, Lewis felt both exasperated and entertained. His head was still aching a little from the alcohol, and he leaned against the doorway as he said, "You forgot my underwear."

Hearing that, Tia felt something explode in her mind. Her cheeks turned a shade redder,

and her tomato face was now almost red like blood.

As Lewis looked at her, his mouth twitched a little, but he managed to suppress his laughter as he asked, "Can you get it for me, please?"

With her face reddened, Tia didn't dare look back at him as she ran back to her room in large strides. Then, she grabbed the underwear he had bought before and ran back to him, passing it to him without daring to peek. Before he could say anything, she escaped and ran away in a flash.

As Lewis watched her go, he shook his head, smiling.

Tia ran back to her room, her face all red as she sat on the bed, fanning herself with her hand. When the heat in her face receded, Tia couldn't help but let out a laugh. This should be a common occurrence between husband and wife, but their marriage was simply a little out of the ordinary.

Shaking her head, she remembered how terrible he looked after drinking. After some thought, she still got up and prepared some tea for him. When Lewis returned to the room after his bath, Tia was sitting at the desk, checking something on the computer. Lewis was drying his hair while he walked over to her and asked, "What are you looking at?" The smell of alcohol on him had diminished considerably after the shower.

Tia didn't look back at him as she said, "I'm checking how much of my savings are equivalent to the meal just now."

Hearing that, Lewis was stunned. He then let out an uncontrollable laugh as he caressed her head with his large hand. His voice was filled with a loving tone as he said; "Silly girl."

"All that money. I would have to work half a year for that," Tia mumbled in a small voice. She reached out and took the tea she set aside, passing it to him as she said, "Drink some. It helps with the alcohol."

Lewis was stunned as he stared at the tea for a long while. Then, he reached out and took it, smiling at her as he said, "Thank you." He lifted the mug and took a sip.

Tia shook her head, and she simply smiled a little. She remembered he had used his credit card to pay the bill at the hotel, so she extended a hand to ask for his card, saying, "Give me your bank account. I'll pay you back."

She felt it wouldn't be appropriate to keep owing someone money. Be it credit card or cash, she didn't like the feeling of debt.

Lewis looked at her, an unfamiliar sensation suddenly rising in his heart. He didn't know what it was, but it felt very comfortable and warm to him. Just as requested, he gave her his account number, then sat on the bed as he watched her. She was mumbling while she transferred the money to his card. Drinking the tea she made for him, he said, "Let's look at the house tomorrow, since it's the weekend already."

Hearing that, Tia turned around and asked in a puzzled tone, "What house?"

"My house in the city. I'll show you around tomorrow, and we'll make a shopping list," Lewis explained.

"Oh." Tia nodded in realization. Then, she thought for a bit and said, "There's nothing I want to buy."

Lewis chuckled and placed the mug on the bedside table. He looked at her and said, "Come here."

Tia was confused. She didn't know what he wanted to do, but still, she got up obediently and walked over to him. "What's up?"

Lewis reached out and tugged at her, pulling her into his arms. He let her sit on his lap as he rested his head on her shoulder, whispering, "I'm tired. Let me lean on you for a bit."

Tia was stunned, then she curved her lips into a smile. "You've always had a stern expression on your face, so I thought you don't feel any emotions at all." So he was also capable of feeling tired and exhausted.

Lewis lifted his head from her shoulder and looked up at her, frowning as he asked, "Do I usually look stern?"

He thought he had spoken to her in a gentle tone and smiled more often than he did in the research institute.

Tia nodded as she looked at him and said, "You don't even smile with that steely expression of yours, as if someone owed you millions." She didn't tell him that she thought something was wrong with his facial muscles, or he wouldn't have just one expression all day long.

"Really?" Lewis frowned even deeper, wondering if he really looked as stern as she said he did.

"Of course." Seated in his lap, Tia nodded. Then, she mimicked him as she frowned slightly and steeled her expression, even lowering her voice. "You usually look like this, as if everyone owes you money."

Seeing her face, Lewis couldn't help but laugh. He shook his head in disbelief as he asked, "Do I really look like that all the time?"

"Even worse than this." Tia wrinkled her nose at him, completely unaware of how close they were to each other right now.

Lewis smiled. It wasn't an exaggerating smile, but his lips did look very nice when they were curved.

Tia looked at him and couldn't help but be entranced by him. She reached out and lightly smooth out the creases in his eyebrow, whispering, "You look good when you smile."

Hearing that, Lewis instantly stopped smiling. Someone once told him that before.

Noticing his behavior change, Tia didn't know what happened, so she asked tentatively, "What's the matter? Did I say something wrong?"

Lewis returned to his senses and tightened his lips awkwardly. "No."

Seeing his reluctance to share, Tia didn't prod further. Then she realized how intimate they were in that position. Even though they were married, she still felt a little embarrassed, so she got up a little awkwardly from his embrace and scratched her head as she said, "I-I'm going to shower now."

Lewis nodded, silent.

Tia took her clothes and walked out of the room, while Lewis leaned against the headboard, his thoughts wandering further than usual.

Chapter 33

The biological clock was a mysterious thing. No matter how tired one was, when a certain hour struck, one's eyes would open naturally without an alarm or a prompt from someone else.

However, when Tia woke up today, she felt a little different from usual. There was a thick arm weighing heavily on her waist, and she turned around to see Lewis sleeping

quietly beside her. Maybe it was because his eyes were closed, for he looked much gentler than usual.

This is odd. Hmm, he looks less serious this way.

This was the first time Tia woke up to him still lying beside her. Of course, they had only shared a few nights together.

Well, this feels weirdly magical. She could even clearly feel his breaths and heartbeats. Actually, before getting married to him, Tia had never slept so intimately with someone before, not even Shannon. Still, in their few days of interaction, she might feel a little embarrassed, but she felt like she could accept him instead of rejecting him.

As she looked at him, she gently lifted her hand and mischievously felt like touching him. I wonder if his facial muscles are as tough as his body. If not, then how can someone be so stingy with smiles?

Holding her breath, she felt like she was going on an adventure as she reached out a finger to poke gently at his face. It wasn't as hard as she imagined, and it even felt nice to the touch.

As she touched him, she couldn't resist a few more pokes out of curiosity and joy. She even let out a chuckle as she mumbled, "It's quite soft. Why do you always put on a cool and serious front? Don't you feel tired?" As she spoke, she gave him a few more pokes, then even thought of pinching him a little out of curiosity.

Just when Tia was wondering if she should pinch his face, the man who had his eyes closed in slumber suddenly opened his eyes and stared right at Tia.

Tia couldn't react in time as she stared at him, stunned. Even her hand hung indecisively in mid-air, frozen in front of his eyes.

Lewis gazed at her. Actually, he was already awake when she woke up and turned around in his arms. He was quite alert compared to ordinary people, and he rarely slept in. However, he had simply drunk too much last night, and he still felt his head aching right now, so he decided to lie on the bed for a while longer. He hadn't expected the little woman in his arms to 'attack' him while he was asleep.

A faint smile crept onto his lips as he parted them to ask, "How do you find the poking? Satisfied?"

Hearing that, Tia finally returned to her senses. She felt so embarrassed that she wanted to hide.

Due to the awkwardness and embarrassment, Tia's face reddened subconsciously. She looked at him as she laughed dryly and explained, "I-I... I actually..." She wanted to say something, but she still couldn't quite say it aloud. When caught red-handed, any explanation would sound like a coverup.

"You actually what?" Lewis looked at her, a half-smile on his lips.

Tia felt so awkward that the smile she forced onto her face looked even worse than a frown. She said, "I just wanted to touch your face to see if it's hard or soft."

Hearing that, Lewis stared at her and asked smilingly, "So, what did you find out?"

"I-It's the same as mine." Tia stuck out her tongue in awkwardness, her actions both mischievous and adorable.

Lewis stared at her, and then, with a tug from his hand on her waist, he pulled her closer into his embrace to close the distance between them. With his forehead almost touching hers, he let out a warm breath that brushed against her cheek, making it so that she couldn't escape.

Lewis slightly lowered his head so that his forehead met hers, asking, "Do you mind if I kiss you now?"

Tia was stunned, as she was at a loss for words. He was too close to her, so close that she couldn't even think properly, and she didn't comprehend what he had just said.

"Tia," Lewis called out, his large hand caressing her waist under the blanket.

"Mm..." Tia responded subconsciously, her heartbeat picking up speed as it thumped without reason.

Lewis didn't wait any longer. He lowered his head and planted a kiss on her forehead. Then, more kisses rained down on her.

Tia suddenly blinked, unable to escape. She simply gripped his clothes at his waist under the blanket, gathering the fabric tightly in her fist. Lewis' kisses poured down like rain on her eyes, her eyebrows, her nose, and all the other parts of her face.

Then, one of them finally found her lips.

Compared to last night, Tia was more compliant now. Even though her closed eyelids were shivering from his kisses, she didn't reach out to push him away. She simply accepted them and even tried to kiss him back clumsily.

A man was always prone to excitement in the mornings, especially now when he had a beauty in his arms. So, even simple kisses like this excited him to no end.

After a while of kissing, up until the point when Lewis thought that if he kept it up, he might progress further than just kisses, he finally pulled her in, gasping for air as he buried his head in the nook of her shoulder. He was calming himself down.

Tia, of course, was no better. She panted heavily as she placed her chin on his shoulder. Suddenly, she felt something hot against her stomach, and she immediately froze. She was so still that she didn't know what to do.

Lewis' face was also tinted red as a look of embarrassment flashed across his face. He said in a stiff voice, "Men are easily excited in the morning, you see."

Tia was a little embarrassed by his words, but she simply slapped his back lightly in protest.

Lewis chuckled and patted her head. After a while of embracing her, he finally let go and turned around, ready to get out of bed. He took the clothes placed next to the bed, then spoke to Tia as he changed out of his pajamas. "I'll make breakfast. Is there anything you'd like to eat?"

Tia also sat up. She had been eating the breakfast he prepared these few days, so she felt like she should do something too. "I-I'll do it." She usually couldn't wake up earlier than him, so now that it was the weekend, to keep things fair and to express her sincerity, she should do something for him too. With that, she got out of bed.

Lewis had finished changing, and when he turned around, he saw her getting up. He immediately declined, "It's the weekend, so you should sleep more. I'll wake you up when breakfast is ready." With that, he turned and walked out of the room.

Tia still got up regardless. She wanted to show her intention of being a good wife and mother, for one. Also, she always woke up at this hour, so she couldn't go back to sleep now.

When she finished changing her clothes and walked out, Lewis had already washed up and was walking toward the kitchen. Tia also hastily washed up, and when she got into the kitchen, Lewis was already beating some eggs in order to make omelets.

Tia walked up to him voluntarily, a pan in one hand and a spatula in another. She

looked quite menacing like that.

When Lewis saw her looking all serious, he smiled and shook his head.

Elizabeth had also slept in today. When she woke up and got out of her room, she saw the two bustling about in the kitchen to prepare breakfast. As she watched the scene, she smiled, comforted.

Chapter 34

After breakfast, Lewis took Tia out after Cynthia came over as they were planning to check out the house in the city.

Actually, the house was bought two years ago. It was a fully renovated house, so all the decorations had been completed, but as Lewis had been living in the research institute, the house was empty since it was bought. He originally bought this house to live with Jennie after marriage, but they divorced before the keys were even handed over. The memory made him a little lost in thought, so he didn't even see the red light turning green nor hear the car behind him constantly honking.

Tia turned her head and looked behind her, hearing the unending honking going on. She didn't know what was wrong with Lewis, so she reached out and pushed him a little while calling, "Lewis?"

Lewis finally came back to his senses. He raised his eyes and looked ahead, and only then did he see that the red light in front had turned green. Thus, he was about to begin driving when the light turned red again, and he had to wait for the next green light.

She looked at him and asked, "What happened to you?"

He returned her gaze and shook his head. "It's nothing."

"Are you dizzy from drinking too much last night?" Tia thought that he was in a trance because of a hangover.

Lewis didn't know how to explain it, so he just nodded along with her words.

"Then, why don't we head back? We can check out the house next time," she suggested thoughtfully.

Hearing this, Lewis smiled, reached out to hold her hand, and said, "I'm fine."

Hearing him say this, Tia didn't say anything more, but she felt a little embarrassed by his action. She wanted to withdraw her hand, but he held it tighter. Turning her head again, she saw that he was looking straight ahead as if nothing had happened.

Lewis' house was in a high-end residential area near the city center. When the two of them took the elevator up, Tia looked at him and couldn't help but whisper, "Is your income from the research institute so high?"

According to what she knew, the house in this area was definitely not cheap.

Lewis chuckled and said nothing. When the elevator arrived, he led her out of the elevator, took out the house keys from his pocket, and opened the door. The house was a duplex suite, so when they opened the door and entered the kitchen, there was a staircase connecting the upper and lower floors.

The entire house looked spotless, and even the decorations were still very new; there was no unpleasant smell at all.

Tia went in from the outside and looked around the layout of the whole room. There was nothing missing that she had to buy, and she could literally just bring a bag of personal items and live there.

The decoration of the whole house was slightly modernized. It was minimalistic and

luxurious in a low-key manner. There was even a bouquet of blooming roses on the coffee table in the living room. As such, the entire room was faintly scented with a floral scent.

Tia turned her head and looked at him. "Do you usually come back here?"

Lewis shook his head. "I don't." In fact, after having bought this house for so long, he had rarely been here.

Seemingly seeing the doubtful look on her face, he took the initiative to add, "Aunt Wendy has hired a housekeeping company to come to clean it once a week, and the flowers were also ordered by her."

He had heard Wendy say this before, but he didn't take it to heart.

Tia nodded, then gazed at him and asked, "Can I look around?"

Lewis gave a slight nod and said, "I'll show you around."

Tia shook her head with a chuckle and refused. "I'll just take a look around myself."

Nodding once again, Lewis said nothing more.

Lewis' house was enormous. In addition to the kitchen, living room, and study room, there were two rooms downstairs. The one with a balcony looked larger.

The master bedroom was located on the second floor and was massive, as if two rooms were connected as one. Almost the entire second floor belonged to the master bedroom, except for a smaller room next to it.

Although it was a renovated house, no one had lived in it before. Thus, while the whole house had been renovated and decorated, it still looked a little empty.

The house faced a good direction, so there was a lot of light coming in from the balcony of the master bedroom. Although it did not have a view of the sea and one could only look out toward a lot of buildings, one could imagine how gorgeous the night view outside the window would be when the whole city fell into darkness at night and those buildings were lit up with lights.

Tia leaned against the balcony door, looked at everything in the room, and whispered, "Did I just have a stroke of good luck?"

She didn't have many expectations of an ideal partner. She just wanted to find a man to marry straight off without any interest in the process of falling in love. Moreover, she didn't expect the man to be Lewis at all.

After being upstairs for a while, Tia came downstairs and saw Lewis standing on the balcony extending from the living room, still holding an unfinished cigarette in his hand. This was the first time Tia saw him smoking, but she remembered that he had smelled a faint tobacco scent on him before.

She walked directly toward him, patted his shoulder lightly, and said with a smile, "The house is very big."

Lewis looked at her. Worried that she would hate the smell of cigarettes, he stretched out his hand to extinguish the half-smoked cigarette.

Seeing this, Tia smiled and said, "Actually, I don't really mind smoking. If you want to smoke, you can smoke." She didn't mind men who smoked and drank, as long as they did not go overboard.

"I'm not addicted to smoking." Lewis only smoked when he was bored, and he hardly did so usually.

Tia just nodded and smiled; she did not discuss this topic in depth.

"Did you notice anything that's missing? We can buy it," Lewis replied. This weekend,

he could take advantage of the time to buy all the missing things. He probably would not have time next week because of the new quarterly research meeting.

Tia shook her head and said, "There's nothing missing. I have everything I need. I can just pack some clothes and move in soon."

Lewis nodded, "Do you want to stay here for a while or go back?"

Tia turned to look at the house again and said, "Let's go back."

Soon, the two drove out of the area. Tia felt that Lewis seemed to have something on his mind today. Although he didn't talk much at ordinary times, he seemed to talk even less today. At first, she thought he had a hangover because of the drinking yesterday, but seeing that he almost missed the green light again, she couldn't help looking at him and asked curiously, "Is there something on your mind today?"

Stunned for a moment, Lewis didn't turn his head nor speak but just shook his head lightly.

As he didn't say anything, Tia didn't ask further. The two of them were quiet along the way, which made Tia feel a little awkward, so she brought something up. "Since no one lives there, do you usually live in the research institute?"

"Yes, there is a small room in the research institute." In the research institute, there were housing allocations for those above the supervisor level, but the living conditions were limited.

"Is the research institute far from the city?"

"It's more than an hour's drive," Lewis said lightly.

"Then, won't you be very tired to travel back and forth every day like this?"

In other words, he had to leave the house more than an hour earlier every day! And he also made breakfast for her and the grandmother every day. How much earlier did he get up than usual?

Lewis turned his head to look at her with the corner of his mouth tilted slightly. "Do you feel bad for me?"

Hearing this, Tia subconsciously blushed. She smiled awkwardly and replied, "I-I was just wondering."

A faint smile appeared on the corner of Lewis' mouth, and his mood seemed to be a little better than before.

Chapter 35

When Lewis was about to get home, he received a call from the research institute. Tia didn't know what was being said on the phone, but Lewis frowned tightly while listening to the call.

After hanging up the phone, he turned to Tia and said, "I'll take you home first. I'm going to the research institute first. Tell Grandma that I won't go back to eat at noon."

Hearing this, Tia stared at him and asked, "What's the matter? What happened?"

"There was an accident at the research institute. There is a colleague who has not been found yet. I have to go there," Lewis explained.

"Oh, then go quickly." Hearing this, Tia spoke considerately. "Just let me get off at the intersection in front. It's not too far away anyway."

"I'll take you home. It's just a minute or two's difference anyway." As Lewis spoke, he stepped on the accelerator slightly, speeding up a bit.

As they arrived at the gate of the community, Tia could not help but remind them before

getting out of the car, "Don't drive too fast and pay attention to your safety on the road." Lewis nodded and smiled at her. "Okay."

After speaking, he drove off.

Tia watched his car driving far away, and when she turned around and was about to go upstairs, she received a call from the Luke Family. A little surprised, she picked up. This time, it was not Shannon, but her mother, Mrs. Luke.

"Tia, do you know what happened to Shannon?" Mrs. Luke's voice over the phone was full of a mother's worry for her daughter.

Hearing this, Tia just remembered the phone call Shannon gave her before she went to work yesterday morning. It seemed that something really happened. Shannon, who was always optimistic, was crying when she called Tia yesterday.

Originally, Tia wanted to wait for Shannon to calm down before calling back to find out what happened and why she said those strange things yesterday.

However, she had dinner and drank a lot last night, so she forgot about it. Now that Shannon's mother had called her, she remembered it and asked, "Mrs. Luke, what happened to Shannon?"

"I don't know either. She came back in the middle of the night the day before yesterday, and since she came back, she has locked herself in her room. She didn't come out of the room all day yesterday. I knocked on her door, but she didn't open it, and she didn't answer when I asked her what happened to her. Her father and I are worried, so we thought of calling to ask you," Mrs. Luke said on the phone, her tone full of worry and anxiety. "Tia, do you know what happened? Why did she suddenly become like this?"

Hearing what Mrs. Luke said and thinking about what Shannon said when she called her yesterday, Tia could roughly guess what was wrong.

It must be Lance. Shannon had been crushing on him for, like, ten years, so only he could contribute to such a big change.

Although Tia didn't know what happened between Shannon and Lance, it was obviously not a simple matter. She thought for a while, then said to Mrs. Luke, "Mrs. Luke, I'm going over to your place now."

On the other side of the phone, when Mrs. Luke heard that Tia was coming, she nodded repeatedly. She knew that the two had always been very close. Although her daughter had a carefree personality and had many friends, Tia was the only one who was truly close to her.

After hanging up the phone, Tia didn't go upstairs. Instead, she hailed a cab and went to Shannon's house.

Shannon's house was in a high-end villa complex near the suburbs. In fact, it was not far from Tia's house, but it still took about 10 minutes to drive there.

When Tia arrived, the housekeeper opened the door. Seeing her arrival, the housekeeper hurriedly gave her way and let her into the living room where Shannon's parents were sitting. As Tia came in, Mrs. Luke quickly got up from the fancy-looking leather sofa and walked toward Tia. She took Tia's hand and said, "Tia, you came! Hurry up and go and see what happened to Shannon. She has kept herself in the room for almost two days now without eating or drinking. She can't endure this any longer."

Tia patted Mrs. Luke's hand and said comfortingly, "Mrs. Luke, don't worry too much. I'll go take a look."

Mrs. Luke nodded hurriedly. "Okay, okay. You go. Hurry up."

Shannon's room was furthest along the second-floor corridor, and Tia knew because she had been here several times before.

Standing in front of the room, Tia raised her hand and knocked on the door, then called out, "Shannon, open the door! It's me."

There was no sound from the room; it was as quiet as if no one was inside.

Tia frowned slightly, raised her hand, and knocked again. "Shannon, open the door and let me in. Let's have a good talk."

After waiting for a long time, Shannon's voice came slowly from inside. "I don't want to see you. Go away."

Through the door of the room, Shannon's voice sounded a little weak, and she seemed to have not much strength left.

Tia naturally couldn't leave. Hearing what Shannon said, she raised her hand and knocked on the door again. This time, instead of asking her to open the door, she directly brought Lance up and said, "Shannon, if you don't open the door, I will call Lance directly and ask him what happened to you guys!"

There was another silence. Tia didn't have the patience to wait any longer. Thus, she raised her voice and said, "If you don't open the door, then I'll call now!"

She took out her phone from her pocket and was about to call Lance when the door suddenly opened from the inside. Shannon was standing at the door with a haggard face, staring at Tia with eyes that were red and swollen.

Seeing her coming out, Tia naturally put away her phone, but she couldn't help frowning when she saw Shannon's condition.

Shannon turned around and went back in without saying a word. Then, she fell on the bed with her back to Tia, as if she was pretending to be dead.

With a frown, Tia reached out to close the door of the room. Next, she walked toward Shannon and asked, "What happened? What happened to you and Lance?"

Shannon just lay there with her back to Tia and didn't speak as if Tia was not asking her but someone else.

Seeing that she didn't respond, Tia walked around and came in front of Shannon, then squatted down and stared at her face. Frowning, she ordered, "Speak! Don't pretend to be dead!"

Hearing that, Shannon finally reacted. She turned to look at Tia with a smile on her lips, but the smile was obviously self-deprecating. Then, she said, "We did it..."

Hearing this, Tia was stunned for a while. It took a while for her to realize what Shannon meant. So, the night before yesterday, Shannon and Lance had sex?

Without looking at the shock and surprise on Tia's face, Shannon stared ahead of her with unfocused eyes and said sarcastically, "Do you know that when Lance held me, he called your name?"

Shocked beyond belief, Tia was at a loss for words.