100 Days 91

Chapter 91 Her Old Hacker Friend

[At Aiden's Private Villa...]

Cherry borrowed Aiden's desktop in his study room. Not suspecting Cherry's motive, Aiden let her use his computer, leaving her alone.

Aiden was busy in the kitchen. He was giving orders to Chef Solmi, enumerating the food Cherry wanted to eat for lunch.

The chef was done cooking the main course. The only food she had to prepare was their desserts.

His butler also arrived after buying clothes for his special guest, Cherry.

"Master, are you okay? You look tired. You have dark circles under your eyes." Butler Izekiel mumbled, worrying about his master.

Aiden was not able to sleep well last night as he kept thinking about the scene he accidentally witnessed inside Cherry's bathroom. He couldn't forget what he saw.

When he was able to control his lust, he remembered that he saw some marks on Cherry's naked body. A mark telling him that Cherry underwent a major operation before.

And what was on her shoulder? The scar looked like something she received from a bullet. He wasn't able to sleep just thinking about how Cherry received those marks and scars.

He couldn't ask her because they were not yet close enough for Cherry to share something personal and confidential with him.

But one thing was for sure. Cherry had lived a dangerous life. He thought that she kept attracting dangers. Last night, she was being chased by human traffickers.

"Sigh." Aiden took a deep sigh. "I'm just fine, Kiel. I just need proper sleep."
Butler Izekiel nodded his head.
"Bring those clothes to the guest room. She might change into them later." Aiden let her use his oversize shirt and sweatpants last night. And he was glad to see her wearing his clothes. She just looked simply pretty no matter what she wore.
While Aiden was busy preparing everything for Cherry, the woman was currently using his computer to hack one of the Syphiruz's servers.
She was almost finished breaking the last defense when suddenly another program blocked her.
"Fuck! What is this?!" Cherry cursed when something appeared on her screen.
Several codes kept popping on her screen until they formed a shape a human shape of a girl. To her surprise, she heard a feminine voice coming from her screen.
"This is GAA, who are you? Why are you trying to hack our former master's server?! I will give you ten seconds to answer, otherwise, I will set your computer to self-destruct!" GingerAllieAnne warned Cherry.
'What? Don't tell me this is an AI. I am fighting an AI? Not a human!' Cherry was amused by this situation.
"Ten"
"Nine"
"Eight"

GingerAllieAnne began her countdown.
"Damn! I can't let her destroy this computer or else, he would suspect me," Cherry murmured as she thought about Aiden's reaction once his computer got destroyed because of her.
Cherry began typing again, trying to counter GAA. She needed to erase her trail and delete her IP address even before GingerAllieAnne could locate her location through Aiden's IP address.
She had to lure her and pin another location. As her fingers continued to work, GingerAllieAnne's countdown reached the last Five seconds warning.
"Who are you?" GGA hologram asked her again for one last time.
"Five"
"Four"
"Damn! She is serious as hell about destroying this computer!"
"Three"
"Two"
Without time to spare, Cherry finally voiced out a certain name. "SizzlingAugust08!"
GingerAllieAnne stopped the countdown at the mention of that username—SizzlingAugust08. She had heard of this name. And she was very familiar with this user.

When GingerAllieAnne stopped and processed the information she received from Cherry, she grabbed this opportunity to put a strong defense on Aiden's computer. Then she shut it down right away.

"Wait-" GAA still wanted to talk to her about SizzlingAugust08 when Cherry turned off the computer.

"Whoa! I almost got busted by an AI!" Cherry held her chest, panting. This was the first time she encountered her.

"Damn! I'm sorry SizzlingAugust. I have to use you as my shield to save my ass. I can't reveal to the Syphiruz Mafia that Black Rose is alive!"

SizzlingAugust08 was also an infamous hacker. He was the master of all hackers during his time. But he suddenly disappeared thirteen years ago.

According to Phantomflake, SizzlingAugust08 was her first friend. He was the one who taught her hacking skills. In other words, SizzlingAugust08 was also a genius and aside from being her friend, he was Phantomflake's mentor.

Phantomflake had never seen his face. They only talked through their chats and messenger. Just one day, SizzlingAugust08 stopped communicating with Phantomflake. She wondered if something wrong had happened to him.

They were still young at that time. So Phantomflake didn't have the capability to look for her friend. Someone speculated that SizzlingAugust08 was captured by the policemen or he died. But nothing confirmed it.

Meanwhile, back to Sparks Mansion, GingerAllieAnne reappeared after she was done dealing with the hacker. Ethan and Old Man Xu were already inside the playroom. Abigail called him when GAA informed them about the hackers.

Old Man Xu requested Abigail to leave the room. He could tell that this attack had something to do with the Syphiruz. Abigail didn't have to know this confidential information.

"How is it? Did you catch the hacker? What is his IP address?" Old Man Xu asked GingerAllieAnne.

Ethan was also there listening to them. He was too young to know about the Syphiruz Operation. He had no idea about it.

GingerAllieAnne glanced at Old Man Xu. She recognized him as the former leader of the Syphiruz Mafia and Nathan's father.

"Master Xu! The hacker said she is SizzlingAugust08. That username was Former Master Nathan, right?"

Old Man Xu's eyes widened when he heard that. How did this hacker know Nathan's username before? And why the hell did this hacker use Nathan's username?

Nathan already deleted that account thirteen years ago. And only a few people knew about Nathan's hacker name.

"Can you find out more about this hacker?" Old Man Xu asked her.

But GingerAllieAnne shook her head. "She escaped. She is a great hacker. She stopped me from tracking her IP address."

Chapter 92 A Glimpse Of Nathan's Past

Old Man Xu couldn't believe that someone was using his son's hacker ID. Was it just a coincidence that they had the same username?

"How did you know that it was Nathan's username? As far as I know, my son already deleted his hacker account." Old Man Xu asked them.

"Former Master Nathan didn't delete his account, Chairman Xu. We are familiar with this username as this was his signature which he used after creating us." GingerAllieAnne explained to Old Man Xu.

Old Man Xu was taken aback when he heard that. He thought Nathan deleted his account thirteen years ago. But it seemed like he was still using it from time to time.

Was it because of Monica? Did his son want to reminisce about their pasts together? Old Man Xu heard that the relationship between Monica and Nathan started as virtual chatmates.

When Nathan was still studying in college, being a hacker was his pastime. He was only sixteen at that time. If he was correct, Monica was in her early teens as well–13 years old. They had been friends for more than a year before they lost communications.

Eight years later, the two were reunited through a chance encounter with Veronica, Monica's elder sister. And that was the start of their blooming love. They dated for several months. Then they got into a one-night stand, causing Monica to disappear. They got separated and lost communication once again for almost three years.

When she returned to Nathan's life, she already had a two-year-old son whom she introduced as Nathan's son. It was Ethan.

Nathan didn't doubt Monica's words when she said that Ethan was her son. But to be sure, Old Man Xu was the one who urged them to conduct a paternity test. And viola! Their DNA matched 99.9999%.

Nathan had forgiven her for running away. It turned out, Monica got scared when she found out from her sister, Veronica, that Nathan was a leader of a mafia organization.

The two were already planning to get married but another tragedy happened, breaking the two apart. Monica was assassinated by Phantomflake in front of Nathan on the night he was going to propose to her.

That was when the deep-rooted enmity between Nathan and Phantomflake had started. Nathan resented Phantomflake for what she had done, taking away his beloved woman. A deep grudge forced

Nathan to become the ruthless devil who annihilated the entire guild of assassins. And the rest was history.

But everyone knew that Nathan's grudge couldn't be settled as long as Phantomflake would remain in her coma state, or worse, she might die without Nathan getting his revenge.

"Grandpa? Grandpa?" Ethan's voice snapped Old Man Xu out of his deep thought. His mind wandered off somewhere as he recalled the past, that's why Grandpa Xu hadn't heard Ethan right away.

Ethan had to call his attention many times as he tugged his grandpa's sleeve.

"I'm sorry, grandson. What were you saying?" Old Man Xu asked Ethan to repeat his words. He was not paying attention to him a while ago.

"Grandpa, I said that Dad allowed me to use his account last time. This username exists. Just like GingerAllieAnne is saying, Dad didn't delete his account."

Old Man Xu could only bob his head. He understood now. But the real question was... who the hell was the hacker pretending to be SizzlingAugust08 as well?

"Grandson," Old Man Xu held his grandson's shoulder. "Didn't you tell anyone about your father's account? You haven't disclosed it to anyone, have you?"

Feeling a little bit confused, Ethan shook his head frantically, eyeing his grandpa with his innocent eyes. "I didn't," he softly responded, raising his right hand as if he was making a promise.

Old Man Xu heaved a deep sigh. "Alright. Let's forget about this. I will just discuss this with your father once he comes back."

"Let's go downstairs now, grandson." Old Man Xu extended his right hand to Ethan. The boy smiled before clinging to his grandfather's hand.

Old Man Xu didn't want to dwell on this, otherwise, he would have a headache. Letting Nathan deal with this and sort this thing out was the best choice.

Besides, the Syphiruz Mafia already belonged to Nathan. He didn't want to get stressed by the organization's concern. Nathan could already handle it by himself.

Meanwhile, Nathan already left the Syphiruz Headquarters. He was done giving them the instruction. The game plan for tomorrow's masquerade ball was already set. As much as possible, Syphiruz and Red Dragon shouldn't stand out or catch anyone's attention during the party.

The invitation had been given to both parties. The two groups would disguise themselves as ordinary guests. Through this, Red Dragon and Syphiruz would get attention from the underground world. This was a secret meeting between the two powerful mafia organizations.

Nathan wasn't certain if the Dragon Lord would also attend the Masquerade Ball personally. But as for Nathan, he would go there for two reasons: First, to monitor the discussion between his mafia and the opposing faction secretly. Second, he would fulfill Abigail's request.

And now, he was on his way to meet Aiden to relay his decision to him and at the same time, he needed to talk to him about the woman whom the Red Dragon Mafia was chasing after last night.

Axel drove him to Aiden's Private Villa. Aiden was already expecting Nathan to arrive. They had a short talk a while ago before Nathan left the headquarters.

Twenty minutes later, Nathan's car arrived at the entrance gate of Aiden's Villa. The security recognized Nathan so the gate automatically opened up for them to enter.

Nathan raised his eyebrow when he stepped out of the car. Surprisingly, no Aiden appeared at the front door to welcome him. Whenever he would visit his villa, Aiden would be the first one to greet him, pulling him inside the house.

"Boss, Ahem... I think Master Aiden is busy entertaining a beautiful maiden." Axel mumbled with a teasing smile on his face. He also noticed that Aiden didn't come out to welcome them personally.

Chapter 93 Completely Smitten By Her

Aiden and Cherry just finished their lunch when Butler Ezekiel announced Nathan's arrival. Nathan and Axel already settled down on the living room's couch.

"Master, Axel and Master Nathan have arrived. They are waiting for you in the living room."

"Dang! He is too early," Aiden murmured to himself, eyeing Cherry anxiously.

'I shouldn't let Cherry see my best friend. What if she falls for him at first sight!' Aiden thought as he recalled how the women he dated always fell for Nathan's charm.

"Chef Solmi, serve another batch of sweet desserts for Cherry," Aiden said, calling the attention of his chef.

"Yes, Master!" Chef Solmi immediately obeyed her master's command.

Meanwhile, Cherry looked at him with disbelief. "Are you serious? I just finished one bowl of fruit salad and a piece of chocolate cake."

Aiden flashed his sweet and charming smile, saying, "You don't have to meet my guests. Just stay here and enjoy the food. You will love them. If you are done, you can also roam around the garden to burn some calories. Ezekiel can keep you company and tour you around."

Aiden didn't give her a chance to object as he immediately turned around and left. Aiden was so determined to talk to Nathan alone.

Cherry could only shake her head while eyeing Aiden's retreating back helplessly.

'Why do I feel like he is treating me as a VIP guest? Are rich guys always like this?'

Cherry just shrugged her shoulders. She didn't hate the idea of having another batch of desserts. She has a sweet tooth so she is fond of eating sweets.

For a hacker like her who spent lots of her time facing her computer until dawn, it became her habit to eat sweet food to keep her going.

'Fine. I will finish the next batch of food before taking a peek at the living room. I'm curious about the guest who dropped by.' Cherry made a mental note.

In the living room, Aiden greeted Nathan enthusiastically, hugging him. Nathan just extended his right hand to stop Aiden from getting close to him. Axel could only smile watching the interactions of the two best friends.

"Boss, I will just wait in the car," Axel said goodbye to them, giving them privacy to talk.

Nathan just nodded his head, permitting Axel to leave.

"See you around, Axel!" Aiden waved his hand at Nathan's assistant.

Axel just waved back at Aiden, smiling broadly. Aiden was very friendly and approachable so he felt comfortable in his presence. Aiden was treating him as his buddy as well, instead of being Nathan's assistant.

"So why did you come here? You can even talk to me via phone call. I'm surprised that you visited me here of your own accord." Aiden raised his eyebrow, nudging Nathan's shoulder.

"Why do I feel like you didn't want me here? Was it because of the woman you brought last night?" Nathan spat back at him.

Cough! Cough!

Aideen choked on his saliva after hearing Nathan's words. He was so transparent that Nathan could see through him. It would be hard for Aiden to hide a secret or lie to Nathan.

"Hey, of course not. C'mon. Tell me what you want to know," Aiden chuckled, hiding his embarrassment. Nathan just figured out his feelings.

"Who is that woman? Do you even know that the Red Dragon Mafia was after her?"

"Yeah! You just told me a while ago," Aiden nonchalantly said.

Nathan rolled his eyes skyward. His friend didn't understand the severity of this situation. What if this woman he brought in his house was a dangerous person? She might even offend the Red Dragon Mafia that's why she was being chased by them.

As if he read Nathan's mind, Aiden spoke up to defend Cherry. "Dude, she is harmless. Don't overthink, okay? Red Dragon Mafia is into human trafficking. They want to sell her on the black market. Seeing her, I can tell that the Red Dragon Mafia is after big bucks! They can sell her and earn a lot of money! So it's natural that they are chasing after her."

"If I am their client, I won't hesitate to pay a billion just to get her!" Aiden added, making Nathan frown deeply. His friend was acting as King of Simp once again.

"Harmless? Are you sure about that? Last night, you sounded like a frightened puppy who was taken as a hostage by a bad guy. So I was wronged. You let this woman hijack your car and be her hostage... voluntarily." Nathan gave him a ridiculing look, eyeing him with disbelief.

Aiden just smiled foolishly as he bobbed his head. He was completely smitten by her charms, smiling sillily whenever he would recall the beautiful sight of a water nymph under the shower whom he rescued last night.

Aiden had already forgotten the scary feeling of being pointed at by a sharp object near his neck. She almost stabbed him to death if he didn't cooperate. But here he was still swooning and fangirling over her.
Nathan grabbed his chin and pinched his jaw, making him stop grinning. "Stop smiling like that! You are creeping me out, Aiden Wu!"
"Ouch! Let go!" Aiden hit Nathan's hand. "You are hurting my handsome face!" Aiden complained, pouting his lips when Nathan released his jaw.
"I have warned you," Nathan mumbled.
"I know!" Aiden promptly responded, rubbing his jaw.
"I'll not intervene if you get in trouble again because of her." Nathan threatened him.
"I can manage!" Aiden declared confidently.
"Fine," Nathan replied briefly.
"Fine too! Is there anything more you want to say? Stop scaring me okay? It won't work." Aiden sucked his teeth while glaring at Nathan.
"Yes. I still have something to say."
"Then what?"
"I will go on a date with Abigail." Nathan declared.
"Okay," Aiden said unknowingly. Then he raised his head and glanced at Nathan's face unblinkingly

when he absorbed his last words. Did I hear it right?

"What did you just say?" Aiden asked him again, his eyes filled with curiosity and anticipation. Did he just imagine it?

Nathan scowled at Aiden. He wouldn't repeat his words. "You heard me already. I'm not gonna say it twice..."

Aiden: 0 0

'Eh? Is this for real? Nathan finally agreed to date Abigail?! Is this the reason why he came to my house personally, instead of talking to me over the phone?'

Chapter 94 Preparations

[At Towerville City Megamall...]

Aiden had become an errand boy today. No wonder Nathan dropped by yesterday at his villa to inform him about his decision of having a date with Abigail.

He asked him what changed his mind but Nathan just remained silent, not disclosing any information as to why he suddenly decided to go on a date with Abigail.

Aiden thought it was a good thing because they would be able to fulfill their promise to Abigail. But he didn't expect that he would have to shop and buy the things Abigail needed to wear for tonight's masquerade ball.

Nathan gave him the responsibility to take care of the things needed. He had been roaming around this mall, buying jewelry, dresses, and shoes. He also had to pick a mask that would match Abigail's clothes.

"Damn you, Nate! You should be the one doing this for your date! So irresponsible!" Aiden complained, forgetting the fact that they were at fault here. Nathan just got involved because of their bet.

Aiden was not in the mood because of a certain someone. Cherry suddenly disappeared yesterday. After talking to Nathan, they found Butler Izekiel lying unconscious in the garden. And there was no sign of Cherry.

Upon checking the CCTV footage, Cherry was last seen leaving the Villa through the front gate. She left without saying goodbye to Aiden. He wondered if he would be able to see her again.

Aiden was now standing in front of Lady's bag. He would also buy a pouch for Abigail. He was still skimming the store when his phone rang. It was a call from his friend, Stephen.

"Where are you?" Stephen asked him as soon as Aiden answered the call.

"Megamall, why?" Aiden shortly replied.

"Is it true that Nathan agreed on dating Abigail today? Did you inform her already?"

"Oh shucks! I forgot. I haven't informed Abigail yet!" Aiden exclaimed.

"Alright. Let me be the one to tell her," Stephen volunteered.

Aiden rolled his eyes skyward. "You have a hidden motive, right?"

"Of course not." Stephen denied.

"Okay. I will send things to Sparks Mansion. Nathan is not around. Why don't you take care of Abigail's hair and makeup? I am busy right now." Aiden pushed responsibility to Stephen.

"Hair and makeup? Where is he trying to bring her?" Stephen cocked his eyebrow upon hearing that.

"They will attend a birthday party and he is bringing Abigail as a date."

"What?!! Is that Nathan's definition of a date— Abigail accompanying him to a party?!" Stephen couldn't help but facepalm when he heard that.
Aiden let out a chuckle and said, "I know right? What do you expect of him? We should be used to Nathan's logic. Haha."
"Abigail will surely kill us both!" Stephen lamented.
"She had to kill Nathan first, before us!" Aiden said confidently.
"Fine. I'm hanging up. I'm on my way to visit Abigail. What time will the birthday party start?"
"It's a Masquerade Ball and it will start at 7:00 pm. Send and escort Abigail to EDSJ Five Star Hotel. Nate will be waiting for her in the lobby," Aiden instructed.
Nathan was currently in the Syphiruz Headquarters for the final briefing. They were already preparing their communication devices, strategizing how they could pass through the security check of the hotel in the venue.
No firearms are allowed. Of course, the security team would also be strict about bugs and spying devices. The birthday celebrant is a famous foreign businesswoman— Emese Serflek. Lots of politicians and businessmen would be attending this important event.
Famous actors and actresses as well as musicians were also invited as special guests who would entertain everyone. Several media companies would also cover this gathering.

[Half an hour later]



"Spa and Salon!"

"Go, Miss Abi!" Little Ethan even pushed Abigail. He was so excited knowing that his father and Abigail were going out for a date! At this moment, Ethan didn't contradict Stephen's plan.

"Eh? Then how about you?" Abigail wanted Ethan to come with her. She suddenly felt nervous thinking that she would be alone with Nathan tonight. She didn't know what women usually do during dates. She needed tips!

'Damn! Where was Bam-Bam when I needed him?! That flying creature is missing in action once again!' Abigail lamented to herself.

"I'm gonna stay here, Miss Abi. Just relax and enjoy your night with Dad. Update me later." Ethan held her hand, patting the back of her palm. He was comforting her. He could tell that Abigail was a little bit nervous.

Without further ado, Stephen guided her to his car. He knew a Spa and a Salon wherein the staff would never disclose their clients' information. Others might recognize Abigail so he had to bring her to a Spa and Salon that strictly followed the confidentiality of their client's privacy.

When the two entered the car, Stephen glanced at her with a teasing smile.

"You asked for this. Why are you getting nervous now?" Stephen asked her inquisitively, amusement resurfacing in his eyes. "Do you want to back out?" he added.

"Of course not! I'm not nervous and I'm not backing out. I'm just so excited that my heart can't calm down..." Abegail lied.

Chapter 95 A Lovely Maiden

Stephen brought Abigail to the Salon and Spa owned by Aiden's cousin, Kathleen. It was called K.D. Cox Salon and Spa.

"Stephen!" Kathleen was so glad to see him. "To whom do I owe the pleasure of having you here in my Salon and Spa?" She anchored her hands around him as she pulled him into the client's receiving area.

"Hi Kath... I'm here because of her." Stephen pointed his finger at Abigail who was standing at the entrance door. Kathleen didn't notice her a while ago as her attention was so focused on Stephen.

Kathleen gasped when she recognized the woman who was now tracing her steps toward them.

"A-Abigail... S-Scarlet? What are you doing here? I thought... you committed suicide and you were in a critical condition." Kathleen was so updated with the showbiz's happenings.

"Did you fake your suicide attempt?" she asked her suspiciously.

"Kathleen, stop talking about it. We don't have time for this. We need you to give her a makeover!" Stephen intervened, stopping Kathleen from questioning Abigail further.

"Duh? She doesn't need a makeover. She is already pretty." Kathleen said exasperatedly.

"I know! But we need to further impress the guy whom she is going to date tonight." Stephen explained.

"Who? Is it my cousin, Aiden? You don't have to impress him. A beautiful woman like her has already passed his taste." Kathleen joked around about Aiden's preference.

Stephen shook his head. "Nope. It's Nathan!"

Her eyes went round and her jaw dropped when she heard that. "OMG?! Nathan? As in Nathan Sparks?" Kathleen darted her gaze back and forth between Stephen and Abigail.

Both of them nodded confirming it. Kathleen dramatically covered her mouth using both hands, her eyes scanning Abigail from top to bottom and vice versa.

Kathleen pushed Stephen aside as she closed the gaps between Abigail and her. She immediately grabbed her hand and said, "Finally! Someone is going to help Nate to move on and forget about Monica! Come with me! I will make Nate unable to resist your beauty!"

Kathleen dragged Abigail inside a private room for VIP clients. Abigail couldn't understand why Kathleen was being enthusiastic about this.

Stephen could only smile while shaking his head. Kathleen never liked Monica. She didn't hide her displeasure the moment she met Monica. She said Monica was such a faker and a pretentious woman... just like her sister, Veronica. She hated those two women.

There was a time Aiden and Nathan argued because of Kathleen's behavior toward Monica. Nathan was always protective of his woman. And he didn't like the way Kathleen was treating Monica rudely.

Inside the private room, Kathleen let Abigail lie on the massage bed as she summoned her staff. She would give her the best services of her Salon and Spa—Body scrub and massage, foot spa, waxing, manicure, pedicure, and many more. After that, they would do her hair and makeup.

It was only 1:00 pm. They could still do all those things before the start of the birthday party.

Stephen was left in the lounge, waiting for Abigail and Kathleen. After half an hour, Aiden arrived at his cousin's Salon and Spa, bringing all the items he bought.

"Eh, I thought you would send these to Sparks Mansion?" Stephen asked, wondering why Aiden was holding so many paper bags, along with his chauffeur.

"Ethan told me to go here straight." Aiden dropped the paper bags, joining Stephen on the sofa. He looked so exhausted.

"Where is Miss Abi?" Aiden turned his head from left to right, searching for Abigail.

"Kathleen is already doing her job. Let's just wait." Stephen tapped his shoulder.

The two men didn't expect that they would have to wait for four hours. Stephen had finished reading and skimming all the magazines there while Aiden had finished watching two movies on his phone.

"What the hell is my cousin doing to Miss Abi? She is taking so long!" Aiden complained as he stood up. He could no longer wait.

Aiden marched forward, approaching the front desk. "Where did my naughty cousin bring Abigail? What room number?"

"Eh... Sir... I can't disclose the room number. Please wait. They are about to finish." Kathleen's staff tried to persuade Aiden who was being impatient now.

"Four hours had passed since they entered the private room!" Aiden showed him his wristwatch. It was already 5:00 pm. The Masquerade Ball would start at Seven but Nathan would be at the hotel by 6:00 pm. It only meant they only had one hour left since Nathan told them to send Abigail by 6:00 as he still had instructions to give her.

Stephen also approached them. "Calm down, Aiden. You will see her soon. Don't pressure Kathleen, okay?"

"Sigh. I don't want to argue with Nathan once again because of her. What if she is intentionally doing this, making Miss Abi become late so that Nathan will be pissed off? Remember what trouble she caused when Monica was still alive? I thought Nathan would kick me out of his circle of friends!"

Stephen let out a husky laugh. He knew where Aiden was coming from. But he didn't have to worry. When he saw how Kathleen dragged Abigail a while ago, he could tell that she liked Abigail.

"You are just overthinking. Kathleen will never do that. Trust me."

"No. I have to see them now!" Aiden stubbornly said. "Give. Me. The. Room. Number." He asked the staff sternly.

"Why are you causing ruckus again, my dear cousin?" Kathleen's voice was heard at the back.

Aiden and Stephen turned around to see Kathleen. But their gaze stopped at the beautiful woman standing next to her. They were done with Abigail's makeover!

Both Aiden and Stephen were stupefied for several seconds. They had lost the ability to speak as their eyes feasted on the lovely woman in her red dress.

'Holy Crap?! Am I seeing the living goddess Aphrodite?' Aiden thought to himself, gawking at Abigail.

Stephen had the same look in his eyes. He couldn't help but admire the lovely maiden in front of them.

Chapter 96 A Message

Kathleen was satisfied when she saw the surprised look on the two men's faces. They couldn't hide their admirations toward Abigail. They were awestruck by her beauty.

Wearing a long sparkly off-shoulder red ball gown, Abigail's hair was tied in a high bun, exposing her flawless neck and shoulders. Her fair complexion was accentuated by her red dress.

Kathleen made a job well done when she matched her makeup with light colors. She looked so angelic despite the bright color of her red gown. And what attracted them most was the front of her gown has a deep cut at the center of her chest, revealing her beautiful cleavage.

Stephen had the urge to take her home and be her date instead. Meanwhile, Aiden's mind went blank as he didn't know what he would say. No words could describe how beautiful Abigail is right now.

Too bad this was a Masquerade Ball. She had to hide half of her face with a masquerade mask.

"Boys, did you cut your tongues? Haha. C'mon. Praise me with my masterpiece! She is like a goddess, isn't she?"

Kathleen's voice pulled them out of their deep stupor.

"Come! Let's take a picture and send it to Nathan!" Kathleen waved her hand, inviting the two men to get closer. She motioned her Staff to take their group photos.

Stephen and Aiden positioned themselves on her left and right side respectively. Before they took photos, Stephen leaned closer and whispered something to Abigail. "You look stunning. You are so beautiful..."

Abigail was not used to those kinds of compliments. She just smiled at him awkwardly before moving her gaze to the front.

After a few seconds, the four of them posed for their group photos. Abigail became close to Kathleen as she was easy to talk to. She was also frank and honest, speaking what was on her mind.

She also got to know her better. She thought Kathleen could become her friend. Kathleen didn't hide the fact that she didn't like Monica and Veronica.

She also told Abigail that she was rooting for her. She asked her if she liked Nathan so Abigail answered her with a simple "Yes."

Nathan was a very gorgeous man. Despite his cold and aloof image, anyone could fall for him. He was oozing with sex appeal and he could be the ideal man for most women. That's why Kathleen believed in Abigail's words right away when she answered her with "yes" which meant she liked Nathan.

Kathleen just wished her good luck since Nathan was not easy to please. She knew how he was madly in love with Monica. And she still hated that fact.

"Aiden, let me borrow your phone," Kathleen said, extending her right hand in front of her cousin.

"What are you going to do?" Aiden was hesitant to give her.

"I will just send you a copy of our pictures!" Kathleen didn't wait any longer as she snatched Aiden's phone. She already sent the photos to his messenger. Then she forwarded it to Nathan's messenger using Aiden's account.

After sending the photo, Kathleen gave the phone back to Aiden.

"What did you do?" Aiden asked her suspiciously, scanning his phone.

"Nothing. I just sent you our photos and saved them to your gallery." Kathleen shrugged her shoulders.

"Shall we go now?" Stephen asked Abigail. "Nathan is on the way to the EDSJ Five Star Hotel. It's a little bit far from here. Plus the traffic... so we have to leave early." he softly explained to Abigail.

"Five Star Hotel? Not a restaurant?" Abigail asked them in confusion. They were supposed to have a date in a restaurant right, instead of a hotel?

Aiden smiled sheepishly, scratching his face. "We forgot to tell you, Miss Abi. Both of you are attending a Masquerade Ball tonight. So here is your mask. Stephen will drive you to the venue."

'What? A masquerade ball? No wonder they let me wear this ball gown! Who would date someone in this kind of formal gown?! So this is not the typical date I am expecting from him. Damn! What is the devil scheming here?'

[EDSJ Five Star Hotel...]

Violet, Chantha, and Spider already arrived at the venue, together with four elite bodyguards who were also disguised as guests.

They stayed in the hotel lobby, waiting for Nathan to arrive. They went separate ways after the final briefing.

Their Supreme Leader instructed them to go straight to the venue as he finished some of his paperwork in the headquarters.

As curious as she was, Chantha told Violet to wait for Nathan at the lobby. She wanted to find out who was the woman coming with him. Was it really Dr. Veronica?

"Where is the Supreme Leader now?" Chantha asked Spider expectantly.

"He is here," Spider answered, pointing his finger at the entrance door of the lobby.

Chantha swooned after seeing the gorgeous man in his black tuxedo. He was wearing his usual silver mask. They recognized their Supreme Leader right away among the pool of people entering the building. He is the only one who exudes that great aura.

"Eh? Did he come alone? Where is his partner? His date?" Violet mumbled, looking for Dr. Veronica. But there was no sign of her everywhere.

On the other hand, oblivious of the several pairs of eyes watching him, Nathan stopped at the corner, just a few meters from the entrance door.

He picked up his phone as he received a message from Aiden. His finger lazily scanned his phone and stopped as soon as he saw the content of Aiden's message.

His blue eyes were automatically glued on his screen, particularly to the woman wearing a red ball gown. He was startled for several seconds, just staring at her intently.

Then after a while, his brows were drawn together and a cold glint flashed through his eyes. The words which were written below the picture turned his expression dark and chilly.

[Can I take her home? Your date is so gorgeous! If you don't want her, can I make her mine?] (Insert Winking Emoticon)

Upon reading the message, Nathan immediately dialed Aiden's number. The phone rang for three seconds before it was answered.

Nathan didn't even let Aiden speak first. "Where the hell are you?! Bring Abigail here, NOW!"

Aiden: "..."

'Eh? Is he mad? It's still too early. We are not yet late, are we?'

Chapter 97 Date... Not Sex!

Nathan didn't know why he was getting upset for no reason. The message he received from Aiden somehow provoked him. They were the ones who kept pestering him to date Abigail. And now, they were asking him if they could keep Abigail for themselves.

Their picture together also added fuel to his already raging fury. He was truly annoyed now. So he called Aiden to bring his date to the hotel as soon as possible.

Stephen and Abigail were already on their way to the EDSJ Five Star Hotel. They got stuck in the middle of the traffic jam. Aiden informed them that Nathan was getting impatient so they had to double time.

Not wanting to make the devil mad, Abigail urged Stephen to drive faster. If only she was the one driving the car, she could pass through the traffic jam without a sweat. She was used to racing and driving in the busy streets of the city.

At around 6:30 in the evening, Stephen and Abigail finally reached their destination. He immediately informed Nathan through a text message.

"Miss Abi, we are here. Let me escort you to the lobby." Stephen didn't wait for her to respond as he stepped out of the car, opening the door for her.

Stephen was acting like a gentleman... a thoughtful boyfriend. He offered her his hand for her to hold as he tried to lift her ball gown so that she wouldn't trip on her dress as she walked on the stairs.

Upon entering the lobby, Abigail already noticed the only man who stood out from the crowd. He was wearing a black tuxedo and a silver mask.

As if there was a magnet pulling them to each other, Nathan and Abigail met each other's gazes for a long moment. Abigail subconsciously halted on her step and tightened her grip on Stephen's elbow when she felt Nathan's penetrating gaze.

He had this cold aura surrounding him. His lips curled in an unpleasant twist, yet his eyes held a glint of amused twinkle. She didn't know if she had just imagined it as the look in his eyes suddenly became cold.

Nathan recognized them immediately because of the photo Kathleen forwarded to him using Aiden's account. Furthermore, Stephen was not wearing a mask. He was just there to escort Abigail to meet Nathan.

Stephen waved at Nathan with a broad smile on his face but Nathan just shot him a cold sharp glare. He was still in his grumpy mood.

Ignoring the angry look in Nathan's eyes, Stephen accompanied Abigail as they slowly approached Nathan.

"Sorry. We were caught in a traffic jam." Stephen apologized and explained to Nathan for being late. They were supposed to come by 6:00 pm.

Nathan just nodded at Stephen before grabbing Abigail's hand and pulling her to his side. Stephen and Abigail were caught off guard by Nathan's forceful action.

"Hey, be gentle. Miss Abi is on her high heels tonight. She might hurt her legs if you suddenly drag her like that." Stephen said out of concern.

"I know what I'm doing," Nathan responded sternly.

Abigail could only smile awkwardly and mumbled, "It's alright. I'm just fine."

"I still have to talk to her. We have to leave now," Nathan didn't bother to say goodbye to Stephen properly. He didn't even thank him for driving Abigail to this hotel.

Stephen could only shrug his shoulders as he watched Nathan and Abigail walking away.

"Nate is moody. I don't know what made him upset. Tsk Tsk. I just hope he will not be harsh on Miss Abi. Sigh. Will Abigail be able to enjoy this date?" Stephen sighed helplessly. He could already imagine how Nathan would be a boring partner for tonight. He felt sorry for Abigail.

Meanwhile, the group of three people were still talking about Nathan and the Lady in a red ball gown. This was the first time they saw that woman and she was not familiar to them.

"Oh my gosh, who is that woman? Do you have any idea, Spi?" Chantha asked Spider while yanking his hand. She was certain that she was not Dr. Veronica. She looked younger as well.

Spider could only scratch the back of his head and replied, "I'm not sure... I think you should ask Joker and Axel about it."

"Or ask the Supreme Leader himself," he added.

Violet shook her head. "We already asked him yesterday but he remained tight-lipped."

"Shall we go and approach them? Let's introduce ourselves. Who knows she might be the future wife of our Supreme Leader!" Chantha suggested to them. She was truly interested in the identity of this woman in red.

"That's a bad idea. We are here for a mission. Let's not put the secret identity of our Supreme Leader in jeopardy. The Red Dragon might have planted more people here to monitor us. Let's be more careful." Spider reminded everyone.

Violet giggled and tapped Spider's back. His words made sense. "Alright, let's escort our 'Supreme Leader. He is already waiting for us in the venue." Violet was referring to Axel who was disguising himself as the Supreme Leader of Syphiruz Mafia.

As the three people and their bodyguards went to join Axel, Nathan, on the other hand, brought Abigail to a VIP suite near the venue. He would talk to her first before proceeding to the venue of the Masquerade Ball.

Nathan was still holding her hand as they traversed through the hotel's hallway. Abigail was just obediently following him. Then they stopped at room #401.

Abigail blinked her eyes, staring at the closed door. Then her gaze shifted to Nathan who just pressed the keycard to open the door.

A wild imagination suddenly flashed in her mind, making her feel alarmed.

'Huh? Wait! Why is he bringing me here inside a hotel room? Aren't we here to attend a birthday party?'

Beep!

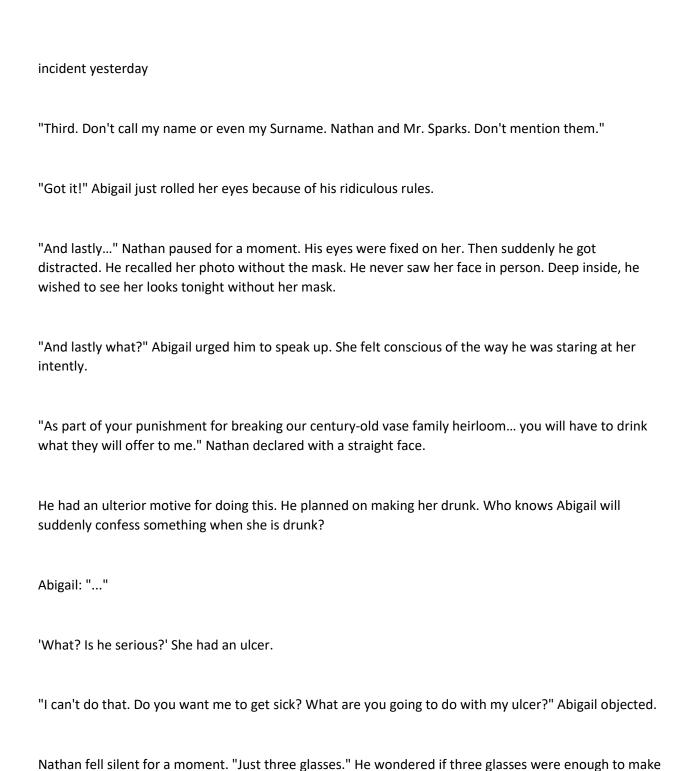
The door was unlocked. Nathan was about to enter when Abigail suddenly grabbed his elbow thus stopping him from taking another step.

"What?"

"Hey! Why did you book a room? I asked you to have a date with me... Not to have sex with me. What are you thinking?!"



"I'm fine with that," she plainly said.



Of course, he would take responsibility for her. He wouldn't let her get sick. He just wanted to know something from her. And the only way he could make her talk without restraint was to get her drunk.

her drunk. 'Does Abigail have a low alcohol tolerance?'

"Fine. Just three glasses! No more, no less." Abigail finally agreed.

Nathan's lips curled up into a triumphant smile. But he concealed it right away.

"Now, let's go. The party is about to start," Nathan mumbled as he checked the time on his wristwatch.

Abigail was stupefied when Nathan extended his hand to Abigail, allowing her to hold his hand as he would escort her to the venue.

'Whoa. I thought he would act coldly. It's surprising to see him offering his hand to me.'

Abigail just gave him a faint smile before placing her hand over his palm. Nathan opened the door and gently pulled Abigail, leading her to the venue.

As they were inching closer and closer to the venue, they could already hear the lively music. Famous musicians and singers were performing on the front as they waited for the other VIP guests to arrive.

The birthday celebrant, Emese Serflek was the center of attention. Numerous reporters were taking pictures of her together with the other prominent politicians and businessmen in Towerville City.

Everyone was wearing glamorous gowns and tuxedos matched with their elegant and wonderful masquerade masks. Men in black were also scattered in the venue for security purposes. The venue was large and spacious enough to accommodate three hundred people.

Upon entering the venue, Abigail was overwhelmed seeing the crowd. She didn't like crowded places and very bright venues. She was used to hiding in the dark as she hunted for her target.

'Damn! I feel like I am getting dizzy.' Abigail stopped on her track, her emerald eyes scanning her surroundings. She had the urge to turn around and leave. The flash of the cameras was also making her uncomfortable.

Seeing the hesitation, Nathan squeezed her hand, making Abigail look up to him. Upon meeting his gaze, Abigail bit her lower lip. Nathan let go of her hand, but he transferred it to the back of her waist.

"Relax... I'm with you," he plainly said. But his simple words somehow helped her ease up.

'Right. I should be used to this. As of now, I'm Abigail Scarlett. A new rising star! This is my chosen career.' Abigail reminded herself.

After clearing her mind and mustering up her courage, Abigail and Nathan proceeded to the center, looking for a nice spot. A few seconds later, Nathan guided her to the corner table on the right which had a lesser crowd.

'Gosh, I didn't think that my date with Nathan would end up like this. Screw him!' Abigail complained.

'Are we going to sit here quietly and just watch those socialites? It sounds boring to me.' She sighed deeply, glancing at Nathan who was staring on the opposite side of their table.

Little did she know, in this venue, a secret meeting between the two powerful mafia organizations was being held. The members of the Red Dragon Mafia and the members of Syphiruz were already sitting down at one table.

"Supreme Leader... Can you hear us clearly?" Spider asked Nathan through their communication device.

Nathan just snapped his fingers as a response to Spider. He understood Nathan's signal as he was looking in his direction. It only meant he was already listening to them. And their voices were loud and clear.

When the guests settled down at their respective tables, the host acknowledged everyone, especially the celebrant. Then she announced the start of the Masquerade Ball!

Chapter 99 "Sweetheart, Let's Dance..."

The Masquerade Ball started! The music resounded and several pairs proceeded to the dance floor. The guests moved elegantly as if they were professional dancers. They started to enjoy the night.

Meanwhile, two factions grabbed this opportunity that everyone was preoccupied with the dance. The Red Dragon Mafia led by its Branch Leader, Agustav, was now having a discussion with Axel and others.

Just like what they had expected, the Dragon Lord didn't show up at this banquet. Meanwhile, Nathan was secretly listening to their conversation, ignoring Abigail's presence.

"Someone framed us up. We have nothing to do with the attack. We didn't sabotage your operation overseas," Agustav explained to Axel, whom he thought was the Supreme Leader of the Syphiruz.

He was very cautious when talking to the Supreme Leader. It was known to them that the Supreme Leader had a short temper and he was easy to get mad and annoyed.

Axel just remained silent, letting Violet and Chantha speak on his behalf.

"What is your proof that you were framed? We lost several comrades, including a hundred-million dollars worth of deals." Violet emphasized to Agustav, trying to intimidate him.

Agustav just chuckled and said, "We are not stupid to go to war against the Syphiruz. That's why I am here to clear up the misunderstandings."

"Let's say you are not stupid... But your new Dragon Lord is!" Chantha butted in without constraint in her words. She just insulted the new leader of the Red Dragon Mafia.

Axel, Violet, and Spider glanced at Chantha with disbelief. Nathan could only smirk when he heard her last statement. Chantha was really good at provoking someone. The Red Dragon Branch Leader was now looking daggers at Chantha.

"We heard the rumors about your new Dragon Lord. They said he was so arrogant and he would like to flaunt his power by declaring a war against the Syphiruz Mafia. I think the Red Dragon Mafia is having an internal conflict as the Branch Leader like you came to see us to clear up your organization's name without the knowledge of your Dragon Lord." Chantha said, her lips curling up into a sneer.

Chantha could connect the dots so fast and she was bold enough to speak up her mind. This was the reason why Nathan chose her to become a branch leader despite the fact she was so naughty and playful.

Through her provocation, Nathan would be able to analyze and figure out if Agustav was telling the truth or not. He could tell through his voice and through his reaction.

Agustav didn't care that much when Chantha called their Dragon Lord stupid but his face darkened when Chantha mentioned the internal conflict of the Red Dragon Mafia.

Nathan came up with two conclusions. First: Dragon Lord had no idea about this secret meeting that's why he didn't show up even though the Supreme Leader of Syphiruz came. This only meant that some higher-up requested their Branch Leader here to meet the Syphiruz to deny their involvement in sabotaging the Syphiruz Operation. Those higher-ups were against the idea of going all-out war with the Syphiruz Mafia.

Second: the internal conflict within the Red Dragon Mafia might be true. The Dragon Lord must have ordered his men to sabotage the Syphiruz Operation overseas to declare war. But there were higher-ups who opposed this idea. Now, this meeting would be their contingency plan to avoid the war.

'Hmm, this new Dragon Lord is an interesting fellow. Too bad he is not here. I would like to know him,' Nathan thought to himself.

"That's a preposterous speculation. The Red Dragon Mafia is united. If you don't want to believe us it's fine. But we are willing to pay you the exact amount you lost in that operation and another one million dollars per person who died. Again. I am reiterating. The Red Dragon Mafia had nothing to do with that ambush." Agustav insisted.

Chantha let out another humorless chuckle and said. "I think you are guilty. You are giving us this offer as your settlement fee so that the Syphiruz Mafia will not take revenge for the deaths of our fallen comrade? Are you scared of us? So how dare you kill our comrades, if you will just tuck your tails between your legs?!" Chantha couldn't hide her anger and resentment.

"Supreme Leader, what do you think? Should we accept this offer?" Spider asked Nathan through their communication device as Violet tried to calm her twin sister down.

"Just accept it. No need to refuse their offer. Accepting this offer doesn't mean we are forgetting what they did. We are just taking advantage of this." Nathan said.

"Got it, Supreme Leader..." Spider replied. He believed Axel, Violet and Chantha already heard Nathan's

decision. They wouldn't dare disobey it. Chantha finally kept her mouth shut.

As Nathan's comrades continued to negotiate with the Red Dragon Mafia, Abigail, on the other hand,

had already noticed that he was talking to someone using his earpiece.

'Hey, hey. Don't tell me the Syphiruz has a secret operation here.' Abigail scanned her surroundings,

looking for someone suspicious. Following Nathan's line of sight, she saw a group of people who remained seated at their table while the other guests were already on the dance floor.

'Ahuh! His comrades are here. He called this a date, how dare he?! He just brought me here as a

chaperon as he disguised himself as an ordinary guest!'

Abigail was boiling with rage. She was already bored just sitting there doing nothing while Nathan was

busy listening to his comrades. She could no longer stand this. He ignored her as if she was invisible in

his eyes.

What's the purpose of her makeover and dressing up if Nathan wouldn't take notice of her? She had to

do something to get Nathan's attention!

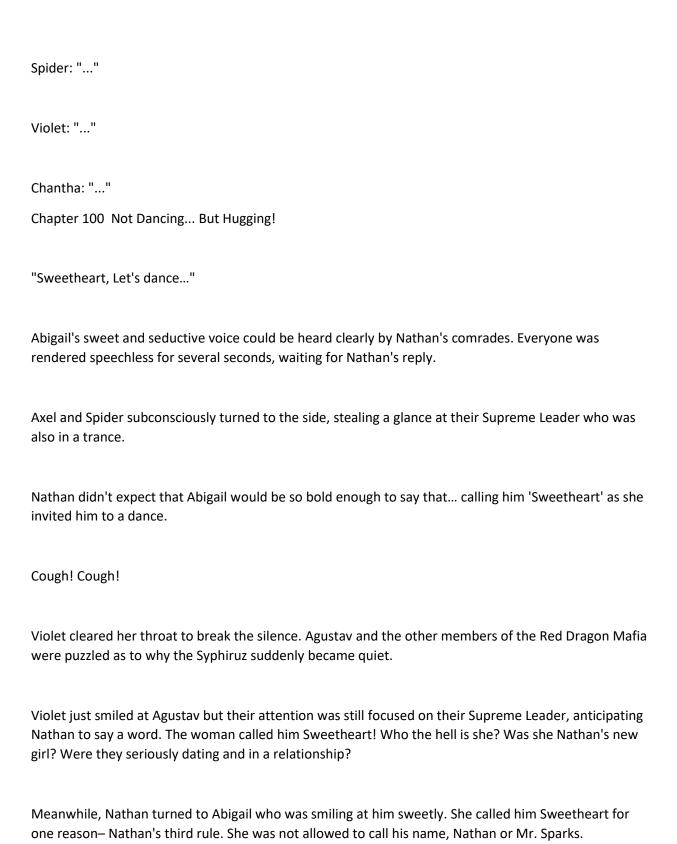
Without a second thought, Abigail moved closer to Nathan. She leaned closer to his ear and whispered.

She did this intentionally, thinking that his comrades could hear her voice through the earpiece.

"Sweetheart, let's dance..." she invited him with her seductive voice.

Nathan: "..."

Axel: "..."



Abigail tugged the sleeve of his tuxedo while giving him a pleading look. "Let's dance..."

Nathan's mask hid the deep frown on his face. But he stared at her intently. 'What is she planning?'

"This is my first time attending a Masquerade Ball. I want to dance with you." Abigail declared once more.

Abigail thought Nathan would reject her as he continued to remain silent. But after a while, Nathan stood up, offering a hand to her.

Abigail blinked her eyes in amusement while staring at his palm. Damn! Her heart jumped inside her chest when the devil agreed to dance with her.

Then it raced further when her palm touched Nathan's.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Her heartbeat was so loud in her ears. Nathan was so devilishly handsome tonight. His posture... his aura... he was so damn hot!

'Damn! I shouldn't be carried away by this. Pull yourself together Phantom!' Abigail scolded herself inwardly.

As she tried to calm her heart, Nathan guided her to the center, joining the other guests who were dancing on the dance floor.

"OMG!" Chantha blurted out absentmindedly. For a moment, she had forgotten that she was in front of the Red Dragon Mafia. She and others were surprised to see their Supreme Leader accepting a woman's invitation to a dance.

'Does it mean she is special to him? She even called our Supreme Leader Sweetheart! OMG!' Chantha wanted to scream out loud but she held back.

"Damn! Let's finish this deal already and enjoy the night!" Chantha slammed the table, surprising everyone. She just wanted to spy on the mysterious woman and their Supreme Leader, that's why she wanted to finish this negotiation as soon as possible.

The whole gang agreed with her so Violet, Axel, and Spider nodded their heads. They were also curious and wanted to spy on their Supreme Leader. Agustav could only give them a strange look.

On the dance floor, Nathan already put his hands on Abigail's waist while Abigail placed her hands on his shoulders. The two looked at each other.

"I'm surprised that you agreed so easily. I thought you would reject my invitation." Abigail mumbled in her low voice.

"Because I'm curious if you know how to dance..." Nathan replied. In fact, he couldn't understand himself either as to why he agreed.

Was he bewitched by her emerald eyes when she gave him a pleading look a while ago?

Abigail felt like Nathan wanted to test her. Well... she knew how to dance. She learned how to dance on formal occasions as part of her training. Most of her targets belonged to the upper class and to gather information she had to mingle with them in their world!

The two started dancing when suddenly Abigail heard Bam-Bam's faint voice. The flying magical creature finally reappeared.

"Move closer to him, Phantomflake. Grab this opportunity! You are doing well." Bam-Bam urged her with a teasing smile on his face.

Abigail frowned, but she reflexively followed his instruction. Abigail anchored her arms around Nathan's neck and she moved closer, pressing her head against his chest. She wanted to know if his heart was racing as well. She sank further into his body, feeling his warmth.

Nathan froze in his spot because of Abigail's actions. Her body was so close to him. He could smell her strawberry shampoo and feel the softness of her body.

The two were no longer moving. They just stood on the dance floor with their bodies pressed to each other.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Abigail's lips curled up into a triumphant smile when she heard the loud beating of Nathan's heart. So it was not only her!

'He smells so good...' Abigail thought to herself, comfortably burying her face on his chest.

Nathan's lips were pressed together, forming a thin line as he felt like Abigail was taking advantage of him. He wanted to push her away but ended up pulling her waist.

The two didn't look like they were dancing. They were hugging each other in the middle of the crowd!

"Oh my gosh, twinnie! Are you seeing what I am seeing?!" Chantha shrieked as she witnessed their Supreme Leader hugging a woman in the middle of the dance floor.

They just finished their secret meeting with the Red Dragon Mafia. And they immediately stood up to search for their Supreme Leader on the dance floor.

Even Spider and Axel had the same dumbfounded expression as they watched their Supreme Leader incomprehensibly. It had been so long since the last time Nathan got close or intimate with a woman.

Violet, who was very silent, just took her phone and started clicking her phone camera. She wanted to take this evidence just in case they had to interrogate their team leader about his date.

"Hey? What are you going to do with those photos?" Chantha asked her twin sister again.

"Hmm. I'm going to sell this. Or use this to blackmail our Supreme Leader," Violet responded jokingly.

"Blackmail, Supreme Leader? Do you wanna die, Sistah?" Chantha asked her in disbelief.

"Haha. Of course not. I guess I should sell this to his best friends— Aiden and Stephen."