

She shrugged. "Well, you can always trust Luna to remain calm for ages and then unleash one brilliant feat when no one expects it."

The man laughed, then turned to his friend who seemed to be uneasy. "What is it? Aren't you overjoyed?"

Xiehan looked like he would unfriend him or give him a punch if he spouted any nonsense about not being ready to take responsibility and wanting Luna to have an abortion.

"Don't give me that "I'll beat you up" look, okay?" Jiang Xingyu was caught between laughter and tears. "I'm going to be a father... and the mother to my baby is the woman I love. I'm excited, okay!"

"If that's what "excited" looks like, I would not want to see angry." Lanni mumbled.

The man sat down, brushing a hand through his hair. "What if she doesn't want it? I mean, she wasn't even ready to date me. Would she be ready to have a baby with me?"

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"I'm pregnant?!" Luna was in shock when she heard the news. She scanned everyone's faces and burst into laughter. "This is a prank, right? I cannot be pregnant." Her shock was identical to her sister's a while ago, jut no one was paying attention to that.

Lanni stepped forward. "No, Luna. It isn't some prank. You really are expecting a child."

She scoffed. "Please. It's impossible. I only had my period..." she stopped suddenly when she remembered just how long ago it had been. It was about six weeks ago. But then again, her period had always been irregular, so that didn't prove anything.

"Let them run another test. I'm sure there must be some mistake somewhere." She declared.

Lanni nodded and called the doctor over to specifically run a pregnancy test.

Once the results were out, Luna looked at the sheet of paper and shook her head. "This cannot be. How can this be happening?"

Jiang Xingyu had not expected her to dance in excitement when she heard the news, but it still broke his heart that she was devastated about it. When she settled her gaze on him, he so badly wanted to dash off and hide.

"I'll have a word with him." She said weakly, and Lanni and Xiehan left the room. Now it was just the two of them, and he could no longer run away from having to hear her say about it.

She looked at him and sighed. "I'm sorry."

His heart sank at her first words. As expected.

She looked up at him to explain, "Xingyu, I'm only twenty; and forget about marriage, I'm not even in a relationship. Not to mention, my career just kicked off. If I have a baby now, my life will be ruined." She sighed. "Besides, my dad is so much against illegitimate kids. So I... I really can't have this child."

Jiang Xingyu swallowed a gulp when he heard of her decision. The happiest news of his life was that he was about to become a father, but now it was turning to be the most painful news.

Even so, he couldn't blame Luna, nor could he force her into having the child.

She felt her heart sink in guilt when she saw his deflated expression. "Xingyu, actually I... I was ready to be in a relationship with you. I was going to agree to be your girlfriend but this..."

"You don't need to explain." He smiled, but that was not able to hide the hurt in his eyes.

Luna closed her eyes and sighed. She knew that some people would call her decision cruel but she couldn't do something she was not ready to do. Not only would that hurt her, it might just end up hurting the child all its life.

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Lanni was about to leave first with Xiehan when the door opened and out of it came a devastated Xingyu. It took a second for her to figure out what must have transpired between him and Luna.

She turned, only to be pulled back by Luna.

She gave him a confused and angry look. "I'm going to have a word with her."

Xiehan had also figured out what happened by now. He didn't let go of her hand. "And give her an hourlong lecture about why she should keep the baby? I don't think that's going to work.

If she has already made up her mind, trying to force her to understand your thought of it is going to do nothing but strain your relationship with her."

Lanni thought about it and slapped her forehead. "You're right. I was being impulsive."

As long as Luna made a decision, it was impossible to get her to change her mind. Besides, all she needed now was support. If she confronted her angrily, it would only make her feel like no one was on her side.

Xiehan studied his devastated friend and said, "I will speak to him."

Lanni nodded. "I'll wait for you in the car."

Once Lanni was gone, he sat next to Jiang Xingyu. "Do you want to have a drink together later?"

"No need." He croaked, fighting back his tears.

When he couldn't pretend to hold it in anymore, he broke down. "Have you ever got something you really treasured, then lost it before you even got to see it?"
Xiehan sat next to him "You know, as much as you're doing the right thing by not forcing her, you are the child's father—you have as much right to it as she does."
Chapter 332 - Choices
"What would you do if you were in my place?" He asked, even though he knew Xiehan might not have much to say since he had not had any experience with such a situation.
The latter let out a smile. "Well, I would make a deal with her. I would ask her to give the baby to me once it's born."
Jiang Xingyu thought about his friend's idea and decided that it wasn't a bad one. "You know, I would be sad if I'm no longer in peaceful terms with her after taking the baby but if that's what it takes to save our baby then I don't mind giving it a shot."
"Idiot." Xiehan nudged his friend. When the latter gave him a confused look, he explained, "The deal is just a way of buying time. She is still in shock right now so she is thinking irrationally. By the time eight months are over, she will have grown attached to it and will not want to give it away anymore. After all, I don't think there's any mother who would still hate their baby after carrying it for nine months."
"You are a genius." Jiang Xingvu was awed at the fact he had been too devastated to think about. But

then he frowned. "Well, Luna's mother hates her so much even after carrying her for nine months."

Xiehan frowned at the thought as well. "Forget about her. She is a weird case." Who would love one twin but despise the other when they were identical? All her excuses were irrelevant too...

"Well, if you are going to try that out, you should be ready for anything. She could still dislike the baby for ruining her life so you may want to be prepared to be a single father in case that happens."

"I don't mind." He was relieved knowing that he could save his child even though he had not talked to her about it yet.

The days went by pretty fast and before they noticed it, a week had passed.

Luna stared at the screen of her laptop. Her fingers had not moved for the past ten minutes. Cheng Yu couldn't watch it any longer.

"Luna, are you okay?" When the latter nodded despite not looking alright in the slightest, she sighed. "Are you still thinking about Jiang Xingyu?"

She shook her head and gave an excuse about feeling tired, even though that was exactly what she was thinking about.

The man had made an insane request three days ago and she could not get it out of her mind no matter how hard she tried. How could he ask her to have the baby and then give it to him? Was he out of his mind?

"Have you made the appointment with the doctor already?" Cheng Yu asked.

"I did this morning." She answered through a sigh.

Cheng Yu studied her friend carefully. "Are you sure you don't want to think about it?"

Luna slapped her forehead. "Xiao Yu, you too?"
Cheng Yu waved her hands in defeat. "Fine, fine. I will stop lecturing you, but right after saying this. Luna, I still think you are doing something you will regret."
As if on cue, the doorbell rang just as Cheng Yu finished speaking.
"I'll answer that." She stood up and when she saw who the guest was from the monitor, she gave Luna an eye. "No matter how upset you are, please don't say something you will regret, okay?"
She opened the door just as Luna was starting to wonder who it was, and Madam Jiang walked in looking solemn. Her eyes grew wide.
"I'll go buy ingredients for cooking dinner." Cheng Yu fled to give the two women time to talk.
"My dear, how are you doing?" Madam Jiang still sounded kind despite her bad mood.
"I'm fine." Luna couldn't bring herself to look into the other woman's eyes or rush to hug her like she always did—not after how badly she knew she had hurt her son's feelings. But she couldn't force herself into something she was unable to do just to protect someone else's feelings, could she? That might simply ruin three lives later.
"You must have figured out why I'm here." Madam Jiang cut the chase.
Earlier, in the Jiang Mansion.
Madam Jiang was worried after not seeing her son for days. He had been ignoring her calls and when she finally got him to go home, he holed himself up in his room all day.

She couldn't watch it anymore and barged into his room, only to find him sitting on the floor and reverting back into a depressed state.
Her heart shattered as she crouched next to him and pulled his head onto her shoulder. "What happened to you?" Luna must have confessed to him. Shouldn't he be the happiest man right now? Why was he like this instead?
"She is pregnant." He breathed.
Madam Jiang smiled as her suspicion was confirmed. "So she really is pregnant!"
"You knew?" Jiang Xingyu was shocked.
"I guessed so. She was acting weird that time we met you at the grocery store. She had a sudden change in likes. Anyway, I suspected it but didn't want to be the one breaking it to her. But wait. Isn't that supposed to be good news? Why are you so devastated instead?"
Thinking of something, she threatened, "If you tell me any nonsense about not being able to take responsibility for what you did, I will disown you."
"Mum, am I such a jerk in your eyes?" He laughed bitterly.
"Then what's wrong?"
"She doesn't want it." He sniffed. "She decided to get rid of it."
Madam Jiang's hand stiffened. How could that be?
The present.



"I thought so." Madam Jiang crossed her arms. "Since you knew that they existed, but you and Xingyu still chose to observe none of them, what were you expecting aside from getting pregnant? It's one thing if they failed but if you didn't even think of protecting yourselves, where do you get the audacity to claim that you were not ready to be parents?"

"Aunty..." Luna was so embarrassed that she didn't know what to say. Madam Jiang had never been so serious with her, much less to talk about such a topic.

The older woman sat down. "That said, let's talk about your decision to get rid of it. If you are sure that you will neither regret it nor miss that baby, I have nothing against your decision. But think about what might happen to your body afterwards. Think about..." She paused midway. She didn't need to tell her any of that either. She must have already learnt all about it.

She stood to leave, pausing briefly. "If knowing this helps; I wasn't ready for Xingyu either. Xingren and I were in love but we had to rush into marriage because Xingyu happened... but don't I love him more than my life now?

Luna, you must be overwhelmed at the moment but... don't be rash, okay?

I'll see myself out."

Luna blanked out as Madam Jiang left. She was just like her in the past? That was unexpected.

Of course, she knew that Madam Jiang couldn't possibly make up such a thing just to convince her to keep her baby.

But, what she had said made sense. What if, after having an abortion, she regretted it and wanted the baby back?

Lanni's apartment.

Xiehan pulled the pacing Lanni into his arms. "Hey, calm down, okay?"
"I can't calm down, okay? I want to, but I can't." She felt like pulling her hair.
Xiehan pulled her onto his lap and wrapped his arms around her. "Tell me, what's happening? You are getting more distressed by the second."
"I have no idea." She shrugged. She didn't know why she was so restless and that made her even more restless.
She sighed. "I wonder how Luna is doing. She must be so depressed."
"That's it." He chuckled. "You are restless because you think Luna is restless. Maybe that's a twins thing as well. Why don't you check on her?"
"Last I checked, she didn't answer my call." She sighed.
Xiehan ran a hand through her hair. "Why don't I help you relax?"
When she nodded, he held her hand and led her towards the master bedroom.
Thirty minutes later.
"Xiehan, it feels so good" Lanni breathed a gasp as her heart raced.
"Are you feeling better now?"
"Not just better. I feel ecstatic!" She let out a breath as he gently flipped her onto her back.

He stretched her arms out above her head and held them in place, then lifted her leg by the knee pit . He let it down after a few seconds. "Sit up."

She did, then rested her head on his chest. "I didn't know your way of helping me relax was by stretching my muscles." She laughed.

He tapped her forehead. "Were you thinking of something else? If you want me to do that too, I will gladly do it."

"Pervert." She jabbed him, her cheeks flushing. "Anyway, I didn't know there was a gym in my apartment until today."

"That's because you have not had a thorough tour of your apartment yet." He laughed. There were rooms she had never been curious enough to check out, and one of them just happened to be the gym. It had all the modern equipment and she could hire a trainer if she needed to.

Thinking about it, she sighed. "It's boring to work out alone, don't you think?"

"You can call me over to work out with you when you want to." He wiggled his brows. "We could do all sorts of work out. In the gym, in the bathroom, on the sofa, in the kitchen, in bed..."

"Hey! I wasn't talking about that kind of work out." Her cheeks flushed. Her boyfriend was so perverted!

Before he could say anything else, she stood up. "I'll go take a shower."

"Mmh." He nodded then immediately added, "Can I join you?"

She was speechless. Before she could say no, her brain started straying and forming images of him in the shower, with water all over him.

She gulped and nodded before she could stop herself, then she disappeared into the bathroom.

He chuckled and followed her in. When she covered her bare boobs with her hands, he withheld a laugh. "Why are you shy? It's not like we have not had a shower together before."
"Shut up and come here." She pulled him under the shower with his clothes still on. They soaked and immediately clung onto his skin, outlining the alluring body underneath them. Her heart raced as she unbuttoned his shirt and took it off him.
He held the back of her head and kissed her passionately. Grabbing her hand, he led it to his crotch. Her eyes widened when she felt how hard he already was.
"Honey, I want you." He whispered.
She took his hand and pressed it onto her breast. "I want you just as much." Then she pressed her lips against his.
His hand slid around her back and pulled her against his body She fumbled with his pants and pulled them off him, letting them drop onto the wet floor.
Chapter 334 - Why Are You Too Nice?
The following day.
Xiehan made breakfast then went to the study where Lanni was typing rapidly on her laptop. "Breakfast is ready. Do you want to eat it in the dining room or should I bring it here?"

She paused and stretched her limbs with a smile. "Thanks honey, I'll join you in a second." She then saved her work and stood up, almost falling because she had stood too fast.

"Careful!" He was beside her in the next second, supporting her. "What did you wake up so early to do anyway? You have not taken a breather since you sat behind that desk."

"Writing a news article." She answered as she wrapped her small hand around his waist.

"Since when were you a reporter?" He studied her curiously.

"Why don't I explain it after breakfast? I'm hungry," She said, and he nodded.

When they were done eating, she went ahead to tell him all about it. She was writing news articles for intern and trainee reporters who were unable to do it themselves or were not too confident in their own skill.

"Why would you do that?" He was curious. Was this a new hobby?

"To fish for a quick buck." she shrugged.

Xiehan scanned her in disbelief. "Do you need money? Why didn't you ask me for some?"

She let out a sigh. She had expected such a reaction from him. Besides, she couldn't exhaust her mother's wealth even if she tried to, so it was surprising that she was looking for money. But then, "That's not my money. I want to work for my own."

Since getting a job, she had realized just how different it felt when she was spending the money she earned on her own. Unfortunately, her job was temporary and she had resigned right after her mission was complete.

Xiehan understood her point. It had also felt different for him when he got his first job and stopped relying on his aunt's money for everything.

"Since you like writing news articles, why don��t you find a job as a columnist or a reporter? I can help you look for one." He suggested.

She hugged him and pecked his cheek. "Why are you so nice? But honey, I want to do it on my own."

He chuckled at her stubbornness. "That's allowed too. But if you ecounter any difficulties..."

He was yet to complete his statement when she clung to him. "You don't even need to tell me. I will run back to you if I encounter anything I cannot handle on my own."

He nodded in approval after getting a satisfactory answer.

"Right, mum gave me a call earlier. She wants us to go home for lunch."

He patted her head fondly. "That's alright. I have a day off today so why don't we go right after my conference call?"

"You still need to make a conference call even on your day off?" She wondered. What kind of break was that?

"It's with an overseas business partner. We are preparing to negotiate a deal with him so the earlier I call and get to know the specifics, the better it will be." He responded, kissing her cheek. "I won't be long, okay?"

She chuckled at his tone. He sounded like he was a coaxing a little girl, not that she minded it.

As soon as he left, her phone rang with an incoming call from the person she thought was never going to speak to her.

"You finally remembered that you have a sister." She jokingly berated.
"I was wrong" Luna sounded so pitiful that Lanni's heart broke.
"Are you alright?" She worriedly switched to video call, and was relieved to see how cheerful Luna looked. It was a huge improvement from her distressed state a few days ago. "Thank goodness you're alright."
"Were you scared?" Luna burst into laughter.
Lanni pretended to be annoyed. "Why did you call? Elder sister here is too busy to have her time wasted."
"Pfft which elder sister? Don't tell me you're talking about yourself?"
Lanni huffed. "Come here, Luna. I promise I won't kill you!"
Luna laughed. "Actually, you will not have to. I may die before I get to see you."
"What nonsense are you talking about?" Lanni frowned.
"I'm going to tell dad the news." Luna's expression sank as she spoke. "I mean, no matter what I decide to do, it's important for him to know what's happening with his daughter, right? But I'm scared of his reaction."
"I'm sure it will be alright." Lanni coaxed. "Dad loves you so much he will support you no matter what happens."
"You're right. Now I feel much better. Thanks Lanni." Luna felt more confident now.
"Tell me how it goes later, okay?"

Luna nodded, then they went ahead to talk about other random things before hanging up.

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To be close to both his daughters, Xia Hanchen was living in B City, in a new villa he had purchased after leaving the hospital. He was still not well enough to go back to work so he worked from home, hence Luna was sure where she would find him.

She nervously walked into the villa and found him in the living room. "Dad?"

Xia Hanchen looked up seriously. "Look who finally remembered that she has a dad."

She went over and hugged his arm. "What are you saying, dad? How could I forget about you?"

"Didn't you? When was the last time you gave daddy a call?" When Luna looked down in embarasment, he added, "Are you finally ready to tell daddy what's going on with you?"

She was puzzled. How did he know that something was up? Wasn't his instinct too scary?

Since Xia Hanchen had already guessed that there was something wrong, she no longer needed to worry that he would be startled by the news. Hence, she told him all about it.

His eyebrows scrunched up when he heard about her decision. "Pumpkin, are you sure about this? What about the dad?"

She sighed when Jiang Xingyu's depressed expression flashed in her mind. "Well, he's a good man."

Xia Hanchen studied his daughter and wondered whether she was listening to herself. He thought about her situation and couldn't really blame her for anything. In the end, he held her hand. "I'll support whatever you decide, Pumpkin. Even if you change your mind later, I will still support you."

Her tears almost fell from relief. "Thanks dad."
He patted her head. "If you want to thank me, then don't hide such important things from me, okay?" He scolded.
She nodded and buried her head into his arms.
Her mind suddenly strayed in a direction she didn't want it to think.
What if the baby she was carrying was a girl? Would Xingyu dote on her as much as her father did? And if it was a boy, just how would Xingyu interact with him? And would he be an adorable, miniature version of his dad?
She frowned as soon as she thought about it. What was she even thinking? And why did she feel joyous from the thought?
The thought made her realize something and she questioned herself. Why did she book the doctor's appointment a month away when the termination was better off done as early as possible?
Chapter 335 - Is She Lying?
Li Yuming's Villa.

"I made your favorite pudding for dessert!" Li Yuming announced cheerfully and stood up to bring it. "I'm already stuffed. I'm not sure if I will be able to eat any of it." Lanni pouted. The food was so yummy that she unknowingly ate too much. Xiehan stroked her head playfully. "Don't worry. I will eat on your behalf." "You meanie..." He laughed at her accusing tone. "You're already stuffed, aren't you? You will get a 'food baby' if you eat a spoonful of aunty's delicious pudding. Mmh... I wonder what flavor it is." She ignored his teasing begrudgingly. "Speaking of babies, I want to know how the real one is doing." As if on cue, Luna called at that moment, and reported the outcome. "That's awesome. I told you he wouldn't be mad." She was jubilant when Luna told her about Xia Hanchen's support. Luna seemed to have something else to say but when Lanni saw Li Yuming return, she promised to call later then hung up with a smile. "You are happy." Li Yuming observed when she returned with the pudding. Lanni supported her chin on her hand. "You might just become a grandma, of course I'm happy. But then again, I'm anxious, sigh." "Wait, what?" Li Yuming was shocked. She shifted her perplexed gaze between the two of them before her expression turned strict. "Do you mean what I think you mean?" "It depends on what you think I mean." Lanni said, earning a slight pinch from Xiehan. "Aunty, actually..." He started.

"Wait..." Li Yuming interrupted him with her index finger on her lips. Caught between excitement and shock, She scrutinized the man strictly. "Just how forgetful are you? Anyway, that's not important." She shook her head to clear the confusion then said, "Look, this is the best news I've heard in my life but ��� I'm not going to have my daughter go through the trauma of having people point fingers at her for being an unwed mother. Are you guys planning to get married?"

Xiehan face palmed while Lanni jolted. "Mom!"

Finally comprehending the misunderstanding. She laughed. Her brain must be on vacation. She coughed and explained, "I'm not pregnant."

Li Yuming was caught between disappointment and shock. "If my daughter isn't pregnant, how will I be a grandma? Are you planning to get married and adopt a baby? Oh, are you getting a pet?"

Lanni sighed at her mother's inability to catch up. "No one's adopting a baby nor a pet. Your daughter is expecting one... or two, who knows?" The last part was an inaudible mumble.

"But you just said..." Li Yuming paused when she understood it. She felt her blood chill for a second. "You are saying that Xia Luna is..."

Lanni nodded excitedly. "Uh huh... I bet that was her secret to tell but I was so anxious and excited that my tongue got too loose."

"Oh." Li Yuming shrugged like it was none of her business. "I added a secret ingredient to this strawberry pudding. I bet you guys will love it!"

Lanni frowned slightly then recovered her smile. "It must be hard to be a mother at such a young age... especially when you're neither married nor engaged. I bet one could really use some advice from her mother." She sighed. "But poor Luna, her mother doesn't even care whether she's dead or alive, let alone whether she gets rid of her baby or keeps it."

"Excuse me?" Li Yuming was flabbergasted.

Lanni shrugged. "You know, I'm starting to wonder what kind of person you really are. I mean..." She paused before she could say something she would regret. Standing up, she smiled. "I'm full. Thanks for the meal, it was delicious." She then walked out of the dining room.

Li Yuming blinked as though to confirm that she was awake. "I can't believe she spoke to me that way."

"Actually, I think she's right." Xiehan carefully stated.

She stared at him in shock. "Xiehan, you too?"

He shrugged. "Luna is such a kind-hearted girl. Sure, she may be rash sometimes but... do you even care about her?

We all once thought you were going to patch things up with her but all you did was show your hatred and distrust—for no specified reason, if I may add. How is what Lanni said a lie?"

Li Yuming let out a breath. "Let's not talk about how it's my choice to love or hate who I want. Have you all been stupefied by that girl's sly pretense? I'm telling you, that girl's not as gentle as she appears. She's a devil in disguise... but none of you believe me. I mean, which good person commits murder without a conscience?"

Xiehan calmly raised an eyebrow. "I know this isn't the first time you have heard this, but aunty, what right do you have to question the character of someone you didn't bring up? Besides, if you know the true self that she is hiding, why do you keep saying the same thing but not expose her?"

She slapped her forehead and glanced in the direction of the living room. "It's not like she would believe me. And she is in the line of the storm."

Xiehan frowned. If this was the first time he heard this, he would definitely investigate it. However, he had heard it multiple times and soon after, time proved that Luna was nothing like her mother described her. Sure, she had made some mistakes and committed some crimes in the past, but that did not make her a devil in disguise.

Which fake person would even go as far as to plead guilty for a crime they didn't commit, simply to save their friend? That proved just how much she treasured the people close to her—and Lanni was the closest person to her. How could she hurt her?

It was definitely not a misunderstanding. Was Li Yuming exaggeratively making a mountain out of a mole hill... or was she simply lying?

...

"Honey, do you think my mum's actually telling the truth? All her previous warnings amounted to nothing, after all." Lanni asked, hooking her hand with Xiehan's as they headed to the car. The door to the dining room was open at the time so she had heard what Li Yuming said to Xiehan.

"Are you in my brain?" He grinned, then became more serious. "I hate to say this about her, but even I am starting to doubt her words."

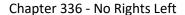
Lanni trembled when she thought of the possibility. This had been going on for long enough. If she was trying to frame Luna and Xia Hanchen, it was too much already.

"I'm starting to guess how this will end—probably with her apologizing to Luna for all the misunderstandings she is trying to cause, and for not trying to make up sooner... and it will probably be too late." She sighed.

Xiehan frowned at the scary thought. It wouldn't get to that, right?

"I don't care how many times she tries to frame her. I will support my sister to the end." She declared.

"And I will support you to the end.." He kissed her lips lightly, then opened the car door for her.



Monday, 19th February.

Cheng Yu had finished getting ready for work and was about to have breakfast when she realized that Luna had not left her room yet. The latter had gotten used to sleeping early and waking up early so she would usually be the first to get ready.

Cheng Yu wondered whether she was awake. When she waited for a few more minutes and still saw no sign of her, she went to check on her. The door had not been locked from the inside so she knocked and entered, only to find the latter still snuggling her pillow comfortably.

She shook her head and went over to wake her gently. "Luna, wake up. You have a meeting soon."

"Mmh?" Luna rubbed her eyes then rolled onto her side to continue sleeping. "But I don't want to go. It's so comfortable here."

Seeing how tired she looked, Cheng Yu sighed. There was indeed a meeting in about one hour and a half and it would be better if she got up as soon as possible. However, Luna had been working so hard for the past few weeks that her body must be exhausted now. Besides, she was pregnant now and needed to take more rest.

Thinking about it, she suggested, "How about this? I'll bring your breakfast then you can continue resting after eating. As for the meeting, I can postpone it."

When she nodded, Cheng Yu brought over a tray with the dishes she had prepared for Luna—delicious but carefully selected to nourish her body. Of course, Luna had long decided to have an abortion and did not necessarily need supplements. Even so, Cheng Yu still encouraged her to stick to the required diet.

Cheng Yu finished her own breakfast as well. She was preparing to call the restaurant downstairs and have them deliver food to Luna at lunch time when she realized that the latter had left her room. "You are..."

"The company just gained more fame. This isn't the time to slack off." Luna smiled, suddenly rejuvenated after eating. "Wait for me, okay? We can go together."

If Cheng Yu was not used to Luna's frequent change in mood lately, she would have been shocked. But since this wasn't the first time it was happening, she nodded. "Okay. I will help you prepare your things."

Luna smiled. "What would I do without you?"

"You would take care of everything on your own, klutz." She joked and urged the other to get ready.

Luna smiled and went to take a bath. It was not an exaggeration. She was indeed getting clumsier by the day. If she didn't have Cheng Yu by her side, she would have already made a huge mess of the company.

...

Moonlight Studios.

As soon as her meeting ended, Luna returned to her office, only to find a new mountain of work on her desk.

She sat on the leather seat and groaned in exhaustion. The day had just begun, but she was already tired.

Compared to its first month, Moonlight Studios was now several times busier, with more employees and more launched applications. Although everyone had worked very hard, she needed to thank Xingyu all over again. The company wouldn't have thrived without his support.

Speaking of Xingyu, she wondered whether he would come today. He had been so busy in Jiang Corporation lately that he rarely made an appearance here, and his visits were too brief as well.

She leaned over her desk. Why would she even expect him to come? He would find all sorts of excuses to come in the past but now, their situation was too different.

"Are you okay, Luna? Do you need some fruit?" Cheng Yu asked when she entered the office and found her friend in such a sorry state.

Luna straightened up with a smile. "No, I'm fine. These documents are just so many..."

Cheng Yu sighed when she saw the small mountain of files. "If it helps, I have completed the design you asked for."

Luna took the blueprint from Cheng Yu and her mood brightened. "You're a genius!"

"You exaggerate." Cheng Yu scanned the documents beside her friend. "I can help you check through the contracts since I've finished most of my work."

With Cheng Yu's help, she was more motivated, but with every passing hour, she checked the time and her heart sank.

Before they realized it, it was already time to knock off.

Taking some of the files to read through at home, Luna arranged her things in preparation to leave. She was just about to stand when a knock resounded on her door.

"Come in." She said, assuming it was her assistant. "You can go home once you're done."

When she didn't hear a response, she raised her head curiously, only to meet with Jiang Xingyu's gaze. Her heart skipped a beat. "You?"

"Good evening, boss." He smiled modestly.
"You don't have to call me that." she maintained her calm, not sure how to react to his presence. This was the first time she was seeing him so up close in weeks. Every other time he came to check on anything, he would speak to her assistant and leave without saying a word to her.
"You mentioned that you needed another assistant since the current one intends to quit her job soon?" He cut the chase.
Unsure of how to face him, she nodded and kept the professional attitude. "Yeah."
He handed over a folder. "If you don't mind, I can recommend one. She just graduated from Z University but her grades are stellar and she is hardworking. If you consider her fitting, you can call her for an interview."
She read through the file quickly and looked up at him. "Thank you."
"It's nothing much." He smiled slightly, then turned to leave.
'Wait' She said in her mind, but her tongue was too stuck to let the word out. She watched his retreating back and tightened her hold of her bag unconsciously.
She had not seen him for so long, and heaven knew how much she missed him.
She so badly wanted to run after him and hug him but what right did she have to do that now?

Leaving her office, Jiang Xingyu almost couldn't resist the temptation of going back. He forced himself to press the down button of the elevator. It was already hard to stay away, and when he heard her footsteps as she left her office, he was on the verge of losing it.

The elevator finally arrived just when he was on edge and he dashed in. Just as he was about to let out a breath, she got in as well.

It was the elevator meant for the executive employees so she had the right to use it, and it would have been impractical for her to wait all that while simply because he was there. It was just the two of them and he hoped for it to remain that way. Still, he didn't know whether her presence made him elated or uncomfortable.

Noticing her reflection in the mirrored wall, he realized that she was busy on her phone—or pretending to be busy so it wouldn't be awkward.

His gaze trailed downwards and unconsciously rested on her belly. His lips moved but before he spoke, the elevator pinged its arrival on the ground floor.

She left in slow steps and so did he. He knew she was afraid to speak to him. He wanted to say something but different things kept coming up just as he opened his mouth, and in the end, she entered her car.

He watched the car leave and so badly wanted to curse the employee who had bumped into him, the young woman who had annoyingly stopped him simply to say hello, and his assistant who had called him—all at the wrong moment.

He let out a long sigh.

If fate hadn't drawn them apart, he would have asked how she was doing. Was she finding it hard to cope? If she was, was there anything he could do to help? Most importantly, could they still keep a positive relationship between them?

He couldn't live without her. Heaven knew he had tried—but it was killing him.

He knew he was being selfish but he wanted to be by her side even if she no longer liked him. If she didn't want him to be her boyfriend, he could be her friend, or a close acquaintance, or a supportive business partner—anything but the cold war they were in right now.

...

Goldenwing Apartments.

Slumping onto the couch in the living room, Luna kicked her shoes off her feet and gathered her legs under her on the couch.

Was this really how it was going to end? Seeing Xingyu earlier, he seemed to have lost some weight.

A tear rolled down from her eyes, then another, then a bout of uncontrollable tears. It was all her fault. If she had been more careful, it would never have come to this.

The door opened and Cheng Yu walked in. "You are home. I bought some..." she paused when she saw the latter hugging her knees, a sobbing mess. Placing the grocery bags on the table, she sat down and hugged the latter, confused by this turn of events. "You had always wanted to see him. So now that you did, why are you sadder?"

Luna jolted to her senses and quickly wiped her tears.

"Who said I wanted to see him?" She croaked.

"You don't say it aloud but you still do. Don't get me started on how disappointed you always get when he doesn't come to the company; or when he comes but doesn't meet you. You want to talk to him, don't you?"

She couldn't deny that. But now that she thought about it, she had been thinking about herself all along. What about him? She shrugged. "I have already made a decision that's all about my interests. How can I still continue to bother him simply because I want to?" She closed her eyes. "I don't want to cause him more pain."

Cheng Yu studied her serious expression and her heart broke. The latter was blaming herself again, but she was not going to pretend that she had not been selfish simply because they were friends. Hence she carefully asked, "If there is something you could do to cause him less hurt, would you do it—even if it means staying away from him forever?"

"Yes." She nodded, her voice full of sorrow.

Cheng Yu's phone rang. Seeing that her brother was calling, she picked it up and whispered to Luna, "Give me a second."

The conversation was over pretty fast, and when she returned, Luna was feeling a little better after letting it out.

"What were we talking about? Right, have you really made up your mind this time?" Cheng Yu asked as she sat down.

Because she was scared, Luna had postponed the doctor's appointment a few times already. She was almost three months pregnant now. If she cancelled it this time, safety could no longer be fully guaranteed when performing the surgery.

Luna thought about it and sighed. "I haven't changed my mind."

Actually, she would not have chickened out the first time if she did not scare herself by watching and reading real life stories about abortions that went wrong. Every time the date neared, her imagination and dreams would be filled with images of her as one of those unfortunate women.

Today was the eve of the latest appointment. She deliberately stayed up a little late so she would be too tired to dream—even she didn't know what logic she was using. She did have a dream despite her efforts.

However, instead of the nightmare she dreaded, it was a beautiful dream.

"Honey, you are back." A soothing male voice called out to her, then Xingyu walked towards her.
"Hubby, did you miss me?" She hugged him.
"Mommy! Mommy is back" All of a sudden, a toddler dashed towards her cheerfully.
She bent down and hugged the adorable child. "Baby"
"Mommy, why is there rain in your eyes?" The toddler asked, making Luna realize that she was unknowingly crying.
Waking up, Luna realized that she had been hugging her pillow like it was a child. One corner of it was wet from her tears, making her wonder what she had dreamed of that had made her cry.
Even though she didn't remember the details of her dream, all she knew was that she didn't cry because she was sad. They must have been tears of joy because even in her real life, she had never been as happy as she was in that vague dream. She so badly wanted to remember it but the more she tried, the more she forgot it so she simply let it be.
M Gynecology Hospital, five hours later. After waiting on the bench for so long, it was finally almost time.

Luna was counting her fingers for the umpteenth time when an excited couple passed by.

"We are pregnant! We really are expecting a baby!" The woman almost jumped in excitement but was restrained by her husband.

"Careful, baby. There are three of us now so we need to be cautious." Right after saying 'cautious', he leapt in the air and shouted so loudly that a nurse had to ask him to leave.

"They're kinda cute." She laughed at the young couple, then sighed.

"Xia Luna?" A slightly older woman, the gynecologist, called out to her. When she looked up, she said, "Are you ready? Come with me."

Seeing that Luna was still sitting, she probed. "Well?"

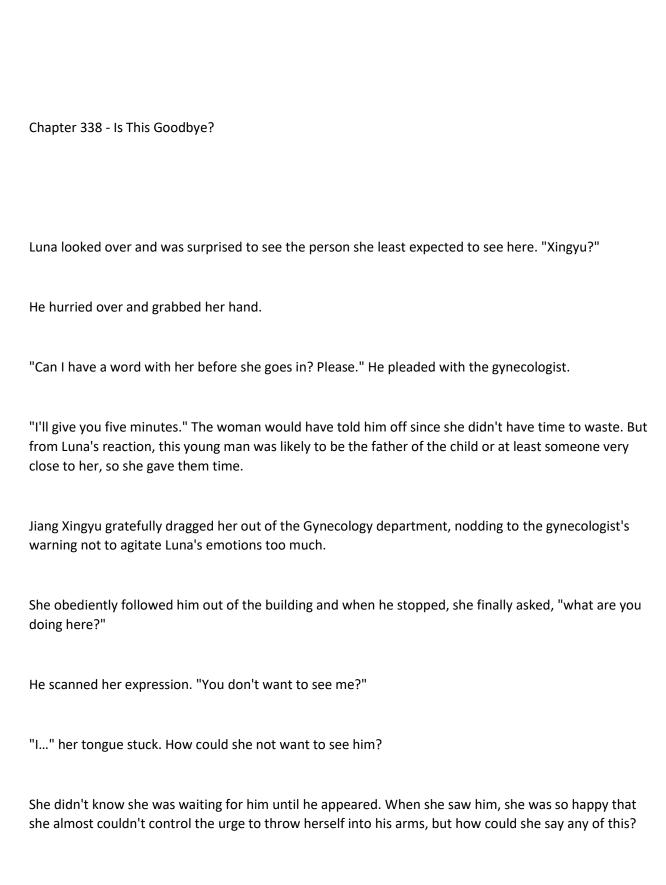
Luna felt as though her legs had been glued onto the floor. Her knees trembled and when she finally stood up, she almost fainted from how weak she felt. Her lips quivered.

Checking that there was no one else in the hallway, the woman lowered her voice to say, "No one will blame you if you change your mind right now." When Luna looked up at her, she added, "You will not blame yourself either. You see, I have seen countless women regretting their decision as soon as it's done—and it seems to me like you are not sure that this is what you want."

"l..."

"Luna, wait." A voice spoke up before she could answer the gynecologist.

OMG!! **runs around with flailing arms**



Seeing that she didn't seem to have anything against his interruption, he let out a sigh of relief. "I came to see you now because... any later and I wouldn't be able to."

"What do you mean?" She frowned, not comprehending his words.

"Well, I'm..." He let out a breath. "I'm leaving."

Her eyes went wide, and he continued, "I'm going to Canada. I will not be back any time soon... so I came to say goodbye."

She looked away from him and fought back the sting in her eyes. Who would have thought that he was going to say goodbye? "When will you be back?" She uncontrollably asked.

"I don't know. Perhaps I will be back in ten years, perhaps I will stay there forever."

"Ten years..." She repeated the words, feeling as though her world had shattered.

"My flight takes off in an hour so I have to go now." He took out a pair of sunglasses and slid it onto his face. He felt a slight tug on his sleeve just as he turned to leave, so he turned and looked down. Luna was clinging onto his arm.

He patted her head. "I have to go. You should go back too. Goodbye, Luna." He then turned and headed towards his car.

She watched the distance between them get longer as his words rang in her ears. Ten years? That was an awfully long time! Not to mention there was a possibility of him not coming back at all.

Even if he came back, he would have already forgotten all about her and maybe, he would be married and he would have a family then.

So, was this really the end for them? Would it be totally over now?



"They are knuckleheads. So you gave Xingyu a call?" Lanni guessed, since she had wanted to do the same thing. The day before, she had given Jiang Xingyu a call and made him realize what Luna actually thought, and hoped that the two would have a talk. That was when he told her all about his plan with Cheng Yu. "I know we must have agitated her feelings by doing this, but if she doesn't think that Xingyu might leave and she would lose him forever, she will never wake up." Cheng Yu sighed. "I hope she won't continue being silly at this point." Lanni added, wondering why Luna had not gone after Xingyu yet. Luna clenched her fists. She should go back now. The gynecologist must be a busy woman and she shouldn't waste too much of her time. Taking a last glance in the direction of his car, she turned to get back into the building, but her legs felt stuck. It was as though they were being controlled by an internal force she couldn't resist. Hearing an engine start, she couldn't hold it anymore. She turned and rushed towards Xingyu's car. She had merely taken a few steps when he got off and ran to stop her. "Why are you running about? Be careful, okay?" "Do you really have to leave?" Her eyes glistened with moisture. He cupped her face and appeared to be at a loss. "Yeah. I don't have any reason to continue staying here, Luna." "What about me?"

"What?" He was shocked, thinking he had heard her wrong.

She shook her head and grabbed his wrist. "I mean, aunty will be devastated if you leave."
At the corner, Lanni and Cheng Yu slapped their foreheads simultaneously. "Really, Luna?"
Jiang Xingyu's heart sank. He had heard her wrong and actually thought she was reluctant to see him leave.
"I am taking her with me." He threw in a random statement.
"Oh" she sounded disappointed but didn't say anything else, so he pulled his hand out of her grasp.
"Then, can you take me along, too?" She looked up at him pleadingly. He took his sunglasses off in shock, as though they were obstructing his hearing.
Her heart raced as she desperately grabbed this chance. "Xingyu, I love you I I can get someone to bring my passport really quick. Let me come with you please?"
"Luna, what did you say?" He thought he was hallucinating from having hiped for too much.
"I can't live without you" She couldn't stop her tears anymore.
Chapter 339 - I Love You

Jiang Xingyu was flabbergasted. What was going on? This must be a dream, right? If not, then why was his Luna clinging onto him and saying that she couldn't live without him?

When she threw herself into his arms, he couldn't contain his feelings anymore. Even though it was a dream, why did it feel so real? It must be because he was hoping for such a moment so much that the heavens had pitied him and decided to let him feel it through a dream.

Since it was a dream, he thought he may as well push his luck a little bit.

He held her by the shoulders and pushed her slightly. When she looked up at him with a pair of confused, tearful eyes, his expression turned stern as he said, "No, Luna."

Her expression shattered and he continued, "Why should I take you with me?"

She looked like she was on the verge of giving up but for some reason, she stubbornly held onto his arm. "Because we love each other."

"That doesn't set anything in stone." He pushed. "Not everyone who is in love ends up together, you know. And we don't have any defined relationship between us." The second part was the main point.

Her heart sank. Even so, she had already come so far. She had already let him know her feelings for him, so how could she back out now? She tiptoed and pressed a kiss onto his lips, completely shocking him. "Can't we have one now? I can be your girlfriend."

A smile escaped his lips. This dream was getting too good to be true. He didn't want to ever wake up. She looked anxious, as though scared that he would reject her. Nodding, he kissed her forehead. "Okay."

•••

In the corner.

Lanni and Cheng Yu had used up a great deal of effort to be able to eavesdrop from such a distance.

"Phew. At least she knew what to do in the end." Cheng Yu sighed in relief. "But shouldn't she have proposed marriage at least?" Lanni shot her a glance. "It's already good enough that she confessed her feelings." Well, that was true considering Luna's personality. She was so scared of the outcome of relationships that it was already good enough for her to willingly start one. "The flight! Will we be late?" Luna remembered with a start. "I will make a call to book mine. Wait. Before that, we need to finish up something." She grabbed his hand and dragged him away before he could say a word. Seeing that they were going back to the gynecologist's, Xingyu's heart shattered. He had been too excited from her confession that he forgot all about this. He thought she had changed her mind... But even so, agreeing to be his girlfriend didn't mean she was also willing to have his child. He shouldn't ask for too much. Since he had already gotten what he had always wished for, he was overjoyed—even though he was disappointed that he would never get to see this baby. Reaching the gynecologist's office, Luna knocked and went in after being allowed to do so. She did not let go of his hand so he went in with her. "You sure took your time." The woman chuckled.

"I'm sorry." Luna apologized. "Is it... Is it okay to cancel the surgery?"

She looked at the two of them and realized how bashful Luna looked, and laughed. "It's totally okay. I will help you handle the cancellation procedure and the fee will be refunded in full within three days."

She sighed in relief at how easy it was. "I don't get a deduction for cancelling it?" She wondered.

In response, the woman smiled and reached for a file. "Of course not. I don't know about other hospitals but here, we do not charge anyone for choosing to save an innocent life."

Luna nodded with her eyes glistening. After making this decision, she felt relieved, as though a huge load had been lifted from her shoulders.

Meanwhile, Xingyu didn't dare to believe in what was happening. Why did it sound like Luna had decided to keep the baby? From the conversation, it didn't seem like she was intending to do it later. Was he really going to be a dad, after all?

"Your baby is in perfect health. I will recommend some supplements for you to keep your body nourished." The gynecologist stated. "Remember to come for your check-ups and keep your emotions in check." She flipped through the file in her hands. "These are some of the exercises that are good for your body during this period. Remember to not overdo it. On these few pages, there are foods that you should or should not eat. I can recommend a nutritionist to draw a diet plan for you." She continued stating everything that the duo needed to know.

When they thought she was done, she looked at the both of them. "It's okay to have sex but don't be overly rough while at it."

Luna blushed while Jiang Xingyu seriously nodded. "Noted. Is there anything else we need to take note of?"

"I have said everything there is to say. If there is anything, you will be informed about it during your next checkup."

Xingyu was still in disbelief when he got into his car with Luna, carrying a file and a bag of medical supplements.
She calmly hugged the file to her stomach with a gentle smile on her visage.
He didn't need to think to know what she was thinking about. She must be thinking back to the ultrasound. They had decided to have one when the gynecologist was done giving them pointers. Since there wasn't much going on in the department, they didn't need to wait and they could soon see the dots on the screen, which the doctor said was the baby.
She almost burst into tears of joy when she heard its heartbeat and he almost jumped in excitement.
He couldn't get the scene out of his head either.
"Actually, we are not going anywhere." He broke the silence.
"What do you mean?" She tilted her head and asked in shock.
He went ahead to explain what had transpired the previous night, leading him to come here today.
She slapped her forehead. "That naughty girl. But well, we wouldn't be together right now if she wasn't so naughty" Perhaps she should reward Cheng Yu when they get back.
Chapter 340 - Reunion

Jiang Mansion.

"Xingyu is finally here." Madam Jiang sighed, sitting on the couch in the living room. She had heard the sound of a car engine and knew instantly that her son was back.

Jiang Xingren, who was from the kitchen, gave her a cup of hot chocolate. When she took it, he sat beside her. "Why do you look so sad if our son is back?"

She glared at him for his slow wit. "Don't you get it? Our son went on an extremely delicate and important mission. I'm worried, okay?"

"Uh... what mission?" He looked confused, earning a scornful look from his wife.

"Xingyu went to chase our daughter-in-law. How can you sit around and not encourage him?"

He shrugged in his defense. "What's there to be worried about? Xingyu takes after me. He will definitely bring our daughter-in-law back home." At first, he had not trusted Luna especially since the latter was a wanted criminal in the past. However, after interacting with her a few times and seeing just how much his son loved her, even he could agree that there was no better match for Xingyu than her.

While they were bickering, two pairs of footsteps resounded.

Madam Jiang looked over and jumped in excitement when she saw the two of them. "Luna!" She ran over like an excited child and pulled the girl into a hug.

"Aunty, you..." Luna didn't know what to say. After everything that had happened, she had thought that Madam Jiang would disapprove of her. Who would have thought that she would still be enthusiastic to see her?

She returned the hug warmly and sighed. "Aunty, I'm sorry. Because I was willful and didn't see things clearly, I made you and Uncle worry."

"Luna, what are you saying? It wasn't your fault. It's this useless Xingyu who was careless and caused you trouble." Madam Jiang broke the hug and cupped her face. "Look at you, have you been distressed? You have dark circles and your eyes are swollen too.

She turned to glare at her son fiercely. "Did this punk make you cry? I will teach him a good lesson!"

Before anyone could respond, she attacked Xingyu and grabbed his ear.

"Ouch! Mother... I didn't do anything." He tried to defend himself.

Madam Jiang huffed, pulling his ear fiercely. "You are still denying it, huh. Then how do you explain this?"

"I really didn't do anything!" Xingyu complained pitifully. Was he really her son? He had gone through heaven and hell to bring back her daughter-in-law, and instead of getting praised, he was getting punished?

Luna was caught between laughter and tears. How she had missed witnessing these fights.

"That's enough, honey. You will really pull his ear off at this rate." Jiang Xingren came to his son's rescue. Xingyu immediately rushed to Luna's side for protection.

She laughed at his theatrics. "Aunty, Xingyu didn't bully me."

"See? Even Luna thinks I was good to her, but you pinched me!" He pouted, grabbing Luna's arm.

"That's enough." Madam Jiang was annoyed. "What are you wailing for? Aren't you embarrassed? Since Luna is willing to let it go, I will forgive you this once."

She then took Luna's hand. "Luna, I prepared delicious food for you. Come on, try it out."

She gladly followed her to the dining room. Of course, the men were completely ignored and had to invite themselves to join them. She had expected that the atmosphere would be awkward. Seeing that nothing seemed to have changed between her and Madam Jiang, no words could express her joy.

After the meal, Madam Jiang brought her for a walk around the garden.

She had innumerable questions to ask but was scared to make Luna uncomfortable so she didn't know how to bring them up.

"Aunty, is anything the matter?" Luna sharply noticed the older woman's unease.

In response, Madam Jiang shook her head. "Not at all, Luna. I'm just happy that you came back to us."

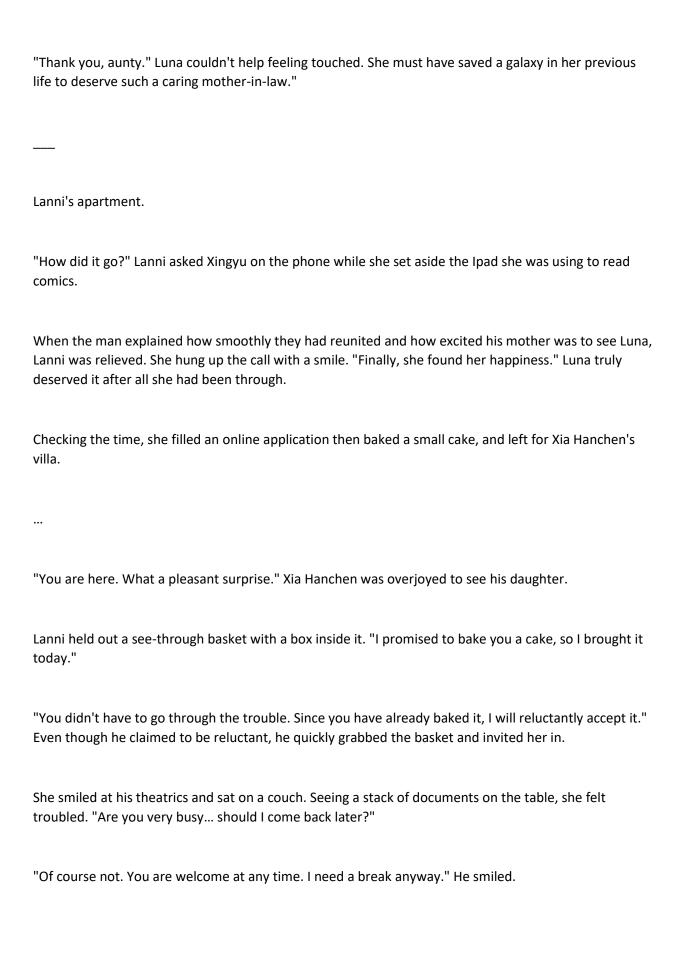
Luna smiled gently. "I'm even happier that I came back, happy that I didn't go through with the mistake I was going to make." Madam Jiang had been right. If she really went through with the operation, she would later miss her baby. This much was evident because right now, she looked forward to meeting her baby more than anything else.

Madam Jiang was relieved. So she really was together with Xingyu permanently. "So, what are the two of you planning?"

"What do you mean?" Luna asked, then understood it immediately.

She had not thought about it but it was inevitable. If it was just the two of them, they would be in a dating relationship. But since they were going to be parents soon, would that really be appropriate?

Seeing that they were finally on the same wavelength, Madam Jiang suggested, "If the two of you decide to get married soon, you can ask for my help no matter how soon it is. I will make sure you have the kind of wedding you have always wished for."



She frowned when she thought about how much work he had to do although he was working from home. Did it make any difference? "Is it very busy at the company? I can help you out since I don't have much to do lately."

He shook his head immediately. "Don't worry. Daddy can handle this little work. How's it going?" He asked as he opened the box and then almost drooled at the chocolate cake that came into view.

"I'm fine dad. I..." She stopped when she spotted a pink, silk scarf on the farthest couch. It was obviously a woman's. She was sure that it was not hers and it was not the type that Luna would wear either. Her cheeks flushed at a possibility. Was her dad seeing someone? Pfft.... how cute.