

Chapter 231 - Make It Up

As soon as the class ended, Cheng Yu gathered her things hurriedly and looked like she was in a rush to go somewhere.

Cedric noticed this and hurried over to her before she could leave.

"What do you want?" Cheng Yu snapped in annoyance when she saw him standing in her way.

Cedric was taken aback. Wasn't she friendly earlier? They even had espresso together and took a peaceful walk. They even exchanged phone numbers and she had agreed to give him a call if she ever needed help with anything. Why was she suddenly snapping at him so coldly?

Then again, this was probably her normal attitude towards him. He shouldn't have thought too much just because she was slightly less hostile earlier. He cleared his throat and smiled. "Are you free to have lunch together? I know of..."

"I'm busy." Cheng Yu cut him off ruthlessly and went on her way. She was just too embarrassed to face him after thinking too much for so long.

Aside from sounding rude, she was not lying about being busy. She hadn't spoken to Jiang Xingyu earlier and had decided to meet him after her class.

The man was actually still waiting in the employees cafeteria. Jiang Xingyu was usually friendly to his employees, so they were not afraid of sitting in the same cafeteria as him and having their lunch.

When he saw her, he stood up to meet her. "Let's go somewhere else."

"Okay." Said Cheng Yu, starting to wonder why he was being so mysterious. What could he possibly want to talk about that they needed to go somewhere else?

She silently followed him to his car and when he asked her to get in, she silently entered. Even so, she sat as far as she could from him, not even fastening the seat belt.

Jiang Xingyu watched her actions and laughed. "Are you scared? Don't you trust me?"

"I should trust you?" Cheng Yu huffed, still not making any move to fasten the seat belt.

Jiang Xingyu looked at it then at her and said seriously, "the belt is meant for your own safety." Realizing that she was actually scared, he frowned. "Even if you don't feel safe around me, you should consider the fact that I would never want to wrong Luna. She would hate me if I did anything to hurt you."

When she heard him say this, she let out a small sigh in relief and fastened the seat belt. Even so, she looked like she was ready to flee.

Jiang Xingyu couldn't help raising an eyebrow. What was she so afraid of anyway? It was none of his business, so he didn't ask. He accelerated so they arrived at Jiang Corporation within half an hour.

Cheng Yu let out a small, awkward smile when she realized that they were probably going to his office.

He pulled up into the underground parking lot at Jiang Corporation and they got off at almost the same time.

Jiang Xingyu led the way to the elevator, and the entire elevator ride to the forty-fifth floor was silent.

The elevator doors slid open with a ding. Just as they stepped out, a young woman rushed over to Jiang Xingyu. "CEO, welcome back. President Han is here and..."

"I'll meet him in thirty minutes." Jiang Xingyu said to the female secretary and continued walking to his office.

The secretary went on her way and did not say a word of greeting to Cheng Yu—not that she minded it. It was just that the look Jiang Xingyu's secretary gave her was a bit weird. She frowned and followed Jiang Xingyu to his office. Why would she care about the secretary's gaze?

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Jiang Xingyu invited Cheng Yu to a seat then offered her a drink. She politely rejected it, so he went straight to the point. "You are close to Luna, that is why I looked for you."

Cheng Yu waited for him to continue.

"Is there perhaps... something I don't know about? You should tell me everything. That is the only way we could figure out..."

"I know just as much as you know." Cheng Yu didn't need to hear the rest of it. "You do know what kind of person Luna is. Do you think she would tell me anything that no one else knows?"

"I see." Jiang Xingyu rubbed his palms together in slow motion. He had thought that Cheng Yu would know something helpful. Reaching another dead end, he could only sigh.

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After thinking about it for days, Lanni finally thought she should accept the fact that Luna had been imprisoned. She decided to visit her.

Luna was only allowed two visits in a month and they were only one hour each. Lanni sighed and went nonetheless.

However, she didn't expect that upon arrival, she would be denied the chance to see her sister.

"Why? I'm her sister." Lanni was confused when the prison officer told her that she could not see Luna.

"I'm sorry Miss Li, but she listed you among the people who could be a threat to her, so you cannot visit her." The prison officer said expressionlessly.

Lanni's face paled in shock. She did what? She shook her head in disbelief. "No, that's impossible. Maybe you made a mistake. Listen, please let me have a word with my sister. Just one minute... I'm sure she wouldn't reject my visit."

"I can't. Please leave."

Lanni knew he would no longer be polite if she insisted on seeing Luna so she robotically turned to leave.

But how was it possible? How could Luna do such a thing? The more things progressed, the more it felt like she didn't know her sister anymore. It was as though Luna had been possessed by a demon of sorts.

Lanni sat in her car and didn't start it. Instead, she leaned her head against the steering wheel as she thought of every possible reason for Luna's behaviour. Finding none, she closed her eyes to mask her sadness.

Her phone vibrated. Lanni searched for it in her handbag and when she found it and saw who the caller was, she coughed twice to ensure her voice didn't sound like anything was wrong, then she slid her thumb across the screen to answer it. "Xiehan?"

Ji Xiehan paused for a moment as though detecting something before he spoke, "Honey, did something happen?"

"Uhm..." Lanni was shocked. How could he tell that something had happened when all she said was one word—his name?

"Where are you? I'll come to pick you up." He decisively said, and she could hear a small clank from the other side. He had probably just picked up his keys.

"Xiehan, you don't need to pick me up. I'm alright actually. I'll just go home and have a rest—you don't need to leave your work for me."

"Leave my work? But..." He stopped mid-statement as though thinking about something then continued a moment later, "Be careful on the road. If you can't drive, give your chauffeur a call."

"What were you going to say?" It was obvious that he had left something out.

"It's nothing, love. Go home and rest, okay?"

"Mmh." Lanni hung up after blowing him a kiss, but she still felt she was forgetting something.

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As soon as Lanni arrived, she went to her room and flopped on the bed.

"I can't believe she did that." She mumbled, still in disbelief. "Perhaps she was scared I would scold her or try to force the truth out of her? Good lord, what made her think I would do that?"

Lanni's lips twitched. Fine, maybe she would be tempted to do just that.

She didn't need to ask to know that Luna had already done the same for Li Yuming and everyone else. She mustn't want to be visited by anyone. With a thousand thoughts flooding in her mind, Lanni fell asleep.

She only woke up three hours later when her phone chimed with a message notification. She checked the message, which turned out to be a spam message from the online mall she usually shopped.

She stretched her limbs lazily. Lately, she hadn't been having enough rest with everything on her mind. She dragged her body to the bathroom and washed her face, then realization dawned on her as she looked at herself in the mirror.

She was supposed to go on a picnic with Xiehan this afternoon! How could she forget?

Checking the time, it was already 5pm. She dialed Xiehan's number and he picked the call after just one ring.

"Xiehan, I'm so sorry I forgot about our picnic. You even took a day off for this..." she facepalmed at the thought of it. "Oh god I'm such a horrible girlfriend."

"Heh." Xiehan chuckled and she knew she should be wary against that laugh.

"I'm so sorry my love. I'll make it up to you."

"Okay." Xiehan said in a tone that gave her chills.. "You have to make it up in a satisfactory way."

Chapter 232 - Go On One Knee

"Why does it sound like you're scheming something?" Lanni laughed. "We are already together. Do you still need to scheme to get what you want? You can just ask, you know."

Xiehan chuckled. "Who said I couldn't scheme just because I have already made you mine? I can still play tricks, alright?"

"Hold on. Give me an hour." He added.

"Okay." Lanni hung up and waited. Something must have come up, requiring him to go back to work.

One hour later, he called again.

"Not a second late." She smiled, pleased with her man's punctuality. He said one hour when he meant it and would be right in time—neither too early not too late. Realizing that she had been doing nothing but staring at her phone and waiting for his call, she took the phone and answered the call.

"Come down." Xiehan said monotonously as soon as the call was connected.

"What? Down, where?" She was taken aback. Realizing what he meant a moment later, she rushed to the window and pulled the curtain apart then looked down. When she saw his silver sports car, she was baffled. "What are you doing here?" She asked into the phone, looking down at his car with a puzzled expression.

The car door opened, and Xiehan stepped out with the phone still held to his ear. He looked up and waved at her then continued speaking into the phone, "I came to pick you up."

Lanni looked down at her baggy t-shirt and shorts. For the sake of having a nice rest, she had changed into comfortable clothes before having a nap. She didn't look like she was dressed up to go anywhere. "Pick me up to go where?" She asked into the phone.

"You forgot about our date so we are going to have dinner at my place. Isn't that just fair?" He grinned, looking up at her. Even though he knew she wouldn't say no, he added, "You promised to make it up to me. Are you going to take back your words, my love?"

Lanni chuckled at his spoilt tone. "Alright. Give me a minute or two, okay?"

He agreed, so Lanni opened her closet and grabbed the first black dress she saw. She quickly changed into it and brushed her long hair backwards, letting its thick waves fall to her back. She grabbed a tube of lipgloss and ran back to the mirror, applied a little of it on her lips and checked that it was alright.

When she was done, she grabbed a golden purse, stuffed her phone inside it and grabbed a golden pair of high-heeled shoes on her way out. She slid her feet into the shoes and made her way down the stairs.

"Did you wait for too long?" She asked when she was out.

Xiehan looked over and was startled to see her out so fast. He took in her tight black dress and was awed. He already knew that his girlfriend's body was perfectly proportioned in all the right places but seeing her in this dress, he couldn't help running his gaze all over her body. "That was fast." He finally said.

Lanni smiled and walked over to hook her arm around his. "I didn't want to keep you waiting."

"I didn't..." Xiehan was about to say that he didn't wait for too long but changed his statement midway to a complaint, "I waited for so long. Look, I even grew a strand of grey hair."

Lanni slapped his shoulder playfully. "Isn't your hair white anyway? One strand of grey will not stand out." She pulled a fistful of it, making him wince.

"As much as I like it when you grab my hair, it's much better if you are doing it in bed."

"You dirty-minded pervert." Lanni rolled her eyes. This man was impossible. He could bring up such topics even when they were talking about something totally different. She entered the car and fastened the seat belt in attempt to ignore him.

Xiehan got in, laughing after having made fun of her.

Before fastening his seat belt, he leaned closer to her and smacked a kiss on her cheek. "You look lovely."

Lanni turned to look at him and glanced at his blue tuxedo. "You look handsome yourself."

"I'm glad you think so." Xiehan gave himself a pat in the back for dressing up.

Lanni must have actually meant it when she said that he looked handsome, because her gaze was fixated on him for the entire ride to his mansion. Of course, that earned her a few kisses.

When they arrived, Lanni realized that there was no one in the vicinity.

An alluring aroma greeted her as soon as she walked into the house.

"Your chef must be in such a good mood today." She sniffed in the air to take in the aroma.

Xiehan chuckled. "Are you hungry? We should eat first then." With that, he led her to the dining room.

Only after entering the dining room did Lanni realize the different atmosphere. She stood in place, taking in the totally changed atmosphere.

There was a small, white flower vase on the table with red roses slotted into it. The light was dim, and four red candles burnt at the side, giving the atmosphere a warm, romantic feeling. There was even a slow, romantic tune playing in a low volume. The servants must have all been given a day off too.

"You prepared all of this?" Lanni was awed.

Xiehan held her by the waist and led her to the table, then pulled a chair for her. He waited for her to sit before answering her question. "I thought I might as well prepare a candlelit dinner for us."

He walked out of the dining room and returned with a two-tier food trolley. After arranging the food on the table, he took back the trolley then returned to sit opposite her.

Lanni was awed by the spread of delicious food. One glance at the steak and her mouth watered. Now that she recalled it, he had taken a day off work today. Had her man spent all afternoon preparing for their date?

"Xiehan... I don't know what to say..." was all she could utter.

"How about..." he stood up and Lanni freaked out.

Her eyes went wide. "You... you're not going to go on one knee, right?"

Xiehan, who was halfway towards her, wss startled. He burst into laughter. "What are you thinking? I was going over to you to kiss you."

"Oh." Lanni smiled. She didn't know whether she was relieved or disappointed.

Xiehan placed a kiss on her lips then sat back down so they would start eating.

He cut a piece of steak and put it in his mouth, his gaze fixed on her.

"Why are you giving me that look?"

Xiehan averted his gaze to pour some wine into his stemglass. "You want some?" He asked her. When she nodded, he poured some into her stemglass too.

"How would you react if I actually did that—went on one knee?" He asked after putting the wine bottle back on the table.

Lanni wasn't exactly taken aback by his question but she still didn't know how exactly to respond to it. She threw him a question instead. "Should I be honest?"

Xiehan took a sip of his wine with a slight grin and threw the question back at her. "Should I be scared?"

"I don't know." Lanni shrugged. "You know Xiehan, I love you very much. But I'm not ready for engagement or marriage yet."

Xiehan nodded. He knew this too. He already knew that the two of them pretending to be an engaged couple was one thing. But for Lanni, marriage was still not on her mind—and might not appear on her mind any time soon. He had only asked out of curiosity when he saw her startled expression at the thought that he was going to propose.

"You're not... disappointed, are you?" She asked worriedly.

Xiehan reached over the table and took her hand in his, caressing it slightly. "Don't sweat it, Love. I totally understand. It's too soon for us to talk about marriage. I only asked out of curiosity."

Seeing that they were of the same opinion, Lanni smiled.

"I..." she was about to say something when she felt a vibration from her purse. She paused her statement and took out her phone. Seeing the caller, her eyebrows scrunched as she looked back at Xiehan. "I'll take this."

Xiehan nodded, and she went to the window and picked the call.

Xiehan waited for her to finish the call before continuing to eat. He was looking at her, so he clearly saw it when she exclaimed in shock and dropped her phone on the floor.

He shot up from his seat and rushed to her. "What happened?"

"Lanni? Lanni?" He shook her shoulders.

Lanni turned to look at him. "Why now? Why at such a time?"

"What happened?" He asked again.

Lanni let out a sigh and leaned against the wall as she raised her hands to her spinning head.. "It's my dad."

### Chapter 233 - His Little Cupcake

Xiehan was silent for a whole minute, processing what she had just said before carefully asking, "What happened to your father?"

"He..." Lanni tried to steady her breathing as Xiehan held her. "He woke up!"

Xiehan frowned and looked at her. "You don't look anything like someone whose father has woken up after being in a coma for a whole year."

Lanni bit her lip. "I know. It's just that, " she lowered her voice, as though guilty about what she was going to say. "What wrong timing."

Xiehan understood her instantly. He couldn't say that he thought the same way, but he understood why she would think that way.

Lanni had hoped to get Luna freed before her father woke up. Now that he was awake, she might have to explain to him where her sister was.

Lanni picked up her phone and checked it. Seeing that it was broken, she kept it in her purse. She would buy another one later. "I'll go to the hospital to see him."

"Right now? You should go in the morning." Xiehan suggested, knowing that she must be too emotional at the moment. It would be best to digest the news first.

"No. I should go now. Though I don't know how to face him. Do you know, before this, I have never gone to see him even though he was just in a hospital nearby." Lanni held her forehead. How could she be such an uncaring daughter?

"It's understandable. There was so much going on." He consoled.

Lanni thought of something and spoke. "Wait. What if I double cross him for a while? I can go once as myself and another time as my sister. He would never know since we are identical anyway."

"That's a bad idea." Xiehan said as soon as her words were out. "He would be hurt when he realizes that he has been fooled all this while."

"That is if he ever finds out. However, I will make sure he doesn't and I will also make sure Luna is freed soon." She insisted.

Since she said it that way, Xiehan couldn't say anything else. He could only dismiss, "I'm not saying that it's okay to deceive him but I don't have a better idea so... why don't you think about it first? If you really decide to do it, then I will not have anything else to say about it."

Lanni nodded. Hence, she stayed over for the night.

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The next morning.

Lanni freshened up then changed into a different style of clothes. Once she had light breakfast, she hurried to the hospital. Xiehan accompanied her, but Lanni wanted him to wait for her outside as she went in on her own.

Seeing that she was dressed up in the same style as Xia Luna and was probably going to impersonate her sister, Xiehan could only hope she changed her mind on her own. After all, he couldn't force her to do what he wanted.

The attending doctor was already waiting for her.

"Doctor, how is my dad? Can I go to see him?" She asked anxiously.

"You may." The doctor replied, leading her towards Xia Hanchen's ward. "However, do not take too long and you must make sure not to agitate his emotions as his condition is still delicate."

"I'll take note of that." Lanni smiled and went into the ward.

Xia Hanchen lay calmly on the bed, fast asleep. Lanni stood at the door for a while. That was indeed her father. Now that she saw him again after so long that she couldn't remember, her heart filled with a mixture of joy and love.

She was overwhelmed as she walked over to his side and softly called, "dad."

The man's eyelids fluttered a bit, then he woke up.

"Dad, you're really awake." Lanni was excited and the word 'dad' left her lips too easily. Perhaps it was because she was impersonating Luna, who was close to their father.

Xia Hanchen smiled and Lanni expected him to call her "Luna" but the word that left his lips was, "Lanni?"

Lanni was taken aback. He had seen through her so easily. She smiled in self-mock. Although she and Luna were twins, what made her think she could fool their father? She could only slowly nod. "Dad, I..."

She was yet to say a word more when Xia Hanchen sprung almost to a sitting position and Lanni had to rush over to stop him. "Dad! You have to calm down."

"Lanni! It's really my Lanni." Xia Hanchen was so excited that his eyes watered as he stretched his arms like a child asking for a hug. Lanni's eyes teared slightly as she hugged him.

He patted her back. "You are better now."

Lanni knew he was talking about her waking up from coma, so she nodded as she broke the hug. "Dad, I missed you."

Although her pretense of being 'Luna' had been shed off, she still freely addressed him as her dad.

"I missed you too, cupcake."

Lanni laughed at the nickname but now that he said it, it felt so sweetly familiar.

Xia Hanchen took her hand and looked her all over before gushing, "You have changed so much. In just a year, my cupcake is now A grown up woman, so strong and beautiful."

"Thanks dad." Lanni was happy with the compliment and for a moment, she almost forgot all about Luna. That was until he asked.

"I'm so happy that you are here. Where is your sister? You girls are my happiness."

Lanni's expression changed slightly and she suddenly didn't know what to say.

"What's wrong? Is something the matter?" Xia Hanchen was fast to notice her change in expression.

"Luna, she..." thinking of Xiehan's advice, Lanni was about to tell him the truth. But thinking of how the doctor said that she should not agitate his emotions, she couldn't bear to tell him the ruthless truth. "Luna has been quite busy these past days. She couldn't come to see you."

"No problem. As long as she is fine." Xia Hanchen did not feel anything was off.

Lanni secretly heaved a sigh of relief. She wanted to stay more and chat all day. However, she was scared that he would start asking her questions about Luna, so she coughed up an excuse. "Dad, I have to go to school later. How about I come back this evening, then we can chat all night."

"Of course, cupcake. Even though I want you to stay all day because I missed you too much, your studies are more important." Xia Hanchen let her go as she pleased, and Lanni was glad that he did not cling to her.

'I'm sorry dad. I will tell you the truth when you get better. You can't take it now.' She thought guiltily.

When she left the hospital, Xiehan was still waiting for her outside. He was leaning against his car and when he saw her leaving the building, he went over to her.

"He's really awake. I know I was confused earlier but I'm so happy now." She said as soon as she saw him.

Xiehan smiled too, relieved after the fright he had received the night before when he saw her drop her phone out of shock. "How is he?"

"He is doing fine. For someone who has been in coma for a whole year, his condition is so much better than I expected. We talked a little." She rambled on. Suddenly remembering Luna, she sighed sadly. "I couldn't bring myself to tell him about Luna yet. I can only bring that up to him when he is stable enough."

"That's still better than you pretending to be your sister. It's already hurtful that his daughter is in prison, it would be much worse if he later learnt that his other daughter lied to him." Xiehan responded, and Lanni nodded in agreement.

"So what do you plan to do now?" He probed.

Lanni thought about it for a while. "I should try to learn Li Xiyang's weakness. I don't know if it will really work but at this point, I can only try."

Xiehan nodded slowly and led her to the car. Fastening his seatbelt, he looked back at her. "I thought you would want to do that, that is why I thought of a plan that might be if help."

"Thank you love." Lanni leaned towards him and pressed a kiss on his cheek.

"But you haven't heard the plan yet." Xiehan smiled, giddy from the kiss.

"So what? I know that my boyfriend is smart. Whatever you think of will definitely be helpful." She held a hand over her chest cheerfully. "Right. The next time I visit my dad, we should go together."

"You want to introduce me to him already? I thought you would think it is too soon because you haven't caught up yet." He laughed, obviously amazed that she had thought of letting him meet her father.

"My dad needs more reasons to make him happy now.. Sorry Xiehan, that's just me being selfish."

Chapter 234 -

Xiehan heard what she had said and stopped at a red light to flick her forehead.

"Ow! What was that for?" She complained as she rubbed the spot he had flicked while glaring at him.

He glanced at her as he scolded. "What nonsense are you saying? You care about your father's health and are doing your best so he gets better sooner. How is that being selfish?"

"I'm clearly using you. Don't you mind it in the slightest?" She asked carefully.

"No, I don't mind." He grinned, and she leaned against his arm until the light turned green.

"When are you going to see him again?" Xiehan asked, knowing the turmoil in her heart.

"I don't know. Maybe I should go tomorrow or the day after." Lanni was confused by her own words. "I want to see him so badly. But I'm also scared he might see through me and find out that there is something wrong with Luna. I really don't know what to do."

"Why don't you think about it? You can decide later or tomorrow." Xiehan suggested.

She nodded to agree, so Xiehan dropped her off at home before going to work.

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The following day.

Because she had only spent a little time with her father the previous day, Lanni wanted to visit him again.

Early in the morning, she wore an apron over her clothes and started busying herself around in the kitchen.

She made oatmeal congee and arranged an assortment of fruits into a basket. She was just about to transfer the congee into the flask when Li Yuming came in.

"This is a first. You are in the kitchen so early in the morning? Who are you cooking for?" Li Yuming assumed that she was cooking for Xiehan and smiled happily. How cute. Was she making him lunch so he would carry it to work? But when she saw the congee and the assortment of fruit, she realized that it looked like food meant for a sick person.

"Is Xiehan feeling unwell?" She worriedly asked.

"No, Xiehan is fine." Lanni realized that her mother must have thought that the food was for Ji Xiehan. "I didn't prepare this for Xiehan."

"Who is it for, then?" It couldn't be for Luna because prisons did not permit food from outside, so Li Yuming was confused.

Lanni put the dish in a silver food flask and tightened the lid. She slotted it into the basket with the fruits beside it then said, "it's for dad."

It took a whole minute for Li Yuming to process what she had heard and when she did, her face was pale. "What did you say? Can you say that again? Because I thought I heard you say that it was for your dad." Li Yuming even held her ear as though it was not working, with her eyebrow raised.

"Yes. That is what I said. I'm taking it to dad. He woke up the day before yesterday and I didn't know what his condition was yesterday, so I didn't make any food for him. Now that I know how he's doing, I decided to cook something for him. He is still unwell so he can only eat these." She ran her eyes over the food flask and fruits. "When he feels better, I will cook something more delicious for him." Lanni answered all so naturally.

Li Yuming was more stunned about how bluntly she was saying it than the fact that she was going to see that man. When she finally reacted, she grabbed the basket and set it aside. "You are not going anywhere."

"And why not?" Lanni asked the question whose answer she already knew.

"You are not going to see that man." Li Yuming gritted her teeth.

Lanni looked her blankly before asking again, "Why?"

Li Yuming exhaled a puff of air before saying what she knew she had already said many times before. "I'm only looking out for your safety. And by getting close to people from the Xia family, you are compromising that."

Lanni slapped her forehead as she felt her temples begin to throb. "Mom, I thought we were past this already."

"No we aren't. And we won't be unless you get it to the depths of your brain." Li Yuming looked at her sternly. "Xia Hanchen is not who he seems to be. In reality, he is a selfish scumbag. Do you really think he likes you, misses you and all that? He just wants to use you!"

"Mum..." Lanni didn't know what to say to her mother anymore. "Isn't that what you thought of Luna in the past, and weren't you proven wrong?"

"That was Luna. And she is my daughter, and I only didn't trust her in the past because she grew up in Xia Hanchen's care. I was worried she would become like him—but the fact that did not doesn't mean that he is any better than he was back then."

Lanni stared at her mother for a while, not making head or tail of what she was saying. In the end, she only waved her hands in the air as a sign of giving up. "Mom, I don't know what happened between you and dad but whatever it is, I do not wish to be a part of it."

"You are my daughter." Li Yuming barked.

Lanni grabbed back the basket. "Yes. And that is why you have to let me live my own life and make my own decisions."

Li Yuming could only watch her leave and because she did not wish to intensify the argument—or whatever this situation had turned into, she did not try to stop her.

"She is just as stubborn as her father." She could only sigh.

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When Lanni arrived at the hospital, Ji Xiehan was already waiting. Since she decided to go to see her father today, she had also decided to bring Ji Xiehan with her.

Xiehan was leaning against his car. He was carrying the coffee he had just bought in one hand while a plastic bag swung loosely from his arm. She walked over to him with a bright smile. "Morning, Love."

Xiehan held the coffee away from her as she pressed a kiss onto his cheek. When she was done, he kissed her lightly on her lips before presenting the coffee he had bought for her.

He also held out the white plastic bag. "This is for you."

Lanni opened the plastic bag and saw a paper package which had been slightly stained with butter from whatever was inside it. She smiled on excitement as soon as she recognized it. "You got me croissants!"

Xiehan smiled, seeing that his guess had turned out to be correct. "I'm glad you like them. You can eat them in the car first then we can go in when you are done."

Lanni smiled as she opened the car door to sit inside. Xiehan entered the car too. He had already had breakfast so he waited as she munched her way into the croissant.

After that argument with her mother, she had not had breakfast before leaving the house and Xiehan just happened to buy her some. Was he a psychic? She swallowed what she was chewing then smiled in his direction.

Xiehan smiled back and raised a thumb to rub off the tiny crumbs at the corner of her mouth. "Are you a child? You are definitely eating like one."

Lanni happily munched on, not minding that she was being scolded. Xiehan could only speechlessly shake his head.

When she was done, he stopped her before she could open the car door. She looked at him curiously so he asked, "Is something wrong, did something happen?"

Lanni looked at him with raised eyebrows. He was officially a psychic.

Knowing what she was thinking, Xiehan chuckled lightly. "Aunty Li called me a while ago. She said that you were mad and left the house without eating anything, that's why I got you coffee and croissants."

Lanni stared at him, opening and closing her mouth but no word came out. Li Yuming actually did that? Why would she? Why was it so hard to understand her mother sometimes?

Lanni shrugged her shoulders and did not say a word about it.

Ji Xiehan was curious. Just what had happened between these two? He studied her annoyed expression and asked, "What happened?"

Lanni looked all the more irritated as she finished her croissant. "She doesn't want me to visit my dad. I mean, he is my dad and he is in hospital. He has no one else to take care of him with Luna in prison and I definitely cannot trust Li Xiyan to be there for him. That woman could even do something to hurt him. As his daughter, isn't it only right for me to be there for him?"

Xiehan nodded. Her words made sense. He reached for her hand and caressed it gently. "I don't know why she is trying to stop you but she cares about you."

"If she cared about me half as much as she makes it sound, she would let me do what I've always longed to do." She scoffed.

## Chapter 236 - Sneaky Intruder

Xiehan eyed her for a moment before asking, "Did you try to understand her?"

"What?" Lanni frowned quizzically.

"Your mom. Did you ask her why she was acting the way she was? Do you know her reasons?"

Lanni huffed and remained silent. Who was she to ask? Li Yuming didn't want to tell her anything no matter how many times she asked. How then could she understand her? "She is so secretive that she doesn't want to tell me anything. I did ask this in the past."

Xiehan raised an eyebrow in contemplation. Even though Lanni put it that way, he still couldn't find it in his heart to blame Li Yuming. "Perhaps there's something that she doesn't want to tell you? You see, there might be things that you cannot bear to know. Maybe she is only being secretive to protect your feelings."

Lanni glared at him. "Just whose side are you on?"

Xiehan laughed even though he knew it was not funny. "Listen, I'm not taking sides. I'm only trying to make sure you don't have a falling out with your mum."

Lanni shrugged. "Let's go in now."

She got off the car and he followed her out, taking the basket with him.

He glanced at the perfectly arranged fruits beside the food flask and remarked jealously, "Where's mine?"

Lanni gave him a side eye and shook her head. Who would be jealous of his own future father-in-law? Even so, she promised to prepare a meal for him the next time he went to Li Yuming's villa.

Satisfied, Xiehan led the way to the hospital. Because the attending doctor already knew who Lanni was, he directly let her go to visit Xia Hanchen. The pair smiled as they made a turn to go to Xia Hanchen's ward, then Lanni stopped, her legs freezing.

Xiehan followed her line of sight and when he saw someone sneakily leaving Xia Hanchen's ward, his expression darkened.

Lanni gripped his hand tightly to control herself. Her expression couldn't be any more fierce. "Is that who I think it is? Because if it is, I might hack someone to death."

Xiehan didn't say a word, his eyes saying it all. He was ready to flung someone out of the hospital using their ponytail. What the hell was he doing here—he was everywhere!

Lanni hurried over to catch him off guard. "What the hell are you doing here?!"

The man started and turned to face the duo. He grinned when his eyes met Lanni's angry ones. "Ah, Princess. You are here too!"

Lanni didn't mind his taunting because her attention was on something else but when Xiehan heard him call Lanni 'princess' so naturally, something in his heart dimmed.

Lanni pushed him to the wall and grabbed a fistful of his collar, her eyes threatening to shoot lasers at him as she enunciated word by word. "What are you doing here? Why did you just leave my dad's room?"

"Nothing!" Flynn raised his hands in the air with a playful grin plastered across his face. "I'm innocent, really! I only came to pay Mr. Xia a visit."

Lanni couldn't make sense of his words no matter how she thought about it. Her body tensed up when she thought of a possibility and she tightened her hold on Flynn's shirt. "I do not know why you are here nor what you are planning but get this clearly. If you so much as hurt a strand of hair on my dad, I will kill you."

She sounded so threatening that even Xiehan was surprised. However, Flynn laughed and effortlessly pulled himself away from her. "Ah, someone's princessy claws are out. Listen, I didn't do anything okay? Nor do I plan to do anything."

Lanni was tempted to grab his neck and strangle him to death but before she did, the man moved away and stole a glance at Ji Xiehan before teasing, "If you touch me again, your lover might get jealous."

Lanni glanced at Xiehan and was about to rebut but when she saw how uncomfortable he looked, she rushed to him instead. As soon as she held his hand, all the anger faded from Xiehan's eyes. Not wanting him to be uncomfortable again, Lanni glared at Flynn. "Leave right now. I don't want to see you ever again."

"Heh." Flynn laughed tauntingly. "Princess, you are the one who will look for me. Mark my words." With that, he left.

Lanni frowned in disgust. What was wrong with him?

"The way he keeps calling you princess irks me." Xiehan finally spoke.

"You can say that again love. It's so irritating." Lanni seconded.

"I want to fling him out by his ponytail." Xiehan confessed.

Lanni took a peek in the direction that Flynn was just leaving. She eyed his honey-colored ponytail as it flapped on his shoulders slightly with every step he made. "It does look good for flinging."

"He is weird." Xiehan added, thinking of how this man had deliberately sent a picture that could cause a misunderstanding between hkm and Lanni.

"I don't know when he has ever not been weird." Lanni frowned. How could such a person exist?  
"Whatever it is, I will kill him if he even thinks of hurting my dad or anyone I care about for that matter."

Xiehan held her hand with his free hand. "No. You will not kill him."

"Do you think I'm joking? Just you wait and see. If he does anything he shouldn't..."

"I will kill him before you do." Xiehan interrupted her. When she looked up at him in confusion, he continued, "I will not let you dirty your hands for people who do not deserve it."

—

Lanni and Xiehan finally made it to Xia Hanchen's ward after so many distractions.

Lanni took in a deep breath at the door then took another deep breath. When she did it the third time, Xiehan furrowed his brows. "Are you nervous?"

"Yes." She grabbed the fruit basket from him and hugged it tightly. "It's the first time I'm introducing a man to my dad."

She didn't know whether she had done it in the past but considering her age and the fact that they had not met that many times, it was only logical that this was the first time. She didn't know how Xia Hanchen would react to this.

Seeing her unease and hearing her reason, Xiehan didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Didn't she sound so bold the previous day? When he saw her take more deep breaths, he tugged her to the door. "How about you go first? Check on the situation and if you are ready to introduce me, I will be waiting here."

"Really?" Lanni's eyes widened at the suggestion. He was being serious?

"Of course. You don't seem to be ready. You can ask him first then you will know how he will react to the news."

Lanni nodded to agree with the idea. Decisively, she pushed the door open.

Xia Hanchen was awake but reclining on the bed. As soon as the door opened and he saw Lanni walk in, he broke into a happy smile. "Cupcake."

Used to the name after hearing it before, Lanni smiled emotionally as she walked over to him. "Dad."

She hugged him and when she remembered that Flynn had been here earlier, she stiffened.

Xia Hanchen who was hugging her noticed this and asked, "Cupcake, what's wrong?"

"Did he do anything to you?"

"Who?"

"That man who just left. What did he do? Should I get ready to..."

"Relax, cupcake." Xia Hanchen patted her. "He didn't do anything. He only came over to talk."

Lanni was even more surprised. "Talk? Talk about what? Are you close to him?"

Xia Hanchen looked surprised. "Isn't he your friend? He said you were still a little busy and couldn't come earlier so he came over to talk to me."

Lanni gritted her teeth but when she saw him looking at her, she smiled to mask her irritation. "Y-yes. He is uhm... my friend." To change the topic, she brought the basket she had placed on the table. "Dad, I

cooked this for you myself. Because you are still weak, you can only eat this kind of food. I will make something tastier when you get better."

"What are you saying? Anything you cook is the tastiest food." Xia Hanchen said coaxingly.

Lanni felt sweetness fill her heart.

"Even if it included burnt pancakes." He added with a chuckle.

Lanni heard what he had said and froze. "Hey! When did I make burnt pancakes? How can you be so mean?"

Xia Hanchen laughed heartily, having fun teasing his daughter. Although they had not been close for too long, he loved her and he knew that she loved him just as much—and that they were both trying to make up for all those years they missed thanks to Li Yuming's restriction.

Lanni watched him eat happily and knew that she must have cooked much better this time.. She had put her heart into it—of course it would be tasty.

## Chapter 237 - Get Out Of Here

When Xia Hanchen was about to finish eating, Lanni started feeling nervous again.

Xia Hanchen noticed this and looked at her worriedly. "Cupcake, is anything the matter? You look nervous."

Lanni shook her head rapidly and grabbed an apple from the assortment of fruits. She washed and peeled it then sliced it for him.

Xia Hanchen knew she was having trouble trying to say something so he took the sliced apples and ate as he waited for her to speak.

Finally, she let out a puff of air and spoke. "Dad, I would like you to meet someone."

"Who?" He asked even though from her timidity just now, he could guess who she wanted him to meet.

"Someone important to me. He..." Lanni paused and went to the door. She opened it and looked at Xiehan who was still outside, sitting on a bench in the hallway and checking something on his phone. He turned to look at her and she smiled, her message clear even though she did not utter a word.

Ji Xie Han stood up and followed her when she entered the ward.

Lanni walked back to Xia Hanchen with a happy smile plastered across her face. She pulled Xiehan's hand as she introduced him. "Dad, meet Ji Xiehan. He is from the Ji family and he is my boyfriend." She tilted her head to the man diagonally behind her. "Say hi to my dad."

Ji Xiehan let go of her arm and walked forward to Xia Hanchen. "Hello, Uncle. I'm pleased to finally meet you." He stretched out a hand. However, Xia Hanchen neither glanced at him nor made to shake his hand. Seconds passed. Half a minute passed and it started getting awkward.

When more than a minute passed, Lanni couldn't bear it anymore and coughed. "Dad..."

Lanni was yet to say a word more when Xia Hanchen finally reacted. He glared at Ji Xiehan then glanced at the latter's hand and looked like he wanted to slap it away. "I am not pleased to meet you."

Ji Xiehan was shocked by the sudden outburst. Lanni was stunned for a moment before she thought of something. She placed a hand over her mouth and giggled. "Dad, that's so mean." She turned to Xiehan and patted his back as though trying to soothe him. "Don't mind him. He likes joking around too much."

Turning back to Xia Hanchen, she chuckled. "Dad, as much as I enjoy your teases and your jokes, this is your first meeting with your future son-in-law. You should be a bit more serious."

"I'm not joking." Xia Hanchen interrupted her, his expression so displeased that Lanni was scared it would trigger a heart attack. "I am not pleased to meet this man. Get him out of here."

Realizing that he was serious, Lanni stepped forward. "I don't understand. Dad, he is my boyfriend and he is a very kind, nice man. Why do you dislike him?"

"He, a kind man?" Xia Hanchen looked like he wanted to leap forward and tear Ji Xiehan into pieces. Lanni had to stop him.

Just when she was on the verge of exploding from wondering what was going on, Xia Hanchen held her arm to protect her as he glared at Ji Xiehan. "You are the man who so blatantly took advantage of my daughter! You even forced her to be with you! I wanted to see what a gutsy fellow you are, and now you even have the audacity to appear before me now and introduce yourself as her boyfriend?!"

"Huh?" Lanni was flabbergasted. What kind of accusations were these and where did they come from? "Taking advantage of me...forcing me...dad, where did you even get such a terrifying thought?"

Xia Hanchen patted her hand to comfort her. "Cupcake, don't be scared. Even though I'm bedridden now, I will not let anyone harass you. As long as I'm still breathing, I will protect you from predators like him."

Lanni was more confused than touched. She pulled away from him and held the flabbergasted Xiehan's hand. "Dad, I don't know why you think he is taking advantage of me, and I don't understand how you came to the conclusion that he forced me to be with him but you are mistaken. Xiehan is my boyfriend. We're in love with each other."

It was Xia Hanchen's turn to be confused. "In love?"

"Yes dad." Lanni looked bashful as she explained. "We are madly in love. How can he force me to be with him when I already wanted to be with him?"

Xia Hanchen looked at their intertwined hands and a frown formed on his face. "Cupcake, you don't have to pretend with me. I'm your dad so you should tell me the truth. Is he threatening you? Because if he is, you can tell me and I will..."

"He is not." Lanni snuggled closer to Xiehan as though to prove her words. Looking at Lanni's eyes, she did look bashful like a young woman in love. The kind of gaze she was directing towards Xiehan was one filled with warmth and love. This made him even more confused. "But your friend said..."

Lanni's ears perked up at the key word. "What friend?"

"Flynn." Xia Hanchen explained. "He said that you had been forced into a relationship with a man and that you were scared that if you rejected him, he would hurt you."

Lanni took a deep breath and muttered a curse. Damn that man. She should have known. It did sound like one of the insane things he would do. Why the heck would he make up such a lie to mislead her father?

"What else did he say to you?" She controlled her anger to ask gently.

Xia Hanchen thought about it before saying, "He told me about Luna."

Lanni felt all the strength leave her body. That idiot! She had tried very hard to keep the truth from him to avoid agitating his emotions. How dare that man spill it? Not only was he an idiot, he was a blabbermouth too!

After cursing Flynn a hundred times in her heart, she finally heard Xia Hanchen's displeased question. "When were you planning to tell me?"

"D-dad..." Lanni lowered her voice in guilt. "I'm sorry I... I didn't want to distress you..."

"You should know better than to keep things from your dad." He harrumphed. "Look how sorry you are now. And that Luna! How could she do this to her father? Couldn't she wait a little more before going abroad?"

"Huh?" Lanni was puzzled. Abroad?

"What are you so shocked about? Don't tell me she didn't tell you either? That would be too horrible of her."

Lanni was so shocked that she almost spilled the truth. She only managed to catch her tongue in the last moment and quickly nod. "Y-yes. She told me before she left." She could only swallow and go with Flynn's tale.

So he had not told Xia Hanchen about Luna's imprisonment? It was unbelievable.

"I don't know what she is up to this time. Which learning programme doesn't allow the learner to visit or contact their family until the term is complete? What insanity!" Xia Hanchen was displeased just by the thought of not being able to see his Luna for so long.

Lanni snuck a glance at Xiehan and cleared her throat. "There are indeed such learning programmes. It's just... ahem... not popular because of the requirements."

Xia Hanchen sunk into thought for a while. Just when Lanni was wondering whether he believed her and Flynn, he glanced at Ji Xiehan then back at Lanni. "I want to have a word with him. Alone."

Lanni was startled when she heard the second part. Recalling how her dad was hostile towards Xiehan after what Flynn told him, she couldn't bring herself to leave Xiehan behind. She dashed to his side to cover him up. "Dad, we have disturbed your rest too much already. You should go to sleep now."

"Do you think I will bully him?" Xia Hanchen laughed when he saw his daughter secretly acting protective.

Lanni looked at him, mentally accusing, 'Not only do you look like you will bully him, but you also look like you will skin him alive as soon as I walk out that door.'

"Honey, could you help me buy something in the convenience store a few meters to the left?" Xiehan asked in a low voice. He even gave her his card and asked her to buy him a bottle of water.

Lanni looked at him quizzically. Was he trying to imply that it was okay to leave him alone with her father?

Xiehan seemed to understand her silent question, and he nodded in response. Lanni therefore said goodbye and left the room.

—

After buying the water, Lanni didn't go back to Xia Hanchen's ward. Instead, she waited next to Xiehan's car.. Even though Xiehan had said that it was alright, she couldn't help being curious and worried. What could they possibly talk about?

## Chapter 238 - My Wife

Time ticked. Thirty minutes later, Lanni started getting anxious. What was it that they were talking about for so long? Did she need to go and check?

She was just about to go and check when she saw Xiehan finally exiting the hospital.

She sighed in relief as he walked to her.

"You took so long. What were you even talking about?"

Xiehan grinned as he gave her a sidelong glance. "Are you scared that Uncle will bully me? Don't you trust him?"

Lanni shot him a glance. "Forget about trust. He looked like he was going to make things difficult for you. Turns out I was worried about nothing."

Xiehan pressed the car key to unlock the car and opened the passenger door for her. She went in, and he also entered to sit in the driver's seat as he glanced at her teasingly. "Honey, don't you trust your man's charm? If I can charm my way into your heart, then I can convince the in-laws too."

Lanni scoffed at his weird analogy and handed the mineral water she had bought to him. He unscrewed the cap and threw his head back, gulping two swigs. She watched his adam's apple bob as he swallowed. A stray drop of water rolled its way down his chin and to the adam's apple, and Lanni found herself staring at the view. When he had enough water, he closed the bottle using the cap and set it aside.

Lanni coughed and asked, "What did you guys talk about for so long anyway?"

"We were talking about you, naturally." He answered, starting the car.

"Yeah... obviously you would talk about me. But what exactly did you say to each other?" She was curious.

Xiehan chuckled at her desire for gossip before answering, "He threatened—promised—to skin me alive if I ever did anything to hurt you."

Lanni stared at him, trying to process it. Was that what they talked about for all that time? Just a threat? Well, that did seem like what fathers-in-law would discuss with their sons-in-law. Just imagining the scene made her want to laugh. She looked up at him with a tiny smile on her lips. "Don't worry. He does not really mean it. He will not skin you alive."

"He looked and sounded serious." Xiehan shrugged with his hands on the steering wheel.

"But he will not have to skin you alive... he will not need to because you will not wrong me."

When Ji Xiehan heard what she said, a smile formed on his lips. "I'm happy that you trust me, love."

Lanni took advantage of the fact that he was driving and smacked a kiss on his cheek. Because he was driving, he could only glance at her sideways as she stole kisses.

After leaving the hospital compound, Lanni thought of something and frowned in anger. "That Flynn is officially a weirdo."

"Why do you say so?" Xiehan asked, even though he could vividly guess why she would call him that.

Lanni huffed in anger. "Why the hell would he tell my dad such lies? He even said that you forced me to be with you! Why is he so hell-set on messing with us?"

Xiehan shrugged. He couldn't guess what Flynn was thinking but one thing was for sure—he still wanted to beat the hell out of him. "He must be trying to sow discord between us, and between your dad and me."

Lanni couldn't agree more. "Indeed. He is causing trouble at every turn. Forget lying to dad. Why the hell would he say that Luna went abroad to study?"

"To buy you more time?" Xiehan hypothesized.

Lanni blinked as she thought about how scared she was of Xia Hanchen asking about Luna. "Yeah, that seems like a possibility. But then again, he doesn't look like the kind of guy to do things because he is looking out for me. If anything, all he has ever done is jeopardize everything I do. What if he is only doing this to create a misunderstanding between me and dad? What if his actual aim is to later have someone tell him that Luna is not abroad but in prison instead? You know, I still don't get what he was doing in Dad's ward."

"It is hard to understand. It is even harder to understand the relationship between the two of you."  
Xiehan said meaningfully.

"What are you talking about?" Lanni blinked.

"Do you remember everything about your past with him?"

Lanni shook her head slowly. She only remembered the general stuff. Perhaps that was why she couldn't understand Flynn at all, especially since he was always mean to her in her memory. She couldn't understand why he had started acting like he somehow cared about her and the thought of it was scary.

"Then you shouldn't think too much about it. Perhaps you were in fact friends, and he is only trying to help out his friend. You could ask him the next time he pops up." Xiehan added.

Although that was what he said, Lanni glanced at him and realized that he was trying to suppress something. Was he perhaps... jealous?

Pfft obviously.

Her boyfriend was the easily jealous type. She shouldn't have chattered so much about another man with him. "Let's not talk about him anymore. The thought of it is draining my brain cells."

"Sure." Xiehan didn't mind changing the topic because he had a better one in mind. "My parents want us home for dinner."

"Really, when?" Lanni was excited.

"This weekend. Will you be free?" He was happy to see that she was looking forward to it.

"Yes, I don't have much going on."

"Then I'll pick you up."

—

On Saturday.

The Jiang Mansion.

A servant knocked on the door to Jiang Xingyu's room. He had spent the night at home the previous night. Because he had stayed up late and only slept when it was almost dawn, he had just woken up.

Jiang Xingyu groggily went to answer the door. "Do you need something?"

"Young master, sir wants you to go downstairs."

"Why does he need me?" Jiang Xingyu rubbed his eyes. When he got no answer from the oblivious maid, he ran a hand through his hair. "I'll be there."

The maid left, and Jiang Xingyu took a quick shower and changed into a clean set of clothes.

He went downstairs wondering why his father needed him there. When he reached the dining room, he frowned when he saw a guest at the table.

"Ah, Xingyu is here. Come over." Jiang Xingren enthusiastically announced.

Jiang Xingyu ignored the guest and sat at the table.

However, the guest was evidently here for him. Jiang Xingren smiled as he introduced the young woman sitting some distance from him. "This is Han Xiaoli, from the Han family. The two of you have a lot in common. Go on, say hello to her."

"Mmh." Jiang Xingyu grunted in response, with no intention to say hello to the guest or strike a conversation with her.

Seeing the atmosphere start to get awkward, Jiang Xingren coughed and glanced at Han Xiaoli. "Xingyu hasn't been feeling well lately, don't mind his attitude. Actually, he is usually friendly and easy going and you two can make good friends."

"Hello." She said curtly, recoiling when Jiang Xingyu glared at him.

Jiang Xingren couldn't have it any longer. "You punk. How many years will you lose from your life if you are a little friendly?"

Jiang Xingyu slammed his cutlery onto his plate, making an ear-shattering noise. He stood up and huffed angrily. "That's because I know why you brought her here. Is this a match-making session of sorts?" He glared at the dumfounded Han Xiaoli. "Didn't I already make it clear to you? I have someone in my heart. I will never like you. Why don't you understand this? What kind of woman are you to keep pestering a man who doesn't like you?"

"Jiang Xingyu!" Jiang Xingren barked.

Jiang Xingyu turned on his heel and was about to walk out when Han Xiaoli stood up and took her bag. "I only came here because Uncle invited me for lunch. Don't think too highly of yourself." As soon as she was done speaking, she walked out.

Jiang Xingren glared at his son condensingly. "What the heck is wrong with you? Why would you be so rude to a kind woman?"

"As I said before, it is because of your motive behind bringing her here. I know you are trying to match make me with her even though you know fully well that I have a wife." Jiang Xingyu looked back at him accusingly.

"What wife?!" Jiang Xingren reprimanded. "Don't randomly call women that when you are not married."

"What's the difference? She is the one I will marry anyway."

Jiang Xingren felt his head hurt. "What kind of man are you? A blind one? How can you not see such a beautiful and smart woman but instead be focused on a murderer?"

#### Chapter 239 - Stab In The Heart

Jiang Xingyu's back went cold. It took him about two minutes to believe that his father had just uttered the words he had heard. Did he just call Luna a murderer? His chest heaved up and down as he swallowed hard. He clenched his fists as he spat each syllable through gritted teeth, "Take that back!"

Jiang Xingren stood up, his eyes bulged in anger. "How dare you speak to your father like that, punk!"

"Hey hey! What's going on here?" Madam Jiang, who had just arrived, rushed over to stop them before it could escalate into an actual fight. She looked at her husband then at her fuming son. "What happened?"

"He actually called Luna a murderer." Jiang Xingyu fumed. "Which eye of yours saw Luna kill anyone?"

"I said what came out of her mouth. And what she said with her own mouth is that she murdered the detective. What does that make her?"

"That's enough." Madam Jiang interrupted as she patted her son's back.

"I don't know what era he is stuck in. People actually still force women onto their sons. Wow, just wow." Jiang Xingyu huffed and stormed off. Madam Jiang glanced in her son's direction then turned to glare at her husband. "What are you doing? What is all this about?"

Jiang Xingren took her hand. "Honey, I'm only looking out for him."

"But you do know that he only loves Xia Luna. By introducing a woman to him at such a difficult time, aren't you stabbing our own son in the heart?"

Jiang Xingren was helpless against this mother-son duo. "My wife, do you really believe that an innocent person would plead guilty, and there will be nothing to prove that she is lying? This time she murdered a detective. The next victim could be you, or me or our son. I'm only trying to ensure that our son is safe and if the threat to his safety is the woman he loves, I will not hesitate to separate them."

Madam Jiang could only sigh. She couldn't blame her husband. He was only doing the best for their son. Unlike her and Xingyu, he didn't trust Luna.

Actually, it was ridiculous for her to trust Luna too. After all, she had only known her for a few months and Luna was already wanted by the police when they first met. However, all she knew was that she liked the girl and wanted to believe her no matter what. It was something inexplicable—something that was probably not in her husband.

Jiang Xingyu looked out through the window of his room. He was displeased about his father bringing a woman to match make him with but what displeased him all the more was the woman's identity. Out of the billions of women in the world, why did he have to bring Cedric Han's sister? It was as though he did it on purpose—because he knew that Jiang Xingyu had rejected Han Xiaoli before.

As it turned out, predicaments worked like magic at times. They could make people show their true colors, weaken their resolve or make them give up on something—or someone.

Only a tiny fraction was willing to struggle to the end, and Jiang Xingyu was just that tiny fraction.

He was still trying to find evidence to prove Luna's innocence. If he couldn't get any, he would wait for Luna to complete her jail term. It didn't matter how long it took.

She would be released in the end, and regardless of their ages, they would resume what they had and get married.

—

On the same evening, in the Ji Mansion.

"My dear, eat more. You have become skinnier." Wen Lin's heart ached as she urged Lanni to eat more. Not only had she lost some weight, but she also looked dull and had slight dark circles under her eyes. She shot a sideways glare at her son and looked back at Lanni. "Is Xiehan giving you a hard time?"

Ji Xiehan was speechless. If Lanni didn't look well, it was because he was giving her a hard time?

Lanni smiled as she shook her head. "No aunty, Xiehan dotes on me too much."

"Then why..." Wen Lin suddenly remembered. There was news a while ago about a wanted criminal being convicted. Although the name was Xia Luna, the photo of that criminal was identical to Lanni. Even she had almost believed that it was Lanni! It was only when she recalled that Lanni should have a twin that she understood what was going on. It must be the twin that was convicted.

Since that was the case, it was also obvious why Lanni was unhappy. She carefully asked, "is your sister doing alright?"

Lanni's hand froze for a moment. The expression on her face changed slightly and she could only sigh. "I don't know for sure."

She would have been sure if Luna had let her visit but she wasn't—because Luna wouldn't let her visit. She could only let her imagination run wild with all sorts of guesses. What if Luna was being mistreated? She wouldn't even know. And no one would because like the oddball that Luna was making herself, she had rejected everyone's visit. The frustration in Lanni's heart couldn't be expressed verbally.

Seeing Lanni become sadder and hearing her response, Wen Lin felt bad for asking. "We..."

She was about to offer her help but she stopped. How could she utter such words as "we will help you get her out"?

With the Ji family's connections, they really could. Through underhanded means and corruption, of course. However, wouldn't that be ironical?

They had not helped their own daughter out. It was not that she was complaining, the girl needed to learn her lesson.

And since they were letting their daughter learn a lesson by serving her jail term without getting any help out of it, they couldn't possibly help someone else escape charges.

Of course, Wen Lin knew nothing about Luna being forced to admit to committing the crime. She thought Luna was indeed guilty, which was why she was comparing her situation to Ji Fiefei's.

"If it wasn't for this incident, I would have thought that you were cheating on Xiehan." She remarked, trying to lighten up the mood. "The two of you are so identical."

After the news blew up and Wen Lin remembered that Li Yuming had twins, she had figured out that the girl she saw at the Jiang's was probably Lanni's twin. How identical!

Lanni chuckled when she heard the remark. She already knew that months ago, Wen Lin had mistaken Luna for her. She was relieved now that her future in-laws knew the truth and no longer misunderstood her. She was even happier that Wen Lin didn't rush to judge her.

When Ji Xiehan heard what his mother just said, he narrowed his gaze. "Mother, what kind of statement is that? How could you utter such words?"

Wen Lin chuckled. "Oh come on. I don't mean Lanni could do anything to betray you. I know she wouldn't."

Lanni smiled slightly and Xiehan let it go too. They talked about all sorts of random things but it was apparent that the weirdness unintentionally brought about by Wen Lin's statement still lingered. That was one of the most awkward meals they had ever had together.

After dinner, Ji Xiehan said that he would drop Lanni home.

"Why don't the two of you stay over tonight?" Wen Lin suggested, giving the two of them a meaningful look.

Ji Huifen understood his wife's train of thought and glared at her. He didn't say anything against it though, because he hoped for that too. If Lanni and Xiehan stayed over, they would obviously share a room and that would increase their chances of engaging in meaningful activities. Who didn't want a few cute little grandchildren to play with?

Lanni thought about it and had to turn down the offer. "I have to go somewhere early tomorrow in the morning and I need to make preparations."

"Oh, don't sweat it then." Wen Lin took Lanni's hand. After urging her to eat more healthy food, have enough sleep and endlessly nagging her son to take better care of her, she and Ji Huifen finally saw them off.

"Where are you going tomorrow morning?" Xiehan asked as they entered the car.

"Nowhere else. I'm going to spend the day with my dad." Lanni responded, a flash of sadness tracing her face.

Xiehan ran a thumb down her face and when it reached her jaw, he used it to raise her chin. "It will be okay, my love. All of this will end."

"But when?" Lanni breathed out a sigh of tiredness. She was seriously tired of all this. What did it take for a girl to live a normal life? She closed her eyes to rest a little.. Xiehan saw her recline with her eyes closed and slightly increased the temperature in the car so she would be warmer while sleeping.

## Chapter 240 - Don't Waste My Effort

Lanni opened her eyes a few minutes later when she recalled something. She looked out then glanced at Xiehan who was driving. "I need to get something from the supermarket. "

"There's one a few meters ahead." Xiehan responded. When they reached the supermarket, he pulled up into the parking lot.

Lanni opened the car door and before he could too, she leaned towards him and kissed his cheek. "Stay here. I'll be fast." She dashed off before he could respond, so he could only do as she asked and stay in the car.

Lanni hurried to the sanitary goods section and picked what she wanted. When she was done, she grabbed several bars of chocolate on her way to the cashier. Seeing that they were probably too many, she returned most of them and remained with one. She thought about it and in the end, she ended up taking two. One more wouldn't make a difference, right?

She paid for her goods and exited the supermarket. She was just about to go back to Xiehan's car when in her excitement, she bumped into someone.

"I'm so sorry." She apologized quickly, but when she looked up and saw the person she had bumped into, she cringed. "You again?"

"I knew fate would let us meet again, princess." The man was as annoying as ever.

"You disgusting man! Are you stalking me?" Lanni exploded. Even though Flynn was as annoying as a fly, he didn't strike her as the type to stalk people. Wouldn't that be too scary?

Flynn shook his head when he saw her look at him with condensing eyes and probably judging him internally. "Do you think so lowly of me, princess?"

Lanni turned to leave, and he continued speaking. "I admit the first time we met, I had followed you. But at the hospital and right now, I promise, it was a fated coincidence."

"You expect me to believe you." It was not a question but a certain statement, and Lanni laughed aloud when she saw him nod. "What do you take me for, a little girl?"

"Aren't you a little girl though?" He teased, and when he saw that she was really going to leave angrily, he called after her, "Since fate let us meet again, I might as well tell you what I was going to tell you tomorrow." She stopped, and he continued, "of course, if you want me to look for you tomorrow, I don't mind either. I can do that too."

"Tell me what you want to say." Lanni turned stiffly. She didn't want to spend any more time with this weirdo but meeting again was even worse.

Flynn seemed to understand her reasoning, so he chuckled. "Princess, do you think you can actually get rid of me easily?"

Lanni wished she was stronger than him so she could pummel him to death. Was he the devil? If it wasn't because she knew he wanted to say something important, she would have left with a huff.

After having enough of what he was doing—messing with her, he finally spoke. "I have bought you enough time with your dad. I have also created a school that doesn't allow contact from the outside world. The 'school' is in Germany and if your dad does a search, he will find that Luna actually went to that school."

Lanni was flabbergasted. He actually did that? He made it sound so easy but Lanni knew that it wasn't as simple as it sounded. Especially since that so-called school didn't truly exist, it was even harder.

Even so, she was still unsure whether Flynn was a friend or a foe so she queried, "and what's the name of the school?"

"You still doubt me after all I did to help you. Ouch." The man sulked but even then, he took out a copy of a student identity card from the pocket of his pants and gave it to her.

Lanni took a look and she was impressed. It was an actual student identity card and it belonged to Luna. There was even student information and Luna's picture was in the top left corner.

"Galaxis Academy..." Lanni mumbled.

She took out her phone and did a search. A small webpage actually popped up and she looked at Flynn curiously. "Does this school actually exist?"

Flynn grinned. "I take it as you are impressed with my deception skills. Don't sweat it. I'm just good at illusion."

"Oh." Lanni nodded. He was indeed Flynn. Even though he was weird, he had helped her out this time. "Thank you."

"If you really want to thank me, don't waste my efforts." He warned seriously.

"Understood sir." She exaggerated and was about to leave when she heard him mumble, "Nothing is absolute."

Lanni turned sharply as he continued. "The truth can hold a percentage of lies."

Lanni squinted her eyes. She had heard these words somewhere.

"Lies can hold some truth."

"Where did you..."

"Even reality can be an illusion." He interrupted.

Lanni stared at him blankly. Why were those words so familiar? She tried to rack her brains to recall but nothing sane showed up on her mind. "What do you... eh? Where is he?"

Lanni looked around when she didn't see the man. She had just blanked out for a second. Where had he disappeared to?

She glanced around slowly. Considering the short time she had blanked out, he should still be around somewhere. He must have hidden away. However, she was trying to get away from him, not look for him. So she went back to the car instead.

Xiehan glanced at her quizzically and Lanni knew doubtlessly that he had seen them—not that she was trying to hide her meeting with Flynn from him.

Although he didn't ask his question in the end, Lanni knew what he was wondering about so she explained, "he created a fake school in Germany and made it seem like Luna went to that school. That is what he was here to tell me."

"Mmh." Xiehan swallowed a hard lump. As a boyfriend, he was not doing much for his girlfriend. It was instead another man who was doing it.

It wasn't because he didn't want to help, but Lanni didn't like it when he did. She liked doing everything on her own but apparently, someone was breaking the rules.

"Honey, from this moment I am going to help you." He declared with no room for negotiation.

Even so, Lanni had to negotiate. "But my love, I already told you. I don't like it when people do things for me. Well, in this case, I couldn't really manage to create a fake school and my brain was too slow to even think of it. But honey, I can handle it. Trust me."

She knew that if she said it was because she did not want him to bother with her problems when he had his own work to care care of, he would say that he was not too busy for her. That was why she could only use this approach.

Xiehan reached to pat her head. "I know you stubbornly don't want to bother me."

How did he know? She bit her lip.

Xiehan caressed her head and Lanni had to remind him that he was driving. He simply pulled up at the side of the road and looked at her seriously. "Regardless of whether you can do it or not, I am here to help you."

"You..." Lanni couldn't say anything in the end. They would only argue in circles and in the end, he would still help her. Besides, for the coming period, she needed as much help as she could get so she couldn't reject it. She smiled and pecked his lips. "Then I have to thank you in advance my love. If I need help with anything, I will definitely tell you about it."

Xiehan chuckled at her sly way of asking him to stay away unless he was asked to step in. Fine. As long as they managed it in the end.

"I was going to talk to dad when he got more stable and tell him the truth." Lanni started. "However, Flynn has already gone too far. There is no turning back now. And this is a more sane way to handle the situation than risking giving dad another heart attack so I shouldn't waste this chance."

Xiehan turned to glance at her as she continued, "The more Luna stays in jail, the more dangerous it is. We cannot expel the possibility of Li Xiyang trying to end her, so we have to act fast. You said you had a plan... what were you thinking about?"

Xiehan cleared his throat. "Getting someone into your home. We need as much information as possible on Li Xiyang and our mole can get such information."

Lanni nodded. It did seem like something that could work, because planting moles was a bit common. However, "Who can get into our home and escape Li Xiyang's scrutiny? Besides, they would need to stay a while and gain her trust. Actually, I was thinking of something else."

"What?"

"Since I already have the identity and the right, I should go myself."